

## 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:** 10 Days

**Start location:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**End location:** Amman, Jordan

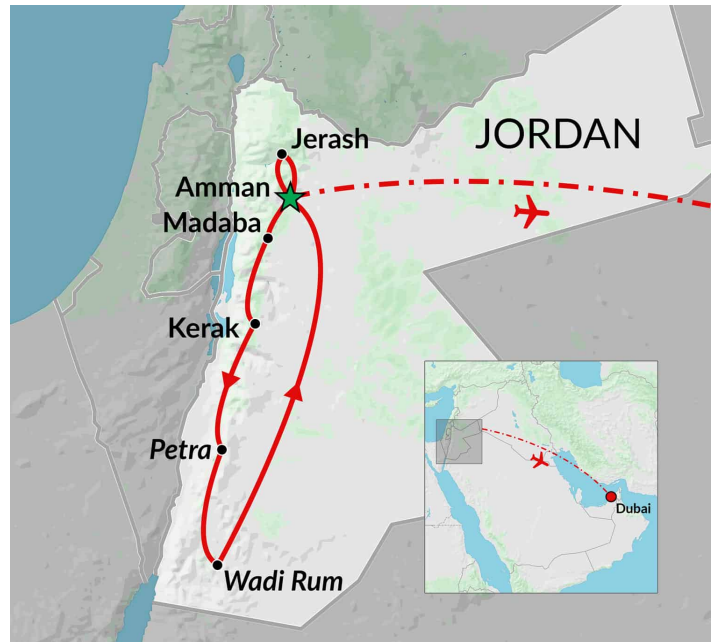
**Departs On:** Tuesday

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 9, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 2

**Highlights:**

Madaba Roman mosaics, views over Israel from Mt. Nebo, scenic drive along the King's Highway, Kerak crusader castle, full day in Petra, Wadi Rum jeep safari and Bedouin camp, Dubai city tour, Dhow Cruise on Dubai creek

**Places Visited:** Amman, Madaba, Petra, Wadi Rum & Dubai



# 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:** Single room supplement (JOSHDP) || Extra day in Amman - pre-tour - Standard level || 4-star hotel upgrade (Petra & Dubai) || Comfort level hotel upgrade (Petra & Dubai) || Jerash and the Dead Sea

## Day 2: A city tour of Amman and exploring Jerash

We start today by heading out of Amman and driving to nearby Jerash - one of the world's most well-preserved Roman architecture sites outside of Italy. Hidden away from the world underneath sand for centuries, archaeological work over the past 70 years have revealed that Jerash was a fine example of Roman urbanism, with its paved and colonnaded streets, hilltop temples, impressive theatres, public squares and plazas.

In the afternoon we return to Amman for a short tour of the city. Jordan's capital city is rich in history, dating back many millennia. Archaeological discoveries have uncovered remains from the Neolithic period as well as the Hellenistic and late Roman to Arab Islamic Ages. After heading downtown, we'll make our way to the Citadel - the former home of the ancient Temple of Hercules, The Umayyad Palace, and the Byzantine Church, before we make our way to the 6000-seater Roman theatre, which was built during the Roman Period. The ancient theatre is still in use today, playing host to numerous cultural events.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 3: King's Highway to Petra with stops at Madaba & Kerak Castle

We leave Amman behind us today as we drive along the scenic King's Highway to Petra. The drive is a beautiful one as we cross deep wadis, pass through olive groves and remote rural villages, giving you a unique insight into the daily lives of the locals.

Our first stop will be at Madaba, as we visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George - famed for its 6th century Byzantine Mosaic map of the Holy Land and other biblical sites. Next, we'll venture up Mount Nebo, which offers breath-taking views of the Holy Land.

We'll hit the road once more, this time crossing the beautiful Wadi al-Mujib, which winds through olive groves before it traverses up over a deep canyon until we reach Kerak Castle, which forms part of several Crusader castles built during the 12th century on the Egypt-Syrian caravan route.

Upon arrival in Petra, we'll check into the hotel and the evening is free for you to relax and explore. An option is available to get a first taste of Petra itself with the atmospheric Petra by Candlelight tour through the Siq to the Treasury.

