

10 Days

Jordan & the Holy Land

Jordan, Jericho & Jerusalem

Join us on this fascinating joint Geography and Religious Studies adventure to the amazing countries of Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We will travel deep into the heart of Jordan's amazing desert landscapes, visit the magical ancient city of Petra, sleep under star-filled desert skies amidst the rugged landscape of Wadi Rum and be bowled over by scenery at the Crusader Castle of Kerak. After descending to 427m below Sea Level at the Dead Sea, we start climbing and cross the Allenby Bridge into Israel and Palestine. Here we explore the classic sites and extra-ordinary history of the Holy Land, including Jericho, Bethlehem, Bethany and Jerusalem. In short, this is an exceptional educational adventure that will stay with you for a long time.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Amman

You will be met by on arrival and transferred to your hotel for settling in.

Day
2

Jerash & Amman

Today we head 50km north to Jerash, one of the finest examples of a provincial Roman town. The extraordinarily intact remains include a forum, a nymphaeum, hippodrome, two theatres, several temples and the famous Colonnaded Street. We enjoy the excitement of a spectacular chariot race before leaving Jerash and heading north to Umm Qais to look over the Sea of Galilee into Israel.

Day
3

Kings Highway, Mt Nebo, Madaba, Petra

Today we head to Nebo and Madaba, visit Madaba and the Basilica of St. George. In the floor of the church is the remarkable 6th century mosaic map – two million pieces of coloured stone depicting the hills, valleys and towns of the Holy Land. We travel on to Mt Nebo, where we can stand on the site where Moses looked out over the "Promised Land". From Madaba and Mt Nebo, a drive along the King's Highway brings us to the best preserved crusader castle in Jordan - Karak. After an exploration of this amazing site, we head further south to our final destination - Petra. Check in to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day
4

Petra

Today we make our way to the fabled and well-concealed city of Petra where a full day allows us to explore the Treasury, Monastery and the many other amphitheatres for which this amazing site is famed. This is an active day and we should be prepared for a lot of walking, but the huge tombs - all hand carved out of the towering cliff faces - are simply incredible, and are well worth the effort.

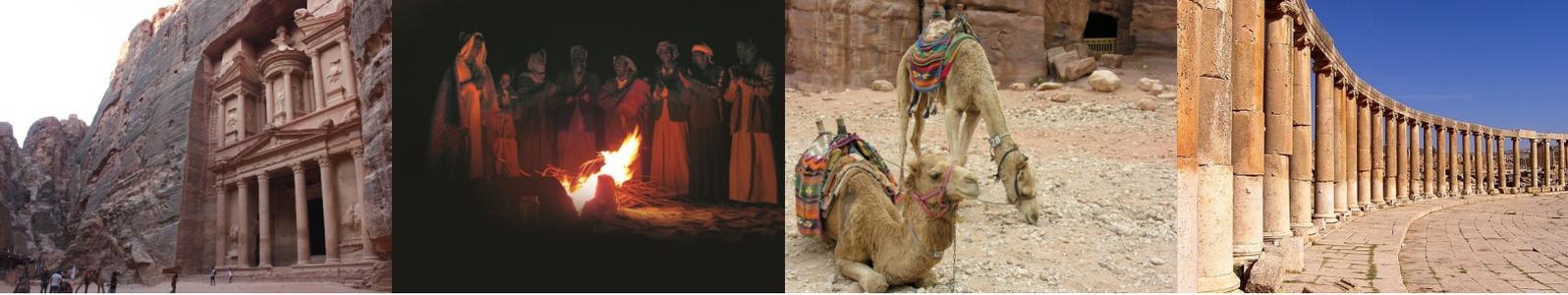
The 800 steps which lead to the Monastery are a small price to pay for a view of the vast structure rivalling even the Treasury and boasting fantastic views stretching out over the valley below. If we have some energy left, we climb to one of the High Places, the mountain-top altars where ritual sacrifices were made; from here there are spectacular views of the mountains, valleys and canyons below.

