

# Middle Eastern relaxation.

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**JORDAN | 8DAYS / 7NIGHTS**

Route: from Amman to Madaba

Type of tour: Culture

## TOUR OVERVIEW

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Float at the one and only Dead Sea, see the fascinating ancient mosaics at Madaba, tour of the capital city of Jordan, Amman. Explore the wondrous Nabatean city of Petra, carved in mountains of red-rose stones. Marvel at a majestic view of the Holy Land at Mt. Nebo where Moses gazed upon the Promised Land. Pamper yourself with stay at the Evason Ma'in Hot Springs & Six Senses Spa.

## DAY BY DAY

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### DAY 1 | ARRIVAL AMMAN - DEAD SEA

Arrival at Queen Alia International Airport, and then transfer to your Dead Sea hotel.

- **Overnight in hotel at the Dead Sea.**

### DAY 2 | DEAD SEA - JERASH - AMMAN - DEAD SEA

After breakfast begins a tour of the ancient city of Jerash. The city boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years. The city's golden age came under Roman rule and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Hidden for centuries in sand before being excavated and restored over the past 70 years, Jerash reveals a fine example of the grand, formal, provincial Roman urbanism that is found throughout the Middle East, comprising of paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls pierced by towers and gates. Beneath its external Greco-Roman veneer, Jerash also preserves a subtle blend of east and west. Its architecture, religion and languages reflect a process by which two powerful cultures meshed and coexisted, the Greco-Roman world of the Mediterranean basin. The modern city of Jerash can be found to the east of the ruins. While the old and new share a city wall, careful preservation and planning has seen the city itself develop well away from the ruins. Then the tour moves on to Amman. The tour of Jordan's capital city will explore the citadel, beautiful temples, churches and a visit to the museum of Amman before a transfer back to the hotel at the Dead Sea.

- **Overnight in hotel in the Dead Sea on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

### DAY 3 | FREE DAY - DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea has an historical and spiritual legacy of its own. It is believed to be the site of five biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar (Bela). Today its eastern shore is sparsely populated and serenely quiet, with much of the landscape virtually unchanged since ancient times. This favoured spot for a holiday drive can be spent sunbathing, swimming, or dining. Relax in the gently lapping waters and be amazed that you can't sink! Treat yourself to a soothing massage, or try the well-known healing powers of minerals from the sea's muddy floor.

- **Overnight in hotel in the Dead Sea on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

### DAY 4 | DEAD SEA – MADABA - KERAK - PETRA

After breakfast will be a visit to Madaba and the Basilica of St. George. In the floor of the church is the remarkable 6<sup>th</sup> century mosaic map where two million pieces of coloured stone depict the hills, valleys and towns of the Holy Land. Then travel to Mount Nebo, 800m above sea level, where you can stand where Moses looked out over the Promised Land. The magnificent mosaic is second only to Madaba's world-famous mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Afterwards the tour will head to Kerak, the best preserved crusader castle in Jordan. End the day with a transfer to the hotel in Petra.

- **Overnight in hotel in Petra on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

### DAY 5 | PETRA

After breakfast will be a full-day tour of Petra. Take a fascinating tour to admire the natural beauty and breathtaking architecture of this ancient city. Walk through the Siq, a colourful narrow gorge over 1km long that leads to the magnificent Treasury. You will see royal tombs, the Roman-style theatre, beautiful temples and museums. There will be an optional walk to the monastery or the high place of sacrifice. Often described as the eighth Wonder of the Ancient World, it is without doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and the greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast, unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabateans, an industrious Arab civilisation who settled here more than 2,000 years ago, turning it into an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked China, India, and southern Arabia with Egypt, Syria, Greece, and Rome. The Nabatean Kingdom existed for centuries, and Petra became widely admired for its refined culture, massive architecture and ingenious complex of dams and water channels. Ultimately, however, the Roman Emperor Trajan annexed the Kingdom. By the 14th century, Petra was completely lost to the West, and so it remained for almost 300 years. Then in 1812, a Swiss traveller, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt persuaded his guide

to take him to the site of the rumoured lost city. Secretly making notes and sketches, he wrote, "It seems very probable that the ruins at Wadi Musa are those of the ancient Petra."

▪ **Overnight in hotel in Petra on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

## **DAY 6 | PETRA - WADI RUM - AQABA - MADABA**

After breakfast begins the day tour to Aqaba. The first stop will be to Wadi Rum, the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes, stupendous, timeless and virtually untouched by humans. A maze of monolithic rocks capes rise up from the desert floor to heights of 1,750m creating a natural challenge for serious mountaineers. Hikers can enjoy the tranquillity of the boundless empty spaces; explore the canyons and water holes to discover 4,000-year-old rock drawings and the many other spectacular treasures this vast wilderness holds in store. Also known as 'The Valley of the Moon', this is the place where Prince Faisal Bin Hussein and T.E. Lawrence based their headquarters during the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans in World War I and where their exploits are intrinsically woven into the history of this amazing area. Then the tour will continue to the thermal mineral springs of Hammamat Ma'in in Madaba. Since the days of Rome, people have come to the thermal mineral springs of Hammamat Ma'in for thermal treatments - or simply to enjoy a hot soak. There is truly no better way to end a day immersed in history than in a wonderful, naturally warm bath. Situated in this exquisite spot is an excellent spa and resort offering a wide variety of professional services including mud wraps, hydro jet baths and showers, underwater massages and much more.

▪ **Overnight in hotel in Ma'in Hot Springs on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

## **DAY 7 | MADABA**

Free day at leisure to enjoy the luxury facilities at the Ma'in Hot Springs Hotel and surrounding area.

▪ **Overnight in hotel in Ma'in Hot Springs on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

## **DAY 8 | DEPARTURE MADABA - AIRPORT**

Transfer to Queen Alia International Airport for departure.

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### **END OF SERVICES**

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## **INCLUDED**

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### **TOUR GUIDE:**

- A local English speaking guide at Jerash Roman Ruins (1.5 hr - 2 hrs)
- A local English-speaking guide in Petra from the visitors' centre till Qasr Al Bent (1.5 hr)
- A private English-speaking guide

### **ACCOMMODATION:**

- 7 nights' accommodation in hotels of chosen category, including breakfast

### **TRANSPORT:**

- As per the above mentioned program in an A/C vehicle with an English speaking driver
- A short horse ride from the main gate till the beginning of the Siq
- A 1.5 hour Jeep ride in Wadi Rum

### **ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:**

- To the above mentioned sites

### **OTHERS:**

- ALL APPLICABLE TAX

## **NOT INCLUDED**

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- Tips & portorage
- Visa fees
- Personal expenses
- Optional meals, beverages and excursions
- Flights - arrival and departure