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast  
**EXTRAS:**

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

Today is all about exploring the Nabatean site of Petra. It was once the ancient capital of the Nabataean commercial empire until the Romans finally took over in 106AD. For a long period of time, Petra was forgotten - except by the local Bedouins - before it was rediscovered in 1812 by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. Petra can be found at the edge of the Wadi Aruba desert, where canyon walls and towering hills make it virtually impossible to reach, except via a narrow cleft in the rock, known as the Siq. There are very few free-standing buildings in Petra, as the Nabateans chose to carve their dwellings into the multi coloured sandstone cliffs. Petra has become one of Jordan's main tourist attractions and the Jordanian Government is well aware of this. The tourism infrastructure in the adjoining village of Wadi Musa is booming, though, thankfully, once you enter through the Siq, the site is protected, there aren't that many touts or souvenir sellers, and all the building feels miles away.

We have most of the day available today to explore this ancient city (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 Nabatean water channel which is still visible on one wall and there are remnants of the terracotta pipes that brought water into the city as well. 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 and 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, giving you breath-taking views of the Wadi Aruba desert and the Jordan Valley. Another climb takes you to the High Place of Sacrifice, and Lion Fountain. All in all, this is a full and tiring exercise, 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 and 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, horse carriages are available for around 20JD (USD 28) to take you on the 1.2km journey through the Siq to the Treasury and back again at an agreed time. They will also take you further in through the site for an extra fee. We do not recommend riding the horses that are available. Donkeys are available for the steps up to the Monastery - if you want to use them, we'd recommend doing this on the way up, not on the way down.

Later in the afternoon, we leave Petra and drive into the spectacular desert scenery of Wadi Rum where friendly Bedouin hosts are ready to greet us at a comfortable camp beneath the towering rocks and cliffs. We spend the evening and night relaxing at the camp, watching the stars and enjoying a delicious traditional Jordanian meal.

**OVERNIGHT:** Wadi Rum Bedouin camp  
**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner  
**EXTRAS:** None

## **Day 5: A Jeep safari in Wadi Rum & Dead Sea Swim**

We start the day exploring the beautiful desert and mountain scenery of Wadi Rum. Keep an eye out for the copper-coloured rocky 'jebels', which mesmerised TE Lawrence during his visits to the desert during the Arab Revolt and was later famed in the movie Lawrence of Arabia. We'll take a jeep safari through the beautiful desert scenery, seeing more of the sheer cliffs and bizarre rock formations.

We say goodbye to Wadi Rum later today and head north towards the Dead Sea, one of the planet's most spectacular destinations. Not only is it the lowest point on earth, coming in at 400 metres below sea level, it's also considered to be one of the world's most spiritual landscapes, 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 and have nowhere to go, so they evaporate, leaving behind a dense, rich, cocktail of salts and minerals that supply industry, agriculture and medicine with some of its finest products.

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

We'll stop along the way to enjoy a 'swim', though the intensely salty waters lead to a very strange swimming experience. In fact, normal swimming is not possible, and it is easier (and more photogenic!) just to float, sitting or lying in the water. Be careful not to get any water in your eyes, as it will sting. If you'd like some additional time at the Dead Sea for spa treatments and/or relaxation, we also offer the option of spending your final night in Jordan here instead of returning to Amman.

We finish the day back at our hotel in Amman.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 6: From Amman to Dubai

We say our final goodbye to Jordan, as we make our way to Amman's Queen Alia International Airport to catch your flight to Dubai.

Upon arrival, one of our staff members will be there to meet you and transfer you to your hotel in the heart of Dubai - a city known for luxury shopping, ultramodern architecture and eclectic nightlife.

You have the rest of the day free to explore your new surroundings, or rest after your journey to the United Arab Emirates.

Note: The international flight from Amman to Dubai is not included in the price of the tour. It is normally most cost effective to purchase this flight as part of your main international flight ticket. However if you would like us to arrange a single ticket for you, we will be happy to book this for you. Please contact us for current prices.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 7: Dubai city tour, optional desert safari

Today is all about exploring the beautiful city of Dubai - as we head out on a shared half-day guided city tour starting at Jumeirah Public Beach and Burj Al Arab, whose sail-shaped design and 321 metre height has made it one of the signature sights in Dubai. We'll also drive through the plush district of Jumeirah full of hotels and villas, before

heading into the old Al Bastakiya quarter to discover Dubai's past. Here we'll navigate mudbrick courtyards and houses with wind towers to catch the cooling breeze. The tour also visits the 18th century Al Fahidi Fort, the oldest building in Dubai and home to the Dubai Museum. A boat trip on an abra follows as we cross Dubai Creek to Deira and the bustling and vibrant Spice Souk, full of colourful stalls of herbs, spices and sweets. Finally there is time to explore the nearby Gold Souk before you are dropped back at your hotel.

