

JOURNEY THROUGH JORDAN

Classic Tour | 10 Days | Physical Level 1

Amman – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea

Experience the very best of Jordan on this mesmerizing north-to-south tour. Float in the Dead Sea, witness a chariot race in Roman Jerash, explore desert fortresses and roar through the desert in a 4x4 on this immersive adventure. You will explore Petra by day and by candlelight, learn the secrets of Levantine cooking, and experience Bedouin hospitality at a desert camp in Wadi Rum.

- Experience a Roman chariot race in Jerash
- Explore the Desert Fortresses
- See the biblical site of Mount Nebo
- Discover Petra by day and night
- Enjoy a Levantine cookery class
- Camp in style in the Wadi Rum desert
- Float in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea

TOUR MAP



JOURNEY THROUGH JORDAN TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Jordan visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Jordan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Journey Through Jordan' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You'll be getting on and off coaches, walking around the sights and climbing some steps

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 10 days in duration including international flights or 8 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to our reservations team.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Amman and end the tour on Day 9 in Amman. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Amman Meals: D

Fly to Amman and be greeted in the arrival hall by your local guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approximately 45-minutes to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's briefing and welcome dinner. Please note that no meal will be provided on arrival for flights landing late in the evening (21:00 or later).



Destination Information

Amman – Jordan's capital city is also the largest in the Levant, with a population of around 4 million and a history spanning some 12,000 years. Like Rome, it was initially spread over 7 hills (jabals) and that number has increased to 17. It is the seat of the royal family. Amman is a blend of both new and old, being not only a prosperous centre of commerce and finance but also home to many ruins, including a magnificent Roman amphitheatre, the Byzantine Basilica and the Temple of Hercules or Great Temple of Amman. Despite Amman's impressive age, it has the feel of a young and liberal capital with an exciting future ahead.

Day 3: Explore Amman Meals: B, L, D

Continue to Jerash, an ancient Roman city known as 'the Pompeii of the East'; it is one of the best-preserved Roman towns outside Italy. Learn about the city's history and explore its many archaeological remains.



After lunch, take a short drive on to the town of Ajloun, a small town overlooked by the Saracen fortress of Qa'lat Al Rabad in the Jordan Valley. Stop by the Biscuit House, a community project providing employment to local women, and try your hand at one of the heritage crafts preserved here. After, head back to Amman and relax before dinner at a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Jerash – Widely agreed by scholars to be of the most important Roman cities on the eastern fringes of its empire, Jerash is Jordan's most impressive Roman settlement and one of the best-preserved Roman sites outside of Italy. Ruins here include Emperor Hadrian's Arch, the Hippodrome, the Temple of Artemis and the iconic Forum, bordered by 160 columns.

Ajloun – This small town is well known for its historic castle that sits atop Mount Auf, an important Saracen stronghold in the fight against the Crusaders.

Day 4: Amman Meals: B, L, D



Head out of the city for a visit to some of Jordan's Desert Castles, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qasr Amra, a stunning example of early Islamic art and architecture and boasting impressive, frescoed ceilings. Stop at the mysterious site of Al Kharanah, a many-roomed house or palace about which little is known, before visiting the intriguing Azraq Castle. Built in the 13th century, Azraq also served as Lawrence of Arabia's headquarters in the winter of 1917, during the Great Arab Revolt.

Drive back to Amman and enjoy a tour of the old city before a later lunch. Explore Amman's Roman Amphitheatre and the hilltop Citadel, home to ruins from many periods of Amman's history.

Return to your hotel to refresh before you are picked up for dinner.

Destination Information

The Citadel – One of Amman's most famous ruins, the Citadel sits on Jebel Al Qala'a hill and overlooks the old city. Approaching the Citadel, you will see sections of the 1700-metre wall that dates to the Bronze Age. Inside you will find the Temple of Hercules, built under Emperor Marcus Aurelius with an original height of 13 metres; the eighth-century Umayyad Palace complex and the sixth-century Byzantine Church.

Amman's Roman Ampitheatre – Dating back to the second century AD, this well-preserved Roman site once housed up to 6000 spectators. The angle at which the amphitheatre was carved into the hillside protected the Roman audience members from the sun as well as creating perfect acoustics for the actors on stage.

Day 5: Amman to Petra Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast, you will make your way to Mount Nebo, one of the possible burial sites of Moses. It is from here that Moses viewed the promised land in Canaan. Explore the ruins of Nebo's 4th and 5th century churches, whose floors are still covered with marvellous and intricate mosaics.

Continue to the town of Madaba to visit the Orthodox Church of St George and Madaba Mosaic Map, the oldest surviving depiction of the Holy Land.

Your evening ends in the town of Petra, where we'll enjoy an authentic Levantine cooking class, preparing soup, appetisers, and a main course under the expert eye of a local chef.

Destination Information

Mount Nebo – one of the most important holy sites in Jordan, the church here was abandoned in 1564 and fell into disrepair before being purchased by the Franciscan Order, who restored the area and built a monastery there. Pope John Paul II visited the monastery in 2000, planting an olive tree beside the chapel.

Madaba – On the East Bank and on the King's Highway sits Madaba, 'The City of Mosaics'. True to its name, many of these excavated mosaics are on display in the town's museum, but it is estimated that almost every house in the town may sit above ancient Byzantine mosaics just waiting to be discovered.

Day 6: Petra

Meals: B, L, D



This morning you will marvel at the beauty of Petra, the 'Lost City of the Nabateans' carved directly into the rugged sandstone cliffs. Surrounded by imposing mountains, the former capital of the Nabatean Empire is approached through a long deep canyon known as the Siq. Rounding the last corner of the Siq and being confronted with the magnificent façade of the famous Treasury is an emotive experience for many travellers.

