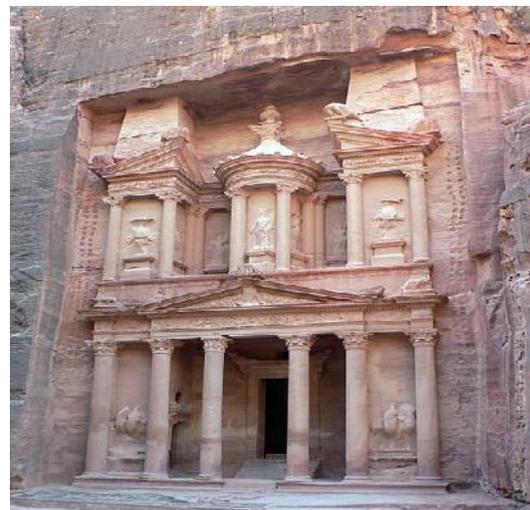


JORDAN – PETRA, WADI RUM & THE DEAD SEA

11 days / 10 nights GUIDED walking & sightseeing through history & stunning desert landscapes



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 to Wadi Dana, Jordan's finest nature reserve, and to the hidden city of Petra, the 'rose-red city half as old as time', 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). We end on the Dead Sea where we can test the renowned healing properties of the waters and mud. You will meet Bedouin people in remote villages and experience a night in traditional style with renowned desert hospitality.

Cost from: \$9895 per person twin share. Single room supplement on request

Departures: April & October – ask for details

Inclusions: 10-nights of accommodation in 3-4 star hotels, Eco lodge and Bedouin camp; full board from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 11; full program of guided walks led by specialist local guides and tour leader; transport by air-conditioned coach / minibus; sightseeing and entrance fees; tips.

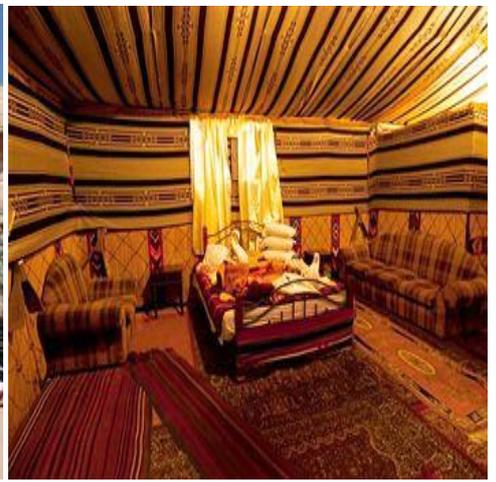
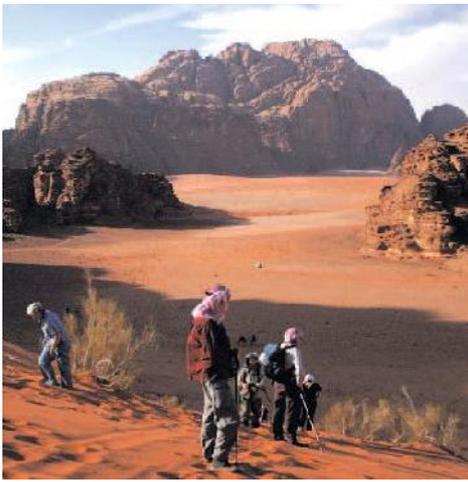
Not included: International flights, drinks, visa or passport fees, personal expenses.

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate - Walks vary from a relaxed exploration of Roman ruins to trails in the untouched canyons leading to Petra. Most days involve moderate walking in extraordinary scenery, in sunshine with occasional high temperatures. Trails can be rocky underfoot.

Accommodation & Meals: Accommodation is varied on this tour, reflecting the variety of experiences in the region. In Amman and Petra we stay in 3- and 4-star hotels with modern facilities including swimming pools. At Dana Nature Reserve our accommodation is at the stunning Feynan Eco lodge, inspired by the historical caravanserai. We also spend 2 nights at the 'million-star hotel' - a traditional Bedouin camp at Wadi Rum, offering us just a taste of the nomadic life. At the Dead Sea we stay in a spa-hotel on the shores of the sea.