This afternoon there is an optional desert safari tour available. For this tour, you'll be collected in a 4x4 and make your way to the desert along the Al Awir Road for some fun on the dunes, including dune riding, sunset photography, belly dancing, a fire and Tanura dancing show and lots more before you enjoy a barbecue dinner underneath the starry sky. The tour lasts around 6 hours in total before you are dropped back at your hotel in the evening.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Dubai desert safari

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

You have the morning free to sleep in a little later or explore Dubai independently.

Later in the afternoon, you'll be picked up from your hotel and make your way to the Dubai Creek for a dhow cruise, where you enjoy dinner and enjoy entertainment such as live music and a Tanura dance show.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 9: Free day in Dubai

Your day is completely free today to relax or explore Dubai further. There are great beaches to enjoy the sun and swim from, and a wealth of great shopping opportunities available. Alternatively for the more adventurous, there are fascinating day trips available to nearby Abu Dhabi.

**OVERNIGHT:** Dubai hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 10: 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

## Included

- Accommodation in locally rated 3 & 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
- 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
- Entrance to Dead Sea beach with towel & showers
- 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 (compulsory, [available from Encounters Travel](#))
- 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
- [Jordan & Egypt Explorer](#) - adds As Salt and Bethany, and then 9 days exploring Egypt at the end of the tour

# Options

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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

**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.

**Price:** Starting from - \$515

## 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 been 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.

**Price:** Starting from - \$145

## **Final Night at Dead Sea (instead of Amman)**

**Min numbers:** 1

This option allows you to spend your final night in Jordan with a night at a resort on the shores of the Dead Sea. After visiting the Dead Sea during the day you will be transferred to your resort where you will spend the night, you'll have the opportunity to partake in spa treatments, relax by the pool or spend more time floating in the salty waters of the Dead Sea. This option includes the additional cost of a Dead Sea resort vs the included night in Amman, plus airport transfers on your departure day from here to Amman Airport. For those passengers who have booked the tour including standard level accommodation, the upgrade will include the Dead Sea Spa hotel (or similar), for those who have booked superior level the upgrade will include the Hilton Dead Sea Resort (or similar). Note: Single room supplements apply.

**Price:** Starting from - \$90

## **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.

**Price:** Starting from - \$60



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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.](#)

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## 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 flight whether you book your flights independently or through us.

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## **7. Passports and Visas - Jordan**

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the **Jordan Pass**. This provides adults of most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Families with children under 12 are recommended not to purchase the Jordan Pass for the children as entrance fees are not charged in Jordan for children under 12. Instead, the adults should purchase a Jordan Pass and we will arrange a free visa for the children which you will receive when we meet you on arrival into Amman airport.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

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## **8. Passport & Visas - U.A.E.**

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

UK, EU, US, Canadian, Austrian and New Zealand citizens can normally obtain a free tourist visa upon arrival into the United Arab Emirates, valid for a stay of up to 30 days. However, we recommend that you contact your closest UAE consulate or embassy and check your own government's travel advice for current information for your nationality.

Previous travel to Israel

UAE immigration authorities have advised that British nationals with valid or expired Israeli visas or stamps in their passports should not face any difficulties entering the UAE as long as they don't intend to work.

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## **9. Money - Jordan**

The local currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You do not need to arrange to bring any Jordanian Dinar with you to Jordan as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Jordan you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Jordanian Dinar, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

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## **10. Money - UAE**

The local currency in the United Arab Emirates is the Dirham (AED). You do not need to arrange to bring any local currency with you to Dubai as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in Dubai and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Dubai you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in local currency, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-30 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

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## **11. Health and Vaccinations**

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

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## **12. Time**

The time in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon is GMT plus 2 hours and in UAE GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

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## **13. Voltage**

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

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## **14. 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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## **15. Booking & Payment**

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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## **16. Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to

travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

Note - to comply with insurance sales regulations, our travel insurance policies are only available to customers booking directly with us. If you have booked through a travel agent you will need to arrange your own insurance.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

## **Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable. Details about our own policies cover levels are given [on our website](#).**

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## **17. Financial Security**

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

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## **18. Responsible Tourism**

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and

appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.

- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

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## **19. Follow Us Online**

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/encounterstravel](http://www.facebook.com/encounterstravel)

[www.twitter.com/encounterstrav](https://twitter.com/encounterstrav) (yes, without the 'e')

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## **20. Before you travel**

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's ['Travel Aware' campaign](#) which provides further useful and invaluable information.



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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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