Your guide will introduce you to Petra's many secrets before an afternoon at leisure. This evening, after dinner at the hotel, we'll return to Petra and experience the unforgettable sight of the Treasury lit by over a thousand candles.

Please note that today's excursions include a lot of walking, as Petra is a large site.

Destination Information

Petra – One of the world's most prized UNESCO World Heritage Sites and voted in 2007 as one of the 'New Seven Wonders of the World', this prehistoric city is nestled within desert canyons and carved deep into the sandstone cliff faces. Capital of the Nabataean Empire between 400 BC - 600 AD, the site gradually grew to prominence and has stood throughout history as one of the world's most unique attractions, with scenes from films such as Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade shot from the outside and within the city.

Day 7: Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning at Little Petra, a nearby Nabatean site on a smaller scale and less well-known to visitors. Look out for the Painted Biclinium room with its remains of Nabatean wall-paintings.

Journey to Wadi Rum; the 'Valley of the Moon'. This adventurer's paradise epitomises the romance of the Arabian desert, with ancient valleys and towering sandstone mountains erupting dramatically from the white and pink sands.

After lunch at your Bedouin Camp, a 4x4 will whisk you through the dunes to see 'Lawrence's Road', visiting the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum. Hear its long history and role in the Great Arab Revolt and the story of Lawrence of Arabia. Drive among sand dunes and canyons with Bedouin petroglyphs, and venture through the dry oasis to see the iconic Seven Pillars of Wisdom. These rough, coarse columns of sandstone and granite were originally called Jabal Al-Mazmar, and renamed after Lawrence's autobiography. This evening you will stay in a unique desert camp – a wonderful opportunity for stargazing and a chance to experience diyafah (Bedouin hospitality).

Please note that temperatures in Wadi Rum can drop sharply at night. Make sure to bring a warm jacket with you. You will be camping in a large Bedouin en-suite tent with electricity and all necessary amenities.

Destination Information

Little Petra – The Nabataean archaeological site of Little Petra (officially Siq al-Barid) is thought to have been a residential suburb of the main city of Petra. Like Petra, its many rooms were carved directly into the red sandstone canyons.

Wadi Rum – This scenic stretch of mountainous desert has been home to Jordanians for thousands of years. Wadi Rum has also earned its place in history, with the locals fighting the occupying Turkish and German armies during the Arab Revolt of 1917 and 1918.

Day 8: Dead Sea Meals: B, L, D



Depart Wadi Rum after breakfast at your Bedouin Camp, heading north along the Jordanian/Israeli border to the Dead Sea – the lowest point on earth. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters with high salt content and mineral-rich mud, which is said to bring many health benefits.

After lunch, you are free to enjoy the delights of the Dead Sea, bathing in its super-buoyant waters, or perhaps simply relax in your hotel room before dinner.

Destination Information

Dead Sea – This landlocked salt lake is located in the Jordan Rift Valley and sits on the border between Jordan and Israel. At 304 metres deep, rain and surface water flows into the Dead Sea, but apart from evaporation, the water has no escape. The continuous evaporation in combination with the high salt content means that for over 65,000 years, the salinity levels of the Dead Sea have been ever increasing.

Days 9-10: Depart Jordan Meals: B

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport in Amman for your flight home, arriving the following day. Please note that a breakfast box will be provided for early morning departures.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders require a visa to enter Jordan, which is issued upon arrival. For Wendy Wu Tours group tours, the cost of the visa is included and it will be arranged for you upon arrival.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN JORDAN:

Jordanian cuisine is wonderfully rich and flavourful, with the inspiration for much of its cuisine dating back hundreds of years when Jordan was a vital stage on the spice routes from China and India. Hearty dishes such as mansaf (lamb, rice and rehydrated yoghurt) fragrant zarb (succulent chicken, herbs and vegetables cooked in a pot beneath the desert sands in true Bedouin style), baba ghanoush (grilled aubergines with fresh parsley and pomegranate molasses) fresh hummus, olives and endless varieties of dates all contribute to the wonderful cuisine to be found here. The city of Amman has a particular history of offering sanctuary to various displaced groups from neighbouring countries, and has subsequently developed a distinctly multicultural culinary scene, fusing elements of cuisine from all corners of the Middle East. Savoury dishes aside, Turkish and Arabic coffee is served throughout the country. Jordanians also have a taste for all things sweet, with sweet pastries like baclava a favourite amongst locals and tourists alike. Whilst we always encourage our guests to try the local cuisine, you will have opportunities during your tour to eat Western food. Those with dietary requirements will be very well catered to in Jordan - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Hotels used in Jordan are generally rated as local four-star standard. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. You will also stay in a camp in Wadi Rum with electricity and an en-suite bathroom. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and occasionally the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note that double bed requests can be made at time of booking but can't be guaranteed.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Jordan have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times.

4WD: Due to Wadi Rum's remote location and difficult terrain, you will travel in a fleet of 4x4s. Water will be provided, and you will experience the thrill of venturing through the desert in an all-terrain vehicle.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

GROUP SIZE:

Our groups will be accompanied by a National Escort. There will usually be no more than 24 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides, instead of a National Escort.

ALCOHOL IN JORDAN:

Please note that alcohol is not provided at your hotels and restaurants, however you are permitted to bring alcohol to your rooms. Keep in mind that Jordan is a more conservative country than you may be used to, and it is highly frowned upon to show public displays of drunkenness.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Jordan is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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