

Itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK/Arrive in Amman

Welcome to Jordan! We will be waiting at Amman (AMM) airport to take you directly to your hotel in Amman – a 40-minute drive. There are no activities planned for today.

Please keep in mind that hotel check-in time is typically after 2.00 pm. Early check in is not guaranteed, but if you do arrive early luggage storage is available at the hotel.

There will be time to rest and settle in before you meet your tour guide for the trip. He'll be happy to answer any questions about the journey, and to make sure you're briefed on the programme each day.

Overnight: Hotel in Amman (3 stars)

Meals: None

Day 2: Amman Tour

After Breakfast, we will explore Amman, Jordan's capital is a real, living city, full of quirky neighborhoods, friendly people, and fabulous food. You'll begin up at the citadel, where you can take in the views and explore the Roman and early Islamic ruins. Just downhill is the Roman theatre, built during the reign of Emperor Antonius but now embedded into modern Amman and still used for cultural and musical events. From here you can wander through the markets, maybe stopping in a local café to take in the street scenes, watch the old men playing backgammon, and try Arabic coffee and pastries. This is also a good chance to smoke the scented tobacco of the argeelah or hubbly bubbly.

Overnight: Hotel in Amman (3 stars)

Meals: B

Day 3: To Wadi Rum and First Day's Trek



Early morning, we will be transferred to Wadi Rum where we will meet our Local

Bedouin Guide. It is a delightful spot, perhaps 150 metres above the village, with a great view out over the valley. We will spend a little time in this peaceful place, before continuing our walk on a wide and rocky ledge across the face of Jebel Rum. The great expanse of desert on our left side is called Ghor al Ajram and was the place where all the tents were set up for Abu Tayi's 'party' in the film Lawrence of Arabia. As an introduction to Wadi Rum, this short walk cannot be bettered. After 2 hours or so, this route takes us down to the desert sand at Abu Aina. Spring water has been channeled into troughs here and the camels that roam around the desert during the day come to drink here before returning to the village or to the desert for the night. Here, we meet our transport for the half-hour drive to our camping place at the mouth of Wadi Um Ishrin. At the entrance of this valley a large dune has built up and our camp is hidden behind this. Tea and biscuits will be served and there will be chance to do some exploring before dinner. This is also a good opportunity to select the place where you would like to sleep, under the stars or in your tent as you prefer. You can find plenty of private spots if you wish, or you can remain near to the campfire. As it gets dark, around the campfire you will meet the team of helpers, learn their names and exchange banter with them. An important part of this trekking holiday is to get to know something about the extraordinary people who are the Bedouin of Wadi Rum.

Overnight: Camp out in the Desert

Meals: B, L, D



Day 4: Visit the Burda Bridge

This morning's objective is the Burdah Bridge, a well-known landmark, which is reached by way of relatively easy scrambling across open rock slabs. Our guide will show us the best route through a maze of blind alleys and dead ends. There are some steeper sections and you will need to use your hands at times. A jumble of rocks leads to a small plateau, through a valley and then over a steep slab. From here, we turn a corner into a hidden gulley that provides us with a wonderful view of the bridge above. Obligatory photo stop. We then

climb a short, steeper wall and here the guide will use a climbing rope to safeguard our passage. Above, we will cross the dramatic Burdah Bridge - another fantastic photo opportunity. There are magnificent views from here, extending over the whole area of Wadi Rum. We have the option of descending by an alternative route, again crossing wonderful open slabs and culminating in a steep groove, which is best descended on your backside, with the climbing rope at hand for reassurance. Back on the desert floor after a 3-hour round-trip, we meet our vehicles and have lunch in the shade. Fruit juice and tea/coffee will be waiting for us. Lunch is usually a lighter meal than supper, very often heavier on vegetables than meat. After a siesta, we set out to walk for a couple of hours through desert canyons to our next overnight camp. This takes us past some impressively eroded cliffs and by way of a second rock arch that forms a part of Jebel Um Frith. At camp, jugs of water will be available for those who want to find a quiet corner and wash off the desert dust.

Overnight: Camp out in the Desert

Meals: B, L, D



Day 5: Climb Jabal Hash

The day starts with a half-hour transfer southwards to Jebel Khasch. Here, we start out hiking through an interesting rocky valley with some sparse vegetation, before negotiating easy rocky slabs as our route twists and turns to the plateau area beneath the highest rocky piles of this massif. We will choose a prominent summit as our high point (1700m / 5575ft) and enjoy views, which extend on all sides across the desert landscape. Descending towards the west through another rocky valley, we will effectively make a traverse of Jebel Khasch, which takes around 4 hours. There are some great rock colours, blues and purples, as we finally reach a sandy wadi and meet up with our vehicles for lunch. After lunch, we descend an impressive wadi, where we may see Sinai or roseate finches (the national bird of Jordan). This walk also takes us through an ancient Bedouin cemetery and into an area of red rocks and red sand. There is a choice

of camping places in this area which each afford good sunset views.

Overnight: Camp out in the Desert

Meals: B, L, D



Day 6: Ascend Jebel Um Adaami

There are even better views today, as we set off to tackle Jebel Um Adaami, the highest mountain in Jordan, which lies on the border with Saudi Arabia. This is quite a difficult drive for our 4-wheel-drive transport, but an enjoyable one for the passengers. Especially memorable is the wide and lonely Wadi Saabit, close to the mountain. Notice the deep stream bed in the centre of this valley - it shows just how much water used to fall in the Wadi Rum area. Arriving at the start of the day's walk, we can see a Nabatean dam on the left as we head up into a sandy valley. Still in use by the Bedouin, a long line of stones (now set in cement) directs as much water as possible into the shaded reservoir under the cliff. At the end of the valley we climb up a gulley onto the mountain and this is the only difficulty in the ascent. The rest of the path is a stony one, leading to the cairn marking the summit. Here, we are right on the border and can see far into the Saudi mountains. Make sure you have plenty of film with you! The Bedouin guide might even brew a cup of herb tea on the summit, using materials gathered on the ascent. After this 3-hour round-trip, we will drive back to our camping place of the previous evening for lunch. The afternoon's programme is a 2-hour walk across the desert, through an area where we are likely to see Bedouin camps and grazing goats and camels. On this evening, we may choose to spend the night in a Bedouin tent, close to Um Sabata. Anybody who wishes can sleep outside on the soft sand, otherwise we spread our mattresses inside the tent which is twenty or thirty metres long. One option tonight is to have a traditional Bedouin dish of chicken or lamb, cooked in an underground oven. These ovens are often improvised in the desert, dug out and lined with a metal drum, before a fire is lit inside and the oven heated for a couple of hours. The meat and vegetables are placed on the embers and sand heaped

high over the oven. A couple more hours and the dish is ready. The cooks will start this dish before we arrive, but you can see the finished product being brought out.



Overnight: Camp out in the Desert
Meals: B, L, D

Day 7: Petra Through The Backdoor After breakfast we leave Wadi Rum and head to Beidha. The walk from here to Petra will take between 2 and 3 hours, with the initial walk across open farmland. The route then follows a well-defined mountain track with fantastic views across to the Araba Desert, some 100 km / 60 miles away. The views are impressive and with the exception of one short (2 metre) section a head for heights is not necessary. The walk into Petra is magnificent and the initial glimpse of the top of the Monastery, as it comes into view through the mountains, has a similar effect of the first glimpse of the Treasury from the Siq. We will then trek down from the Monastery and exit Petra by the secondary Siq before re-entering the site through the main Siq so you get to see the most famous view of Petra as though you are entering for the first time. After exploring several of the main sites of this huge city we follow a track past the Roman Theatre area and Pharaoh's Column, then descend into Wadi Ras Suleiman and on towards the Snake Monument, before curving back above it to a plateau near the Djinn Block where we'll find our camp already set up for us. It's a truly unique experience to spend a night camping within Petra.



Overnight: Camp out in Petra

Meals: B, L, D

Day 8: Climb Jabal Haroun Jebal Haroun has probably been a sacred site since pre-history. You can see the white-domed shrine on the summit from across Petra, but very few of the city's visitors make it to the top. You'll enter Petra through the siq, walking past the Treasury before leaving the crowds and cutting off into the Wadi Ras Suleiman. The track takes you out towards the Snake Monument and past tombs still inhabited by Bedouin families. Now you begin to climb, the track switching back on itself until it brings you out on a plateau beneath the peak. From here it's a short walk up Jordan's loneliest and most atmospheric shrine, built in the Mamluk era on the ruins of an older building, possibly a Christian chapel. Until the late twentieth century the people of Wadi Musa made an annual pilgrimage here, spending the night on the mountain and enjoying fire, feast, and horseracing as well as praying for rain and health at the shrine. You'll have time to take in the magnificent views across the Wadi Araba and into the Negev before retracing your steps back to Petra.

Overnight: hotel in Petra (3 stars)

Meals: B, L, D

Day 9: Dead Sea After Breakfast, we will head down to the Dead Sea, and have the chance to float in its warm, intensely saline water. It is an unforgettable experience! The Dead Sea is the lowest point on the surface of the earth (some 400m below sea level) and contains mineral-rich muds that have been recognized since antiquity for their curative properties. This mud costs a fortune in Europe, but in Jordan you can scoop it from the seabed and cover yourself with it! The blue water, the white salt-encrusted shore, and the red desert mountains also make this an outstandingly beautiful place.

Overnight: Hotel in the Dead Sea (4 stars)

Meals: B

**Day 10: Departure**

Depending on your flight details, a group transfer will be arranged to the airport.

Meals: B

Program Ends!

Quick Facts

Trekking duration: 6 days trekking (some scrambling)

Max altitude: 1832 m

Maximum group size: 20

Accommodation: 4 nights hotels, 5 nights camping

Physical rating: moderate

What's included

- An experienced local Jordanian tour guide
- Bedouin trekking guide
- Timed Amman Airport transfers at the beginning and end of the trip
- All accommodation as described in the trip details
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- 2 days Entrance fees to Petra , entrance fees in Amman Tour and Entrance fees of Wadi Rum
- A full service on trek including food and all equipment (excluding personal equipment)

What's not included

Travel insurance

Visas

Tips for local staff including the local guide and drivers

Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.