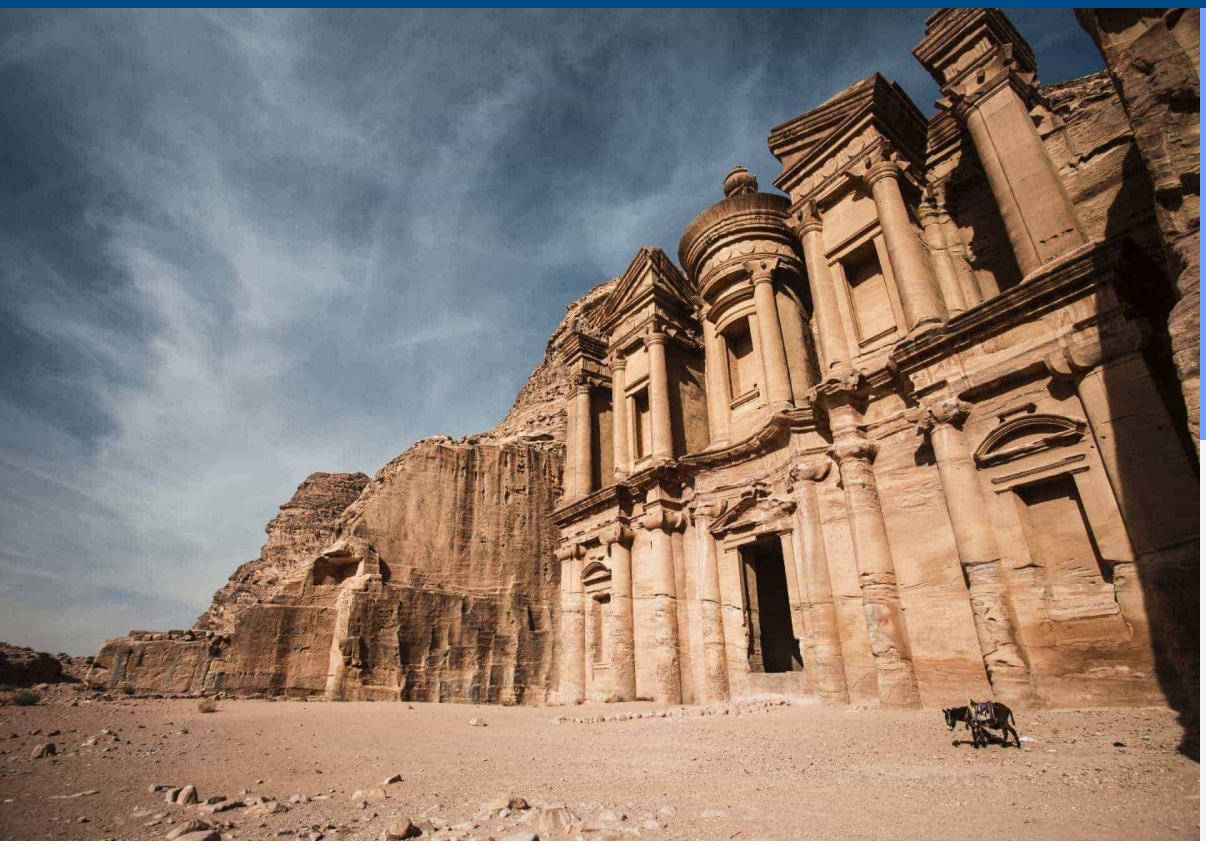
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30th December 2024

9 days
Duration

Jordan
Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
Activity

Ancient History of Jordan | Escorted Small Group Tour

Oct 26 2024 to Nov 03 2024



Journey through Jordan

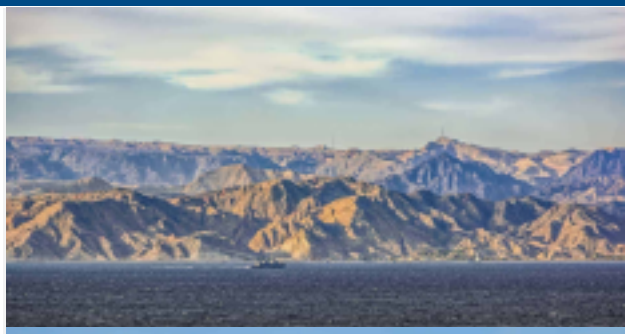
The historical riches of Jordan serve as a reminder of its long history at the heart of the Middle East. In ancient times, Jordan was a pivotal link between the Persian and Greco-Roman empires. During Odyssey Traveller Australia's tour of Jordan we visit the capital Amman, the Dead Sea, the ancient Desert Castles, and the ancient city of Petra. This group tour is ideal for those looking to experience the iconic culture,

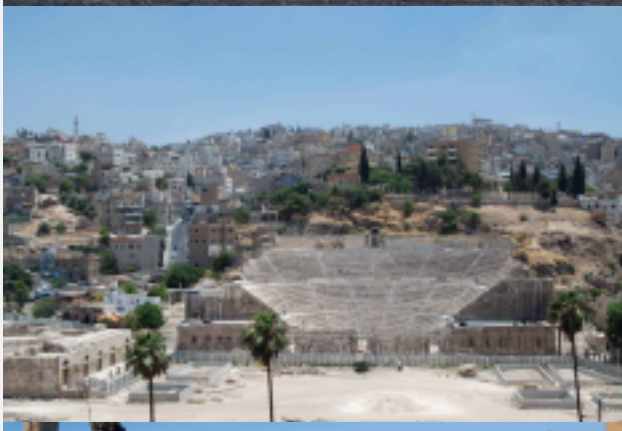
architecture, and desert landscapes of Jordan.

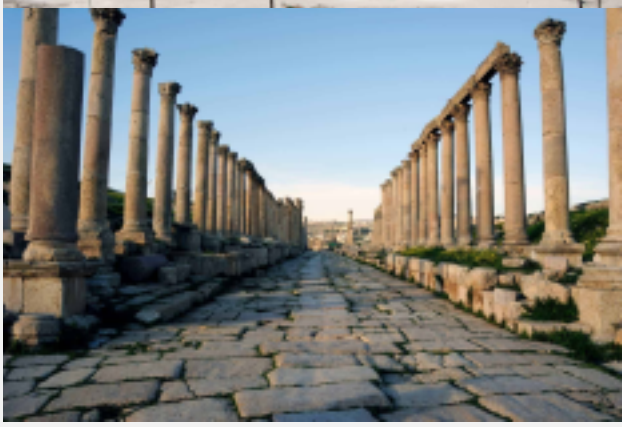
Arriving in Amman, we will see the Archaeological Museum, the Folklore Museum. We will also visit The Blue Mosque, a spectacular holy structure built in the 17th century.

After Amman, we travel to the ancient city of Jerash. Jerash is visually stunning, with paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls.

We also explore Madaba, a city best known for the famous 6th-century mosaic map of Jerusalem & the Holy Land. Madaba is also home to Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics.







Ancient History of Jordan Small Group Tour Highlights

In addition to several amazing buildings and castles in Jordan, we visit Shobak Castle. It is an early 12th century Crusader castle in barren surroundings. The castle is perched on the side of a rocky conical mountain, 1300m above sea level, overlooking fruit trees below.

Another significant highlight of the trip is the Nabatean Red Rose city of Petra, one of the 7 wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage site. We enter the city through a 1km long narrow gorge which is flanked either side by towering 80m high cliffs. There are dazzling colours and formations formed by the rocks. The massive site contains hundreds of elaborated rock-cut tombs, a treasury, Roman-style theatres, temples, sacrificial altars and colonnaded streets. As you walk through the scenery is incredible. This Petra tour is an amazing travel experience.

We also visit the striking desert valley of Wadi Rum, one of the natural wonders of Jordan. Wadi Rum is known by locals as the ‘valley of the moon’ and was featured in the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*. Today, the valley is home to a Bedouin desert camp and is a launching point for

adventure travel.

At the end of the guided tour we arrive at Aqaba, by the Red Sea. From here we enjoy a day trip to the famous Dead Sea. Here, we will find ourselves at the lowest point on earth, 410m below sea level. The Dead Sea Scrolls (ancient Jewish manuscripts) were found buried in the Qumran Caves of the north shore.

You can learn more about Jordan with our country profile. If you're interested in more information about our guided tour, please click the 'Top 5.' Or the 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

This tour is paired with Odyssey Traveller's small group tours of Iran or Egypt.







Articles about Jordan published by Odyssey Traveller

- Touring World Heritage Sites.
- The Jerash Ruins
- Petra, Jordan

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through on this link.

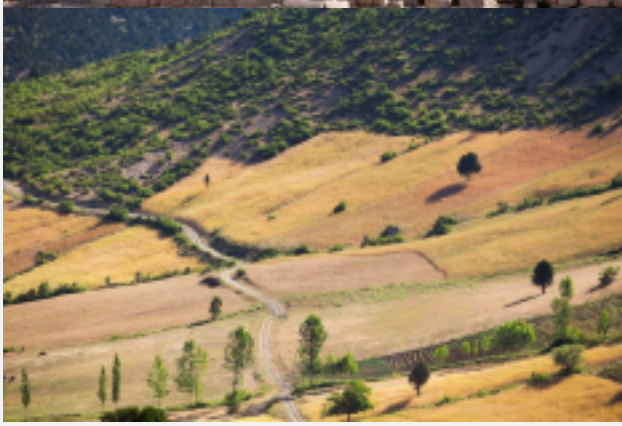
External articles to assist you on your visit to Jordan:

- Rome brought pomp and prosperity to this ancient outpost in Jordan
- Jordan is spectacular, safe, and friendly – so where are the tourists?

