Totally Jordan
8 Days | Starts/Ends: Amman

Camp out in Wadi Rum, spend two nights in the lost city of Petra, float in the Dead Sea and visit the stunning Roman ruins of Jerash and Umm Qais - all in 8 amazing days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Wadi Mujib - trek the Siq Trail of Wadi Mujib Biosphere Reserve
- Two nights in Petra - The fabled Nabataean city that was all but lost to the modern world until its rediscovery in 1812
- Wadi Rum - Vast red desert landscape with rolling dunes and dramatic rock formations
- Umm Qais - Roman Decapolis city, once a cultural centre, home to poets and great philosophers
- Dead Sea - Dramatically beautiful landscape with warm buoyant mineral-rich waters
- Jerash - Ruins of the ancient Roman city, which at over 2000 years old is still surprisingly well-preserved
- Umm ar-Rasas - An ancient city and important stop on the caravan route between east and west
- Mt Nebo - Perhaps one of the most sacred sites in Jordan with views across the Promised Land
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics
- Amman - Ancient hilltop citadel, fascinating Archaeological Museum and bustling souqs

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- 6 nights 4 star hotels
- 1 night - Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- 4 x 4 desert safari through the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Umm Qais, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 8. Please note the departure transfer is only valid at 00:30, 08:30 and 13:30 on day 8
- Escorted by licensed Jordanian Tour Guide
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD$60-80, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD$140-160, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow $3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Amman

Saturday. Welcome to Jordan and the start of your holiday! Arrive Amman, included transfer to hotel. Overnight - Amman

Day 2 : Ancient Cities & Roman Ruins

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Your tour leader will usually be at your hotel at approximately 7.30am for your welcome meeting. Throughout the tour, you'll be fully briefed by your tour leader in regards to
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your touring arrangements. Also, a modest tipping kitty will be collected from everyone. This will cover all the tipping throughout the tour (to baggage handlers, porters, drivers and ancillaries), except tips for the tour leader.

Driving north, we visit the awesome Roman ruins of Jerash. Second only to Petra in touristic appeal, the 2,000 year-old Graeco-Roman ruins of Jerash are recognised as one of the best preserved member cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Graeco-Roman cities. When Emperor Hadrian paid a visit in 129 AD, the place was buzzing. The citizens threw up a Triumphal Arch for him which still stands today. Exemplifying the finesse of Roman urban life, the town boasts a hippodrome, the old sports field that once held 15,000 spectators, a stunning amphitheatre with amazing acoustic abilities, the forum which gracefully links the main north-south axis of Jerash, a colonnaded street paved with original stones and the rut marks of chariots, a nymphaeum replete with ancient fountains trimmed with dolphins and various temples. From here, we travel to the modern town of Umm Qais, which is the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman town of Gadara, one of the cities of the ecapolis with panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Gadara was renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, attracting an array of writers, artists, philosophers and poets. It also served as a resort for Romans vacationing in the nearby al-Hemma hot springs. Gadara was blessed with fertile soil, abundant water and a location astride a number of key trading routes connecting Asia and Europe. The city thrived until the Byzantine era which witnessed the decline of Gadara into relative obscurity. Earthquakes destroyed many buildings, and by the dawn of the Islamic era Gadara had become just another village. The town became known by the Arabic name Umm Qais during the Middle Ages. Today, a considerable portion of the original Roman amphitheatre has survived. The seats face west, and are brought to life at sunset.

Next to the theatre is a colonnaded street that once probably was the town’s commercial heart. Also near the black basalt theatre are the columns of the great Basilica of Gadara. Further west along the colonnaded street are a mausoleum and public baths. Overnight - Amman (B, D)

Day 3 : Mt Nebo & Umm ar Rasas

Amman - Madaba - Mount Nebo - Umm ar Rasas - Petra. Today we tour the citadel and Archaeological Museum of Amman before we take a walk through the bustling local souk to enjoy typical Jordanian street treats of falafel and hummus at the country’s most popular local street stand. As the pictures on the wall will prove, the unglamorous food stand was a great favourite of the late King Hussein.

Leaving Amman we’ll stop first at Mt. Nebo, the site from which Moses saw the Promised Land. Having led the Israelites for 40 years through the wilderness, Moses finally saw them from this awesome vantage point. This amazing panorama includes the Jordan River Valley, the Dead Sea, Jericho and the spires and domes of the Mt. of Olives and Bethlehem on the Judean hills just across the wide valley. Later we visit Madaba en route to Petra where we see the Church of St George, the Madaba Archaeological Park, Apostles Church and Madaba Museum.

