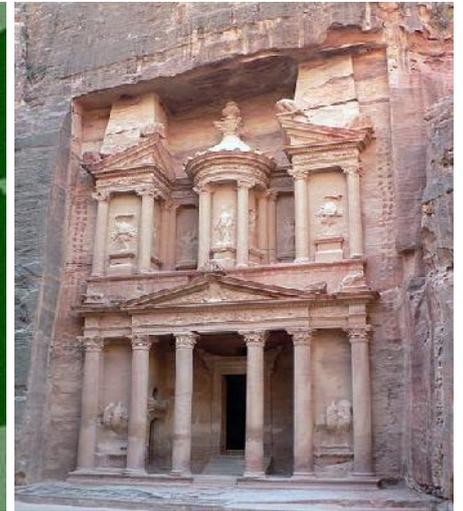




WORLDWIDE WALKING HOLIDAYS

JORDAN – CARAVAN TRAILS

13 days/ 12 nights guided walking through Petra and the stunning desert landscapes of Wadi Rum



Travel to a distant land where camel caravans have crossed the deserts and mountain passes of Arabia for thousands of years. These ancient silk and spice routes are legendary, crossing inspiring desert landscapes from oasis to oasis. Our journey will take you from the Dead Sea to Wadi Dana, Jordan's finest nature reserve, and into the Rift Valley, the lowest point on Earth. From there to the hidden city of Petra and Wadi Rum (where much of David Lean's epic 1962 movie "Lawrence of Arabia," starring Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness and Omar Sharif, was filmed on location) before ending in Aqaba on the Red Sea. You will meet Bedouin people in remote villages and experience a night in traditional style with renowned desert hospitality.

This is your chance to taste the local specialities of Arabic cuisine, dishes imaginatively flavoured with spices and herbs found along this famous merchant route. And here we find wines from ancient vineyards still tended in Christian enclaves. Arabic cuisine is elaborate and sophisticated. Food is an important part of the culture, used to express hospitality and generosity.

Tour Cost: From **\$9895** per person twin share. Double room for single use supplement \$1555

Departures: TBA – ask for details

Inclusions: 12-nights of accommodation in 4 & 5 star hotels, simple guesthouse and Bedouin camp; all meals, with wine at dinner; return airport transfers; specialist tour leader and experienced local guides; luggage transfers; all transport, excursions as specified; tips for local guides

Level of Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging – walks on good tracks, with some light scrambling and soft sand. Some ridges are not suitable for acute vertigo sufferers. You will be walking on 10 of the days with between 2 to 8 hours of walking (times reflect terrain rather than distance).

Arrival airport: Amman. A transfer the airport to your first hotel is available at a set time.

End of Tour: Aqaba. Transfer to Aqaba airport at a set time is included.

Accommodation & Meals: Accommodation is varied on this tour, reflecting the variety of experiences in the region. The hotels described are our usual choice of accommodation however if these are not available then alternatives are used and if these are of a different standard you will be informed at the time of booking.

All meals are included with the best of the region's cuisine. You will visit a wide variety of wonderful eating places and sample some of the best Arabic and Jewish culinary delights, including Mansaf, Jordan's traditional dish of lamb, yogurt and rice. Wine will be served with evening meals and available at lunch most days.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

Suggested accommodation:

Nights 1 & 2: **Dead Sea** – 5-star hotel with private beach, pool & spa

Nights 3 & 4: **Dana** – simple rustic guesthouse on Wadi Dana Gorge (shared bathrooms).

Night 5: **Wadi Feynan** – eco lodge with a panoramic rooftop terrace. All rooms with ensuite.

Night 6: **Taybet** – a traditional farming village converted into a stylish 4-star hotel resort

Nights 7-10: **Petra** – elegant 5-star hotel situated right at the entrance to Petra

Night 11: **Wadi Rum** – custom Bedouin camp pitched just for our group, deep in the desert sands

Night 12: **Aqaba** – 5-star resort hotel with private beach and outdoor pool

Suggested itinerary:

The following itinerary is offered as a working guide only and may be subject to variation depending on the weather and other factors.

Day 1: Arrive in Amman. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred by deluxe air-conditioned minibus to your hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth at some 400 metres below sea level.

Day 2: Today begins with a drive to the mountain from where Moses saw the Promised Land; then to nearby Madaba to view an ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. After lunch in an Ottoman-era house, return to the Dead Sea for a relaxing afternoon – perhaps have a swim in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea at the hotel's private beach.

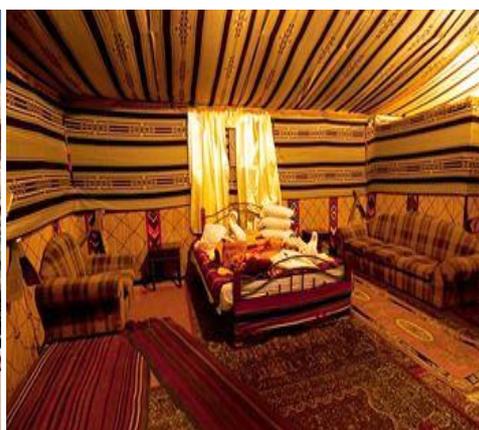
Day 3: Drive along the scenic King's Highway – a historic road stretching from Amman to Aqaba littered with the remains of Crusader forts and outposts – for some 2½ hours to Wadi Hasa, one of the longest canyons in Jordan. Today's walk (4.7km, 2 hours) will take you through the narrow gorges and past the hanging gardens of Wadi Hasa. Then continue on to Dana village by minibus.

Day 4: Today's walk skirts the northern rim of the majestic Wadi Dana, Jordan's finest nature reserve, home to abundant and varied birdlife, as well as some rare and endangered species such as the grey wolf (8km, 4.5 hours). Return by vehicle to the guesthouse at Dana.

Day 5: Walk down through the towering sandstone of Wadi Dana to the desert wastes of the Rift Valley and then on to tonight's accommodation, the stunning eco lodge at Wadi Feynan. (15.3km, 6 hours)

Day 6: Morning walk around ruins of Feynan (4.7km, 3 hours) believed by archaeologists to be one of the oldest inhabited areas of Jordan, settled during the Stone and Bronze Ages and later peopled by the Romans and Byzantines. The ruins illustrate the shift from nomadic life to agriculture and include the ancient Roman aqueduct, mill and water storage facilities; early Christian monastery, church and cemetery; and some of the oldest copper mines in the world. After your walk, drive through the red mountains of Edom to Taybet.

Day 7: Walk across mountains with wide views and gain your first glimpse of the hidden city of Petra, the 'rose red city, half as old as time', before descending to your hotel (17km, 7 hours).



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Day 8: Today explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra, carved into the rock faces of the gorge some 2000 years ago by the ancient Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who dominated the spice, silk, ivory and other trade routes that connected Arabia with India, China and Africa. Petra was renowned for its culture, architecture and innovative management of water resources, using dams, cisterns, and water conduits to control flash floods and store water for times of drought. Under Roman rule, Petra declined, particularly after an earthquake in 363 destroyed much of the water management infrastructure, and it was lost to the Western world until Swiss traveller Johann Ludwig Burckhardt persuaded his local guide to take him to the site in 1812. You will re-create Burckhardt's classic entry into the rose red city via the Siq, a narrow gorge about one kilometre long, which opens up to a vision of Al-Khazneh, the Treasury, before exploring the elaborate Royal Tombs, and then climbing to the Monastery (11.3km, 8 hours).

Day 9: Another chance to explore Petra, away from the crowds – today you re-enter Petra via a rarely used gorge and a recently discovered Byzantine church and walk a nearly-forgotten Nabataean road to a caravan station where merchants once arrived from Gaza (11.3km, 6 hours). Return by vehicle to the hotel.

Day 10: On your final morning in Petra, climb to the High Place of Sacrifice, the Nabataeans' open-air altar far above Petra on a mountain summit. The path to the altar includes obelisks dedicated to the kingdom's two main deities: Dushara, the god of strength, and al-Uzza, the goddess of water and fertility. They continued to practice this religion for hundreds of years, but by the early fourth century they had adopted Christianity as their main religion. The views from the High Place down to the Royal Tombs are spectacular. Descend via the colourful ruins of the Wadi Farasa (6.4km, 4 hours). This afternoon is free to continue exploring, or relax in the pool or sauna at the hotel.

Day 11: Morning drive to Wadi Rum, the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes, where Lawrence and Prince Faisal bin Hussein were headquartered during the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans in 1916-18. Stretch your legs on a short walk to the majestic Barrah Canyon. After lunch, walk to camp, or perhaps you would prefer to ride a camel (6.4km, 2.5 hours). Tonight's accommodation is a 'million-star hotel' at your Bedouin camp, affording a very small taste of the nomadic lifestyle.

Day 12: Wake to a stunning desert sunrise, followed by camel trek or walk (6.4km, 3 hours) between the towering sandstone cliffs of the Valley of the Moon, described by Lawrence as '*vast, echoing and God-like.*' Farewell Wadi Rum and drive across open desert to Aqaba, Jordan's resort on the Red Sea. You will have an opportunity for swimming and relaxing before an evening stroll to Aqaba's spice market and Mamluke Fort.

Day 13: Tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to Aqaba airport. Or, extend your stay in Aqaba to snorkel or dive the crystal clear waters and stunning reefs of the Red Sea. Ask our reservations team for details and costs.



Outdoor Travel offers walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided (with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals) in many areas of Europe including Wainwright's famous **Coast-to-Coast** trail, **Hadrian's Wall** or the **Lake District** in England, Ireland's **Ring of Kerry**, the **Camino de Santiago** pilgrimage route in Spain, in the **Pyrenees** in France or many areas of Italy. Comfortable walking with good accommodation, gourmet food & wine are offered in the **Lot or Dordogne** regions of France or in **Catalonia** in Northern Spain.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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