



## Jordan & Israel Discovery

Classic Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 1

Amman – Mount Nebo – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea – Tel Aviv – Jaffa –  
Tiberias – Bethlehem (Palestine) – Mount Zion – Jerusalem – Tel Aviv

Discover the many wonders these two destinations have to offer as you travel through vibrant cities, ancient ruins, and vast deserts, taking in panoramic views and soaking up local culture along the way.

- Discover desert castles near Amman
- Float in the Dead Sea
- Interact with locals in Druze Villages
- Learn the history of a Kibbutz
- See the Garden of Gethsemane
- Enjoy a Palestinian dance show



### Jordan & Israel Discovery 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)
- Visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*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 the Middle East on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort 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. 'Jordan & Israel Discovery' is rated 1 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, 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. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

### Country Profile: Jordan & Israel

As one of the most peaceful and politically and economically stable countries in the Middle East, Jordan is one of the most popular countries in the region in terms of tourism. Most famous for the 2000-year-old city of Petra, carved out of sandstone rock, Jordan's lands are as rich and fertile as its people are welcoming. Travel back in time, along the paths of the Romans, Nabataeans and biblical figures as you travel around this beautiful country. Jordan's wealth of culture will envelop you with ruins of ancient civilisations, religious sites, cultural hotspots and fabulous landscapes, from the dusty desert canyons to winding valleys.

Jordan's population is mainly comprised of Arabs, either descendants of various tribes that inhabited this region centuries ago or those whose ancestors migrated here long ago. There is a smaller Circassian demographic (descendants of Muslim refugees from the 19th century), Chechens and a small Armenian population. Most of Jordan's population identify as Sunni Muslims, and its Christian population belong to the Greek Orthodox Church.

Israel, the Holy Land to many, is a country of astounding antiquity, deep spirituality, and striking contrast.

Its heart and soul is ancient Jerusalem, a city that has played a pivotal role in thousands of years' worth of history. Below a skyline sculpted by the architecture of the Muslims, Christians and Jews that covert it as a holy place, you'll discover bustling streets where cultures converge, something that is particularly well demonstrated by the city's fantastic food scene.

Outside the city, Israel has plenty of astounding sights and relics – there's the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Tel Aviv, sacred Bethlehem and the ancient port of Jaffa, to name a few, as well as famous natural wonders such as the Dead Sea.

Whatever you look for in a holiday, from cultural to cuisine and adventure to relaxation, Israel is a magical destination to explore.

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 17 days in duration including international flights. Please note due to flight schedules passengers may arrive/depart on Day 2. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, 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 reservations. Join the tour on Day 2 in Amman and end the tour on Day 16 in Tel Aviv. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### Itinerary Changes

It is 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 will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## Itinerary –Jordan & Israel Discovery

### Days 1-2: Fly to Amman

Fly overnight to Amman, arriving late the next day. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for your overnight stay.

#### Destination Information

**Amman** - The capital city is the largest in Jordan is spread over 7 hills and 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.

### Day 3: Jerash Chariot Race

Today head out 35km of Amman to the small city of As- Salt, where you will enjoy a city tour. Following your visit, hop back in your vehicle for the drive to Jerash, a ancient Roman city known as the Pompeii of the East. Here you will learn about the city's past before watching a favoured Roman pastime; chariot racing.



Continue your tour of Jerash followed by a short drive to the town of Ajloun. Here you will visit a the fortress of *Qa'lat Al Rabad*, overlooking the Jordan Valley. After, head back to Amman to enjoy some downtime before dinner this evening

#### Destination Information

**As-Salt** - To the northwest of Amman lies As-Salt, a mountainous city and a UNESCO world heritage site. Founded by Alexander the Great, the city was destroyed centuries later by the Mongols before rediscovering its former glory during the Ottoman Empire. As-Salt and its ancient architecture has enjoyed less modernisation than its neighbour Amman, thus is a wonderful historical throwback to old Jordan. In addition to its historical past, the fertile soil in As-Salt has helped its burgeoning reputation as an agricultural hub, and the city is particularly well-known for the quality of its grapes, olives and other dried fruits.

**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 sites outside of Italy.. Ruins here include Emperor Hadrian's Arch, the Hippodrome, the Temple of Artemis and the iconic Forum that is 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. Also of note is the Ajloun Forest Reserve and Jordan's oldest mosque; the Great Ajloun Mosque.



## Day 4: Amman

Enjoy a tour of the old city of Amman this morning, exploring the Citadel and Roman Amphitheatre.

