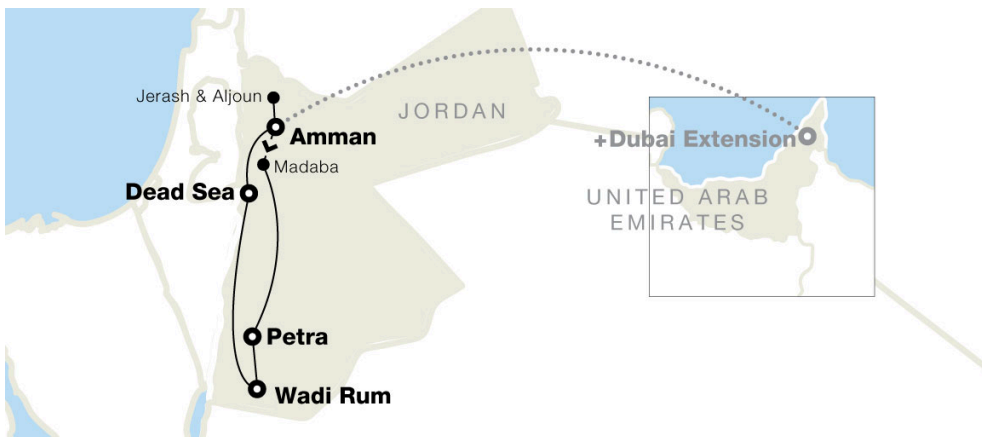




Jordan History & Culture: Amman, Petra & the Dead Sea

10 days | 14 days with Dubai extension

Chances are, the most difficult thing about visiting Jordan will be deciding what has wowed you more: exploring the country's otherworldly scenery (we're looking at you, Wadi Rum), visiting its iconic historic sites (hello, Petra), experiencing its deeply meaningful cultural traditions (calligraphy lesson, anyone?), or receiving its locals' warmth and welcoming spirit. Enjoy it all in equal measure as you explore the Middle Eastern country alongside a small handful of fellow travelers. You'll not only take in Jordan's jaw-dropping beauty, but you'll also make a lasting, positive impact when you visit organizations dedicated to bettering Jordanians' lives and protecting the country's precious natural environment. To experience a decidedly glamorous side of the Middle East, extend your stay and explore Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.



Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners
- 3 tastings
- 11 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Iraq Al-Amir Women's Cooperative
- Amman Citadel
- King Abdullah Mosque
- Madaba's mosaic map
- Mount Nebo and the Mosaic Factory
- Petra
- Desert stargazing in Wadi Rum
- Al Numeira Association
- Dead Sea

Tour pace

You will walk for at least three hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads, cobblestone streets, and dirt paths, with some steep hills.

Group size

12-22

Jordan History & Culture: Amman, Petra & the Dead Sea

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Amman today.

Amman → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Amman

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Jordan! Transfer to your hotel and get settled in.

This evening, enjoy an included dinner on your own.

Day 3: Iraq Al Amir women's cooperative & sightseeing tour of Amman

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch, tasting

Head outside of Amman to visit the Iraq Al Amir women's cooperative, an organization whose aim is to reverse high rates of unemployment among local women.

- Learn how working at the cooperative empowers women to achieve financial independence and raise their standard of living
- Watch the employees make soap from olive oil and greeting cards from recycled paper
- Try your hand at making paper or pottery during an interactive workshop
- Get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers during a welcome lunch prepared by the women at the collective

Travel back to Amman this afternoon for a guided tour of Jordan's capital, a modern, hilly city that's home to Roman ruins and more than 2 million people.

- Stroll through bustling local markets as you make your way to the ruins of the Citadel—the Bronze Age complex sits on the city's highest hill, which is known as Jebel Al Qala'a—and the second-century Roman theater, the city's most famous archaeological attraction
- Step inside King Abdullah Mosque, a beautiful landmark that's dedicated to Jordan's first king and houses some of his personal items

- Walk through the Old City, where you'll stop for a traditional Jordanian coffee—a beverage whose enjoyment here is deeply rooted in hospitality

Please note: Travelers are required to remove shoes when entering the King Abdullah Mosque. Women must cover their hair, arms, and legs. Men must cover their legs.

Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Jerash, Souf & calligraphy lesson

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch

Make your way from Amman to the ancient Roman city of Jerash, which is widely regarded as one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Spend the day exploring historic ruins and getting to know Jordanian people and culture.

