

# JORDAN, SYRIA (12 Days / 10 Nights)



## Day 01

Depart from the USA

## Day 02

Arrive in Amman, Jordan  
Transfer to hotel.

## Day 03

Amman, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Hammamat Ma'in  
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.  
Travel south to 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.  
End the day at the hot springs of Hammamat Ma'in.

## Day 04

Hammamat Ma'in, 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 05

Petra, Kerak, Dead Sea  
Along the Kings' Highway, stop and

visit the 12th Century Crusader fortress of Kerak.  
Then continue, via Ghor Essafi, to the Dead Sea. 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 06

Dead Sea, Jerash, Damascus, Syria, Drive to the wonderfully preserved Graeco-Roman ruins at Jerash, where you can practically walk through time. Enter the city as the inhabitants did. See the South Gate, the Hippodrome (where chariot races and other games took place), the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Artemis, baths, the Nymphaeum and many other ruins. The most unusual feature here is perhaps the Oval Plaza with its asymmetrical shape.  
Continue to the Jordanian/Syrian border, change to Syrian guide and vehicle, and arrive in Damascus at the end of the day.

## Day 07

Damascus Orientation tour of Damascus. You will see the National Museum where, among other treasures, tablets bearing the thirty characters of the Ugaritic alphabet (one of the oldest alphabets in the world) are displayed. The 18th century Azem Palace is a splendid example of Damascene houses. The Umayyad Mosque is a palace of exceptional beauty. It also houses the shrine of John the Baptist's head. Walk among the ruins of Straight Street, the former main link between east and west Damascus. Stop at St. Paul's Chapel, which is where St. Paul fled by being dropped in a basket through a window. The church of Annanias, the one who restored Paul's sight in Acts 9:17, is nearby.

## Day 05

Damascus, Krac Des Chevaliers, Ebla, Aleppo  
Stop at the Crusader-era fortress of Krac Des Chevaliers, once commanding the only significant pass of its time between Turkey and Lebanon. T.E. Lawrence called it the "finest castle in the world". Continue to Ebla, an ancient city, dating to at least 2400 B.C., one of Syria's most important archaeological sites.  
Arrive in Aleppo at the end of the day.

## Day 09

Aleppo, rich in history, was a thriving caravan stop for centuries. Visit the medieval citadel, the National Museum, the suq (covered by stone archways for 30 kilometers), public hammams (baths) and the Al-Fardoss School.

## Day 10

Aleppo, Ma'aret Al-Nooman, Aphamia, Palmyra  
En-route to Palmyra stop at the Mosaic Museum in Ma'aret Al-Nooman. Also visit Aphia, an active city for more than three thousand years, until the 18th century. Continue to Palmyra, yet another wealthy caravan stop along the Silk Road.

## Day 11

Palmyra, Amman, Jordan  
As the most important archaeological site in Syria, Palmyra's well preserved ruins have many tales to tell. See the Sanctuary of Bel, the Colonnade, the theatre, the agora, baths and tombs.  
Drive to the Jordanian border, and change vehicles and guides before continuing to Amman.

## Day 12

Departure  
Transfer to the airport.



## Hotels