After your tour, head out of the city for a visit to some of Jordan's Desert Castles. They are beautiful examples of early Islamic art and architecture. See the stunning artwork in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qasr

Amra, Al Kharranah Palace and Azraq Castle. Return to Amman this afternoon for a visit to a Nai-making workshop; a traditional Jordanian musical instrument. Under the tutelage of a local expert, you will learn how to make your own instrument.



### Destination Information

**Citadel** - One of Amman's most famous ruins, the Citadel sits on Jebel Al Qala'a hill which overlooks the old city. Upon approaching the Citadel, you will see sections of the 1700 metre wall that dates back to the Bronze Age. Inside you will find the Temple of Hercules, a now largely-decayed structure that was built by Emperor Marcus Aurelius and that once reaches 13 metres in height, the Umayyad Palace, a complex dating from the 8th Century and the 6th Century Byzantine Church.

**Roman Amphitheatre** - Dating back to the 2nd Century AD, this well-preserved Roman site once housed up to 6000 spectators. The angle at which the amphitheatre was carved into the hillside ensured that the sun would not shine on spectators during performances. The acoustics are also perfect, meaning that during the Roman occupation even the audience members at the very highest seats would still have been able to hear the actors performing on stage.

**Desert Castles** - Scattered throughout Jordan, these desert castles were often used as a refuge for Caliphs who sought to escape the heat of the city. With the intricate mosaic work and stone carvings, they are a wonderful example of ancient Islamic art and architecture.

## Day 5: Amman - Mount Nebo – Madaba - Petra

After breakfast, you will make your way to Mount Nebo, the site of Moses' Tomb. From there, Moses viewed the promised land in Canaan and died there before being buried in a nearby village. Here there are ruins of 4th and 5th-Century churches whose floors are still covered with marvellous and intricate mosaics. Continue to the town of Madaba where you will visit the Orthodox Church of St George and the Madaba Mosaic Map, the oldest surviving depiction of the Holy Land. After your visit to Madaba, you will travel on to magnificent Petra.



### 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 next to the Byzantine Chapel.

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

### Day 6: Petra

This morning you will marvel at the beauty of the 'Lost City', exploring its many caves and tombs. Surrounded by imposing mountains and approached through a deep, narrow cleft in the rocks known as the Siq, Petra is a unique and unforgettable place and, enhanced by the play of light and shadow, an altogether overwhelming experience. You have the afternoon to yourself before your evening tour of Petra.



### 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

Following a visit to Little Petra, transfer to Wadi Rum; the Valley of the Moon. Here you will find adventure and feel the romance of the Arabian desert. Wadi Rum is like a moonscape of ancient valleys and towering weathered sandstone mountains rising out of white and pink coloured sands. Explore Lawrence's road, visiting the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum. Drive among sand dunes and canyons with graffiti inscriptions and venture through the dry oasis, exploring the most interesting and exciting sites of Wadi Rum. This evening you will stay in a unique desert camp.



**Please note that temperatures in Wadi Rum drop sharply at night. Make sure to bring a warm jacket with you.**

#### **Destination Information**

**Little Petra** - The Nabataean archaeological site of Little Petra consists of 3 wide open areas connected by a 450-metre canyon. Similar to Petra, its many rooms were a result of carving into the red sandstone canyons.

**Wadi Rum** - This arid stretch of desert has been home to Jordanians for thousands of years, which is impressive in itself given its lack of fresh water and vegetation. 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. Nowadays, whilst most of Wadi Rum's Bedouin inhabitants may have moved away from their nomadic lifestyle, they have equally played a pivotal role in recent years to bring tourism to the area.

### Day 8: Dead Sea

Checking out of your desert camp in Wadi Rum this morning, you will head north along the Jordanian/Israeli border to the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth. After lunch you are free to enjoy the delights of the Dead Sea.



#### **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. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many

### Day 9: Transfer to Tel Aviv

Today you will transfer by road from Amman to Tel Aviv to start exploring the third exciting county on your itinerary. On arrival at your hotel you will check-in and have the rest of the day at leisure.

#### **Destination Information**

**Tel Aviv** - This trendy Mediterranean port city is both ancient and cosmopolitan, boasting famous architecture, endless beaches, world-class cuisine and a collection of UNESCO-recognised buildings. There are many districts that make up Tel Aviv, including historic Jaffa, which you will visit on day 2.



## Day 10: Jaffa

Exploring today takes you to the Jaffa district of Tel Aviv which contains the world's oldest active harbour. According to legend, Jonah reputedly stepped ashore here from the whale's mouth and Perseus circled the harbour atop of Pegasus, his winged horse. Continue to Caesarea to view the fascinating Roman ruins.

After, visit the Druze Villages on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Visit the street bazaars and interact with the community before a local lunch. Drive to Mukhraga for a wonderful view of the Holy Land followed by a short visit to the Carmelite Monastery of St Elijah. Finish the day in Tiberias, on the shores of the famous Sea of Galilee.



### Destination Information

**Caesarea** - This ancient Phoenician settlement was once ruled by King Herod the Great, under the patronage of the Roman Empire. Renamed to Caesarea after the Emperor Augustus Caesar, this city became the capital of the Roman province of Judaea and was also an important centre of Christianity. Caesarea is best known however for its harbour, after excavations in the 1970's and 1980's helped it claim international attention as a marvel of the ancient world.

**Tiberias** - Built by Herod Antipas, son of King Herod the Great, the city was built during the 1st century BC and in similar fashion to Caesarea, was given its current name in tribute to the Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar. Rich in archaeological remains, the 'City of Water' is known as one of Israel's four holy cities and 2,000 years was the last sea of the Sanhedrin (Supreme Court of Jewish law).

## Day 11: Tabgha

Drive from Tiberias to Tabgha, the sites of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. Head to Capernaum to visit the Ancient Synagogue and House of St Peter.

Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes where the Sermon on the Mount took place, followed by a stop at Safed, a hilltop town with a rich heritage of Jewish mysticism.

Return to Tiberias this afternoon.





### Destination Information

**Tabgha** - Apart from its bible miracle, this small area on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee has been known as a fishing hotspot for thousands of years. The nearby springs produce water that is warmer than the neighbouring sea which promotes algae growth, bringing many fish to the area.

**Safed** - This small town is known for its charming network of winding cobblestone alleys that is home to artists' galleries, medieval synagogues and guesthouses.

## Day 12: Jericho

Head to Kibbutz Degania B, Israel's first Kibbutz. Tour the community and learn about the founding of the movement and its development from one of its members. After, drive through the scenic Jordan Valley to Qasr El Yahud - the original site of Jesus' baptism.

You will enter Palestinian Territory to visit the city of Jericho for your cable car journey (both ways) to the Quarental Monastery on the Mount of Temptations, followed by a drive to the Dead Sea to float in the mineral-rich waters. After some leisure time, continue to Kibbutz Kalia where you spend the night.



### Destination Information

**Kibbutz Kalia B** - One of Israel's many kibbutz, these are agricultural places of work where workers live together and share duties and income.

**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. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many health benefits

## Day 13: Bethlehem

After breakfast travel to Masada where you will ascend by cable car (both ways) to the top of Masada Fortress, where apart from the wonderful view, you will learn of the last stand by Jewish rebels against the Romans.



Enjoy lunch followed by a visit to Qumran, famous for being the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Following your fortress visit, you will continue your journey to Bethlehem, re-entering Palestinian Territory, for a 1- night stay. Enjoy a Palestinian dancing show during dinner this evening.

#### Destination Information

**Masada Fortress** - One of Israel's most popular tourist sites, Masada Fortress sits atop a high cliff face that overlooks the Dead Sea. Constructed by King Herod the Great between 37-31 BC, a century later, Jewish rebels defeated the Roman garrison here. In response, the Roman governor Flavius Silva sent the Tenth Legion to take back the fortress. Knowing that the defenders had no response to the Romans' superior artillery, Elazar ben Yair, the rebel leader, ordered the defenders to commit suicide. Thus the rebels wrote themselves into history.

**Qumran** - Situated between Jerusalem and the beaches of the Dead Sea, Qumran was established during the 2nd-century BC by the Essenes Jewish sect, a religious group who shunned city life and instead settled here, creating a monastic-like community. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Bedouins in 1947 (changing hands many times before falling into the hands of scholars) shed light on the ways and beliefs of this mysterious community.

**Bethlehem** – Located within Palestinian Territory is an important religious centre to Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Bethlehem is known as the fabled birthplace of Jesus Christ.

#### Day 14: Mount Zion

This morning visit the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem before proceeding to Mount Zion to visit the Cenacle (the room of the Last Supper), King David's Tomb and the Dormition Abbey.

After lunch, drive to the Mount of Olives to enjoy spectacular views of Jerusalem. Step back in time as you visit the Pater Noster Church and the Church of Ascension, followed by a descent into Josaphat Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations.

Round off the day as you leave Palestinian Territory, venturing into Western Jerusalem to visit the Hebrew University, Parliament House and the Supreme Court. Enjoy a 2-night stay in Jerusalem.



