



Jordan, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route around the Hashemite Kingdom and Wadi Rum

From its capital Amman to the beaches of Aqaba on the Red Sea, Jordan is a pocket-sized country with landscapes and landmarks that are a gift for any visitor. It's a country of contrasts where adventure fuses with history, from the fertile Jordan Valley to the red desert sands. Jordan is mysterious and mythical, a land where Romans, Greeks and Ottomans have left their footprint, and which biblical patriarchs such as Moses passed through on their exodus to the Promised Land. Jordan is also a living movie set where many Hollywood blockbusters have been filmed. It's the ideal backdrop for films that transport you off to Mars and has also been used for Lawrence of Arabia, Aladdin and the Indiana Jones saga. Marvel at its Crusader castles and bathe in the Dead Sea, perhaps the most extraordinary body of water on the planet due to its level of salt and the healing powers of its mud. Venture through steep canyons until you reach the ancient Nabataean city of Petra, where time seems to have come to a standstill. Thrill at the unparalleled experience of canyoning through the gorge of Wadi Mujib. Cross the desert of Wadi Rum, admire the beauty of its sunsets and starry nights, and find out why Lawrence of Arabia fell in love with this land.



ADVENTURE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - AMMAN

Flight departure from the city of origin to Amman, gateway to the Jordanian universe. Upon arrival at the airport and, after collecting your luggage, head to the car rental offices to sign the contract and pick up your car. Amman is the capital of Jordan and one of the most modern cities in the Arab world. You have the rest of the day at leisure to unearth the secrets of the Hashemite capital at your own pace. Amman stands on seven hills, the most famous known as the Citadel, which has been inhabited since the Bronze Age and cherishes Roman, Byzantine and Islamic remains. It's home to the Temple of Hercules, from the time of Marcus Aurelius; the Umayyad Palace; and the Archaeological Museum, which houses some of the Dead Sea Scrolls. From the Citadel you'll enjoy the best views over Amman and its white stone buildings. Interestingly enough, a law prohibits the use of any other material for the construction of houses. Don't miss the spectacular Roman Theatre with capacity for six thousand spectators, the most impressive monument of ancient Philadelphia, as Amman was known under Roman rule. The centre of Amman is full of life. Walk along Rainbow Street, one of the most fashionable strips and where there are dozens of restaurants, cafes and craft shops. Have a tea on one of its terraces from where you can soak up the vibrant atmosphere of Amman street life. Meanwhile, Jordanian cuisine will surprise you with its diversity. Make sure you try 'mezze' (assortment of dips, salads and starters) and the delicious 'knafeh' (pastries) you'll find at the legendary Habibah in Amman. Another must-do is a visit to a Turkish bath. And if you want to see Jordanian nightlife at its best, head to the neighbourhoods of Shmeisani and Abdoun, where you'll find clubs open until the early hours, some of them with live music.

Overnight stay in Amman.

DAY 2 · HAMAN - AJLOUN CASTLE - JERASH - AMMAN

Today you'll be heading north. First stop will be at Ajloun Castle, also known as "Qal'at ar-Rabad" in Arabic. It's located seventy-six kilometres from Amman on a hill in the midst of a Mediterranean landscape blanketed with pine and olive trees. The castle was built in 1185 by General Emir Izz al-Din Usama, nephew of Saladin, with the aim of protecting trading routes and the nearby iron mines. Entrance is via a wooden bridge over a dry moat. Its towers command fabulous views over the Jordan Valley and Palestine. On clear days, you can even see Jerusalem. Its fully restored interior is a labyrinth of corridors. Wandering through its empty rooms will whisk you back to a time when the castle was part of a chain of fortresses built to defend the area against the Crusaders, who never actually succeeded in conquering it. However, the Mongols did in the year 1260. (Note: Make sure you check opening times. Admission not included). The next destination is Jerash, located less than an hour's drive away. This town is one of the best examples of the Roman cities in the Middle East, forming part of the so-called "Decapolis". It's a must-visit and might take you an entire afternoon to see due to its sheer size and the number of buildings there. Don't miss Hadrian's Arch of Triumph, the Temple of Artemis (the city's patron goddess), the Church of Saint Theodore or the Church of Saints Cosmas and Damianus. Another must is the Hippodrome, where there are recreations of chariot races. Also amazing is the South Theatre, which can seat three thousand spectators and boasts remarkable acoustics. Meanwhile, what was once the city's main street, known as the Cardo Maximus, stretches for eight hundred metres. It's lined by five hundred columns and you can still see chariot tracks on the stones.

Return journey and overnight stay in Amman.

DAY 3 · AMMAN - MADABA - MOUNT NEBO - PETRA

Madaba, some thirty-two kilometres south of Amman, is nicknamed the City of Mosaics because of the countless Byzantine mosaics housed by its churches and monuments. The most important one is the so-called "Mosaic of Madaba", which is found on the floor of the Orthodox Church of Saint George. It dates from the sixth century and originally measured twenty-five metres with two and a half million tesserae. However, only part of it can be seen today. It's essentially a detailed map of Palestine at the time. You can make out the most important biblical places such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, being widely used as a guide for the scholars and historians of the Holy Land. It's well worth strolling through the streets of Madaba and popping into its myriad of souvenir shops. The city's also famous for its carpets. And if you want to continue discovering authentic masterpieces of mosaic art, head to the Church of the Virgin Mary, the Archaeological Museum or the Church of the Apostles, where you'll find the largest mosaic in the whole of Jordan, depicting the twelve apostles. The best views of Madaba can be seen from the bell tower of the Church of the Beheading of John the Baptist. Make sure you see its catacombs and the water well that has been running for three thousand years! Before hitting the road again, stop off at Haret Jdoudna, a complex of craft shops and restaurants where you can savour a wonderful 'fatteh' (fried bread with garlic-laced yoghurt and hummus). Just nine kilometres from Madaba is Mount Nebo, the place from where Moses viewed the Promised Land before he died, although the exact place where he was buried is unknown. From its summit, the views are breathtaking. On a clear day you'll see the Dead Sea, Jericho, Bethlehem and even the Mount of Olives. It has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries, which is why a basilica devoted to Moses was built there. What's more, the Ark of the Covenant is said to be buried nearby. In the late afternoon you'll arrive in Petra, today's final destination. Although its fame and beauty have been boosted after being named one of the Seven New Wonders of the World in 2007, Petra had long been called the "Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World". This is Jordan's most precious treasure and its tourist attraction par excellence. For dinner tonight, we recommend trying some more of the country's delicious cuisine. Order some 'mazzeh', as you'll never get bored of tasting these wonderful starters. Jordan's signature dish is "mansaf", a Bedouin speciality based on lamb seasoned with aromatic herbs, cooked with dried yoghurt and served with rice, almonds and pine nuts. Of all the yummy desserts available, probably the most famous are 'baklavas', puff pastry delights filled with nuts and dipped in honey. Delicious!

Overnight stay in Petra.

DAY 4 · PETRA

Three hours away from Amman is the 'Lost City of Petra', the capital of the ancient kingdom of the Nabataeans. Although you'll have seen it in documentaries and films such as 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade', actually visiting it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. To enter this historical site, you have to walk through the Siq, a narrow gorge with walls two hundred metres high that will lead you through to the Treasury, so called because the Bedouins believed that an Egyptian pharaoh hid his treasure here. This building carved out of the rock, not built, isn't the only one left behind by the nomadic peoples of the desert. During your visit you can also marvel at wonders such as the High Place of Sacrifice, the Royal Tombs and the Monastery, as well as Roman monuments such as the Theatre or the Colonnaded Street. You can take a camel or donkey tour if you prefer, and there are plenty of restaurants and bars within Petra if you need a break. Visiting Petra at night surrounded by candles is a truly magical experience. The town that has sprung up around Petra is called Wadi Musa, an ancient Bedouin village where there are many hotels and typical restaurants for all tastes and budgets, and where you can enjoy the typical food of the area. Maybe today you could try a tasty rice dish known as 'maqluba' with camel meat, washed down with a mint tea.

Overnight stay in Petra.

● DAY 5 · PETRA - WADI RUM

Continue your way south to the Wadi Rum desert, also known as the "Valley of the Moon". That said, you could quite easily compare it with Mars, thanks to its landscape of red sand dotted with large sandstone rock formations called 'jebels'. This jaw-dropping area has been used as the backdrop for sci-fi films such as Matt Damon's 'The Martian' or epics such as 'Lawrence of Arabia'. When you get there, head straight to the Visitor Centre to find out all the sights and activities you can enjoy in the desert. These include guided tours in a 4x4, camel rides and even hot air balloon flights. (Note: Suggested activities not included. It is recommended to check offer and schedules in advance. Remember that hot air balloon trips are weather permitting. If your rental car is a 4x4, you can enter the desert on your own. However, if it isn't or you don't have any experience in driving across dunes, we advise renting a 4x4 vehicle with driver/guide). Wadi Rum is a great place to meet Bedouins, who will surprise you with their hospitality. They might even ask you to share a tea with them. You will live an unforgettable moment! This valley undoubtedly owes its worldwide fame to the mythical Lawrence of Arabia, who has left his mark on places like the rock christened the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, in honour of his famous book with the same title. In Wadi Rum you can cross natural rock bridges and explore canyons and caves, home to petroglyphs engraved in the stone. Remember to always keep your head covered, wear plenty of sunscreen and drink lots of water to stay hydrated. And don't miss the sunset in the desert, a mind-blowing experience!

Overnight stay in Wadi Rum.

● DAY 6 · WADI RUM

You have the full day in Wadi Rum where you can explore canyons, water channels and storage tanks carved into the rock, investigate the drawings on the stones dating back 4,000 years and discover spectacular treasures that this impressive desert holds. Wadi Rum has been inhabited since prehistoric times by various cultures, including the Nabateans, whose traces can be found in the petroglyphs, and the Bedouins, who also settled in this desert since ancient times. Several Bedouin tribes can still be found maintaining their semi-nomadic lifestyle. The main activity of this historic nomadic people has always been herding, with goats, sheep and camels as the main source of income. As well as the manufacture of fabrics from natural wool from the same animals. Enjoy a unique place with a diversity of options to be known.

Overnight stay in Wadi Rum.

DAY 7 · AQABA - DEAD SEA

Bathing in the Dead Sea is a must-do on any trip to Jordan. Get ready to marvel at the "Dead Sea experience"! Its high salt content, ten times more than any other sea or ocean in the world, makes it impossible to sink and forces you to float on the surface of the water. This is an amazing feeling and you'll often see visitors lounging back and reading a book in the water. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth, more than four hundred metres below sea level. Despite its name, it's not actually a sea as such, but an inland lake eighty kilometres long that separates Jordan from Israel. In the past, it was often visited by kings and emperors. Herod and Cleopatra knew about the healing power of its waters, as the Baths of Callirhoe were located here in ancient times. The characteristics of its waters and mud make it a natural spa for beauty and for bone, skin and circulatory diseases. The Dead Sea is the final destination of the Jordan River. Nearby is Bethany, where Jesus was baptised, and it's believed that the area is home to other places from the Bible such as Sodom and Gomorrah. If you want to take advantage of a wider range of services, there are numerous resorts and wellness/beauty centres on the shoreline. Any must-dos once here? Try smearing yourself with mud (the black mud found on the sea bed). Once fully covered with a layer of this goo, simply sit in the sun for about fifteen minutes for its therapeutic properties to kick in. These include anti-ageing, cell regeneration, and benefits for people with rheumatism, dermatitis or arthritis... After this time, you have to head back into the Dead Sea to rinse it all off. More memorable plans? You can head to the stunning infinity pools at Zara Spa, one of the best spas in the Middle East, or enjoy lunch on a terrace overlooking the Judean Desert, Jericho and - on a clear day - Jerusalem. If you like adventure sports, you've got to go to Wadi Mujib, where you can enjoy canyoning in the rapids flanked by impressive sandstone gorges. (Note: You pay for the ticket at the Visitor Centre, where you'll be given a life jacket and, if you wish, a guide. The price depends on the route and if you choose to go with a guide or not. It's closed between November and April due to the strong current, so hiking is another option if you visit coincides with this period). Remember that if you want to further explore this area, you can spend more nights by the Dead Sea.

Overnight stay by the Dead Sea.

DAY 8 · DEAD SEA - AS-SALT - AMMAN

After the Dead Sea, it's time to head back to Amman, stopping off in the town of As-Salt, thirty kilometres from the capital. For centuries, As-Salt was a major trading hub. Spread across three hills, its steep streets still boast remains of all the civilisations that have passed through. These include Romans, Byzantines, Mamluks and Egyptians, although the most important influences definitely come from the Ottomans, who settled here in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. During the time of Ottoman rule, it became an administrative centre and underwent its golden age. And it was the Ottomans who built the splendid yellow sandstone buildings that pepper the town. It's a delight to stroll through its narrow streets and stepped passageways. Another great idea is to let yourself get lost in its maze-like souk and enter its bazaars. There's lots to see in As-Salt. Don't miss the Roman tombs on the outskirts; the Citadel; the Abu Jaber Museum, where you'll learn about the history of As-Salt; and the Ayyubid fortress built by Sultan Al Mu'azzam Isa (Saladin's nephew), which was ultimately destroyed by the Mongols. The Archaeological & Folklore Museum and the artisan training school are also well worth a visit. As-Salt is a warm and vibrant place that was once an important town on the route between the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Desert. At the end of the day, head back to Amman. Take a stroll around Downtown and pop into the spice shops of the souk. You can visit the Al-Husseini Mosque and the King Abdullah I Mosque, with its huge blue dome, or the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts to learn about contemporary Jordanian art.

Overnight stay in Amman.

DAY 9 · AMMAN - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes _____

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Amman.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Amman.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Petra.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Petra.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Wadi Rum.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Wadi Rum.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Dead Sea.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Dead Sea.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Entrance fees in Jordan.
- ✗ Departure taxes in Jordan.
- ✗ Visa to enter in Jordan.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Amman



Ajloun



Jarash



Madaba



Petra



Wadi Rum



Dead Sea



Important remarks

- Jordan is a Muslim country and the month of Ramadan is of major significance to its residents. During Ramadan, entertainment and alcohol will be restricted in most of the country. The sale of alcohol will be restricted in many places, although some establishments will offer alcohol for sale to tourists. During this period, local businesses may also have shorter opening hours.
- Driving in Jordan: 1 Vehicles drive on the right-hand side of the road and signs are in both Arabic and English. 2

It's usually pretty safe. Main roads in Jordan are in good condition and traffic flows well. Traffic in the capital, Amman, especially at peak times, can be quite heavy and chaotic. 3 There are no tolls on the motorways and, due to the size of the country, distances are short. 4 Petrol is cheaper than in Europe and there are no difficulties finding petrol stations across Jordan. 5 To rent a vehicle, an international driving licence is mandatory, the minimum age is twenty-one (this may vary depending on the category of the vehicle) and you must have at least one year on your licence. 6 Speed limits are 50-70 km/h in the city and 90-110 km/h on dual carriageways and motorways. 7 There are numerous speed cameras and police checks on the roads, so always respect the speed limits and carry your passport with you.

- Triple rooms in Asia are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The camps in Wadi Rum are basic and simple accommodations.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- We recommend always carrying your visa on you, as you might come across police checks on the road, especially in areas close to Israel.
- Check out the benefits and conditions of the Jordan Pass, a discount programme that will save you money during your visit to the country. With this pass you can visit forty tourist sites across the country. If you buy it online before you arrive, the Jordan Pass waives visa fees of JD 40 (€48).