

The Ancient Kingdom of Jordan

Prices start from £1,995

Fully escorted 8-day tour

Tour highlights

- * Enjoy the full sightseeing tours of the Roman city of Jerash and the magnificent lost city of Petra
- * Experience a thrilling open-top Bedouin four-wheel drive through the desert and canyon at Wadi Rum, the landscapes of Lawrence of Arabia
- * Sit back and enjoy an authentic dinner served under a lamp lit Arabian Tent.
- * Sail on a magical dinner excursion aboard the splendid Aladdin Yacht at Aqaba.
- * A full day to unwind in the Jordanian sun and bathe in the natural mineral waters of the Dead Sea.



Tour itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London Heathrow

Your journey starts at London Heathrow where you will meet your Tour Manager and fellow travel companions in the executive lounge before boarding your British Midlands flight to Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On arrival you will be transferred to the Amman Marriott hotel for the next two nights.

Meals: In-flight Hotel: Amman Marriott

Day 2 Amman

Our morning tour of Amman begins at the ancient Citadel, located on a hill above the city with panoramic views. Here we find the ruins of the Temple of Hercules, constructed between 161 and 180 AD, a Byzantine Church dating from the 5th Century and the Persian influenced Umayyad Palace. Visit the Archaeological Museum, a small museum with a fascinating collection of exhibits which include plaster statues from Ain Ghazal dating back 6,000 years BC as well as the famous Dead Sea scrolls. We continue to the foot of the Citadel and arrive at the Roman Theatre which dates from the second century AD and is still used for cultural events today.

This afternoon we take the short journey north of the city to Jerash, one of the world's largest and best preserved Roman cities. Entering the city through the monumental South Gate, we see the lovely Oval Plaza, the Temple of Zeus, and the South Theatre which seats more than 3,000 spectators. We will explore various parts of the city including the Market Place, the Omayyad residential quarter, the large hippodrome, the Nymphaeum - an ornate public fountain decorated with lions heads - the North Theatre and the impressive Hadrian's Arch which was dedicated to the visit of Emperor Hadrian in 129 AD.



Jerash

Treasury, Petra



The Forum, Jersash

All around the city you can find amazingly detailed stonework and impressive monuments to Roman Gods and Emperors. Walking down the main thoroughfare, flanked by huge columns, it is easy to get an impression of the sheer scale of a Roman city at its peak. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner with your Tour Manager and fellow travelling companions at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Amman Marriott

Day 3 Amman to Petra

Our journey continues this morning as we drive out of Amman along the 5000 year old Kings Highway, one of the oldest trade routes in the world, en route to the city of Petra. It is an exhilarating drive encompassing many ancient sites and points of interest along the way including one of the most revered holy sites of Jordan, Mount Nebo. According to biblical legend, Mount Nebo is where the prophet Moses was given a view of the Promised Land that God was giving to the Hebrews and following Christian belief this is the place where Moses was buried by God himself. The views over this vast scenic landscape are simply awe inspiring.

Continuing south, we arrive at Madaba, a small east bank town, famous for the mosaic map of the known world in the Greek orthodox church of St George dating back to around 560AD. The city was abandoned until 1897 when numerous Byzantine mosaics were discovered which are now displayed in the town's museum. The attention to detail in these exquisite mosaics is quite astonishing, displaying fine creativity and artistry. There is a chance for you to visit the museum and admire this distinctive collection of artefacts.

Later this afternoon we arrive in the 'Red Rose City' of Petra. Described as Jordan's most valuable treasure, this archaeological desert city is regarded as a 'new' ancient wonder of the world. In the evening we enjoy a Bedouin evening together with dinner around a camp-fire.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Petra Marriott

Day 4 Petra

Today we embark on a journey of exploration in the mesmerising Nabatean city of Petra. Lost for centuries before its dramatic rediscovery in 1812, the Nabatean Arabs dominated the caravan route throughout this region for centuries. It is famous for having many intricate stone structures carved into the rock and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. Nothing quite prepares us for the incredible assault on the senses today as our tour takes in the magnificent sights of this unique city including the huge Treasury, the hilltop Monastery and the ancient 8000 seat theatre, all carved entirely from stone! Meandering through the colonnaded streets it is difficult not to be overwhelmed by the sheer creativity and breathtaking ancient wonders that are present.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Petra Marriott

Day 5 Petra to Aqaba

This morning we have time to relax at the hotel and reflect on the previous day's excitement before we drive out to the dramatic desert scenery of Wadi Rum, made famous by the film *Lawrence of Arabia*.

