



## Destination Jordan Trip Itinerary 12 Days

### **Day 1** - Arrival – Amman

Meet and greet at the airport and be assisted through customs. Transfer to hotel. Depending on arrival times, welcome drink and briefing with the group.

### **Day 2** - Amman and Jerash

The ancient city of Jerash boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years. The city's golden age came under Roman rule and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Our visit may coincide with the RACE performance, a re-enactment of the Roman Army, fighting gladiators and chariot racing. Lunch included.

This afternoon we will take a look at the beautifully preserved Roman Citadel, and Theatre and then wander around the old city where fascinating shops and stall holders will vie for your business.

### **Day 3** - Amman to Petra (Wadi Musa)

We start out early for our drive to Petra, along the way exploring Umm ar-Risas - once a major garrison along the ancient caravan route - and St Stephens Church, with its wonderful, large mosaic floors. Continuing along the King's Highway stop at Karak or Shobak Crusader Castles depending on time.

In the evening we take a cooking class and learn how to cook the wonderful food we have been tasting on our travels. We will gather to prepare an evening meal working alongside local women under the supervision of a local chef. The meal will consist of soup, hot and cold mezza and salads, and a main course – all typical Jordanian dishes.

#### **Day 4 -Petra (Wadi Musa)**

Hidden behind an almost impenetrable barrier of rugged mountains, the rock-carved city of Petra is full of mysterious charm. The approach through the cool gloom of the Siq, a long narrow gorge whose steeply rising sides all but obliterate the sun, provides a dramatic contrast with the magic to come. Suddenly the gorge opens into a natural square dominated by Petra's most famous monument, the Khasneh, (the Treasury) whose intricately carved facade glows in the dazzling sun.

More facades beckon the visitor on until the ancient city gradually unfolds, one monument leading to the next for kilometer after kilometer. The sheer size of the city and the quality of beautifully carved facades is staggering and leads one to reflect on the creativity and industry of the Nabatteans who made Petra their capital more than 2,000 years ago.

Our private guide will explain the history of this amazing Nabatteean city as we climb the 900 steps to Ad-Deir, the Monastery. We will take rest stops along the way, but it is worth all the effort, we promise!

At the end of our walk we return to Wadi Musa where we can take lunch and indulge in some local arts and handicrafts. There are some great retail opportunities here, especially from the co-operatives who support the local Jordanian women. Don't forget to bargain – it's a way of life here.

Tonight - Petra by Night, a candle lit stroll through the Siq of Petra to the Treasury which is lit by hundreds of candles, a performance of traditional music on ancient instruments and a little Bedouin Whisky (mint tea).

#### **Day 5 -Petra**

This morning take a horse and cart through the siq and revisit Petra to climb to the top of the 'High Place' from where we see the city of Petra and beyond laid out before us like a tapestry. Then in the early afternoon we wander through Wadi Musa with its restaurants and wonderful local arts and crafts, take a coffee and nargileh, or simply relax poolside back at the hotel or perhaps indulge in a wonderfully relaxing Hammam.

## **Day 6 – Petra to Wadi Rum**

We take the opportunity for a last early morning visit to Petra to wander the myriad tombs and marvel at one of the seven wonders of the modern world before setting out in the early afternoon for Wadi Rum.

Stunning in its natural beauty, Wadi Rum epitomizes the romance of the desert. With its "moonscape" of ancient valleys and towering sandstone mountains.

We take 4 x 4 vehicles to drive through the desert and visit Barrah siq, the Burdah Rock Bridge and Jebel Khazali, with its prehistoric rock inscriptions.

We spend the night at a Bedouin camp, climb a nearby jebel to watch the sun set and eat a typical dinner by the light of the fire. Sleep under the stars or under canvas, but you will truly understand the Bedouin when they tell you that every night is the night of a million stars.

## **Day 7 - Wadi Rum to the Dead Sea**

The lowest point on the earth's surface, the Dead Sea's attraction is the unique chemical composition of its water, as well as the filtered sunrays and oxygen-rich air, and the mineral-rich black mud along the shoreline, plus the adjacent fresh water and thermal mineral springs which have restorative powers and skin ailment cures.

Here we are able to take a breather and relax, float in the sea, lie by the pool, enjoy the restaurants and slather ourselves with mud down on the beach area. The hotel has a wonderful spa with many treatments and massage therapies. We will provide you with the menu and prices on your arrival in Jordan and will be happy to pre-book treatments for you prior to our arrival.

## **Day 11** -Dead Sea to Madaba

Today our drive to Madaba takes us to Mt. Nebo, the memorial of Moses, the presumed site of the prophet's death and burial place. A small, square church was built on the spot by early Byzantine Christians and later expanded into a vast complex. Stand where Moses stood and take in the view of Jericho, the Sea of Galilee and Israel

Travel on to Madaba, an ancient town whose recorded history goes back further than 1300 BC, which has as its chief attraction, in the Greek Orthodox church of St. George, the wonderfully vivid, 6th-century Byzantine mosaic map showing the entire region from Jordan and Palestine in the north, to Egypt in the south.

Madaba is also "the City of Mosaics" and we will take a tour of the local mosaic co-operative which supports local and disabled women of the area. You will see the mosaics being made and of course the opportunity to purchase wonderful pieces.

We take a walk to visit the archaeological sites including the museum, the archaeological park and the apostolic hall with its beautiful mosaics.

Farewell dinner tonight at Haret Jdoudna a lively place serving the local delicacies and featuring wonderful live music.

## **Day 12** – Transfer to Airport for your onward journey or extension to Syria

### **Included:**

- Five star accommodation
- Airport transfers
- Entry fees to all sites
- Transport
- Local Guides
- Welcome drink
- Jerash lunch
- Petra cooking class
- Farewell dinner