**Please note that there is a lot of walking today, though the walking will be at a leisurely pace. Do watch your footing whilst walking down the Mount of Olives as the pathway here is steep and ensure you are wearing sensible footwear**

#### Destination Information

**Jerusalem** - Considered by many to be the world's most holy city, Jerusalem has been an object of desire for Christian, Muslim, and Jewish people for centuries. Its sacred old town in eastern Jerusalem is alive with atmosphere, and the Western Wall and the famous Dome of the Rock are found here. Western Jerusalem is more contemporary in architecture and is home to an array of excellent restaurants and bustling markets offering fresh local produce.

**Mount of Olives** - A fabulous viewpoint over Jerusalem's Old City, the Mount of Olives rises more than 800 metres above Jerusalem and takes its name from the endless olive groves that once covered the land.

**Garden of Gethsemane** - At the foothills of the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane (translates to 'olive oil press') has eight olive trees spread throughout the garden.

## Day 15: Jerusalem

On your tour of Jerusalem today, you will begin by driving to Dung Gate to visit Temple Mount, where you will find Dome of the Rock and Al Aksa Mosque. After, you will continue to the famous Western Wall, an iconic site in the Holy Land.

Next, enter Jerusalem's Western Wall Tunnels to view the original stonework from King Herod the Great. Then, walk to the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Round off the day with an authentic Shabbat dinner experience, hosted and prepared by a local Rabbi. This fascinating experience will really help you to gain an understanding of Jerusalem's orthodox Jewish community and gain an insight into their lives.



***Please note that there is a lot of walking today, though the walking will be at a leisurely pace.***

### Destination Information

**Temple Mount** - Known in Hebrew as known in Hebrew as *Har Habayit* and in Arabic as the *Haram al-Sharif* (the Noble Sanctuary), this site is of religious significance in both Judaism and Islam. On Israeli land but administered by a Muslim religious trust, Temple Mount contains both the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aksa Mosque in its interior, two of Jerusalem's most recognised and holy landmarks.

## Day 16-17: Depart Jerusalem

Any time before your flight is at leisure, later transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

***Please note: Late check-out*** is not included in our Israel & Jordan Discovery tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Jerusalem, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

***Transfers:*** In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers).

*Please inform our reservations team of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at time of booking.*

## Jordan & Israel Discovery Travel Information

### Visas

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Jordan and Israel. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork if applicable and submit the visa application on your behalf. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it from the date of entry into Israel

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. Currently a visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

### 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 & Israel

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. 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.

Israeli food offers you a wonderful culinary delight. With various food choices like Pita bread, Hummus, Kebabs and Shwarmas, it makes for a difficult choice but guaranteed to leave long lasting taste. Israel has many delicacies and a traditional meal consists of hummus, small plates of a variety of salads and warm pita bread. Mujaddara is a dish of cooked lentils with rice and sautéed onions.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.



Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Israel & Jordan . We recommend that when it comes to Israeli & Jordanian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Special note:

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.

## Accommodation

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand, Jordan and Israel. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

While all group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities air conditioning, TV and a telephone, on the sleeper train there are shared ablutions at the end of each carriage, but your compartment will have a basin. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often 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 or Local Guide.

## Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Jordan & Israel. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

## 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. Main and inner-city roads might be congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

**4WD:** Due to Wadi Rum's remote location and difficult terrain, you will travel to and from here in a fleet of 4x4's. Water will be provided and you will experience the thrill of venturing through the desert in an all-terrain vehicle

## Development in Jordan & Israel

Concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from you National Escort or Local Guides.

## Public Holidays in Jordan & Israel

If you are travelling within the below Israeli Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. First day of Passover 27 – 28 Mar 2021, Seventh Day of Passover 2-3 April 2021, Yom Ha'atzmaut 15-15 Apr 2021, Shavuot 16-17 May 2021, Rosh Hashanah 6-8 Sep 2021, Yom Kippur 15-16 Sep 2021, First Day of Sukkot 20-21 Sep 2021, Shemini Atzeret 27-28 Sep 2021

Israel Public Holidays: New Years Day 1 Jan 2021, Labour Day 1 May 2021, Eid al-Fitr 12 -15 May 2021, Independence day 25 May 2021, Eid al-Adha 19 -23 Jul 2021.

## 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

The group size on our Classic Tours is on average 18 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. 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.

## Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world. 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 amongst your main service providers (for example 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. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

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.

## Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

## Exchanging Cash

New Zealand Dollars can be easily exchanged in the Middle East, provided notes are undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

## Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of NZ\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours – Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

## Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

## Cultural Difference

Jordan & Israel have many religions, cultures and histories. Please be considerate of the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

## Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at certain attractions.

Some religious sites and homes might require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

### Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Holiday Health has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.holidayhealth.co.nz](http://www.holidayhealth.co.nz)

### Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available. 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 followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

**Last updated: November 2020**