We enjoy the exhilaration of a jeep ride over 700 square kilometres of serene landscape. This vast terrain is scattered with narrow canyons and wide sandy valleys which are dramatically surrounded by huge mountains of sandstone granite.

Jordan is well placed to capture some of the world's most magnificent sunsets and at Wadi Rum this is no exception. Towards the end of the day the subtle changes in daylight caresses this extraordinary desert terrain creating a spectacle of gleaming shadows across its rugged rocks and mountains.

As our day comes to an end it is time to relax and enjoy the ambience under a lamp lit Arabian Tent, as we share a traditional oriental dinner before transferring to the Movenpick Hotel, Aqaba for a two night stay.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Movenpick



Petra

Day 6 Aqaba

Aqaba is a delightful coastal town with a fascinating history in the southern corner of Jordan. Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore this wonderful Red Sea Resort. It has a mild climate and gentle waters that boast a plethora of marine life and you can experience superb snorkelling and diving here. Your Journeys of Distinction Tour Manager is on hand to advise how to make the most of your time here and help to book any excursions that you wish to take.

This evening you are invited to a cocktail dinner aboard a wonderful wooden sailing yacht. It is a magical evening as the vessel gently cruises around the tranquil waters capturing the stillness of the region's night sky.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Movenpick



Aqaba

Day 7 Aqaba to Dead Sea

Our journey is almost complete but not without a visit to the Dead Sea; the lowest body of water on earth, the lowest point on earth, and the world's richest source of natural salts. This region has a certain beauty, with the hills of Jerusalem to the west and the region's commanding mountainous landscape to the east.

We have a full day here to unwind and one of the main attractions is to float in the salty water which is rich in minerals and surprisingly buoyant. This area has welcomed visitors since ancient times, including the beautiful Egyptian Queen, Cleopatra and King Herod the Great.

The Dead Sea has, over the years, evolved into a region associated with health, fitness and wellbeing, which make for an exciting yet tranquil discovery.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Jordan Valley

Day 8 Return flight to London Heathrow

After an early breakfast this morning our journey comes to an end with many memories to take home. We are transferred to Amman Airport where we board our return British Midland flight back to London Heathrow.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Your tour hotels

For full details of all the hotels featured on this tour please see pages 30-31.

Departure dates & prices

The Ancient Kingdom of Jordan

Departure date	Price per person
2011 18 October	£1,995
15 November	£2,245
2012 13 March	£2,295

Prices per person, based on double/twin share.
Single supplement: £649

Independent arrival – see page 4 for details
Deduct £280 from the tour price above

Your 8-day tour includes:

- * The services of your JOD Tour Manager
- * Return scheduled flights on bmi
- * Invitation to the executive lounge at London Heathrow
- * Quality hotels throughout – hand-picked for location and high standards
- * 7 breakfasts
- * 4 dinners
- * Luxury air conditioned coach
- * City tour of Amman and the Roman city of Jerash
- * Jordan's Archaeological Museum
- * Discover the city of Petra regarded as one of the new ancient wonders of the world
- * Free time to experience and bathe in the Dead Sea
- * Bedouin four wheel drive through the desert at Wadi Rum
- * Luggage service throughout
- * All local and state taxes
- * Airport taxes including air passenger duty

Flying time

London to Amman 5 hours

Time difference

GMT +2 hours

Average monthly temperatures

Jordan

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12°	13°	17°	23°	28°	32°	32°	33°	31°	26°	21°	15°