



# Journey Through Jordan

Classic Tour | 10 Days | Physical Level 1  
Amman – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea

Experience the very best of Jordan on this mesmerizing north-to-south tour. Float in the Dead Sea and explore desert fortresses and roar through the desert in a 4x4 on this immersive adventure. We'll explore Petra by day and by candlelight, learn the secrets of Levantine cooking, and experience Bedouin hospitality at a desert camp in Wadi Rum.

- Explore the Desert Fortresses
- See the biblical site of Mount Nebo
- Discover Petra by day and night
- Enjoy a Levantine cookery class
- Camp in style in the Wadi Rum desert
- Float in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea

## TOUR MAP

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## CLASSIC TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

## CLASSIC TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Jordan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. Journey Through Jordan is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 10 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Amman and end the tour on Day 9 in Amman. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

## ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1-2: Fly to Amman

Meals: D

Fly to Amman and be transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's briefing and welcome dinner.

#### Destination Information

**Amman** – Jordan's capital city is also the largest in the Levant, with a population of around 4 million and a history spanning some 12,000 years. Like Rome, it was initially spread over 7 hills (jabals) that number has increased to 17. It is the seat of the royal family. Amman is a blend of both new and old, being not only a prosperous centre of commerce and finance but also home to many ruins, including a magnificent Roman amphitheatre, the Byzantine Basilica and the Temple of Hercules or Great Temple of Amman. Despite Amman's impressive age, it has the feel of a young and liberal capital with an exciting future ahead.

### Day 3: Explore Amman

Meals: B, L, D

Continue to Jerash, an ancient Roman city known as 'the Pompeii of the East'; it is one of the best-preserved Roman towns outside Italy. Learn about the city's history and explore its many archaeological remains.



Take a short drive on to the town of Ajloun, a small town overlooked by the Saracen fortress of Qa'lat Al Rabad in the Jordan Valley. Stop by the Biscuit House, a community project providing employment to local women, and try your hand at one of the heritage crafts preserved here. After, head back to Amman and relax before dinner.

#### Destination Information

**Jerash** - Widely agreed by scholars to be of the most important Roman cities on the eastern fringes of its empire, Jerash is Jordan's most impressive Roman settlement and one of the best-preserved Roman sites outside of Italy. Ruins here include Emperor Hadrian's Arch, the Hippodrome, the Temple of Artemis and the iconic Forum, bordered by 160 columns.

**Ajloun** - This small town is well known for its historic castle that sits atop Mount Auf, an important Saracen stronghold in the fight against the Crusaders.

## Day 4: Amman

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a tour of the old city of Amman this morning, exploring Amman's Roman amphitheatre and the hilltop Citadel, home to ruins from many periods of Amman's history.



Later, head out of the city for a visit to some of Jordan's Desert Castles, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qasr Amra, a stunning example of early Islamic art and architecture and boasting impressive frescoed ceilings. Stop at the mysterious site of Al Kharanah, a many-roomed house or palace about which little is known, before visiting the intriguing Azraq Castle. Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Azraq also served as Lawrence of Arabia's headquarters in the winter of 1917, during the Great Arab Revolt.

Return to Amman before dinner.

### Destination Information

**The Citadel** - One of Amman's most famous ruins, the Citadel sits on Jebel Al Qala'a hill and overlooks the old city. Approaching the Citadel, you will see sections of the 1700-metre wall that dates to the Bronze Age. Inside you will find the Temple of Hercules, built under Emperor Marcus Aurelius with an original height of 13 metres; the eighth-century Umayyad Palace complex and the sixth-century Byzantine Church.

**Amman's Roman Amphitheatre** - Dating back to the second century AD, this well-preserved Roman site once housed up to 6000 spectators. The angle at which the amphitheatre was carved into the hillside protected the Roman audience members from the sun as well as creating perfect acoustics for the actors on stage.

## Day 5: Amman to Petra

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, you will make your way to Mount Nebo, one of the possible burial sites of Moses. It is from here that Moses viewed the promised land in Canaan. Explore the ruins of Nebo's 4th and 5th-century churches, whose floors are still covered with marvellous and intricate mosaics. Continue to the town of Madaba to visit the Orthodox Church of St George and the Madaba Mosaic Map, the oldest surviving depiction of the Holy Land.