Our next port of call is Um ar-Rasas, one of Jordan’s World Heritage sites and once an important stop on the busy caravan routes. The impressive mosaic floor of the St. Stephen Church features medallions commemorating all the early Christian pilgrimage sites of the region, and the extensive ruins also include one of the area’s earliest Stylite towers, where a Byzantine hermit lived atop the tower and preached to the pilgrim visitors.

Our final stop of the day is Petra. Consider doing a Petra by Night excursion (payable locally) for a tantalizing candlelight stroll through Petra’s Siq….a romantic preview of things to come. Overnight - Petra (B)

Day 4 : The Rose City of Petra

Wadi Musa (Petra). Chief among Jordan’s many archaeological riches is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Rose City of Petra. The city was first settled around the 6th century BC by the Nabataean tribe from Western Arabia. A succession of habitation, leadership and further development followed, but as the caravan trade routes were gradually displaced by the advent of sea trade routes, the city’s importance gradually declined and Petra passed into obscurity. Rediscovered in 1812 by the young Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt, it remains on the list of many travellers. The approach to Petra is very undulating. The town itself is set across some rather steep hills that wind downwards to the star attraction, the Rose City.

We access the hidden archaeological treasures of the Rose City on a walk through a narrow, deep siq, where the rocks finally give way to reveal the famous facade of the Kazneh - the Treasury of Petra. It’s natural to have an Indiana Jones moment here as it was this building that served as the Holy Grail’s resting place and the prize Indy so coveted. As the Treasury is passed, the hidden valley widens to reveal the remains of the city proper. Continuing our walk, we’ll then go on to explore more of this fantastic once-lost city.

In all, there are some 800 registered sites in Petra, including some 500 tombs. Just as fascinating as the rock-carved monuments are the rocks themselves, Petra is an erosion–hewn masterpiece. Sandstone shot with minerals burst with colour, giving off blue, red, orange and green hues. Amongst the rocky and sometimes jagged scenery, it’s sometimes hard
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to know what is man–made and what is the result of pure nature. Our exploration takes us past many tombs, temples, an impressive amphitheatre and a Roman colonnaded street. Concluding the guided aspect of todays tour, you’re free to head off and further explore. The intrepid can ascend the hundreds of rock-cut steps to Ad-Deir. Better known as the Monastery, Ad-Deir has a similar facade to that of the Treasury, but is far bigger and the views from the nearby cliff-tops are awesome.

Want to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food? Consider opting for our Petra Kitchen bolt-on tonight! See our website or brochure for details.

Day 5 : Wadi Rum desert

Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before our afternoon drive to Wadi Rum. A vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebsel that rise from the desert floor awaits. Boarding 4x4 jeeps, we take an exhilarating drive through the towering shadows of the Karak Crusader Castle, descending some 1300 meters to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth’s surface. More than 500 meters below sea level, the mineral-rich Dead Sea is the world’s original health and beauty spa. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost.

For departures between April and October we’ll head up the King’s Highway to Wadi Mujib. We’ll embark on a moderate-paced two hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan’s most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the rainfall. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea.

For those not interested in taking the hike, you are able to wait by the Visitor Centre till the group returns. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea.

Note: Lunch and dinner at the Dead Sea are not included in our stay. A buffet lunch is offered daily at a cost of 13 JD and a dinner buffet nightly at a cost of 19 JD per person. There is also an a la carte menu and other restaurant choice available onsite. Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

Day 7 : Dead Sea Relaxation

The lowest point on the earth’s surface at 400m below sea level, the Dead Sea is a natural phenomenon and high on most travellers’ bucket lists. Lucky for us we have a whole day to spend here, whiling away the time bobbing in its mineral-rich buoyant waters and lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath. Later today there will be an optional visit to the Ma'in hot springs - a series of waterfalls and hot springs, and a sacred baptism site where Jesus Christ is thought to have been baptised (book locally).

Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

Day 8 : Dead Sea

Saturday. Dead Sea - Amman Airport. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to the airport in Amman.

Please note that departure transfers leave at 00:30, 08:30 and 13:30 on day 8. If you would like a departure transfer at any other time or a transfer with post tour accommodation this can be arranged at an additional cost.

(B)

Wadi Mujib Siq Trail

Between 1st April and 31st October you have the option to take an easy walk through the canyons of Wadi Mujib. Starting at the visitor’s centre near the Mujib Bridge where we take the cantilevered walkway over the dam and follow the course of the river between towering sandstone cliffs to the base of a large waterfall. Depending on seasonal rainfall levels, the gorge may contain pools deep enough for swimming. It’s an ideal walk to take slowly and enjoy the cool water and shade, especially in the heat of the summer. Despite being relatively easy, it does have hidden risks. The river bed changes after each winter flood and this can create deep pools and strong currents. Always take care...
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along the walk, avoid pools and rapids and respect any rope barriers.

