# EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

## Comfort Itinerary Version (TMJO5)

WILDLIFE

TOURDURAT
12
DAYS

**Tour Type:** Tailormade | **tour Code:** TMJO5

### Tour Essentials

**Accommodation:** 6 nights Hotel
**Included Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
**Transport:**
**Countries:** Jordan

# Tailormade Jordan Nature Trek

## Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

# Your tour itinerary

### Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

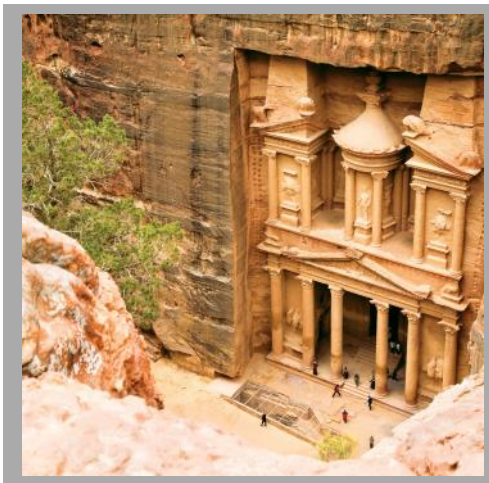
### Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

## DAY 1 Fly to Amman

Depart from the UK for Amman. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: **Hotel**



**Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Visit Jerash

Your introduction to Jordan's fascinating blend of history, architecture, religion and culture begins with a visit to the impressive Roman city of Jerash. Located in the Gilead Hills, it is considered to be the best preserved city of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Roman cities. One of the highlights of the Middle East, a triple arch gateway gives way to colonnaded streets, theatres, temples and baths. Particularly striking is the elegant forum. Your journey then takes you to the medieval Castle of Ajloun, formerly a base to defend the land from the Crusaders, it was built in 1184 by 'Izz ad-Din Usama bin Munqidh, a general of Saladin. The castle is a wonderful example of Islamic architecture with its maze of towers, chambers, galleries and staircases to explore. Afterwards, continue back to Amman for the night.

Overnight: **Hotel**

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 Visit Madaba and Mount Nebo

Today you transfer to the traditional village of Dana, stopping en route at the Christian town of Madaba, known as the City of Mosaics, it is a small Christian town with its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the Great Map of the Holy Land (6th century). Discovered in 1896, and only fragmentary, it contains a good picture of Jerusalem. Moving on you'll visit Jebel Neba (808m), better known as Mount Nebo, it is a pilgrimage centre for Christians principally because Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land from this summit. From here you continue south to Dana Biosphere Reserve.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 4 Dana Village walk

Dana Biosphere Reserve is Jordan's largest nature reserve covering around 320 sq km. It has a remarkable diversity of landscapes creating four different bio-geographical zones meaning the area has a great range of flora and fauna to discover. There are thought to be over 400 species of animal within the reserve, 25 of which are endangered, including the sand cat, Syrian wolf, Nubian ibex and the spiny-tailed lizard. This morning you have a guided walk through Dana Village to explore the terraced gardens where fruit and herbs are cultivated. You will also visit local community craft workshops where the villagers make soap from locally produced olive oil and jams from the home-grown fruit. This afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure, there are many trails to be hiked in the area with stunning views over Wadi Dana.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5 Trek to Feinan

This morning you depart Dana Village at 1200 m above sea level, descending into Wadi Dana you'll hike along a 14 km trail to Feynan at 325 m. Witness changing scenery from gorges, Mediterranean scrub forest and barren desert , you may even meet local Bedouins tending to their goat herds and possibly stop for a cup of sweet mint tea. A packed lunch will be taken, and give you a well-deserved rest with an opportunity to enjoy the views. You arrive at Wadi Feynan in the afternoon, where Neolithic settlements, Roman fortresses and copper mines have all been found.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 Visit Petra

After a walk through the gorge, known as the Siq, the awe-inspiring site of the Treasury appears before you, Petra has been a focus of settlement since pre-historic times, but it was under the Nabataeans that it reached its apotheosis as a centre for trade. From around the 3rd century BC, the Nabataeans began to abandon their nomadic lifestyle and build a city at Petra. Passing trade not only brought great wealth but also inspired a synthesis of Hellenistic, Egyptian and indigenous architectural influences, resulting in the stunning monuments for which Petra is famous. Today you have a full day to explore the site.

Overnight: **Hotel**

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Explore Petra further

Today is free for you to explore the tombs, baths, temples and colonnaded streets of this UNESCO World Heritage Site a little further. You may wish to hike up to the Monastery, much larger than the Treasury this huge rock-hewn façade is also a good spot for

spectacular views over the area. Or why not climb the steep paths to the sacrificial 'High Places' (altars) for a stunning view over Wadi Araba and the Negev Desert.

