

EXPERIENCE

JORDAN

## Jordan North to South - A Cultural Experience: Food, Nature, People, and Landscape



**Trip Rating: 2 - Easy Active** – During this trip there will be light walks but mostly interactive cultural experiences

### Summary

Allow Jordan to awaken your senses! From north to south, we see, smell, taste and feel traditional life in Jordan. Beginning in the north, from the village Umm Qais, home to ruins of the ancient Decapolis city of Gadara, with views to Israel, Palestine, and the Sea of Galilee, we travel the length of Jordan to the world-famous UNESCO sites of Petra and Wadi Rum in the south. Along the way, we experience the richness of Jordanian culture in the flavors of its food, the warmth of its people, and the diversity of its landscape.

### Highlights

- Discover Jordan from North to South
- Explore Umm Qais, Dana Biosphere Reserve, Petra, and Wadi Rum
- Cook and feast with the locals
- Learn local customs from the Bedouin and traditional crafts from village women
- Stargaze at Feynan Ecolodge, one of the in the world's top rated Eco-Lodges
- Take two short hikes to witness the diversity in Jordan's landscape
- [Photos of Jordan North to South - A Cultural Experience](#)



**Note: You need to arrive in Amman on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.**

## **Day 1 – May 11**

*Amman - Larsa Hotel at 8:00AM*

Our trip begins at Larsa Hotel at 8:00am. We travel to the northern tip of Jordan and delight in the loveliness of Umm Qais, the ancient Greek and Roman city overlooking the Jordan valley and the Sea of Galilee. Aside from its beauty, this site boasts a long history as one of the Decapolis cities. It's famous for being the location of the miracle of the Gardarene Swine. Many classical poets and philosophers also call Umm Qais home. One such poet referred to this city as a "new Athens".

After visiting the archeological site, we take a short hike and learn about foraging for food in the area. A local family welcomes us to cook a traditional northern Jordan meal for lunch. While waiting for the food to cook, we visit a nearby apiary to learn about beekeeping. Much of Jordan's beekeeping activities are in north, an area rich in plants that are great sources of nectar and pollen for bees. Our hearty lunch energizes us for the trip ahead.

*Sightseeing, Short Hike, and Cultural Experience*

Beit Al Baraka Guesthouse – Twin share rooms (Wi-Fi in guest house)

Lunch – Lunch Box

Dinner – Beit Al Baraka

## **Day 2 – May 12**

*Beit Al Baraka 8:00AM Breakfast*

After a delightful breakfast, we take short walk to the village where we learn the traditional craft of basket weaving. Bring out your inner artisan while interlacing palm leaves, banana leaves and reeds to create your own piece of art to take home.

After lunch, head south on the Jordan Valley highway to Feynan Ecolodge (~4.5 hours driving). Our goal is to arrive in time for a truly epic sunset from deep in the heart of the mountainous Dana Biosphere Reserve. As the sun slips beneath the horizon, the stars begin to put on their show.

### *Short Hike and Basket Weaving Experience*

Feynan Ecolodge – Twin share rooms (Wi-Fi in lobby)

Breakfast – Beit Al Baraka    Lunch – Family Home    Dinner – Feynan Ecolodge (Vegetarian)



### **Day 3 – May 13**

*Feynan Ecolodge 8:00AM Breakfast*

On an easy morning hike, our local guide teaches us the hidden uses of the plants in the Dana Biosphere Reserve. We learn how the Bedouin use them as soap, herbs, medicines and treatments for their animals. This loop hike is also an opportunity to spot some of the birdlife and see the diverse geology of the Great Rift Valley.

We continue our journey south to Siq al-Barid, otherwise known as Little Petra, due to its high gorge and carved facades. It was a flourishing community in Nabatean times. Nestled in the rocks nearby is our Bedouin camp for the night. Enjoy the glow of lanterns on the rocks and relax under desert moonlight with a cup of Bedouin tea near the campfire.

### *Short Hike and Bedouin Experience*

Little Petra – Seven Wonders Camp – Single Tents (Wi-Fi in the camp)

Breakfast – Feynan Ecolodge (Vegetarian)    Lunch – Lunch Box    Dinner – Seven Wonders Camp

### **Day 4 – May 14**

*Seven Wonders Camp 8:00AM Breakfast*

Petra, considered one of the modern Seven Wonders of the World, is known by many names, a master piece half as old as time, the Red Rose city. Marvel at the beauty of the 'Lost City', only recently re-discovered by the outside world. Walk through the Siq, the entrance guarding the ancient Nabatean city, and witness the magnificent Treasury. Explore its many caves, tombs, and the impressive amphitheater, where all the seating for up to 8500 people was carved out of the mountain! After lunch, get off-the-beaten path and visit some of the hidden treasures of Petra, such as the Monastery, the high place of sacrifice, Jebel Khubtha and the view overlooking the Treasury. Spectacular!

