



Travel Talk tours take you on a journey of history, culture and legends. Jordan's geographical nature makes it an intriguing country, as it is surrounded by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Israel and straddles the Holy land of the world's three great monotheistic religions. You can leave footprints where Jesus once walked, look out over the lands promised to Moses or ride through Lawrence of Arabia's desert land. The amazing landscape alone is enough of a reason to visit Jordan. From the wind-blown dunes of Wadi Rum, to floating in the Dead Sea or exploring the city of Petra; a city carved into rock face over 2,000 years ago and now one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Travel Talk tours bring you to the heart of the Jordanian culture, history and of course adventure. You will explore the impressive sites, discover the natural and cultural treasures of Jordan and camp beneath the starry skies as you learn more about the traditional life in the desert. A Jordan tour is a pilgrimage of all sorts and is a must for any adventurous traveller.

VISAS

All foreigners need a visa to enter Jordan. All nationalities except Colombian and Chinese nationals can purchase a visa at the border. South African nationals have free entry. Visas are valid for two weeks from entry, but can be easily extended for up to three months.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you make sure you have the following:

- ➔ Passport
- ➔ Airline or transportation ticket
- ➔ Tour voucher
- ➔ Insurance policy
- ➔ Visas (if necessary)
- ➔ Label on your travel bag
- ➔ Pre-departure information
- ➔ Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- ➔ Credit card

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is essential to all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please do not forget to take a copy of your insurance policy with you. While there are no mandatory vaccinations for travellers to Jordan it is advisable to ensure typhoid, polio and tetanus inoculations are up to date. Most people find that Jordan is a friendly and hospitable country and feel quite comfortable wandering around alone during the day. However, as with any country you are taxis rather than walk.

It is wise not to accept gifts of food or drink from any strangers for the risk of possibly being a victim of theft by drugging. Take care with your passport, credit cards and money - a money belt to fit beneath your clothes is highly recommended. It is also recommended that at least one set of modest clothing is taken with you. It is a sign of respect to cover your shoulders and legs when visiting mosques and also attracts less unwanted attention. A headscarf for females is necessary when visiting mosques in Jordan.

WHAT TO WEAR...

As a general guideline, clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting, hard-wearing and easily washed.

In summer, cotton clothing is much more comfortable than man-made materials like nylon. Clothing that will protect you from sunburn is an absolute necessity. Especially in summer months white or light coloured, long sleeve cotton shirts are preferable.

In winter (December-March) you will need some warm, woollen clothing but in general, the weather is still quite warm. Please also keep in mind that when visiting religious sites, appropriate attire is required (scarf for females etc.). Please remember that Jordan has conservative attitudes towards dress. Women, and also to a certain extent men, will find that the way they dress will often determine the degree of respect they receive from both men and women.

MONEY

Jordan Dinar (JOD) is divided into 1.00 fils. Notes range from 1 dinar to 20 dinars. Coins used are 1 dinar, ½ dinar, ¼ dinar, 100 fils, 50 fils, and 10 fils. Approximately GBP 1 = 1.06 JOD. There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that a visitor may bring into Jordan, but large amounts should be declared on arrival. Banks can be found almost everywhere in Jordan and we recommend you take US\$, Euro or GBP as these are the easiest to change.

Travellers' cheques are avoided as they can be very time consuming to change and often cannot be changed outside of major cities. ATMs can be found almost everywhere in Jordan. Credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels (with the exception of American Express).

WEATHER

The weather in Jordan is pleasurable for travel throughout the year. Amman is sunny and cloudless from May to October, with temperatures averaging approximately 25°C (75 F). During spring, the most beautiful season in Jordan, fields and mountains are coated with rich greenery and exquisite wildflowers. In autumn, the weather is mild and pleasant. July and August are hot and dry, but not restrictive of tourist activities. The valleys and Aqaba are ideal winter resorts, with temperatures averaging 16-22°C between November to April. Rainfall is a rare occurrence by the Red Sea as well as in the desert areas of Jordan.

Month	Aqaba		Amman		Petra		Kerak	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
Jan	18	65	22	72	2	54	21	69
Feb	20	69	27	81	13	57	22	72
March	23	75	28	84	17	63	25	77
April	29	85	36	97	23	74	30	86
May	33	92	38	101	27	81	35	94
June	36	97	38	102	31	88	38	100
July	37	99	41	106	32	90	40	104
Aug	36	98	41	107	32	90	40	103
Sept	34	94	37	100	31	88	37	98
Oct	31	88	34	94	26	79	33	91
Nov	25	78	30	86	18	66	27	81
Dec	20	68	26	79	13	57	22	72

EATING & DRINKING

Food in Jordan tends to be a mixture of Arab and Lebanese cuisine. A standard meal will consist of a main dish supplemented by a number of appetisers such as tahini (sesame seed puree), Baba Ghanoug (tahini, garlic and charred aubergines) dips and salads.



Mensef is the national dish of Jordan. This traditional Bedouin meal consists of lamb (or goat) cooked with herbs in a yoghurt sauce and served with rice and bread. Other favourite dishes include meat stews, meatloaf and kebabs. Wining and dining in Amman is a blend of elegance, ease and fun.