- Explore some of the world's largest and best-preserved Roman ruins, including the forum, the amphitheater, and the second-century Temple of Artemis, the latter of which is dedicated to the goddess of hunting and fertility (and the daughter of Zeus and Leto) and is flanked by elaborately carved Corinthian columns
- Travel to Beit Khairat Souf, a multi-faceted social enterprise and vital community hub that comprises a restaurant and a food product store
- Meet with some of Beit Khairat Souf's female owners and managers to hear how they help strengthen local women's leadership skills by providing jobs and training
- Sample some of the collective's delicious homemade jams, pickles, and olive oils sourced for local families, then sit down for an included lunch at the cafe
- Depart Beit Khairat and travel to the House of Calligraphy in Aljoun, where you'll learn about the history of Arabic calligraphy and how it's closely connected with Islamic culture
- Grab a traditional dried reed pen and learn how to write your name in your favorite calligraphy style
- Enjoy time to shop for souvenirs, such as personalized designs or greeting cards, the purchase of which directly benefits local women

Return to Amman and spend a free evening in the city or add an excursion.

+ Jordanian Cooking Class & Dinner

Petra → 2 nights

Day 5: Petra via Madaba & Mount Nebo

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Today, further explore the history and culture of Jordan on guided tours before continuing on to Petra.

- Tour Madaba, a market town known for its collection of Byzantine-era mosaics
- Visit St. George's Church and view the sixth-century mosaic Madaba Map displayed there; discovered by builders at the St. George's church construction site in the 1880s, the Byzantine-era map is the oldest surviving mosaic map of Palestine and is said to have originally comprised more than two million pieces
- Stop at Mount Nebo—Moses' burial site and the spot from where it's said he saw the Promised Land
- Enter a mosaic factory and enjoy a hands-on demonstration, during which you'll learn the art of crafting mosaics
- Head to the Bani Hamida Women's Cooperative, a weaving center whose traditional handicrafts include carpets and baskets made by local women
- Learn about the cooperative's mission, meet some of the women it supports, and enjoy time to shop for gifts and souvenirs

Continue to Petra and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Petra

Included meals: breakfast

Head to the city of Petra, which was carved into the soft, red rocks of Mount Hor in the third century BC by members of an Arab tribe known as the Nabataeans. Explore the sandstone city alongside your Tour Director.

- Learn about Petra's unique architecture—one of the reasons it was named to the list of modern world wonders

- Walk through the UNESCO World Heritage Site to the famous Al-Khazneh, or Treasury, which served as a tomb and features one of the most famous facades in the world
- Take in the intricately carved pillars and columns of the Palace Tomb, whose facade towers five stories above the ground
- Stroll through the winding, high-walled gorge known as the Siq and learn how tectonic forces formed the giant crack in the rock

Please note: In order to enter Petra, customers should be able to walk two miles round-trip in hot weather over uneven terrain. Other modes of transportation may be available for you to book upon your arrival at an additional cost.

Spend a free evening in Petra or add an excursion.

+ Petra by Night

Wadi Rum → 1 night

Day 7: Wadi Rum desert safari, Zarb dinner & stargazing

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner, lunch

Drive to Wadi Rum, an area in southern Jordan that's known as the Valley of the Moon thanks to its varied desert landscape of natural arches, narrow gorges, towering cliffs, massive landslides, and other features. It's also home to thousands of petroglyphs and archaeological remains. Today, explore it all on a desert safari alongside a local Bedouin guide.

- Sit down for a buffet lunch at an air-conditioned, desert bubble camp
- Take a Jeep ride to a red sand dune, and set off on an optional walk to view ancient rock carvings
- Stop at a Bedouin tent to learn about the traditions of this ethnic group, largely regarded as Jordan's first inhabitants, and enjoy Arabic coffee

This evening, enjoy a traditional Bedouin Zarb dinner that's cooked in a pot underground. Afterwards, meet up with a professional astronomer in a desert observatory, where you'll get a chance to explore the night sky and view constellations, galaxies, nebulae, planets, and moons.

Dead Sea → 1 night

Day 8: Transfer to the Dead Sea

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, farewell dinner

Drive north along the Jordan Valley, stopping in the small town of Gawr al-Mazraah at the Al Numeira Environmental Association.

- Learn about Al Numeira, a Jordanian nonprofit working to educate Jordanians on water conservation practices, rural development, and sustainable tourism
- Meet with an Al Numeira representative to learn about the organization's work and its mission
- Enjoy an included traditional Jordanian lunch prepared by Al Numeira staff

Then, travel to the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea and celebrate your trip with your fellow group members at tonight's farewell dinner.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 9: Free day at the Dead Sea & transfer to Amman

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, float in the famously salty waters of the Dead Sea, located at the lowest point on Earth. Enjoy free time to relax on the beach and swim.

Then, relax in a dayroom before transferring to Amman for your early morning flight home.

Please note: Return flights home depart during the early morning, typically between 1am and 6am on day 10.

Arrive Home

Day 10: Travel day

Arrive home today.

