



8 Days

Jordan

Deserts, Petra & Crusaders

This journey takes us deep into the heart of this remarkable country, connecting with ancient peoples and civilisations whose caravan routes crossed this region. We first head north on the Desert Highway to see amazing Roman remains before returning to explore the city of Amman. Then we journey south to reach the rugged desert landscape of Wadi Rum. The scenery here is awe-inspiring as we wind through the impressive rock canyons and across golden desert sands. Camping in Bedouin goat-hair tents, only adds to this unique experience. As we explore this amazing landscape that Lawrence of Arabia found so inspiring and so humbling, we discover the true magic of the vast ancient city of Petra. Onwards journeying to a nature reserve in a village where endangered natural species are protected and timeless traditions are still practised. Once again bowled over by scenery at Kerak and the formidable Crusader Castle overlooking the road to the Dead Sea. We conclude with a visit to Mount Nebo and a walk in Moses' footsteps.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Amman

You will be met by on arrival and transferred to your hotel for settling in.

Day
2

Jerash & Amman

Today we head 50km north to Jerash, one of the finest examples of a provincial Roman town. The extraordinarily complete remains include a forum, a nymphaeum, hippodrome, two theatres, several temples and the famous Colonnaded Street. On our return to Amman we visit some of the city sights, including the Citadel, and see how the modern city has been developed out of its ancient roots.

Day
3

Wadi Rum

Today we travel south along the Desert Highway to Wadi Rum and the extraordinary desert scenery. Wadi Rum is one of the most evocative places in the Middle East, the legend of Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab revolt lives strong here and scenes from the famous film were shot deep in the fabulous purple-black and yellow mountains that rise from the sands of the desert. Here we transfer to 4WD vehicles and head off to explore the stunning desert environment of Wadi Rum. We camp at the edge of the Wadi Rum protected area, with a backdrop of high mountains and sand dunes and in true desert fashion we sleep in a traditional Bedouin tent or under the stars. As the sun sets on the rocky outcrops, an astonishing transformation takes place - the sandstone changes hue, passing through a spectrum of yellow, gold, orange, red and finally purple, as the shadows lengthen and the stars come out - the skies will hopefully be clear allowing the stars to stand out brightly. The Milky Way, satellites and shooting stars can be clearly seen - the perfect opportunity for star-gazing. Tonight we sleep in a traditional Bedouin tent (communal sleeping arrangement) or under the stars.

Day
4

Wadi Rum, Aqaba, drive to Petra

This morning, travelling by 4WD, we see how the desert environment has been shaped by natural forces. We then follow the Kings Highway onto the port town of Aqaba on the Red Sea. Our afternoon is free for swimming or we can organise an optional boat trip. Late afternoon we head back north to Wadi Musa, more commonly known as Petra, to be ready for our full day in Petra tomorrow.





Day
5

Explore Petra

Today we walk into the fabled and well-concealed city of Petra where a full day allows us to explore the Treasury, Monastery and the many other amphitheatres for which this amazing site is famed. This is an active day and we need to be prepared for a lot of walking, but the huge tombs - all hand carved out of the towering cliff face - are simply incredible and it will without doubt be a highlight of the trip.

The 800 steps which lead to the Monastery are a small price to pay for a view of the vast structure rivalling even the Treasury and boasting fantastic views stretching out over the valley below. If we have any energy left, there should also be time to climb to one of the High Places, the mountain-top altars where ritual sacrifices were made; from here there are spectacular views of the mountains, valleys and canyons below.

Day
6

Dana Nature Reserve & Crusader Castles

The recently developed nature reserve around Dana village aims to protect some of Jordan's endangered species, and has also managed to preserve the timeless traditions still practised in the village. We then travel onto Kerak where a formidable Crusader castle overlooks a long, winding road down to the Dead Sea. Finally we visit Madaba famous for its 6th century mosaics

Day
7

Dead Sea

We spend time in Madaba then head to the biblical site of Mt Nebo. The Bible tells us that this is the final resting place of Moses. From Mt Nebo Moses looked out onto the Promised Land. We continue to the Dead Sea which, at 400 metres below sea level, is the lowest place on earth. There will be time to swim (or rather float!) before the short journey back to Amman.

Day
8

Fly UK

Transfer to Amman by road for your flight home.

Further information

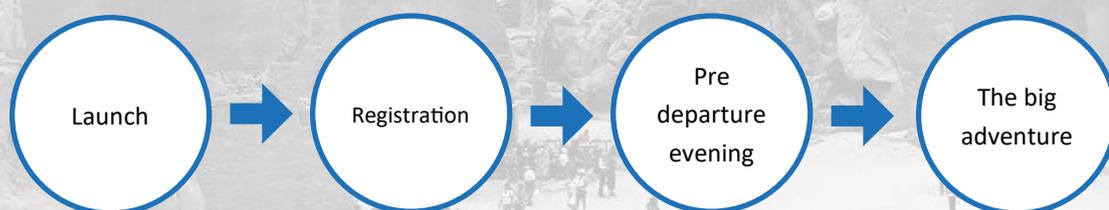
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk