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Trekking Itinerary in Jordan

14 Days / 13 Nights



Day 1: ARRIVAL in Amman

You will be met on arrival at Queen Alia International Airport and transferred to a hotel in Amman in time for your evening meal. Welcome to Jordan!

Day 2 : Amman – Jerash – Ajloun Castle - Umm Qais - Madaba.

Today we will be sightseeing north of Amman taking in Greco-Roman City of Jerash, Ajloun Castle and Umm Qais.

Jerash, located 48 kilometres from Amman, has been dubbed the 'Pompeii of the East' due to it being one of the world's largest and most well-preserved sites of Roman architecture outside of Italy. Jerash's colonnaded streets, baths, theatres, plazas and arches remain in exceptional condition and make the city an extremely interesting place to look around. Next, we visit Ajloun to see the 12th Century Saracen Castle built by one of Saladin's lieutenants and used in the military campaign against the Crusaders before driving to Umm Qais, situated 110km north of Amman and once known as Gadara (meaning fortification).

A 45-minute drive takes us to Umm Qais, once one of the most brilliant ancient Greco-Roman cities of the Decapolis and, according to the Bible, the spot where Jesus cast out devils from two demoniacs (mad men) into a herd of pigs. Umm Qais has a stunning black basalt theatre and a colonnaded main street and is situated on a broad promontory 378 metres above sea level that enjoys a magnificent view over the Golan Heights, Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) and Jabal al Sheikh in both Lebanon and Syria.

From Umm Qais we drive via the scenic King's Way to Madaba, 'City of Mosaics' in time for our evening meal and overnight stay.



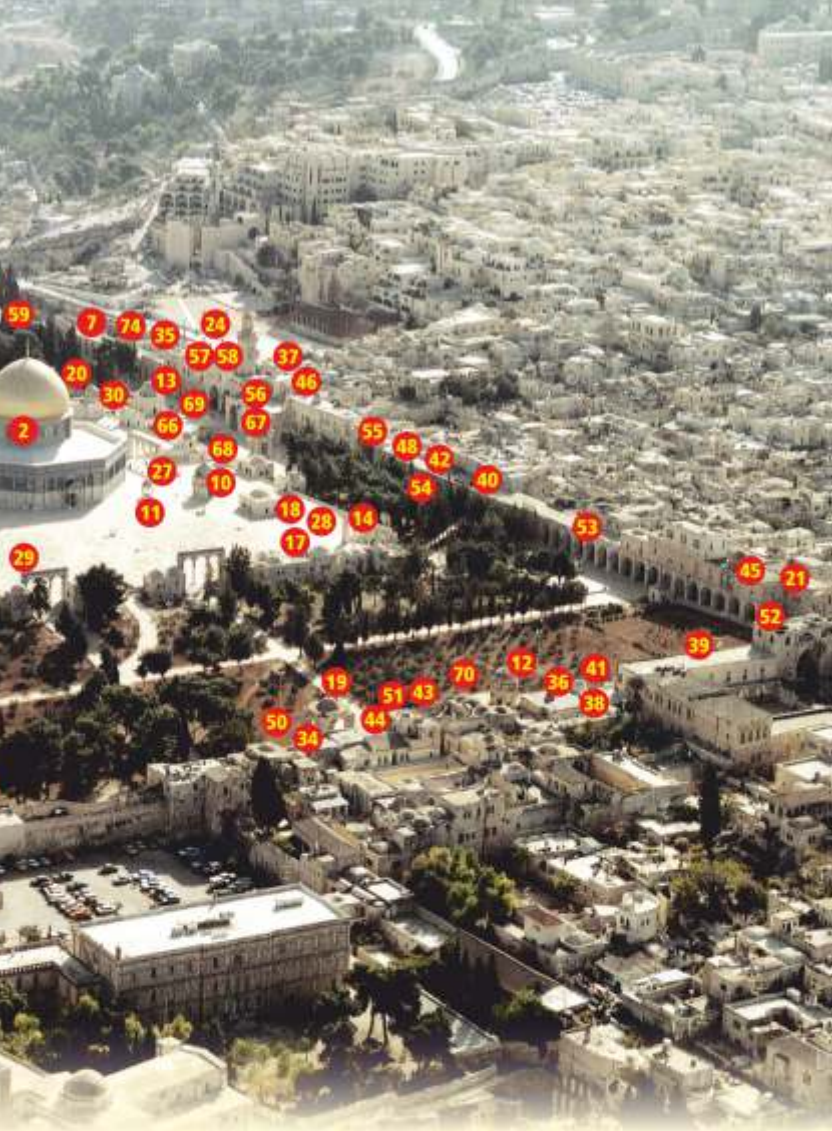
Day 3 : Madaba – Mount Nebo – Dana

Madaba is a Christian town and holds some amazing mosaics within its churches. We shall view the most famous mosaic, which is housed at the contemporary Greek Orthodox Church of St George and depicts the Holy Land. This is a wonderfully vivid 6th Century mosaic map, comprising two million pieces of coloured stones showing the entire region from Jordan and Palestine in the north, to Egypt in the south. It is fun to spend a while picking out the various cities and admiring the little vignettes the artist incorporated into the map. From Madaba we drive 10km up the hill to reach Mount Nebo, a very important Christian site, recently visited by the Pope. It was here, on the edge of the ridge overlooking the Dead Sea, that Moses first caught sight of the Holy Land, having led his people from Sinai. It is said that Moses also died and was buried here. The West Bank city of Jericho is usually visible from the summit of Mount Nebo, as is Jerusalem on a very clear day. We continue our drive, in air-conditioned comfort, to the Dana Nature Reserve where we will enjoy a traditional Arabian dinner and spend the night in a pastoral environment.



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|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 64. الباب المنفرد | 51. باب الملك فيصل (التمم) | 38. المدرسة الملكية |
| 65. الكأس | 52. باب الفوانمة | 39. المدرسة الجاوية |
| 66. صهريج الملك عيسى الممظم | 53. باب الناظر | 40. المدرسة الخاتونية |
| 67. سبيل قايتباي | 54. باب الحديد | 41. المدرسة الأسمردية |
| 68. بركة النارج | 55. باب القطانين | 42. المدرسة الأرعونية |
| 69. سبيل قاسم باشا | 56. باب المطهرة | 43. المدرسة الأمينية |
| 70. سبيل سليمان | 57. باب السكينة | 44. المدرسة الباسطية |
| 71. منبر نور الدين زنكي / منبر صلاح الدين الأيوبي | 58. باب السلسلة | 45. المدرسة المنجية |
| 72. منبر برهان الدين | 59. باب المفاربة | 46. المدرسة المثمانية |
| 73. المتحف الإسلامي | 60. باب الرحمن وباب التوبة | 47. الرواق الشمالي |
| 74. حائط البراق | 61. باب الجنانز | 48. الرواق الغربي |
| | 62. الباب المزدوج | 49. باب الأيساط |
| | 63. الباب الثلاثي | 50. باب حطة |

الأرقام المذكورة أعلاه تشير إلى ترتيب المواقع على الخريطة، حيث يحمل كل موقع على الخريطة نفس الرقم المتسلسل المخصص له ضمن الدليل.



مفتاح الخريطة

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| 1. المسجد القبلي | 14. قبو الخضر | 25. البانكة الجنوبية |
| 2. قبة الصخرة | 15. قبة يوسف أبا | 26. البانكة الشرقية |
| 3. الأقصى القديم | 16. قبة يوسف | 27. البانكة الغربية |
| 4. المصلى المرواني | 17. قبة الأرواح | 28. البانكة الشمالية الغربية |
| 5. مسجد النساء | 18. قبة الزاوية المحمدية | 29. البانكة الشمالية الشرقية |
| 6. مهد عيسى عليه السلام ومسجده | 19. إيوان السلطان محمود الثاني / | 30. البانكة الجنوبية الغربية |
| 7. جامع البراق | قبة عشاق النبي عليه الصلاة والسلام | 31. البانكة الجنوبية الشرقية |
| 8. جامع المغاربة | 17. القبة النحوية | 32. المدرسة الختنية |
| 9. قبة السلسلة | 21. منذنة باب الفوامة | 33. المدرسة الفخرية |
| 10. قبة المعراج | 22. منذنة باب الأبطال / المنذنة | 34. المدرسة الدويدارية |
| 11. قبة ومحراب النبي | الصلاحية | 35. المدرسة التنكزية |
| 12. قبة يليمان | 23. منذنة باب المغاربة / الزاوية الفخرية | 36. المدرسة الفارسية |
| 13. قبة موسى | 24. منذنة باب السلسلة | 37. المدرسة الأشرفية |



Day 4 : Dana – Petra

After a sustaining breakfast at our hotel we will spend the remainder of our day trekking through the Dana Nature Reserve. The Dana Nature Reserve is a system of mountains and wadi's, dry riverbeds. The height within the reserve drops over 1600 metres from the tops of the Rift Valley to the desert lowlands of Wadi Araba. It embraces two major biogeographical zones and four distinct vegetation zones. This condensed variety of landforms and habitats, combined with dramatic changes in elevation, results in a vast biological diversity: from white sands covered with fanciful acacia trees to small streams flanked by man-size oleander bushes; from sky-high sand dunes to barren basalt and granite rocks. The Dana area is also pleasingly rich in archaeology and culture: near Wadi Feinan we will visit the remains of the ancient capital of the Edomite Kingdom; two early Christian churches and the ruins of the Roman water system.

Late in the afternoon, we will drive to our hotel in Petra in time for dinner and an overnight stay



Day 5-6: Petra

Petra is a treasure of the ancient world and definitely a highlight of any trip to Jordan. It is hidden behind an almost impenetrable barrier of rugged mountains and boasts incomparable scenes making it perhaps the most majestic and imposing ancient site still standing today. It is the legacy of the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who settled in southern Jordan more than 2000 years ago and who carved their new capital out of the rose-red Sharah Mountains. The site contains refined culture, massive architecture and an ingenious complex of dams and water channels.

Our guided tour of this unique and unforgettable site commences with by walking, or riding on horseback, to the entrance of a narrow canyon (Siq). The Siq is a dramatic 1.2 kilometre narrow and winding fissure between towering cliffs, the colours of which change through the day according to the shadow play of the sun. Leaving the Siq through a tiny cleft, we will be confronted by the magnificence of Petra's most elaborate ruin, Al Khazneh (The Treasury) hewn into the sandstone cliff. Local legend has it that the Treasury once stored the gifts of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon. We proceed to the Royal section of Petra which includes houses and shops, a colonnaded street and a Theatre as well as spectacular tombs all set into the rose-red rockface. Petra is like a wonderful dream from which you never wish to wake! We will also walk up the 800 steps to view the vast and impressive Monastery (Ed Deir), which enjoys fabulous views over the whole area and a mountain atmosphere.

The following day, you are free to do whatever you wish. Maybe to explore Petra in more detail, walking up to experience the views around the High Place (Attuf Ridge) once the venue for sacrificial offerings, which gives wonderful views over the Petra Basin and out towards Wadi Sabra. For the even more energetic, how about embarking on a full-day trek up Jebel Haroun to see the tomb of Aaron, brother of Prophet Moses? Alternatively, you could simply kickback and enjoy a well-earned relaxing Turkish bath in the local hammam. Both nights will be spent in a hotel in Petra



Day 7 - 10 : Petra - Little Petra - Wadi Rum.

After breakfast at our hotel we drive for around 10 minutes from the main gate of Petra to Little Petra, in the suburbs of the ancient city. Little Petra provides an atmospheric summary of Nabataean tomb architecture. The area was once a major caravanserai stop for the Nabataean capital and comes complete with its own mini-Siq, 350 metres in length crammed with tombs, triclinums, water channels and cisterns. We will then visit nearby Baydah, which contains the remains of a Neolithic site, dating back to 7500 BC, making it one of the earliest known co-operative villages on earth. This is a wonderful experience which, with a little imagination, can feel like living back in prehistoric times!

After Baydah we return to the jeep for our drive to Wadi Rum. For the next few days we will be hiking in one of the most beautiful deserts in the world. Travel in Wadi Rum is a journey to another world, where one can escape the worries of everyday life and return to nature and the simple life. Vast, silent and timeless, in this immense space, man is dwarfed into insignificance. Rock carvings mark the passage of ancient tribes in pre-history. Thamudic inscriptions, burial mounds, ancient megaliths and ruined buildings abound and Nabataean rock carved stairways, dams and temples can still be found throughout the area. Wadi Rum is perhaps best known because of its connection with Lawrence of Arabia and we follow in the enigmatic British officer's footsteps as we walk through this surreal moonscape.

In the evening we will stay in tents in the glorious desert. Our Bedouin hosts will cook traditional, freshly prepared, local food and there will be a campfire which we can gather round with our cardamom coffee or mint tea and contemplate the clear star-studded desert sky.

Day 11-12: Wadi Rum - Dead Sea - Amman

We will take breakfast and then have one last walk in the Wadi Rum area before driving to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth at some 400 metres below sea-level. We have two days to enjoy the Dead Sea resort at our leisure. This is plenty of time to float in the mineral-rich water and to relax on the private beach. The therapeutic sticky black-mud treatment, packed full of minerals and nutrients, comes highly recommended. We will stay one night at the Dead Sea and drive back to Amman late on the second afternoon reaching our hotel in time for our evening meal

Day 13 : Amman

After breakfast at the hotel we will enjoy a morning tour of Amman, Jordan's capital city. We will visit the national folklore museum and the archaeological museum which boasts an excellent collection of antiquities ranging from prehistoric times to the 15th century, including an exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls and four Iron Age anthropomorphic coffins. We will then tour Al Balad, or Downtown, the oldest area of Amman. This area contains Jabal al Qal'a which is a Citadel comprising a patchwork of Roman, Byzantine and Islamic remains which overlooks a large Roman theatre, which once seated 5000 spectators.

You are free to spend the afternoon at your leisure, perhaps remaining in Al-Balal, where the small traders sell everything from fabulous jewellery to household items. It is a great place to browse the interesting shops and to pick up a bargain if you are prepared to haggle hard. In the evening we visit Kan Zaman Village for our last night of our holiday. We will enjoy a delicious traditional meal and a folklore show from a local group. We stay overnight in our hotel in Amman.

Day 14 : DEPARTURE from Amman

We will transfer you to the airport in time for check-in for your flight home. We bid you a fond farewell. It has been a great trip!