+ Dubai extension

Dubai may be known as a playground for the world's rich and famous, but this buzzy city in the United Arab Emirates has plenty of historical charm and traditions to offer, too. Get to know both sides of the city, from its sleek and sparkling skyscrapers to its bustling, nothing-you-can't-buy-there souk. With Dubai as your base, take a day trip to neighboring Abu Dhabi for a peek inside an ancient sporting tradition and to soak up the Emirate's irresistibly modern energy.

Dubai → 4 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Amman & flight to Dubai

Included meals: breakfast

Travel back to Amman before boarding your flight to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Dubai

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the day getting to know both the traditional and ultramodern sides of Dubai, the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates. Join a local guide for a tour of the city, which is known for its glittering skyscrapers, lavish creature comforts, and sun-kissed beaches.

- Walk through the Dubai souk, a traditional marketplace whose vendors sell everything from jewelry to textiles
- Hop aboard an abra, a traditional water taxi, for a cruise along Dubai Creek—the city's historic commercial hub
- Get a taste of Emirati cuisine during lunch at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding
- Drive down Sheikh Zayed Road to New Dubai and admire the 163-story Burj Khalifa—a mixed-use skyscraper and the world's tallest building
- Travel along the coast, stopping to snap photos of the iconic, sail-shaped Burj Al Arab hotel and the man-made island of Palm Jumeirah

Enjoy a free evening in Dubai or add an excursion.

+ Burj Khalifa Observation Deck & Dinner

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Abu Dhabi

Included meals: breakfast

Spend the day in Abu Dhabi, the largest of seven emirates and the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Made up of 200 islands, Abu Dhabi features a variety of landscapes, ranging from coastal islands to vast desert.

- Stop at the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital to learn about falcon rehabilitation efforts and to enjoy a demonstration of the ancient hunting technique of falconry
- Pass by Saadiyat Island cultural district—home to cultural and architectural gems such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the upcoming Guggenheim Abu Dhabi—on a sightseeing tour with a local guide
- Pass the Emirates Palace and the Corniche, a five-mile waterfront walkway offering incredible views of the Persian Gulf
- Enter the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the largest in the world, and marvel at its detailed marble work and magnificent interiors

Return to Dubai and enjoy a free evening.

Day 12: Free day in Dubai

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Dubai or add an excursion.

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner served with beer or wine.

+ A Day in Oman

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Please note: Return flights home typically depart between 11:30pm on day 13 and 4am on day 14.

Arrive Home

Day 14: Travel day

Arrive home today.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/JRD | 1-800-754-5066

Day 4: Jordanian Cooking Class & Dinner

\$109CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Head to the Jabal Al Weibdeh neighborhood this evening and gather with your fellow travelers at a local cooking school housed in its owners' Teta's, or grandmother's, home. Here, you'll meet with a chef and learn how to craft classic dishes, which could include maqluba, a meat, vegetable, and rice dish that's flipped upside down when served, followed by knafeh, a semolina-based dessert. When you're finished cooking, sit down to enjoy the feast that you've made together. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

onboard the boat. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 6: Petra by Night

\$75CAD/\$85CAD* (2.5 hours, departs in the evening)

Tonight, return to the Old City of Petra, where you'll look on in wonder as 1,500 candles illuminate the red-rock city. While at the site, you'll enjoy a short walking tour to view the Siq gorge, the Treasury, and other iconic sites bathed in glowing candlelight. Plus, enjoy a sound and light show at the Treasury building, as well as storytelling and local music.

Extension excursion options

Day 10: Burj Khalifa Observation Deck & Dinner

\$219CAD (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Get an unparalleled look at the city of Dubai from the Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower in the world. Soak in the view from observation decks on the 124th and 125th stories, and learn about the engineering and architectural prowess it took to build the Burj Khalifa. Then, head back to ground level to enjoy a walk along the Dubai Mall fountains, followed by dinner. Please note: In accordance with local laws, alcoholic beverages cannot be served at your meal. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 12: A Day in Oman

\$309CAD (12 hours, departs in the morning)

Filled with rich history and stunning landscapes, Oman stands out among its often flashier neighbors because of its long-standing traditions. Travel along the scenic coast, which overlooks the Gulf of Arabia and the Straits of Hormuz, to arrive in Oman's Musandam region. Discover the charming coastal villages of Nadifi, Qanaha, Maqlab, and Seebi along Khasab Harbor while cruising through the scenic, tranquil Khor Sham fjord aboard a traditional Omani dhow. Enjoy free time for swimming and snorkeling in the calm waters when you anchor off off Telegraph Island and Seebi Island. Enjoy an included lunch aboard the boat, and keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine animals as you cruise back to your dock in Khasab Harbor. Please note: An Omani visa is included in the price of the excursion. Snorkeling equipment and towels will be provided

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms