

## Your passport to adventure

## Petra & Dubai

Country(ies): Jordan, United Arab Emirates

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: Private AC car/minibus & Bedouin jeep

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 9 days

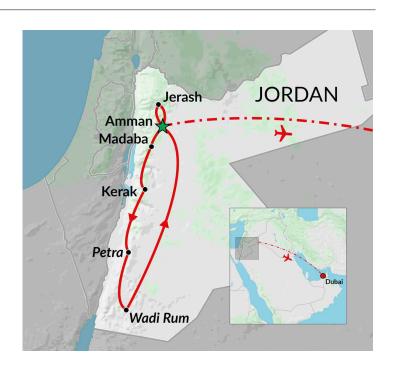
Start Location: Amman, Jordan

End Location: Dubai, UAE

Meals: Breakfasts - 8, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 2

### **Highlights:**

Bustling Amman, Roman ruins at Jerash, Amman Food Tasting, Wild Jordan Centre, Roman mosaics at Madaba, views over Israel from Mt. Nebo, scenic Kings Highway drive, Shobak crusader castle, Full day in Petra, Wadi Rum jeep safari & Bedouin camp, Dead Sea overnight stay, Dubai city tour, Dhow Cruise on Dubai creek



## **Itinerary**

## Day 1: Welcome to Amman, transfer to your hotel

Upon arrival in Amman's Queen Alia International Airport, one of our staff members will meet you and transfer you to your hotel in the heart of Jordan's bustling capital city.

You'll have some time to settle in and the rest of the day is then free to explore your new surroundings independently, or rest after your journey to Jordan.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Superior level Single room supplement - Standard Hotels (JOSHJS) Single room supplement - Superior Hotels (JOSHJS)

# Day 2: Explore Ancient Jerash and Amman, Street Food Experience & evening visit to the Wild Jordan Centre

We begin our day travelling north from Amman to the nearby city of Jerash, home to one of the largest and bestpreserved examples of Roman architecture outside of Italy. Often called the 'Jewel of the North', Jerash reveals an unbroken history of human settlement stretching back over 6,500 years. Hidden beneath sand for centuries, extensive excavations and restorations over the last 70 years have uncovered a remarkable example of the grand, formal Roman provincial urbanism typical throughout the Middle East.

Upon returning to Amman in the afternoon, we explore Jordan's capital, famously known as the 'white city' due to its abundance of white limestone buildings. Amman's history spans millennia, with archaeological work uncovering remains from the Neolithic period through the Hellenistic, late Roman, and Arab Islamic eras. Our tour includes the Citadel, the historic site of the Temple of Hercules, the Umayyad Palace, and the Byzantine Church. We will also visit the impressive 6,000-seat Roman Theatre, dating back to when the city was known as Philadelphia.

Following our exploration of the historical sites, we delve into the vibrant atmosphere of Downtown Amman with a street food tasting experience. You'll have the chance to sample local delicacies, which typically include sweet Kunefa, refreshing Sugar Cane Juice, and savoury Falafel, though specific offerings may vary based on availability during our visit.

Afterwards, there will be time to return to the hotel to refresh before our evening activity. To conclude our day, we'll enjoy an evening visit to the Wild Jordan Centre. This unique establishment is not only a fantastic spot to relax but also plays a crucial role in supporting Jordan's natural heritage and local communities. It serves as a hub for the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's ecotourism and handicraft projects, promoting sustainability by generating income for rural communities living in and around Jordan's nature reserves and aiding conservation efforts. For those who would prefer a more relaxed evening, you are welcome to remain at the hotel instead.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** 

# Day 3: Kings Highway to Petra with stops in Madaba, Mount Nebo & Shobak Castle. Optional Petra by Night or Cookery Class

We leave Amman behind us today as we drive along the scenic King's Highway towards Petra. The drive itself is beautiful, crossing deep wadis, passing through olive groves, and navigating remote rural villages, offering you a unique insight into the daily lives of the local people.

Our first stop will be at Madaba, where we visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, famed for its remarkable 6th-century Byzantine mosaic map depicting the Holy Land and other biblical sites. Next, we'll venture up Mount Nebo, a significant viewpoint offering breathtaking panoramic views over the Jordan Valley towards the Holy Land.

We'll hit the road once more, this time crossing the stunning Wadi al-Mujib gorge. The route winds through olive groves before climbing over the deep canyon until we reach Shobak Castle. Perched dramatically on a mountainside, Shobak is another impressive example of the Crusader castles built during the early 12th century to guard the vital trade routes between Egypt and Damascus.

Upon arrival in Petra, we'll check into our hotel. This evening offers two optional activities for you to choose from. You could opt for a magical first glimpse of Petra with the atmospheric Petra by Candlelight experience, walking through the Siq canyon to see the iconic Treasury illuminated solely by hundreds of candles. Alternatively, food enthusiasts might enjoy participating in a hands-on cooking class at the renowned Petra Kitchen, learning the secrets of preparing traditional Jordanian dishes. Please note that pre-booking is essential for the Petra Kitchen experience as it is very popular and spaces are limited.

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Petra by night (local payment) Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class

# Day 4: Full day exploration of Petra, camping underneath the stars in Wadi Rum

Today is all about exploring the Nabataean site of Petra. It was once the ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106 AD. For a long period, Petra was forgotten – except by the local Bedouins – before it was rediscovered in 1812 by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Petra is found at the edge of the Wadi Araba desert, where canyon walls and towering hills make it virtually inaccessible, except via a narrow cleft in the rock known as the Siq. There are very few free-standing buildings in Petra, as the Nabataeans chose to carve their dwellings into the multicoloured sandstone cliffs. Petra has become one of Jordan's main tourist attractions.

We have most of the day available today to explore this ancient city (a 2-3 hour guided tour, then free time to explore independently). We start by making our way through the Siq, which rises to 200 metres above us and narrows to just 2 metres wide in certain sections. Keep an eye out for the ancient Nabataean water channel still visible on one wall, and remnants of the terracotta pipes that brought water into the city are also present. We'll turn a corner and suddenly – one of the most familiar sights of Petra will be in front of you – The Khazneh (Treasury) comes into view. Our guide will explain how this, and the other buildings here, are mainly elaborate facades carved into the rock from the top down, and also discuss the spiritual significance of the building style.

From the Treasury, the valley opens out, and you'll see tombs carved into the rock on both sides. You'll get a glimpse of the ruined Roman amphitheatre and colonnaded streets. During your free time, you can walk up a steep and narrow winding gorge to the towering 'Monastery' – which is 50 metres high and 45 metres wide, providing breathtaking views of the Wadi Araba desert and the Jordan Valley. Another climb takes you to the

High Place of Sacrifice and the Lion Fountain. All in all, this is a full and tiring, but hugely rewarding, day touring one of the world's most famous ancient sites.

Walking distances today are an absolute minimum of 3km through the Siq to the Treasury and back, plus distance to see a few tombs; 8km to take the trail on as far as the main basin; plus an additional few km to the Monastery and back (over 800 steps up and down). For those with less mobility or who are worried about the distance golf buggies are available for around 25 USD per person one way 40 USD per person round trip to take you on the 1.2km journey through the Siq to the Treasury and back again at an agreed time. Horse carriages are also available but we recommend against using these due to animal welfare reasons.

Later in the afternoon, we leave Petra and drive into the spectacular desert scenery of Wadi Rum. Whilst staying in Wadi Rum, several optional activities are available to enhance your desert experience, such as taking a traditional camel ride through the sand dunes, soaring above the landscape on a hot air balloon flight (typically at dawn, weather permitting), or enjoying an adventurous desert quad biking excursion. Upon arrival at our camp, friendly Bedouin hosts will greet us at our comfortable site, nestled beneath towering rocks and cliffs. We spend the evening relaxing at the camp and enjoying a delicious traditional Jordanian meal. As night falls and the stars emerge, there is also an option to join a captivating astronomy experience, taking advantage of Wadi Rum's exceptionally clear desert skies and unique vantage point to observe stars, constellations, and planets in incredible detail.

**OVERNIGHT:** Wadi Rum Bedouin camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** Camel Ride in Wadi Rum Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

# Day 5: Wadi Rum Jeep Safari and overnight stay at the Dead Sea (optional excursion to Wadi Mujib)

We start the day early, exploring the beautiful desert and mountain scenery of Wadi Rum. Keep an eye out for the copper-coloured rocky 'jebels', which mesmerised T.E. Lawrence during his visits to the desert during the Arab Revolt and were later famed in the movie Lawrence of Arabia. We'll take a jeep safari through the stunning desert landscape, seeing more of the sheer cliffs and bizarre, weathered rock formations.

We say goodbye to Wadi Rum later in the morning and head north towards the Dead Sea, one of the planet's most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes. Not only is it the lowest point on Earth, at approximately 400 metres below sea level, but it's also filled with dramatic, natural wonders.

The Dead Sea is fed by numerous rivers, including the River Jordan. Once the waters reach the Dead Sea, they are land-locked with no outlet, so they evaporate under the intense desert sun. This process leaves behind a dense, rich cocktail of salts and minerals, renowned worldwide and supplying the cosmetics, agriculture, and medicine industries with some of their finest raw products.

The Dead Sea is flanked by mountains to the east and the rolling hills towards Jerusalem to the west, giving it an almost otherworldly beauty. Although sparsely populated and serenely quiet now, the area is believed by some to have been home to five Biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar (Bela).

Upon arrival at our hotel located on the shores of the Dead Sea, we will check in for our overnight stay. You'll have plenty of time this afternoon and the following morning to fully experience the buoyant waters, perhaps indulge in the therapeutic Dead Sea mud treatments, or enjoy other spa therapies available at the hotel. Normal swimming is near impossible; it's much easier (and certainly more photogenic!) simply to float effortlessly on the surface. Remember to avoid splashing water into your eyes, as the high salt concentration will cause stinging.

For the adventurous, and typically during the summer months (usually April to October, subject to local conditions and opening times), an optional excursion to the nearby Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve is available, offering a chance for an exciting sig trek through water-filled canyons.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dead Sea resort

**MEALS:** Breakfast

EXTRAS: Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

## Day 6: Fly from Amman to Dubai (flight not included). Transfer to hotel

After bidding farewell to Jordan, you'll head to Amman's Queen Alia International Airport for your flight to Dubai. When you land, one of our representatives will be waiting to meet you and take you to your hotel in the heart of Dubai – a city famous for upscale shopping, striking modern buildings, and a buzzing nightlife scene. The rest of the day is yours to settle in, explore your new surroundings, or simply relax after arriving in the UAE.

Please be aware: The flight from Amman to Dubai isn't part of the tour package price. Booking this flight as part of your main international ticket is usually the cheapest option. However, if you'd like us to book this single flight for you, we're happy to help. Contact us for the latest flight prices.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** 

## Day 7: Dubai city tour (inc. Burj Khalifa), optional desert safari

Embark on an enthralling cultural exploration of Dubai, unveiling some of its most captivating and renowned landmarks. Please note that this is a shared seat-in-coach tour, which may involve pick-ups from multiple hotels.

Your journey will commence with an opportunity to photograph the Jumeirah Mosque, a magnificent illustration of Islamic design. Following this, delve into the Bastakia Quarter, the city's most historic district, where you will encounter the traditional Wind Towers, ingeniously utilised in bygone eras as a natural form of air conditioning.

The tour continues with a visit to the Dubai Museum, housed within the 150-year-old Al Fahidi Fort. Here, you will gain fascinating insights into Dubai's rich heritage, particularly its historical connections to the pearl trading and fishing industries.

Next, experience a picturesque Abra ride across the famed Dubai Creek. This traditional water taxi offers a distinctive perspective of the lively waterfront and the dynamic pulse of Dubai. Subsequently, we will venture to the Deira side of Dubai to explore the fragrant Spice Souk and the glittering Gold Souk. At the Gold Souk, you will find an array of exquisite gold jewellery, often at more competitive prices than in Europe.

The tour culminates with a truly memorable visit to the Burj Khalifa. Ascend to the 124th and 125th floors of the world's tallest edifice, where you will be treated to awe-inspiring panoramic vistas encompassing the city, the desert, and the ocean.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Dubai desert safari

## Day 8: Free time in Dubai, evening Dhow Dinner Cruise

Enjoy a leisurely start to your day, as the morning is yours to spend as you please. You might choose to sleep in a little later, savour a relaxed breakfast at your hotel, or perhaps take the opportunity to explore more of Dubai independently. You could revisit a favourite spot, indulge in some retail therapy at one of the city's magnificent shopping centres, discover a hidden gem in a local neighbourhood, or simply relax by the hotel pool and soak up the sunshine.