Your evening ends in the town of Petra, where we'll enjoy an authentic Levantine cooking class, preparing soup, appetisers and a main course under the expert eye of a local chef.

### Destination Information

**Mount Nebo** - one of the most important holy sites in Jordan, the church here was abandoned in 1564 and fell into disrepair before being purchased by the Franciscan Order, who restored the area and built a monastery there. Pope John Paul II visited the monastery in 2000, planting an olive tree beside the chapel.

**Madaba** - On the East Bank and on the King's Highway sits Madaba, 'The City of Mosaics'. True to its name, many of these excavated mosaics are on display in the town's museum, but it is estimated that almost every house in the town may sit above ancient Byzantine mosaics just waiting to be discovered.

### Day 6: Petra

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will marvel at the beauty of Petra, the 'Lost City of the Nabateans' carved directly into the rugged sandstone cliffs. Surrounded by imposing mountains, the former capital of the Nabatean Empire is approached through a long deep canyon known as the Siq. Rounding the last corner of the Siq and being confronted with the magnificent façade of the famous Treasury is an emotive experience for many travellers.



Your guide will introduce you to Petra's many secrets before an afternoon at leisure. This evening, we'll return to Petra and experience the unforgettable sight of the Treasury lit by over a thousand candles.

*Please note that today's excursions include a lot of walking, as Petra is a large site.*

### Destination Information

**Petra** - One of the world's most prized UNESCO World Heritage Sites and voted in 2007 as one of the 'New Seven Wonders of the World', this prehistoric city is nestled within desert canyons and carved deep into the sandstone cliff faces. Capital of the Nabataean Empire between 400 BC - 600 AD, the site gradually grew to prominence and has stood throughout history as one of the world's most unique attractions, with scenes from films such as Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade shot from the outside and within the city.

### Day 7: Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning at Little Petra, a nearby Nabatean site on a smaller scale and less well-known to visitors. Look out for the Painted Biclinium room with its remains of Nabatean wall-paintings.

Journey to Wadi Rum; the 'Valley of the Moon'. This adventurer's paradise epitomises the romance of the Arabian desert, with ancient valleys and towering sandstone mountains erupting dramatically from the white and pink sands.



A 4x4 will whisk you through the dunes to see 'Lawrence's Road', visiting the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum. Hear its long history and role in the Great Arab Revolt and the story of Lawrence of Arabia. Drive among sand dunes and canyons with Bedouin petroglyphs, and venture through the dry oasis to see the iconic Seven Pillars of Wisdom. These rough, coarse columns of sandstone and granite were originally called Jabal Al-Mazmar, and renamed after Lawrence's autobiography. This evening you will stay in a unique desert camp – a wonderful opportunity for stargazing and a chance to experience *diyafah* (Bedouin hospitality).

*Please note that temperatures in Wadi Rum can drop sharply at night. Make sure to bring a warm jacket with you. You will be camping in a large Bedouin en-suite tent with electricity and all necessary amenities.*

### Destination Information

**Little Petra** - The Nabataean archaeological site of Little Petra (officially Siq al-Barid) is thought to have been a residential suburb of the main city of Petra. Like Petra, its many rooms were carved directly into the red sandstone canyons.

**Wadi Rum** - This scenic stretch of mountainous desert has been home to Jordanians for thousands of years. Wadi Rum has also earned its place in history, with the locals fighting the occupying Turkish and German armies during the Arab Revolt of 1917 and 1918.

### Day 8: Dead Sea

Meals: B, L, D

Depart Wadi Rum this morning, heading north along the Jordanian/Israeli border to the Dead Sea – the lowest point on earth. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many health benefits.

After lunch, you are free to enjoy the delights of the Dead Sea, bathing in its super-buoyant waters, or perhaps simply relax in your hotel room before dinner.



### Destination Information

**Dead Sea** - This landlocked salt lake is located in the Jordan Rift Valley and sits on the border between Jordan and Israel. At 304 metres deep, rain and surface water flows into the Dead Sea, but apart from evaporation, the water has no escape. The continuous evaporation in combination with the high salt content means that for over 65,000 years, the salinity levels of the Dead Sea have been ever increasing.

### Day 9-10: Departure from Jordan

Meals: B

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. Australian passport holders will usually be able to obtain a visa on arrival in Jordan and we will have a 'meet and greet' representative available to assist you with this on arrival. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.co.uk/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu acts as a third party and has no influence on the outcome of a visa.

### ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Hotels used in Jordan are generally rated as local four-star standard. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. You will also stay in a camp in Wadi Rum with electricity and an en-suite bathroom. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and occasionally the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note that double bed requests can be made at time of booking but can't be guaranteed.

### TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Jordan have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times.

**4WD:** Due to Wadi Rum's remote location and difficult terrain, you will travel in a fleet of 4x4s. Water will be provided and you will experience the thrill of venturing through the desert in an all-terrain vehicle.

## EATING IN JORDAN:

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Jordanian cuisine is wonderfully rich and flavourful, with the inspiration for much of its cuisine dating back hundreds of years when Jordan was a vital stage on the spice routes from China and India. Hearty dishes such as mansaf (lamb, rice and rehydrated yoghurt) fragrant zarb (succulent chicken, herbs and vegetables cooked in a pot beneath the desert sands in true Bedouin style), baba ghanoush (grilled aubergines with fresh parsley and pomegranate molasses) fresh hummus, olives and endless varieties of dates all contribute to the wonderful cuisine to be found here. The city of Amman has a particular history of offering sanctuary to various displaced groups from neighbouring countries, and has subsequently developed a distinctly multicultural culinary scene, fusing elements of cuisine from all corners of the Middle East.

Savoury dishes aside, Turkish and Arabic coffee is served throughout the country. Jordanians also have a taste for all things sweet, with sweet pastries like baclava a favourite amongst locals and tourists alike. Whilst we always encourage our guests to try the local cuisine, you will have opportunities during your tour to eat Western food.

Those with dietary requirements will be very well catered to in Jordan - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

## GROUP SIZE:

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The group size on our Middle East Classic Tours is on average 10-18 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## ALCOHOL IN JORDAN:

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Please note that alcohol is not provided at your hotels and restaurants, however you are permitted to bring alcohol to your rooms. Keep in mind that Jordan is a more conservative country than you may be used to and it is highly frowned upon to show public displays of drunkenness.

## DEVELOPMENT IN JORDAN:

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Jordan is a developed country and as such matches the west in modernity and technological advances in many aspects. Jordan is a safe country to visit and the locals are very friendly and willing to help visitors.

### **CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:**

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Jordanian society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Jordan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter are, whilst Muslim women's clothing often covers their legs, arms, and hair, Western women are not subject to these customs. However, very revealing clothing is discouraged, and dressing conservatively around the old part of Amman and outside of the cities advisable for both men and women. Furthermore, women do not need to cover their heads or tie their hair. T-shirts are also fine.

### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:**

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If you are travelling within the below Jordan Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded New Years Day 1 Jan 2023, Labour Day 1 May 2023, Eid al-Fitr 22 May 2023, Independence Day 25 May 2023, Eid al-Adha 28 Jun -2 Jul 2023

### **SOUVENIRS:**

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

### **PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

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Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250AUD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount. Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

### **TIPPING POLICY:**

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Tipping in Jordan is a way to show satisfaction with the service of guides and drivers. It is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. Therefore, in order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount in US dollars is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort. If you are travelling in a smaller group, we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller, to be fair to the guide(s).

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

### **LUGGAGE:**

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### **PORTERAGE:**

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Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in Jordan. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and

### **CLIMBING STEPS:**

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Sightseeing at a lot of sites of interest involves climbing quite a number of steps. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. You sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside. People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### **INSURANCE:**

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### **VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

Wendy Wu Tours is committed to always providing a safe and healthy environment for all passengers. We work closely with our airline partners to take effective measures to protect you from contracting and spreading COVID-19, in accordance with legal requirements and government guidelines. Please follow the below link for more details on our COVID vaccination policy: <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-visas/covid-vaccination-policy/>

### **COVID SAFE:**

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Your safety and well-being will always be our Number 1 priority which is why we've instituted the most stringent COVID health and safety protocols on all of tours. As we continue to monitor current restrictions and operational impacts, these protocols will evolve, and we will provide detailed guidelines for your particular tour prior to departure. For further details please go to the following link <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/about-us/travel-with-confidence/>

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### **AFTER YOUR BOOKING:**

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: May 2023