Day
5

Aqaba

This morning we follow the Kings Highway to its most southern point, the port town of Aqaba on the Red Sea where we have free time to relax or take an optional boat trip (additional charge) to go snorkelling. The warm and relatively shallow waters of the Red Sea support a series of coral reefs unsurpassed outside Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Overnight in Aqaba.





Day
6

Wadi Rum

This morning we head back north to the edge of the desert. We transfer to 4WD vehicles and explore the stunning desert environment of Wadi Rum. We camp at the edge of the Wadi Rum protected area, with a backdrop of high mountains and sand dunes. In true desert fashion, we sleep in a traditional Bedouin tent or under the stars. As the sun sets on the rocky outcrops, an astonishing transformation takes place - the sandstone changes hue, passing through a spectrum of yellow, gold, orange, red and finally purple, as the shadows lengthen and the stars come out - the skies will hopefully be clear and the Milky Way, satellites and shooting stars fill the heavens - the perfect opportunity for star-gazing. Bedouin-style camp (communal sleeping arrangement).

Day
7

Dana Nature Reserve, Dead Sea

Breakfast at the camp then proceed to Dana Nature Reserve. Covering 308 sq. kms and managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), it is composed of a chain of valleys and mountains which extend from the top of the Jordan Rift Valley down to the desert lowlands of Wadi Araba. We spend time exploring this fascinating reserve, taking a guided walk. The Rummana Trail leads from the campsite to the scenic summit of Rummana (Pomegranate) Mountain. We pass some magnificent rock structures with mysterious mushroom-shaped formations and may see birds of prey, such as the Kestrel, Long-legged Buzzard and Griffon Vulture, soaring along the mountain edge. On our way down from the summit, we see remnants of a military site dating from the Hellenistic period and an old Roman well. The hike down to the campsite continues through a beautiful Juniper forest. After lunch we head to the Dead Sea and visit the Environmental Education Program, a permanent exhibition of the Dead Sea Museum located within the Dead Sea Panoramic Complex. This excellent museum covers all aspects of the Dead Sea including its geological, ecological, archaeological, and historical origins, as well as the future conservation of the Dead Sea. The permanent exhibition hall is divided into four sections corresponding to four different themes: Origins of the Dead Sea, Ecosystem, Man and the Dead Sea, and Will the Dead Sea Really Die? We finish the day by heading to the Dead Sea Spa for an overnight stay.

Day
8

Jericho & Bethlehem

Today we cross into Israel at Allenby Bridge, and continue to Jericho for a view of Mount Temptation. Our next stop is Bethany where we visit the house of Martha & Maria and the Tomb of Lazarus. Our final stop today is Bethlehem and visits to the Nativity Church, Milk Grotto and Shepherd Field. Overnight in Bethlehem.

Day
9

Jerusalem

We head to Jerusalem, starting the tour at Mt. Of Olives (Observation point), Church and Garden of Gethsemane, Western Wall, Via Dolorosa and the 5th station, the Church of Holy Sepulchre. We also hope to visit the room of the Last Supper & King David's Tomb. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day
10

Amman, fly home

We head back to Allenby bridge, the crossing point back to Jordan and head to the airport for our return flight back to the UK.

Further information

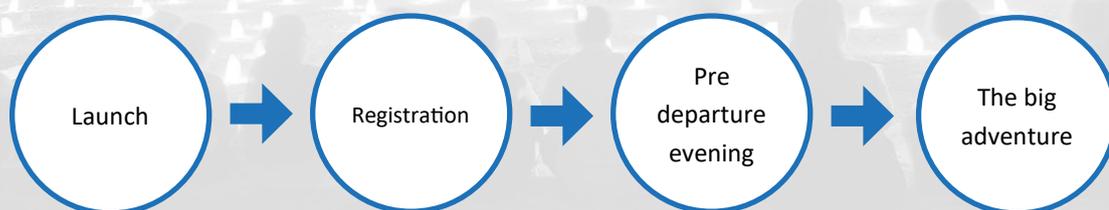
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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