

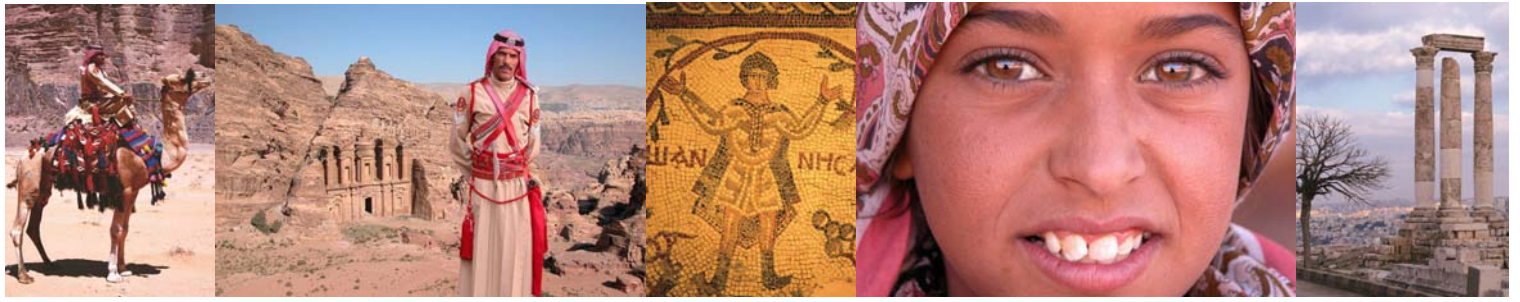
Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Discover the history and beauty of this desert kingdom

8 DAYS - STARTING AMAN 28 OCTOBER 2019





THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Trip Outline

Jordan has fascinated visitors for centuries with its stunning desert landscapes, a plethora of ancient towns and amazing World Heritage sites. It is comfortable, safe and welcoming and is one of the region's most rewarding destinations. The local culture of hospitality stems from the country's deep roots in its Bedouin history. Although modern day Jordan is a relatively new country compared to its larger neighbours the region has been traversed by camel caravans and Nabataean traders plying the legendary King's Highway for centuries whilst Roman legions, Muslim armies and the Crusaders have all swept through this ancient land on their journeys of conquest. Although largely desert, Jordan has lush farming lands, dramatic mountains and beautiful beaches. Crusader castles and ancient churches dot the countryside and there are the enduring sites of Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea and the jewel in the crown of the country's many antiquities, wonderful Petra, the ancient Nabataean city carved into the pink sandstone cliffs in Jordan's southwestern desert.

Our journey begins in Amman the Jordanian capital from where we travel north to the ancient city of Jerash. The city has been the site of an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6500 years having reached its golden age under Roman rule. Even today the greco-roman ruins are an impressive site. Later we descend to the Dead Sea, whose salt enriched waters are known for their healing properties. Turning southward we travel on to Aqaba which fronts the warm waters of the Red Sea and there's time here to swim before the short drive to magnificent Wadi Rum, one of the most spectacular desert valleys in the Middle East. We spend the night in a luxurious bedouin style encampment, climb sand dunes, and enjoy a camel ride at sunset.

Leaving the desert valley behind us we head to the ancient Nabataean site of Petra, one of the most celebrated sites in the region. The view of the ancient Treasury building as you enter through the narrow gap in the Siq canyon is breath taking. Enroute back to Amman we visit the imposing 12th Century Shobak Crusader castle and take a stroll through the ancient villages of Dana and Madaba.

Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has nearly 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He has worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies including 13 years as a Product Manager and Operations Director for Peregrine Adventures.

Most recently he has been involved in researching and developing holidays in several different regions of the world, including Latin America and the Middle East where he has lived.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing them to some of the world's most interesting places. As a Middle East Destination Manager for several years he has made many trips to Jordan and finds the country one of the friendliest in the Arab world.

With our Byroads itineraries you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions – and much more, however there are some days when you'll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.



2019 ITINERARY - STARTS IN AMMAN

MON 28 OCT: AMMAN – Upon arrival at the Amman International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the city. The balance of the day is at your leisure and we will plan to hold a short meeting in the evening before going out for dinner.

TUE 29 OCT: AMMAN-JERASH-DEAD SEA-AMMAN – Following breakfast this morning we will drive to the ruins of Jerash located just over an hour away. These imposing Greco-Roman ruins were once home to approximately 35000 inhabitants and the area abounds with the remains of temples, churches, an amphitheatre, ancient water systems and detailed friezes and mosaics. The site has been occupied continuously for 6500 years. Later in the morning we drive to the Dead Sea. This is the deepest, non submerged point on earth and it's a unique sensation to float in the Sea's extremely salty waters. We enjoy lunch here before returning to Amman for the evening. (B, L)

WED 30 OCT: AMMAN-AQABA – This morning we enjoy a walk downtown to visit the Jordan Museum followed by Darat al Funun, a foundation for the arts and artists from the Arab world. Jordan is a small country and its only a 5 hour drive south to the port of Aqaba located at the top of the Red Sea and next to the Israeli city of Eilat. We will visit the historical Aqaba Fort, once the scene of a great Arab victory in 1916 over the Turks when the stronghold fell to a daring Arab camel charge. Later we have time to swim and relax and to get ready for our desert adventure. (B)

THU 31 OCT: AQABA-WADI RUM Just over an hour away from Aqaba, Wadi Rum is one of the most spectacular natural environments in the Middle East. The wadi itself is one of a sequence of parallel faults forming valleys in the sandy desert south of the Shara mountains. The desert scenery found at Wadi Rum is a major highlight of our tour and our overnight stay in a comfortable Bedouin style camp only adds to the specialness of the experience. Today we will enjoy a jeep ride through the wadi and at sunset we will take a camel ride through the desert. This is Lawrence of Arabia country. (B, D)

FRI 1 NOV: WADI RUM-PETRA – Arising early we take our breakfast and set out with our Bedouin guide to visit the sand dunes. After preparing a Bedouin tea for us our guide then takes us to meet our 4WD team who transfer us to the Wadi Rum Visitors Center from where we rejoin our vehicle for the drive to Petra. On arrival in Petra we check into our hotel and the rest of the afternoon and the evening is free at our leisure. (B)

SAT 2 NOV: PETRA – Following breakfast the gates of the past open up to one of the world's most famous wonders; the ancient city of Petra. Experience the magic of this ancient site as you are guided through the architectural and spiritual wonders of the Rose City. Entering through the long, narrow canyon you come face to face with the magnificent Treasury building which has come to symbolise the city. Like the other buildings at Petra it has been carved from the pink-struen rock. The site has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was described as "one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage". Following our visit to the site there is time for your own discoveries or you can decide to return to the hotel to relax, or to wander the shops and bazaar of the town. (B)

SUN 3 NOV: PETRA-SHOBAK-DANA-MADABA-AMMAN – Our drive back to Amman today is packed with interesting sites. First stop is the 12th Century Shoback Crusader Castle. Perched atop a rocky conical mountain it is an imposing site. Following on from Shobak we explore with a guide the village of Dana, a picturesque cluster of stone cottages huddled together on a cliffside outcrop. Abandoned in the middle of the last century the village is being restored and revitalised as part of a hub for sustainable, eco tourism. Further on is the market town of Madaba. Located only 30km southwest of Amman the town is famous for its Byzantina mosaics found in the churches and museums of the town. Of particular interest is the 6th Century mosaic map of the Holy Land. The mosaic at the Church of the Apostles should not be missed and the town itself is definately worth a wander along its narrow streets with its fine Ottoman stone houses. We arrive back in Amman in the late afternoon and check into our hotel for our last night of the tour. (B)

MON 4 NOV: END AMMAN – Our tour to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan comes to an end today after breakfast. Additional accommodation is available for those who would like to stay on in Amman. (B)

***** This trip combines perfectly with our 8 Day tour of Oman commencing in Muscat on the 21st of October, requiring a short flight between Muscat and Amman on the 28th of October 2019.**



petra



Prices & Inclusions

8 Days – The Kingdom of Jordan

Provisional price: USD \$1925 (per person twin-share)

Single Supplement: USD \$300

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local driver and tour guide throughout, all transfers and transportation, 7 nights accommodation, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), flights, additional meals, drinks, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips, departure transfer.

Transportation: We travel in a comfortable air-conditioned mini-coach.

Accommodation: Hotels in Jordan tend to be quite new and modern in their design with few boutique style hotels available. What you can be assured of is that they will be clean, comfortable and well run. In Amman we stay in an atmospheric 3+ star hotel with an arabic feel while on the Red Sea at Aqaba our hotel is a modern classic style. Our comfortable Bedouin Camp in Wadi Rum is set amongst stunning desert scenery and is an unforgettable experience. During our stay in Petra our top rating hotel is located just 100m from the entrance to the Heritage site. It's renowned for its friendly staff and excellent service.



Eco Friendly 3+ Star, Amman

Classic style hotel, Aqaba



Atmospheric Bedouin Camp in the stunning desertscape of Wadi Rum



Comfort & Charm at the gates of ancient Petra

Food and drink: Breakfast is provided each day, along with 1 lunch and 1 dinner. Beer, wine & spirits are available at selected locations whilst soft drinks, juices and bottled water are available throughout.

Group size: Maximum 16 guests

Additional Expenses: Sampling the food in Jordan is, for most, one of the highlights of the trip, and it is generally pretty good value. Expect to pay around US\$10-\$20 for lunches and US\$20-\$30 for dinners. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights and Transfers: Various airlines fly from Australia to Amman including Emirates, Etihad and Qatar. All arrival flights will be met, however the final departure is not included.

Extra nights in Amman: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Visa for Jordan: Australian and New Zealand passport holders require a visa to visit Jordan. This is available on arrival at the airport in Amman.

Documentation: Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

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www.byroads.com.au