Later in the afternoon, prepare for a charming evening experience. You will be conveniently picked up from your hotel and transported to the historic Dubai Creek. Here, you will board a traditional wooden dhow for a delightful dinner cruise. As the dhow glides gently along the moonlit waters, you'll be treated to stunning views of the old and new Dubai skylines, including the beautifully illuminated souks and modern architectural marvels. A delicious buffet dinner, featuring a variety of local and international dishes, will be served onboard. To complete this enchanting evening, you will enjoy captivating entertainment, which often includes live traditional music and a mesmerising Tanura dance show, where a performer in a colourful, weighted skirt spins gracefully, creating a truly memorable cultural spectacle before you are returned to your hotel.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** 

## Day 9: Free time in Dubai, hotel to airport transfers included

You have some free time to do some last minute sightseeing or shopping before we collect you and transfer you to the airport to board your flight back home.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A **MEALS:** Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Dubai post-tour - Standard level Extra day in Dubai post-tour - Superior level

#### Included:

- Accommodation in locally rated 4-star hotels (upgrade available)
- 1 night in Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- Transport and transfers in AC vehicles
- 4x4 Bedouin jeep safari in Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea Overnight Stay
- Amman Food Tasting Experience
- Visit the Wild Jordan Centre supporting sustainability
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a specialist tour guide for all sightseeing tours
- Shared Seat in Coach Day Trips whilst in Dubai
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

#### **Excluded:**

- International flights (available on request)
- Amman to Dubai flight (can often be included in your main international flight ticket)
- Jordan visa & site entrance fees (see notes on the Jordan Pass 70JD)
- Dubai visa fees (currently free or not required for most nationalities)
- Dubai tourism tax (payable at the hotel AUD 15 per room per night)
- Travel insurance (mandatory, get quote here)

- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Any other items not mentioned above

## **Notes**

#### Similar tours:

The following tours also feature time in Jordan and can have the same Dubai section added to the end on request:

- Best of Jordan adds a tour to As Salt and the Baptism Site at Bethany to make 7 days in Jordan
- A Week in Jordan adds As Salt and Bethany to the start, and a trip to Jordan's desert castles at the end to make 8 days in Jordan
- Jordan Encounters our signature 8-day small group tour of Jordan
- <u>Jordan & Egypt Explorer</u> adds As Salt and Bethany, and then 9 days exploring Egypt at the end of the tour

# **Options**

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single room supplement (JOSHPD)

Min numbers: 1

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation, with single bookers paired up with another traveller of the same sex in the group. If the final group make-up means that no room share is available, you do not need to pay this supplement. However, if you would like to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then please add this option to your booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

## Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** This option is applicable to those who have booked the standard level of accommodation. If you have booked the superior accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

Min numbers: 1

This option adds on a fun sunset or sunrise camel ride through the Wadi Rum desert.

## Extra day in Dubai - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

### Dubai desert safari

Min numbers: 1

This afternoon and evening safari into the deserts outside of Dubai city starts with a pick up from your hotel between 2.30 and 3.30pm. This is a shared 'join-in' tour so you may stop at more than one hotel before heading into the desert for around half an hour of dune bashing in a 4x4 jeep. You'll also enjoy a camel ride, sunset photography over the sands, traditional Emirati coffee & fresh dates, and an evening BBQ dinner with a belly dancing, Tanoura (local folk dance) and fire dance display. Vegetarian meals are available (please let us know in advance). Also included if you wish are unlimited free tea & coffee, henna hand painting and a shisha lounge. Optional quad biking or dune buggies are available at the camp if you would like some more fun on the sands (extra cost). After dinner you are transferred back to your hotel between 8.30-9pm (timings are subject to change and seasonal variations).

Note - this safari is not recommended for pregnant ladies or travellers with heart, neck or back problems.

## Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Superior level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** This option is applicable to those who have booked the superior level of accommodation. If you have booked the standard accommodation package, please select the superior extra night option.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Wadi Mujib Day Trip - Siq Trail

Min numbers: 1

Escape the hustle and bustle of Amman for a real adventure, exploring the canyons of Wadi Mujib, following the famous Siq Trail.

Leaving Amman, we'll drive around 90 minutes to the shores of the Dead Sea where our journey along the Siq Trail begins from the Wadi Mujib visitors centre. Descending down into the gorge we enter the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve where between months of April and October it's possible to take an exciting hike through the shallow waters that fill the gorge. Along the way you'll climb up small waterfalls where steps have being installed to make it easier, until eventually you'll reach the end of the gorge where you can relax beneath a large waterfall. The entire hike generally takes 2 to 3 hours roundtrip.

We highly recommend bringing along a dry-bag (so your camera or mobile phone don't get wet) and water shoes. It is possible to hire a dry bag at the visitors centre for around US\$7.00 and purchase water shoes for US\$7.00).

**Note:** On most tours it's necessary to add an extra night pre or post-tour to have enough time to take this tour. If you have a late departure on your final day however, it may be possible to visit Wadi Mujib on your departure day.

## Petra by night (local payment)

Min numbers: 1

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

Pricing includes your entrance ticket and any transfers required to and from your hotel. Please bring a flashlight/torch with you for this trip as the path through the Siq is rough underfoot in places and while there are

candles all the way, a torch provides extra assurance against mis-stepping.

Please Note: This is a local payment option, payment will be collected by your tour guide whilst in Jordan.

## **Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class**

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Petra experience with a delightful evening immersed in Jordanian culture and cuisine at the renowned Petra Kitchen. This popular optional activity offers a fantastic opportunity to participate in a hands-on cookery class, working alongside local chefs and women to prepare a range of traditional Jordanian dishes. You'll learn about local ingredients, master authentic techniques, and discover the secrets behind delicious regional specialities, typically culminating in enjoying the multi-course feast you've helped create together. It's a fun, interactive, and social way to spend an evening after exploring the wonders of Petra.

Please note that spaces for the Petra Kitchen Cookery Class are limited and it is exceptionally popular. Therefore, pre-booking is essential to guarantee your participation, and we strongly recommend securing your spot well in advance to avoid disappointment due to high demand.

## Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience

Min numbers: 1

Venture into the heart of Wadi Rum's captivating desert landscape after nightfall and witness a celestial display like no other. Far from city lights, the vast, clear skies above this ancient valley reveal a breathtaking panorama of stars.

Join our optional astronomy tour and embark on a journey through the cosmos. Our expert guides will illuminate the constellations, planets, and deep-sky objects visible to the naked eye, sharing fascinating insights into their mythology and scientific significance.

Experience the profound silence and tranquillity of the desert night as you gaze upon the Milky Way's shimmering expanse. With the aid of powerful telescopes, you'll delve deeper into the universe, observing distant galaxies and nebulae with remarkable clarity. This is an unforgettable opportunity to connect with the cosmos and appreciate the sheer scale and beauty of the night sky in one of the world's most spectacular natural settings.

## Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Wadi Rum visit with an optional hot air balloon flight. Experience a sunrise view of the 'Valley of the Moon' from above. Observe the desert landscape as the sun rises, providing unique photographic opportunities. Flights are early morning, conducted by professional pilots, and subject to weather conditions. Bookings are confirmed the evening before. A full refund is provided if the flight is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

### Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

Min numbers: 1

Unleash your adventurous spirit and explore the magnificent desert landscapes of Wadi Rum on an exhilarating quad biking excursion. This optional activity puts you in control of your own All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), allowing you to navigate the sandy plains and weave between the iconic towering rock formations under the guidance of local experts. 1 Feel the thrill as you power through the stunning scenery of the 'Valley of the Moon', accessing unique viewpoints and experiencing the vastness of the desert in a truly dynamic way. It's a perfect add-on for those seeking an adrenaline rush and a different perspective on Wadi Rum's breathtaking beauty.

## Extra day in Dubai post-tour - Standard level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Extra day in Dubai post-tour - Superior level

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Single room supplement - Standard Level

Min numbers: 1

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation, with single bookers paired up with another traveller of the same sex in the group. If the final group make-up means that no room share is available, you do not need to pay this supplement. However, if you would like to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then please add this option to your booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

## Single room supplement - Superior Level

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

**Note:** This option is applicable to those selecting the superior level of accommodation. If you have chosen our standard level accommodation, please select the single supplement applicable to this level of accommodation. **Note:** Single room supplement prices may vary seasonally.

#### 1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the local 3 & 4-star level on this tour. Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will stay in a private double room.

