



Travel Talk tours take you on a journey of history, culture and legends. Jordan's geographical nature makes it an intriguing country, as it is surrounded by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Israel and straddles the Holy land of the world's three great monotheistic religions. You can leave footprints where Jesus once walked, look out over the lands promised to Moses or ride through Lawrence of Arabia's desert land. The amazing landscape alone is enough of a reason to visit Jordan. From the wind-blown dunes of Wadi Rum, to floating in the Dead Sea or exploring the city of Petra; a city carved into rock face over 2,000 years ago and now one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Travel Talk tours bring you to the heart of the Jordanian culture, history and of course adventure. You will explore the impressive sites, discover the natural and cultural treasures of Jordan and camp beneath the starry skies as you learn more about the traditional life in the desert. A Jordan tour is a pilgrimage of all sorts and is a must for any adventurous traveller.

VISAS

All foreigners need a visa to enter Jordan. All nationalities except Colombian and Chinese nationals can purchase a visa at the border. South African nationals have free entry. Visas are valid for two weeks from entry, but can be easily extended for up to three months.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you make sure you have the following:

- ➔ Passport
- ➔ Airline or transportation ticket
- ➔ Tour voucher
- ➔ Insurance policy
- ➔ Visas (if necessary)
- ➔ Label on your travel bag
- ➔ Pre-departure information
- ➔ Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- ➔ Credit card

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is essential to all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please do not forget to take a copy of your insurance policy with you. While there are no mandatory vaccinations for travellers to Jordan it is advisable to ensure typhoid, polio and tetanus inoculations are up to date. Most people find that Jordan is a friendly and hospitable country and feel quite comfortable wandering around alone during the day. However, as with any country you are taxis rather than walk.

It is wise not to accept gifts of food or drink from any strangers for the risk of possibly being a victim of theft by drugging. Take care with your passport, credit cards and money - a money belt to fit beneath your clothes is highly recommended. It is also recommended that at least one set of modest clothing is taken with you. It is a sign of respect to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting mosques and also attracts less unwanted attention. A headscarf for females is necessary when visiting mosques in Jordan.

WHAT TO WEAR...

As a general guideline, clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting, hard-wearing and easily washed.

In summer, cotton clothing is much more comfortable than man-made materials like nylon. Clothing that will protect you from sunburn is an absolute necessity. Especially in summer months white or light coloured, long sleeve cotton shirts are preferable.

In winter (December-March) you will need some warm, woollen clothing but in general, the weather is still quite warm. Please also keep in mind that when visiting religious sites, appropriate attire is required (scarf for females etc.). Please remember that Jordan has conservative attitudes towards dress. Women, and also to a certain extent men, will find that the way they dress will often determine the degree of respect they receive from both men and women.

MONEY

Jordan Dinar (JOD) is divided into 1.00 fil. Notes range from 1 dinar to 20 dinars. Coins used are 1 dinar, ½ dinar, ¼ dinar, 100 fil, 50 fil, and 10 fil. Approximately GBP 1 = 1.06 JOD. There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that a visitor may bring into Jordan, but large amounts should be declared on arrival. Banks can be found almost everywhere in Jordan and we recommend you take US\$, Euro or GBP as these are the easiest to change.

Travellers' cheques are avoided as they can be very time consuming to change and often cannot be changed outside of major cities. ATMs can be found almost everywhere in Jordan. Credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels (with the exception of American Express).

WEATHER

The weather in Jordan is pleasurable for travel throughout the year. Amman is sunny and cloudless from May to October, with temperatures averaging approximately 25°C (75 F). During spring, the most beautiful season in Jordan, fields and mountains are coated with rich greenery and exquisite wildflowers. In autumn, the weather is mild and pleasant. July and August are hot and dry, but not restrictive of tourist activities. The valleys and Aqaba are ideal winter resorts, with temperatures averaging 16-22°C between November to April. Rainfall is a rare occurrence by the Red Sea as well as in the desert areas of Jordan.

| Month | Aqaba | | Amman | | Petra | | Kerak | |
|-------|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|
| | C | F | C | F | C | F | C | F |
| Jan | 18 | 65 | 22 | 72 | 2 | 54 | 21 | 69 |
| Feb | 20 | 69 | 27 | 81 | 13 | 57 | 22 | 72 |
| March | 23 | 75 | 28 | 84 | 17 | 63 | 25 | 77 |
| April | 29 | 85 | 36 | 97 | 23 | 74 | 30 | 86 |
| May | 33 | 92 | 38 | 101 | 27 | 81 | 35 | 94 |
| June | 36 | 97 | 38 | 102 | 31 | 88 | 38 | 100 |
| July | 37 | 99 | 41 | 106 | 32 | 90 | 40 | 104 |
| Aug | 36 | 98 | 41 | 107 | 32 | 90 | 40 | 103 |
| Sept | 34 | 94 | 37 | 100 | 31 | 88 | 37 | 98 |
| Oct | 31 | 88 | 34 | 94 | 26 | 79 | 33 | 91 |
| Nov | 25 | 78 | 30 | 86 | 18 | 66 | 27 | 81 |
| Dec | 20 | 68 | 26 | 79 | 13 | 57 | 22 | 72 |

EATING & DRINKING

Food in Jordan tends to be a mixture of Arab and Lebanese cuisine. A standard meal will consist of a main dish supplemented by a number of appetisers such as tahini (sesame seed puree), Baba Ghanoug (tahini, garlic and charred aubergines) dips and salads.