- How to be a responsible traveller in Petra
- How to eat like a true Jordanian
- The Dead Sea: Why you should visit before it’s too late
- Jordan Pass a hit with tourists as sales soared in 2019 — ministry







Tour Notes

- Group size limited to 14
- This tour is paired with Odyssey's Treasures of Egypt tour.

Highlights

1. Visit the mosaic cities of Madaba and Mount Nebo.
2. Feel the romance of the Arabian Desert with a visit to the spectacular Wadi Rum the Valley of the Moon.
3. Discover the stunning Capital City of the Nabateans, Petra, a city fully carved in the rose red stones.
4. Float in the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth at 400 metres below sea level.
5. Explore the fascinating city of Amman.

Itinerary



Day 1

Locations: Amman

Overview:

On arrival make your own way to the hotel. In the evening meet with the group for a welcome dinner.

Accommodation:

04 nights at Toledo Hotel or similar.

Day 2

Locations: Amman - Desert Castles - Amman

Overview:

After breakfast, we tour the downtown part of the capital city, visiting sites and museums including the Archaeological Museum, the Folklore Museum, The citadel, the Blue Mosque and the Amphitheater. Later we proceed to the Eastern Desert to visit Al Kharraneh Castle, Amra Castle (a UNESCO World Heritage site), and Al Azarq Castle where Lawrence of Arabia sided and wrote part of his book “Seven Pillars of Wisdom”.

Accommodation:

Toledo Hotel or similar.

Day 3

Locations: Amman - Jerash - Ajloun - Amman

Overview:

After breakfast we head to visit the ancient Roman city of Jerash, including the paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls. We then proceed to northern Jordan to visit one of the most important ecological and historical sites of the Middle East: Ajloun.

Ajloun Castle (Qal’at Ar-Rabad) is a fine example of Islamic architecture as it was built by Saladin’s general in 1184 AD to control the iron mines of Ajloun, and to counter the progress of the Crusaders by dominating the three main routes leading to Jordan Valleu and protecting the

communication routes between Jordan and Syria.

Accommodation:

Toledo Hotel or similar.

Day 4

Locations: Amman - Madaba - Mt Nebo - Amman

Overview:

After breakfast, we head to visit Madaba, a city best known for the famous 6th century mosaic map of Jerusalem & the Holy Land and for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics. We then continue to Mt. Nebo (visit location only as the church is currently closed for renovations), a city mentioned in the bible as the place where Moses was granted a view of the promised land that he would never enter.

Accommodation:

Toledo Hotel or similar.

Day 5

Locations: Amman - Petra

Overview:

After breakfast we travel south to visit Shobak Castle, it is an early 12th century Crusader castle in desert surroundings. It is perched on the side of a rocky conical mountain at 1,300m above sea level, looking over fruit trees below. Although not so well preserved or visited as Kerak Castle, its isolation from the nearest town makes it more atmospheric. Further we vist the KarakCastle – also a Crusader Castle built on a triangular plateau dating back to the 12th century. We then continue to ancient city of Petra, we check into our hotel in time for dinner.

Accommodation:

02 nights at Amra Palace or similar.

Day 6

Locations: Petra

Overview:

After breakfast, we head to visit the Nabatean Red Rose city of Petra, one of the 7 world wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage site. We enter the city through a 1km long narrow gorge which is flanked either side by towering80m high cliffs. We notice the dazzling colours and formations of the rocks. The site is massive and contains hundreds of elaborated rock-cut tombs, a treasury, Roman-style theatres, temples, sacrificial altars and colonnaded streets.

We return to our hotel for dinner in the evening.

Accommodation:

Amra Palace or similar

Day 7

Locations: Wadi Rum - Aqaba

Overview:

Today we head further south on a day tour to visit other significant sites including Wadi Rum and Aqaba. Explore Wadi Rum on a 90 minute jeep ride into the Jordanian desert. Wadi Rum was best described by T.E. Lawrence as “Vast, echoing and god-like”, and by the locals as “Valley of the Moon”. We proceed our journey south to the sole gulf city in Jordan for an overnight stay.

Accommodation:

1 night at Marina Plaza or similar.

Day 8

Locations: Aqaba - Wadi Araba - Dead Sea

Overview:

Enjoy a free morning to explore the area or relax by the Red Sea.

At lunch time we travel to the Dead Sea via Wadi Araba. At 410m below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth. Jordan’s Dead Sea

coast is one of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the world. Home originally to the dead sea scrolls found in the Qumran caves on the north shore of the Dead sea. This location remains as welcoming to the international tourist today as it was to the kings, emperors, traders and prophets in antiquity.

Accommodation:

1 nights at Holiday Inn or similar

Day 9

Locations: Dead Sea - Amman Airport

Overview:

After breakfast we transfer back to Queen Alia International Airport where our tour ends.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- 8 breakfasts and 8 dinners
- Transport in comfortable and modern coaches.
- All excursions, entrance fees and local guides as indicated.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.
- Detailed Preparatory Information.

What's not included in our Tour

- International airfares and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive international travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.