Moving on from Petra, we head to our southernmost point, Wadi Rum. Lying on an ancient camel trading route to the Arabian Peninsula, the Wadi Rum area has been inhabited for over 2,500 years!

We have one final magical and peaceful night under the stars at a Bedouin camp.

### *Sightseeing in Petra*

Captain's Desert Camp, Wadi Rum: Single tents (no Wi-Fi)

Breakfast – Seven Wonders Lunch – Lunch Box Dinner – Captain's Desert Camp, Wadi Rum



### **Day 5 – May 15**

#### *Bedouin Camp 7:00AM Breakfast*

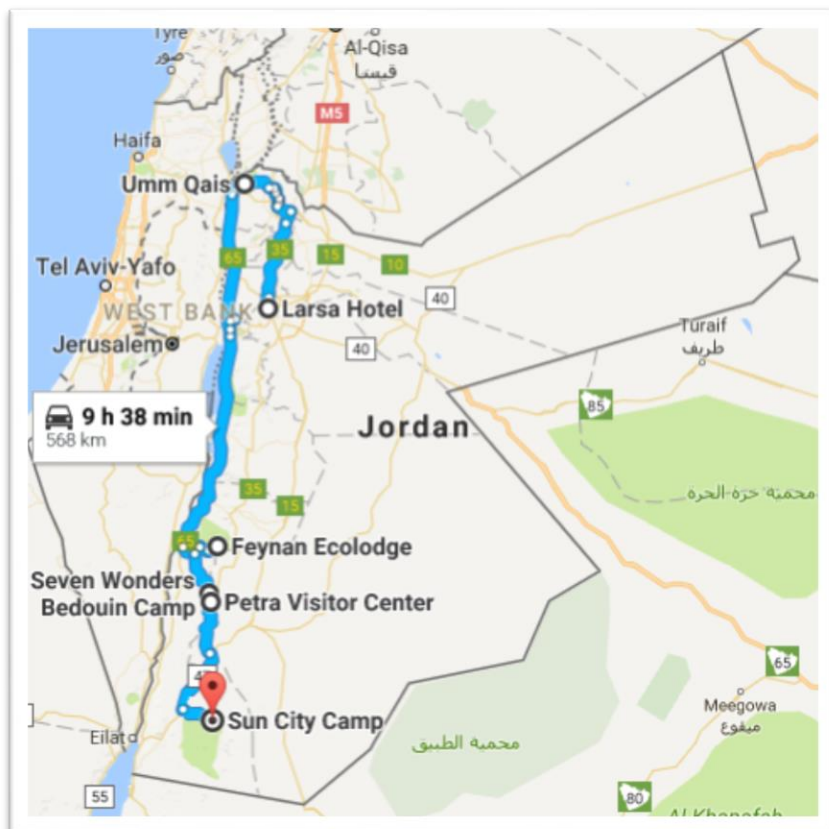
Our desert adventure continues with a jeep safari exploring Wadi Rum. Known as the Valley of the Moon, it is the largest wadi in Jordan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wadi Rum's valleys, canyons, dunes and deserts beg for exploration. Discover pre-historic petroglyphs and witness ochre mountains rising sharply 800m/2,600' from the desert floor and narrow gorges cutting through the sand. We make plenty of stops to walk and explore. We enjoy a final lunch together in the shade of the mountains.

Our adventure ends with a transfer to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, and the location of AdventureNEXT.

#### Jeep Tour Wadi Rum

Breakfast – Bedouin Camp Lunch – Lunch Box

## Map of Route



**Group Size:** 4-12 People

**Price per person - \$599**

### Inclusions

- 1 night in B&B in the North
- 1 night at Feynan Ecolodge
- 1 night permanent Bedouin camp
- 1 night at Wadi Rum camp
- All food and water
- Tour guide as well to give insight into history and politics of the country whilst you walk
- Entrances fees to Petra and all experiences in the itinerary
- Transport by A/C bus

### Exclusions

- Flights
- Visa to Jordan -Purchase the [Jordan Pass -Explorer](#). This costs 75JD, but includes your Jordan entry visa and entrance to Petra and Wadi Rum (2-day pass).
- Travel/Medical/Evacuation Insurance
- Departure taxes (Jordan \$15 pp at land borders). Airport tax is usually included on air-tickets.
- Tips to driver & guides