What you need to bring:
Clothes: Should be light and comfortable. T-shirts and long shorts are advisable (to protect legs). You are advised to wear a bathing suit under your clothes and bear in mind that all your clothes will get totally wet so don’t wear anything that you don’t mind getting ruined. Shoes will also get totally wet. Therefore wear something that is not slippery and avoid flip flops or thongs. You may wear hiking sandals as well. Sunscreen is important along with caps. (The beginning of the hike is under the sun but later it is shaded with the mountains). You may want to bring clothes to change into after the walk.

Totally Jordan Perseid’s Meteor Shower - 07 Aug 2016 departure

Witness the amazing celestial spectacle of the Perseids Meteor shower on our special Totally Jordan meteor shower departure, starting 07 August 2016 which includes two spellbinding nights of stargazing in the wonderful setting of the Jordanian desert.

If departing on Totally Jordan - Perseid’s Meteor Shower tour arrangements are as follows:

**Days 1 - 4:** As standard Totally Jordan itinerary. Plus included visit (on day 3 prior to Petra) to Umm-ar-Rasas - a haunted deserted city on the ancient caravan routes with beautiful mosaic floors dating back to 785AD.

**Day 5:** Morning in Petra. Afternoon drive to Wadi Rum and take a jeep safari through the area before dinner and night of stargazing begins. The Perseids shower occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. The clear and night sky of the Jordanian desert is the ideal place from which to view these celestial wonders. The Perseids were traditionally known as the “tears of St Lawrence” because they often appeared around the saint’s feast day. Breakfast, lunch, dinner & overnight - Wadi Rum

**Day 6:** Camel trek through the Wadi Rum and another night of amazing meteor showers and star gazing. Breakfast, lunch, dinner & overnight - Wadi Rum

**Day 7:** Visit the Dead Sea, stopping en route at Karak Crusader Castle. After a swim and possibly a mud bath we drive to nearby Madaba. Breakfast & overnight - Madaba

**Day 8:** Tour ends after breakfast. Included transfer to Amman’s Queen Alia Airport any time of day

Xmas tour - 22 Dec 2016

If travelling on our Totally Jordan tour departing 22 Dec 2016, we include special Christmas dinner. After touring Petra on day 4, you are invited to take part in a cuisine course at the Petra Kitchen, where you’ll help prepare a memorable Jordanian Christmas feast. Taking part in the lesson is optional and you are very most welcome to just sit back and relax till our chefs serve the meal.

New Years tour - 27 Dec 2016

If travelling on our Totally Jordan tour departing 27 Dec 2016 we spend New Year’s Eve in Wadi Rum. Here, we ring in the New Year with a Bedouin party featuring folkloric dancing, Bedouin musicians, hands-on demonstrations of traditional Bedouin coffee and bread making, fireworks and more….along with a lavish buffet dinner and champagne toast at midnight.

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Jordan.

If you are travelling with On The Go Tours (a registered tour company), this is now obtainable upon arrival and free of charge. If you are a UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders and travelling with us, (on a holiday including a stay of more than 2 consecutive nights in Jordan or if arriving via a land border staying more than 3 nights) we will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, our airport representative will meet your PRIOR to immigration at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials.

Please be sure to provide us with your full passport details at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival in order for the free visa to be arranged.

Should you NOT wish to take advantage of a free visa or you are not staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at a cost of 40JD/USD$56/EURO42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain it for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

On departure (via land or sea), a 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If departing Jordan by air then the departure tax is included in the airfare.

**Arrival Transfer**

Upon arrival to Amman Queen Alia International airport, you will pass through immigration, baggage claim and customs. As you exit customs into the public arrivals hall, please be on the lookout for our representative, who will be holding an On The Go Tours logo signboard. Our representative will introduce you to our driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. At the hotel reception desk, please take note
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of the On The Go Tours information sign on the counter which will tell you what time our Amman representative will be in the hotel lobby to meet with you and discuss the details of your touring program, to give you our informative welcome letter and to answer any questions you may have.

If for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes at immigration) or your flight to Jordan is delayed, please call or send a text message to emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Entrance Fees

Entry fees to sites are not included, although reasonably priced. However entrance fees are subject to change at the discretion of the Ministry of Tourism. There is no reduction for ISIC student card holders at Jordanian sights. A two day pass for Petra is currently 55JD (approximately USD$77) and a one day ticket is 50JD (approximately USD$70), included in the above budget.