Meals are a highlight on this tour. We sample some of the best Arabic and Jewish culinary delights, including Mansaf, Jordan's traditional dish of lamb, yogurt and rice, and a traditional Bedouin 'zarb' – meat and vegetables cooked under the desert sands. Strong Arabic coffee and traditional sweets are also a feature of Jordanian cuisine, and you may like to taste the local aniseed firewater *araq*.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Amman and transfer to our 4-star hotel, located in Amman's central business district. We stay here for 3 nights.

Day 2: We travel north from Amman to the Roman city of Jerash, one of the biggest and best-preserved Roman cities outside of Italy. We have time to explore the extensive ruins, including the forum, the agora and the Temple of Artemis, dedicated to the city's patron goddess. After lunch we return to Amman and wander in the city centre by Hashemite Square and the Roman theatre.

Day 3: We walk in the timeless valleys north of Amman, on the Al-Oyoun Trail through small villages, each with its own cottage industry, fertile farmland with fruit groves and a few remnants of past cultures. This walk is a great way to see rural life in Jordan today, and we will have lunch hosted by a local family. Afterwards we return to Amman for the night.

Day 4: We leave Amman this morning, with a stop for a walk at Wadi Ibn Hammad, a narrow gorge with attractive plant life and spring waters. We continue south to Dana Nature Reserve, one of the hidden gems of Jordan, a hotspot of biodiversity, home to many species of plants, birds and mammals, including the endangered sand cat and Syrian wolf. At Dana Nature Reserve we stay in an environmentally sustainable lodge, built to support the local Bedouin community. The lodge blends into this stunning landscape and the roof terrace provides spectacular views over the wadi. The rooms are all ensuite, and lit by candle at night.

Day 5: We walk along the rim of Wadi Shagg al Kelbe and contour the towering sandstone slopes of Wadi Dana. The walk leads us to the terraced gardens of Dana village where we see the old Ottoman houses and witness the traditional lifestyle of the villagers. Later we drive to Petra for a 3 night stay.

Day 6: An unforgettable day exploring the pathways of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra, with rock-hewn churches and grand buildings, small dwellings and ceremonial sites, 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. This huge ancient city is staggering in scale and splendour.

Day 7: Another chance to explore Petra, away from the crowds. A trail from Little Petra and its tombs and temples takes us off the beaten track and through stunning scenery surrounded by views of desert and canyons, to a quiet entrance to the ancient city of Petra. Alternatively, take some time out on your own exploration of this ancient wonder.

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Day 8: 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.

This afternoon we 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. Tonight we stay at a traditional Bedouin camp, with a Bedouin feast under the star-studded night skies.

Day 9: We spend today exploring the stunning desert landscapes of Wadi Rum. In the morning we walk over dunes and bright pink sandstone for stunning views, and in the afternoon we tour the dunes by Jeep. We sleep under the stars again tonight at our Bedouin camp.

Day 10: This morning there is an opportunity to take a camel trek in the desert (optional, cost not included). Later we drive back north, stopping to visit the mosaic church of St George in Madaba. We continue on to the Dead Sea, where we stay tonight in a spa-hotel on the shores of this famous sea. You can float in the waters, or take advantage of the hotel's many swimming pools, or relax with a spa treatment of Dead Sea mud.

Day 11: Tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to Amman airport.

Note: The itinerary above is offered as a working guide only and may be subject to variation depending on the weather and other factors. Accommodation mentioned is our first choice; on occasion we may need to change accommodation – if this happens the replacement accommodation will be of the same standard or higher. In the rare case where this is not possible you will be informed in advance.



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. Guided or self-guided walks are also available in Japan, China, Kenya or Uganda in East Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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