Mensef is the national dish of Jordan. This traditional Bedouin meal consists of lamb (or goat) cooked with herbs in a yoghurt sauce and served with rice and bread. Other favourite dishes include meat stews, meatloaf and kebabs. Wining and dining in Amman is a blend of elegance, ease and fun.

There is a wide variety of national and international cuisine, pubs, discotheques and live entertainment. Some fine restaurants require prior bookings. Throughout the Middle East, the drinking of tea is very common with Jordan being no exception, especially if you are shopping or meeting people for the first time. Mint, thyme, or saga are often used to flavour the tea. Coffee is served Turkish style; very strong and sweet. Freshly squeezed fruit juice is readily available from street stalls and kiosks and makes a refreshing change from the carbonated drinks. Although Jordan is a Muslim country, most of the hotels we use do serve alcoholic drinks (although during Ramadan, some hotels will close their bars). Local wine is fairly palatable, as is the local beer, Amstel; a mild lager. You might also want to try Araq – an aniseed flavoured liqueur.

SHOPPING

Souvenir choices are endless and handcraft shops are widely scattered throughout Jordan. The wide range of crafts combine traditional art with modern flair. The most common Jordanian craft items include Madaba Rugs, carved olivewood, Hebron glass, ceramics, pearl, cross stitch embroidery and Bedouin silver jewellery. Decorated sand bottles are also among the popular things to buy. The Arab "kefi as" are interesting traditional items; big, cotton headscarves in black and white or red and white checked material.

They are very useful in protecting not only the head but also the back of one's neck against the strong sun. There are many different kinds of jewellery available, from the beadwork done by the women and children of the Bedouin, to marcasite silver, which is very popular and attractive. The designs are simple but very nice. You can find the earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings sold in several local shops. Silver is almost always sold by weight and the shopkeeper will weigh the pieces before giving you a price. A good deal of interest is also shown in "narghilas" or water pipes.

You can also find a very large variety of "shisha" tobacco in Jordan. Another interesting thing to look at is the dresses and skirts on sale. They are embellished by hand in cross-stitch, one of the oldest forms of embroidery. The colours used have significance and there are several books available explaining. Among the glass objects you can also find a particular kind of crystal, wine glasses, semi opaque and coloured. Jordanian ceramics are also very elegant; plates and dishes make a good buy.

OPENING HOURS

Most Jordanians work five days a week with Friday and Saturday off. Business and shopping hours are flexible. Some establishments are open between 09:30 - 13:30 and 15:30 - 18:00. Others may be open all day, from 08:00 to 20:00. Government offices are open from 08:30 to 14:00. All businesses and most shops, other than those in the souks, are closed on Fridays. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, working hours are more flexible and generally shorter.

ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50-hertz.

TIPPING

Tips are a common reward for the service staff in Jordan. Most restaurants include service charge but if not stated, waiters expect to be tipped around ten percent of the bill. Your bus driver and guide will also be especially honoured with such a traditional appreciation at the end of your tour.

DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- ➔ Boat / Aqaba 16 Km 15 min.
- ➔ Aqaba / Wadi Rum 70 Km 1 h.
- ➔ Wadi Rum / Petra 115 Km 1 h. 45 min.
- ➔ Petra / Dead Sea 200 Km 3 h. 30 min
- ➔ Dead Sea / Amman 60 Km 1 h.
- ➔ Amman / Ajlun 70 Km 1 h. 20 min.
- ➔ Ajlun / Jerash 21 Km 30 min.
- ➔ Jerash / Amman 51 Km 1 h.

DESERT CAMPING

Wadi Rum (The Sound of Silence) is a journey to another world; a vast, silent universe, timeless and beautiful. Wadi Rum is one of Jordan's main tourist attractions and the most stunning desert landscape in the world, lying 320km southwest of Amman, 120km south of Petra and only 60km north of Aqaba. Stunning in its natural beauty, Wadi Rum epitomizes the romance of the desert. We provide you with a Bedouin Tent including mattress, mattress cover, pillow and blanket. We join a 2 hour Jeep safari in the desert and enjoy an authentic Jordanian dinner in the camp.

Important: If you join this tour between November-March we highly recommend you to bring your own sleeping bag due to colder weather in the evenings.



FERRY TO JORDAN

The Gulf of Aqaba will be crossed with a ferry that is equipped with air-conditioning & airline style comfy seats. Please note that there is only one daily ferry & it doesn't have a set schedule, it departs when it's full. During your ride, you'll be given an information card to fill & to hand to the ferry's immigration officer with your passports. In return, you will receive a receipt in Arabic, and you'll get your stamped passports back after you disembark the ferry, at the Arrivals Hall, before you meet your Jordanian guide at the terminal building.

BORDER TAXES

If you've purchased a combined tour of Egypt and Jordan, there will be a departure tax of US\$12 when leaving Egypt. If you have not obtained a visa for Jordan before your trip, this can be obtained in Aqaba. Please contact us for the latest information as these fees may change periodically.



AIRPORT TRANSFER

Your arrival airport transfer is included if:

- You fly i to the city in which your tour starts
- You arrive on the first d y of your tour
- You forward your flig t details to us, at least 10 days in advance, including:
 - Date of flig t
 - Flight number
 - Arrival time
 - Name of traveller/s to be picked up

If you do not want an airport transfer to the hotel, please let us know by either phoning the office (0208 099 95 96) or sending us an email (info@traveltalktours.com). Please note the hotel check-in time is from 13:00.

ACCOMMODATION

The hotels used on Travel Talk Jordan tours are rated 4 and 3 star. The main criteria in the hotel selection process are cleanliness, private bathroom facilities and location (generally central). If you are travelling on your own, you'll be allocated a twin or triple room with other group members of the same gender. Travellers who have paid single supplement will stay in single rooms. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee the availability of double beds, but will try our best. Your tour leader will organise the rooming arrangements when checking into the hotels according to the rooming lists. Therefore we cannot guarantee any last minute changes.

PRE&POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

Should you require pre and/or post-tour accommodation, please notify us (or your agent) at the time of booking. This information has to be also clearly stated on your voucher (check-in date, check-out date, number of travellers etc.). Unless a room is immediately available, most hotels will not allocate your room until at least midday.

TRANSPORTATION

You can expect comfort and reliability on our modern coaches and mini buses. Most vehicles feature air-conditioning, safe and secure luggage storage, comfortable seats, and a sound system.

TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly. He/she will share their local knowledge, advise you on ways to spend your free time and coordinate the day-to-day running of the tour. From time to time, unpredictable situations can occur and things may not go according to plan. Your leader may require your cooperation and understanding in that case. If you have any problems on tour, please let your leader know so that the correct steps can be taken. Please bear in mind that when you travel on a combined tour, you will have different groups and a different leader for each leg.

ENTRANCE FEES

- ➔ Wadi Rum – Dissah 5 JD
- ➔ Dead Sea & Lunch 24 JD
- ➔ Jerash 8 JD
- ➔ King Abdula Mosque 5 JD
- ➔ Roman Theatre Amman 1 JD
- ➔ Shobak Castle 1 JD
- ➔ Amman Castle 2 JD
- ➔ Petra 50 JD
- ➔ Citadel 2 JD

MISSED THE WELCOME MEETING?

Being avid travellers ourselves, we know that the unforeseen circumstances can arise. If you miss your welcome meeting or arrive on the second day of the tour, please don't stress. If you arrive late at night on the first day, please check the info board at the lobby for the next day's programme. If you arrive on second day, please contact your tour leader to join the group. On Day 2 there is a city tour in Amman in the morning that you may be able to join, depending on arrival times.

RAMADAN IN JORDAN

Ramadan is the Holy month of the Islamic calendar and a time when Muslims fast from sun rise until sunset. Fasting means 'nil by mouth' including food, water and cigarettes. The day's fast is broken at sunset, often with soup and dates. Many local cafes and restaurants remain closed during the day however tourists are not expected to fast and there are cafes and restaurants that stay open to cater for you. During Ramadan you are encouraged to show your respect by not walking around in public eating, chewing gum, smoking or drinking. It is fine to do so in your hotel or in a cafe or restaurant recommended by your tour leader. Your tour leader will organise lunches and dinners for you which will make Ramadan easier. During the month you will find that tourist sites often close early to allow staff to return home in time to break their fast and shops often open late and close early. Following Ramadan is Ede, a three-day celebration (there is another Ede four-day celebration later in the year called Eid Ul-Adha). During this holiday it is more likely that shops (including the souks, but not restaurants) will be closed, and other services may be disrupted.

LANGUAGE

Jordanian language is Arabic. Below you will find some phrases that may help you during your stay.

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Hello | Selaam |
| Goodbye | Ma Salama |
| Yes | Aiwa |
| No | La |
| Welcome | Marhaba |
| Please | Minfudluk |
| Thank you | Shokran |
| Excuse me | Lao Samaht |
| Sorry | Assef |
| Perhaps | Yenken |
| How are you ? | E-zayak |
| Good morning | Sabah El-kheir |
| Good evening | Masa El-kheir |
| Good night | Tesbah Ala kheir |
| Today | En nahar-da |
| Tomorrow | Bukra |
| Yesterday | Imbarih |
| I'm well, thank you | El Humdoolelaa |
| Money | Fuluss |
| How much is it ? | Bekam ? |
| Too much ! | Ketir ! |
| I don't understand | Ana mish fahem |
| Leave me alone | Etrokny wahdy |
| Where is ...? | Fein....? |
| Here | Hena |
| Water | Maya |
| Coffee | Ahwa |
| Tea | Shy |
| The bill | El Hesab |
| Pharmacy | Ssaydaliya |
| Doctor | Doctur |
| Museum | Mat-hhaf |
| Ticket | Tazkara |