### Accommodation Summary:

Day 1: Barakeh Guest House: Twin shared room (Wi-Fi in guest house)

Day 2: Feynan Ecolodge: Twin shared room (Wi-Fi in lobby)

Day 3: Seven Wonders camp: Single tents (Wi-Fi in the camp)

Day 4: SunCity Camp Wadi Rum: Single tents (no Wi-Fi)

## Weather

Temperatures in Jordan can be hot and with little rain. The average temperature in May is 21°C/70°F, with highs reaching 27°C/80°F and lows around 14°C /57°C at night. The high temperatures may feel hotter in the sun all day. While the chance of rain is slight in May, it is still important to be prepared with a proper rain and wind proof jacket. Layering is important for protection from the sun and cool nights.

## Things to Consider

Jordan is an Islamic nation and tends to be quite conservative so you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline, shoulders and knees should be covered. Long shorts can be worn during hiking, though we generally recommend lightweight hiking trousers to keep the sun off. A light water and windproof jacket is useful and a sun hat essential. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool in the predominantly hot climate.

## Packing List:

<p><b>Luggage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Medium to large duffle or rolling soft-sided luggage</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Luggage lock</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Packing cubes/stuff sacks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Day pack – 15-25 liters</li></ul> <p><b>Clothing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Casual, loose-fitting clothing/shoes for travel and city wear (lightweight, easily washable)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Light rain/windproof jacket</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mid-weight fleece/softshell</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirt with collar</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hiking pants</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Underwear/sports bra (quick drying)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Warm hat (for chilly evenings in the desert)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Thin buff/neck scarf</li></ul> <p><b>Footwear:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable, light hiking/walking shoes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hiking socks, synthetic or wool</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sandals for camp use</li></ul>	<p><b>Assorted Personal Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles - 1 liter/1 quart x2 (2 liters total) and/or hydration bladder</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp with spare batteries</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunblock and lip balm with SPF</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, small travel towel, etc.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit, medications, blister prevention/treatment kit<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Women: Tampons – difficult to obtain in rural areas</li></ul></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Kit: Toilet paper, Ziplock bags (at least one for clean TP, one for dirty TP), wet wipes, hand sanitizer (You must pack out all toilet paper out the wilderness.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Clock</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Camera/memory cards/battery<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Charging not possible at wilderness camps</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Don't forget!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Jordan Pass -Explorer</a>. This costs 75JD, but includes your entry visa and entrance to Petra and Wadi Rum.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Medical/Evacuation insurance</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Air tickets</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Health requirements arranged</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Money - cash/debit cards/credit cards</li></ul>
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## **Cancellation Policy**

<http://experiencejordan.com/terms-conditions>

### For 1-9 people:

31+ Days before the trip 20% processing fee (with a \$100 minimum charge per person).

30 – 8 Days before the trip 50% cancellations charge

7 – 1 Days before the trip 100% cancellation charge

### For Groups 10+ people:

31+ Days before the trip 20% processing fee (with a \$100 minimum charge per person).

30 – 1 Days before the trip 100% cancellations charge.

If paying by credit card directly through the office, there is an additional 6% charge to cover the credit card company commission costs, which we still pay even when providing a refund.

If paying by PayPal, there are no additional PayPal charges if the refund is requested within 2 months of the original payment. After this period the refund amount will be sent through PayPal, but the customer must pay the normal PayPal charges to receive this payment.

## **Refund Policy**

If you cancel your trip and qualify for a refund, as per the cancellation policy above, we will process the refund within 1 week of agreement to the refund. The money will normally be refunded by the same method the payment was made, unless mutually agreed by both parties to transfer the refund by a different method.

## **About Experience Jordan**

We hope you love this itinerary! We want you to know we do more than just offer unique experiences in Jordan. So here are our top 5 reasons to book with us.

1. Our attention to details will make your trip smooth and easy and ensure that you won't miss out on any fun adventures along the way.
2. Our knowledgeable staff will assist you in whatever your chosen activity is, whether you are sightseeing, hiking, biking, or any combo of the above.
3. Our deep love of Jordan means that we want to share with you what makes Jordan an amazing place to be by showing you the "real" Jordan beyond what tourists typically see and experience.
4. Our heart for the communities we interact with will allow you to interact with Jordanians and learn about what makes Jordanians unique in the Middle East.
5. Our passion for you our honored guests. Our goal is for you to finish your time in Jordan with unforgettable memories, amazing photos and stories, and full bellies. Because when you visit Jordan, you are family.

But don't just take our word for it. [Check out our reviews on Trip Advisor!](#)