

# JORDAN AN UNDISCOVERED ECO LAND

1

Arrival in Jordan – Meet & Assist-Transfer to Amman for overnight

2

Jerash, Um Qais, Ajloun reserve – Overnight at Ajloun Cabins

After breakfast, you will transfer to Um Qais or Gadara of antiquity. Gadara commands a magnificent view over the northern Jordan Valley, the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias), the Yarmouk River gorge and the Golan Heights. You will then visit one of the best-preserved examples of Roman civilization, the city of Jerash. Jerash, part of the Decapolis (the ten big Roman cities of the East) has been called the Pompeii of the East for its unique state of preservation. There are over 800 columns still standing in Jerash and the city features theaters, churches, temples (Zeus and Artemis), a nymphaeum and a magnificent ova plaza.

The Saracen Castle at Ajloun is the next stop. This 12th-century castle was built by Saladin in his successful campaign to drive the Crusaders from Jordan in 1189 and is an outstanding example of Arab/Islamic military architecture.

You will transfer to Ajloun Nature Reserve, set amongst dense highland forests of evergreen oak, olive, pistachio, carob and wild strawberry. With both guided and self-guided walks you can try the easy Soap-Makers' Trail, which leads from the woodland cabin to the Soap House, a crafts project employing local women where you can buy hand-made soap. Overnight Ajloun Cabins.

3

Hike Orjan village trail. Overight Ajloun cabins

Today's tour takes you through wooded valleys to the lush green orchards of Orjan village, giving you the chance to discover the rural lifestyle of the region. A poplar-lined spring provides a wonderful contrast to the arid mountains of the previous stages of the trail. As you hike, note the dramatic rock walls, old water mills once used by local people to grind their seeds and the hollow walnut tree. Enjoy a delicious traditional meal in an orchard of fig, pomegranate, apple and apricot trees. After this tour you will get back to Ajloun Cabins for overnight

4

Madab, Nebo and Wadi Rum for Overnight

Depart Ajloun to visit the mosaic city of Madaba, known as the City of Mosaics. Here you will visit the oldest map of the Holy Land on the floor of Saint George's Church. Madaba, or Medeba in antiquity, features many famous mosaics that exist in public and private buildings. A short drive from Madaba is Mt. Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. From this mountaintop Mosaic first glimpsed the Holy Land, a land he was never allowed to enter. Here Franciscans have built a structure that protects a 4th and 6th Century Byzantine church.

Arriving in Wadi Rum you will start your Bedouin journey. The jeep will be driven by one of the local Bedouin and you will head deep into the moon-like ochre-colored sandy desert landscape. You'll visit Lawrence's Spring named for T.E. Lawrence, of Lawrence of Arabia fame, who fought in the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire. You will then continue to Khazali Canyon an iconic feature in Wadi Rum. Khazali Canyon is an easy 20-minute walk where you will see Nabatean inscriptions and drawings.



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## Day 4 ctd. Overnight Wadi Rum

As the sun sets in Wadi Rum you will experience both the changing temperature and the changes in the color of the rock and sand as they take on the deep red of the setting sun. As day turns to night the atmosphere of the desert changes from one of oppressive (heat) to relaxed and welcoming as the Bedouin prepare the fire and the sumptuous hospitality.



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## Petra by the Back Door - Overnight Petra

Depart Wadi Rum for Petra entering via the back door trail and arriving at the Monastery, Petra's biggest facade. Arriving before the crowds gives a new perspective on a visit to Petra. Petra still forms part of the domain of the Bedouin, and you will see them with their horses and camels as you begin your unforgettable trip into this cultural landmark.

6

## Siq, High Places, Tomb of the Roman Soldier — Overnight Dana

After passing tombs outside the city, you come to the "Siq", an immense crack in the Nubian sandstone almost a mile long. This winding fissure separates overhanging cliffs that appear to meet 300 feet overhead. It is this entrance to Petra that has made it famous. You will also visit the High Place of Sacrifice, with its spectacular views of Petra, and walk some lesser-known trails and paths passing the Tomb of the Roman Soldier. This part of Petra is seldom visited by tourists.



On leaving Petra you will transfer to the Dana Biosphere Reserve. This is the only reserve in Jordan that includes the four different bio-geographical zones of the country; Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian, Saharo Arabian and Sudanian penetration. As such, it is the most diverse nature reserve in the country in terms of habitats, species and vegetation. Overnight Dana Guesthouse.

7

## Walk Dana to Feynan - Overnight Feynan

After breakfast, you will make the downhill walk to the Wadi Feynan Eco Lodge situated at the Wadi Araba end of the Dana nature reserve. The predominantly flat / gently downhill route passes through sandstone gorges and valleys. Owned by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Feynan was designed and constructed in 2005 by renowned architect Ammar Khammash. It offers travelers an unparalleled wilderness experience and meet some of its native people. Lit entirely by candles and run on solar power the Ecolodge is a fantastic experience set in the rugged Araba Valley that was once home to the early Christian who were forced to work in the local copper mines. Overnight at Feynan Eco-lodge



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## Wadi Mujib short trail. Overnight Mujib Chalets

In the morning depart Wadi Feynan for the Mujib Nature Reserve located over 40 meters below sea level. The reserve surrounds the Mujib canyon, which cuts through the rugged highlands and drains into the Dead Sea. Seasonal and permanent streams flow through the canyon supporting luxurious aquatic plants, wildlife and draining into the Dead Sea. Your last night in Jordan is at the Mujib Chalets located on the Madash Peninsula offering unique views of the Dead Sea. Each chalets has an uninterrupted sea view and access to the Dead Sea.



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## Transfer to the airport for your flight home

Transfer to the airport where our customer service team will guide you through airport procedures.