

# 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 visit 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. The city features theaters, churches, temples (Zeus and Artemis), a Nymphaeum and colonnaded streets.

The Saracen Castle at Ajloun is next. 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 the perfect overnight location. 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

Jerash, Madaba, Mt Nebo and Wadi Mujib - Overnight Mujib

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. After Madaba, a short drive will bring you to Mt. Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. From this mountain top Mosaic had his first glimpse of 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.



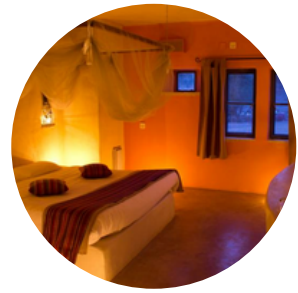
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## Continued - Overnight Feinan

Then transfer to Wadi Feinan owned by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature the Eco Lodge was designed by renowned architect Ammar Khammash at the western edge of the Dana Biosphere Reserve. Before the lodge was built, the land was a campsite for archaeologists conducting studies and digs in the area. The RSCN developed the campsite into an eco-lodge to provide economic opportunities for local communities and generate revenue for the conservation of Jordan's wild places.

Now managed by Eco Hotels, travelers have a unique opportunity to experience Jordan's wilderness, meet its native people and explore its ancient history, with minimal impact on the environment. Lit entirely by candles and run on solar power the eco-lodge is a fantastic experience set in the rugged Araba Valley that was once home to the early Christians who were forced to work in the local copper mines.



5

## Petra by the Back Door arrive at The Monastery - Overnight Petra

In the morning, depart for a visit of Beydah, or "Little Petra" as it is known. Beidah is an 8,000-year-old excavated stone age village, that offers an opportunity for the clients to wander and climb around to discover it. Then to Petra for a full-day tour of Petra. Rather than entering Petra via the main Siq entrance you will enter via the back door, and arrive at Petra's largest façade the Monastery. Arriving at the Monastery before the crowds will give you a completely different 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.



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## Siq, High Places, Tomb of the Roman Soldier – Overnight Rum

Re-visit Petra to explore more of this magnificent site. 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. This is probably one of the most exciting mile walks in the world.

You will also visit the High Place of Sacrifice, with its spectacular views of Petra. You will also walk along some lesser-known trails and paths in Petra passing the Tomb of the Roman Soldier. This part of Petra is seldom visited by tourists.

On leaving Petra you will transfer to Wadi Rum for overnight. As the sun sets in Wadi Rum you will experience not only the changing temperature but also the changes in the color of the rock as sand takes 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. Once the night a fully arrived the stars will come into their own as they light up the night sky.



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### Early morning Walk / Scramble in Wadi Rum - Overnight Amman

After breakfast, you will tour the magical desert of Wadi Rum, home of "Lawrence of Arabia". 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.

You will then head back to the visitor center and then back to Amman for your last night in Jordan. Overnight at your hotel in Amman

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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 the airport procedures.

