

JORDAN (10 Days / 8 Nights)

Day 01

Depart from the USA

Day 02

Arrive in Amman, Jordan
Transfer to hotel.

Day 03

Amman (Ajlun, Jerash, Um Qais)
Spend the day touring the ancient sites north of Amman. In Ajloun visit the Qala'at Ar-Rabad, the Castle of Ajlun, built in 1184-5 by Usama ibn Munqich, a nephew of Saladin. Continue to Jerash, considered the best preserved and most complete of Roman cities in the Middle East. Jerash was part of the Decapolis, a loose confederation of ten Graeco-Roman cities in the region. Nearby Um Qais (Gadara) is the Biblical place of Jesus' miracle of the Gadarene Swine. Later, Um Qais was also a Decapolis city, and home to several philosophers and poets. Enjoy a special dinner at the walled village of Kan Zamman, just outside of Amman.

Day 04

Amman (Amra, Azraq) Morning orientation tour of Amman, formerly the

Ammonite capital city of Rabbath-Ammon, and later the Graeco-Roman city called Philadelphia. Visit the Citadel, the Temple of Hercules, the Roman Amphitheatre. Jordan's deserts are dotted with architecturally interesting castles; visit Qasr Amra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and marvel at the ceiling frescoes and floor mosaics. The black basalt Roman/Medieval Islamic fort of Azraq was the headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab revolt. Also stop at the fortress-like Qasr Kharanah.

Day 05

Amman, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Hammamat Ma'in See the 6th Century mosaic map of Egypt and Palestine at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George in Madaba (Medeba). Continue to Mount Nebo, the traditional site from where Moses viewed the Promised Land of Canaan, and where he was possibly buried. The panoramic view is spectacular from here and, on a clear day, you can see as far as Jerusalem. Arrive in the resort town of Hammamat Ma'in in time to enjoy a dip in the hot springs.

Day 06

Hammamat Ma'in, Kerak, Petra

Along the Kings' Highway, stop and visit the 12th Century Crusader fortress of Kerak. Then, continue to the Nabataean city of Petra, Jordan's most famous attraction.

Day 07

Petra, Petra is what remains of the Nabataean Kingdom, an Arab people who settled here more than 2000 years ago. From this strategic area they dominated the trade routes of ancient Arabia. Petra opens her treasures once you pass through the very narrow, winding gorge (siq). Walk along the ancient streets, the Royal Tombs, the Theatre, the Treasury, the temples, houses, baths...

Day 08

Petra, Beidha, Wadi Rum, Aqaba

Tour Beidha, a 9,000 year old excavated Stone Age village near Petra. Then on to Wadi Rum, where much of David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" was filmed. This wildly scenic area is studded with sandstone hills. End the day at the Red Sea resort city of Aqaba.

Day 09

Aqaba, Dead Sea, Drive north, along the Wadi Araba, to the Dead Sea where the rest of the day is at leisure. At 400 meters (approx. 1200 feet) below sea level it is the lowest point of earth. Swim (you will not sink), then perhaps treat yourself to the healing powers of the rich minerals from the sea's bottom.

Day 10

Dead Sea, Amman, Departure
Transfer to the airport.