In Wadi Rum we use a comfortable Bedouin camp located on the desert sands, against the cliffs. Accommodation is in permanent traditional goat hair tents with proper beds and all bedding provided. Bathrooms are separate, though en-suite tents are also available and upgrades are available if required. You can also bring a sleeping bag if you wish, and find a sheltered spot on the rocks on the edge of the camp and sleep under the stars.

An upgrade is also available to local 5-star hotels in Amman, Petra and Dubai if you would like a more luxurious stay - you will find both our standard and superior accommodation options available to book from the dates and prices tab. These can be considered basic international 5-star level in Amman, and decent 4-star level in Petra. Typical hotels used are the Landmark or Le Grand in Amman which are modern style hotels, and the Old Village Resort or Hyatt Zaman in Petra which are more traditional characterful properties.

In Dubai you will be required to pay a tourism tax when checking into your hotel. The cost of this is 15 AED per room per night, payable directly to the hotel.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

#### 2. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. The small distances involved on this tour mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. These will be minivans, minibuses, coaches and jeeps, depending on the number of travellers in the group.

The jeeps used in Wadi Rum are provided by the local Bedouins we work with, and while suitable for your desert safari, they may fall below the normal safety and quality standards for vehicles we use during the rest of our tours.

#### 3. Transfers

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. Your airport transfers are also included at either end of the Amman-Dubai flight. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

On our Shoestring group tours we do offer optional hotel upgrades. This may mean that additional pick-up and drop-offs are required each day. We do endeavour to ensure that all hotels used are close to each other and to streamline and time arrangements to limit any extra driving time as much as possible.

The sightseeing tours and activities in Dubai are on a 'seat in coach' basis and may involve several hotel pick ups and drop offs at either end of the trip.

#### 4. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As one of our Small-Group tours, maximum group sizes are restricted to 18 people, while the tour is guaranteed to depart with a minimum of just 2.

A professional licensed guide accompanies all groups of 5 or more throughout the time in Jordan. For groups of 2-4, one of our experienced English speaking drivers will escort the group with specialist local site guides used for the tours in Jerash, Amman (Citadel), and Petra.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local Jordanian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing as well as supporting the local population and economy.

Whilst in Dubai your time is more independent and there will not be an escort guide or tour leader with you. Instead our local representative will greet you at the airport and be available if required. The tours and activities are then on a shared 'Seat in Coach' basis and you may be with a different group of passengers on each of the tours whilst in Dubai.

#### 5. Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the sites visited on the tour in Jordan. Any entrances fees in Dubai are included.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a **Jordan Pass** prior to your travel to Jordan. This is a special package that has been designed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for tourists visiting Jordan. As well as including a discounted package of entrance fees covering all the sites in Jordan that you will visit on this tour (plus many others), the Jordan Pass also provides free downloadable digital brochures on each attraction, plus a free tourist visa for entering the country (40JD if obtained on arrival in Jordan). It also allows us to speed up our entry to each site as if everyone has the Jordan Pass we won't need to queue for tickets.

A handful of sites that we visit on our tours are not covered by the Jordan Pass (eg. Mt. Nebo, St. George's Church at Madaba, and the Shawmuri & Azraq Reserves), so to keep things simple for you while you are in Jordan, where these are visited in our itineraries, the entry fees are included in your tour price. If you visit any other sites not covered by the Jordan Pass during your free time or on additional tours you arrange while in Jordan, you will need to pay the entrance fee at the site.

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** which is suitable for all our tours which visit Petra on one day is JD70 (approx. US\$99). You should also check if your tour visits the Baptism Site at Bethany and if it does, add on the supplement for this site (an extra JD8, discounted from the JD12 payable at the site). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. Obtain your Jordan Pass here

If you do not obtain the Jordan Pass before arriving in Jordan, you will need to pay the entry fees when you arrive at each site and also pay JD40 for your Jordan visa when you enter the country (or arrange your visa in advance).

More information about the Jordan Pass.

#### 6. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to book your flights for you, and our ATOL (UK flight sales license) covers all holidays booked together with a flight from the UK.

Please note that the international flight between Amman and Dubai is also not included in the cost of this tour as it is often cheaper to include this on your main international flights reservation if you are flying with the same airline or with code-share partners.

Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from. Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the

tour and for the Amman-Dubai flihgt whether you book your flights independently or through us.

#### 7. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Tuesdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 participants. Departure dates & prices are given on our website (please check the website for up-to-date prices & special offers).

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**Note:** Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.