Overnight: **Hotel**

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8 Transfer to Wadi Rum

Your journey continues to Wadi Rum, where you can discover beautiful sandstone mountains, white and pink coloured sand dunes and unusual rock formations. You head off south for an exciting half day four-wheel drive within Wadi Rum. Via the old Roman road, you'll explore the lesser known northern areas of the wadi, seeing natural rock bridges and viewing incredible rock sculptures on the way to your overnight camp. The desert is another world, inhabited by the nomadic Bedouin people for generations and made famous by Lawrence of Arabia, whose exploits have become the stuff of legend. Indeed scenes from the remarkable film of his life were shot here, deep in the fabulous purple-black mountains that rise from the sand of the desert. Before your night under the starry sky, you may be lucky enough to witness a spectacular desert sunset. Bedouins sleep in large, traditional goat hair tents, they give the best protection against typical desert extremes of heat and cold, and an evening is normally spent around a campfire, with spectacular desert skies overhead.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9 Transfer to Wadi El Mujib

Today you transfer to Mujib Biosphere Reserve. Located near the east coast of the Dead Sea, Mujib Biosphere Reserve is the lowest nature reserve in the world. Surrounding the deep and majestic canyon of Wadi Mujib, the reserve stretches from the Madaba Mountains in the north to Kerak Mountains towards the south. A variation of 1300 m in elevation creates a vast bio-diversity and these steep mountain slopes are home to rock hyrax, the Eurasian badger and the almost extinct Nubian ibex, as well as many birds such as honey buzzards, Levant sparrow hawks and black and white storks. This afternoon has been left free for you explore as you wish.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 10 Trek to the Dead Sea

Today you hike the Ibex Trail in Mujib Nature Reserve. The trail should take around three hours and takes you up steep mountain sides, across dry wadis and along coastal cliffs. You'll also pass a rock statue of Lot's wife, who was reputedly turned to stone here. After fleeing the villages of Sodom and Gomorrah she ignored a warning not to look back and was turned into a pillar of salt. There is a short detour that can be taken en route that takes you to Qasr Riyash, a ruined fortification. If you are lucky you may spot the endangered Nubian ibex with its striking curved horns. The trail ends at the Dead Sea, where you have the opportunity to float in the rich saline waters, relax on the beach or enjoy a rejuvenating mud scrub! At 418m below sea level, this salty expanse of mineral rich water is the lowest point on earth and has been revered for centuries for its beneficial properties. Surrounded by barren hills, this remarkable body of water has an amazingly high salt content (33%), which means no animal life can survive here and it is almost impossible to sink.

Overnight: **Hotel**

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 11 Transfer to Amman

This morning you have some free time at the Dead Sea to enjoy the spa facilities and make the most of the mineral rich waters. This afternoon you'll transfer back to the capital with some free time to do some last minute shopping and sightseeing.

Overnight: **Hotel**

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 12 Depart Jordan

Your holiday ends today in Amman.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

# Accommodation and Meals

## Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches,5 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

# Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

## Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

### Jordan

**Lunch £:** 10.00

**Dinner £:** 15.00

## Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

### Jordan

**Bottle of Beer £:** 3.45

**Water £:** 1.50

## Foreign Exchange

### Jordan

**ATM Availability:** ATMs are widely available, but do not always work.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** In hotels and some larger shops/restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques, although still the safest way of carrying money, are difficult to cash in Jordan. There are high commission charges on Travellers Cheques on a per cheque basis so if using them we suggest you take high denomination cheques. Proof of purchase may be necessary for encashment of Travellers Cheques.

**Local Currency:** Jordanian Dinar

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Sterling and US$ are widely accepted though exchange rates tend to favour the US$. It is worth taking some money in cash. You may be able to order Dinars from your bank although the rate will usually be lower than purchasing currency in country.

**Where to Exchange:** Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities.

# Joining your Tour

## Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

## Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

## Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

### Vaccinations & Protection

#### Jordan

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.

## Preparing for your Tour

### Climate

#### Jordan

During April to November days are generally sunny and hot without rain with temperatures around 32°C. In spring and autumn evenings can be cool and night temperatures can drop suddenly especially in the desert. Expect cold nights in winter (December to February) when temperatures can drop to around 0 degrees. Some rain should also be expected at this time of year.

## General Information

### Country details

#### Jordan

**Population:** 6,407,085

**Size of Country:** 92,300 sq km

**Major Language:** Arabic

**Religion:** Muslim

**Time Difference to GMT:** +2

### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### Jordan

2 Pin Round

# Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

## Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups,  respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer ( a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

## Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

## Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

## Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

# Booking Your Holiday

## Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ  granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

## Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

## 100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

## Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 5 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 5. 6/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 6.

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