In Jordan, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour, the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document. On our Road to Jordan and Temples Tombs and Treasury tours where entrance fees will be collected on the day you arrive in Jordan, and on the Pyramids Petra and Promised Land tour where they are collected before you arrive at Petra. A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival.

All funds collected in Jordan for entrance fees and optional excursions that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Jordanian Dinar (JD).

Tipping Kitty

At the start of your tour we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, antiquity guards, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we would suggest USD$3 - 5 per day for your tour guide, however the decision to tip or how much is entirely up to you. Your tipping kitty in Jordan is collected in local currency - Jordanian Dinar (JD).

In Israel we recommend you allow USD4 - 6 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD2 -3 for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.

Petra Park Services Charge

The cost of the entrance ticket to Petra includes a compulsory 7JD fee to ride an Arabian horse. This Government-approved directive is in support of the local Bedouin who own the horses and also live in the surrounding town of Wadi Musa. It was considered right by the Jordanian Government that local people should benefit. As you have paid this obligatory charge, you are indeed entitled to ride a horse 800 metres down to the entrance gate at Petra. However, please be aware that you'll need to tip the horse handler an extra 2JD. IMPORTANT- On The Go Tours only recommends that you do so if you are an experienced rider. The decision to ride a horse is a personal one.

Shopping

Jordan offers a range of quality souvenirs. Look out for high-quality artefacts including rugs, pottery, paintings, jewellery, embroidery and woven items produced by local Jordanian women under the auspices of the Noor- Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund. A popular form of ceramic ware is ‘Jerusalem Pottery’. Platters are highly decorated with biblically-inspired designs including fish, peacocks, grapes and goblets of wine. Known as Hebron glass, colourful handmade glassware in brilliant colours is a nice buy, as is silver jewellery crafted by the Bedouin people. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood objects are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

IMPORTANT: Set your budget and don’t be swayed, remember the caveat – ‘Let the buyer beware’. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Essential Packing

• Camping at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-launched standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is of a personal choice should you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag. You will also need to pack insect repellent and a torch or headlamp would be very useful.

• If visiting in winter pack warm clothes and an umbrella

• If summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat

• UK 3 pin and European 2 prong (European more so for Israel) electrical adaptors as the sockets vary from one hotel to another

• Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance

• Two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport

• Proper walking shoes (joggers/ trainers) for sightseeing in Petra

• Waterproof clothing including batters with trainers/walking shoes that you don't mind getting wet for the Siq Trail in Wadi Mujib

Wadi Rum Desert Camp

Most of our tours include a night in Wadi Rum where you can choose to camp under the stars or in tents at our remote Bedouin camp. Our camp is set amongst towering weathered sandstone rocks and rolling red sand dunes. It has permanent tents with twin beds (raised off the ground), proper toilets and a cold water showers. There is a large communal tent, roughly 10 x 6 metres with proper seating for dining and another area with low tables and cushions scattered about where we gather at night. Each evening traditional Bedouin food is served and there is often a little light entertainment around the campfire. Desert camping, although basic, is fun and the best way to experience Wadi Rum.

Bedding is provided at our camp, though if visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) you may wish to bring your own winter-weight sleeping bag if
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you feel the cold, as temperatures will fall close to zero. To do so is of an entirely personal choice.

Climate
The maximum daily temperature in Amman ranges from 12°C in January to 32°C in August. The weather in the Jordan Valley (Petra) and south of the country is very hot during the summer months of April through to September. At this time of year daytime temperatures can exceed 38°C and increase to as high as 49°C. The sun can be fierce so it is advised to apply plenty of sunscreen, especially at the Dead Sea.

In winter (December to February) temperatures can range from 0°C to 12°C. If visiting during winter you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, although the Dead Sea region will still be quite warm. If your holiday includes a stay in the Wadi Rum desert, winter wear items such as hat, scarf and gloves are also advised.

Health Requirements
You should seek medical advice before travelling to Jordan from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Diphtheria and Hepatitis A are strongly recommended. As tap water is not safe to drink in Jordan, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

Currency
The currency of Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Jordan. Exchange facilities are available at various bureaux de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. It’s advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Time & Voltage
Jordan is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October Jordan observes Daylight Saving and is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require 3 pin UK and often European, 2 pronged variety. In Israel the preferred variety is European 2 prong. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Mosques, Religion & Ramadan
93% of the population are Muslim. Others are Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. If visiting a mosque you will need to dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

RAMADAN
Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -
27 May - 25 June 2017

Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan, so our itinerary is slightly altered to ensure we visit all itinerary attractions. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street.