There is a wide variety of national and international cuisine, pubs, discotheques and live entertainment. Some fine restaurants require prior bookings. Throughout the Middle East, the drinking of tea is very common with Jordan being no exception, especially if you are shopping or meeting people for the first time. Mint, thyme, or saga are often used to flavour the tea. Coffee is served Turkish style; very strong and sweet. Freshly squeezed fruit juice is readily available from street stalls and kiosks and makes a refreshing change from the carbonated drinks. Although Jordan is a Muslim country, most of the hotels we use do serve alcoholic drinks (although during Ramadan, some hotels will close their bars). Local wine is fairly palatable, as is the local beer, Amstel; a mild lager. You might also want to try Araq – an aniseed flavoured liqueur.

SHOPPING

Souvenir choices are endless and handcraft shops are widely scattered throughout Jordan. The wide range of crafts combine traditional art with modern flair. The most common Jordanian craft items include Madaba Rugs, carved olivewood, Hebron glass, ceramics, pearl, cross stitch embroidery and Bedouin silver jewellery. Decorated sand bottles are also among the popular things to buy. The Arab "kefiyas" are interesting traditional items; big, cotton headscarves in black and white or red and white checked material.

They are very useful in protecting not only the head but also the back of one's neck against the strong sun. There are many different kinds of jewellery available, from the beadwork done by the women and children of the Bedouin, to marcasite silver, which is very popular and attractive. The designs are simple but very nice. You can find the earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings sold in several local shops. Silver is almost always sold by weight and the shopkeeper will weigh the pieces before giving you a price. A good deal of interest is also shown in "narghilas" or water pipes.

You can also find a very large variety of "shisha" tobacco in Jordan. Another interesting thing to look at is the dresses and skirts on sale. They are embellished by hand in cross-stitch, one of the oldest forms of embroidery. The colours used have significance and there are several books available explaining. Among the glass objects you can also find a particular kind of crystal, wine glasses, semi opaque and coloured. Jordanian ceramics are also very elegant; plates and dishes make a good buy.

OPENING HOURS

Most Jordanians work five days a week with Friday and Saturday off. Business and shopping hours are flexible. Some establishments are open between 09:30 - 13:30 and 15:30 - 18:00. Others may be open all day, from 08:00 to 20:00. Government offices are open from 08:30 to 14:00. All businesses and most shops, other than those in the souks, are closed on Fridays. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, working hours are more flexible and generally shorter.

ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50- hertz.

TIPPING

Tips are a common reward for the service staff in Jordan. Most restaurants include service charge but if not stated, waiters expect to be tipped around ten percent of the bill. Your bus driver and guide will also be especially honoured with such a traditional appreciation at the end of your tour.

DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- ➔ Boat / Aqaba 16 Km 15 min.
- ➔ Aqaba / Wadi Rum 70 Km 1 h.
- ➔ Wadi Rum / Petra 115 Km 1 h. 45 min.
- ➔ Petra / Dead Sea 200 Km 3 h. 30 min
- ➔ Dead Sea / Amman 60 Km 1 h.
- ➔ Amman / Madaba 35 Km 45 min.
- ➔ Madaba/Mont.Nebo 12 Km 15 min.
- ➔ Mont.Nebo/Kerak 110 Km 2 h.

DESERT CAMPING

Wadi Rum (The Sound of Silence) is a journey to another world; a vast, silent universe, timeless and beautiful. Wadi Rum is one of Jordan's main tourist attractions and the most stunning desert landscape in the world, laying 320km southwest of Amman, 120km south of Petra and only 60km north of Aqaba. Stunning in its natural beauty, Wadi Rum epitomizes the romance of the desert. We provide you with a Bedouin Tent including mattress, mattress cover, pillow and blanket. We join a 2 hour Jeep safari in the desert and enjoy an authentic Jordanian dinner in the camp.

Important: If you join this tour between November-March we highly recommend you to bring your own sleeping bag due to colder weather in the evenings.



FERRY TO JORDAN

The Gulf of Aqaba will be crossed with a ferry that is equipped with air-conditioning & airline style comfy seats. Please note that there is only one daily ferry & it doesn't have a set schedule, it departs when it's full. During your ride, you'll be given an information card to fill & to hand to the ferry's immigration officer with your passports. In return, you will receive a receipt in Arabic, and you'll get your stamped passports back after you disembark the ferry, at the Arrivals Hall, before you meet your Jordanian guide at the terminal building.

BORDER TAXES

If you've purchased a combined tour of Egypt and Jordan, there will be a departure tax of US\$12 when leaving Egypt. If you have not obtained a visa for Jordan before your trip, this can be obtained in Aqaba. Please contact us for the latest information as these fees may change periodically.



AIRPORT TRANSFER

Your arrival airport transfer is included if:

- You fly into the city in which your tour starts
- You arrive on the first day of your tour
- You forward your flight details to us, at least 10 days in advance, including:
 - Date of flight
 - Flight number
 - Arrival time
 - Name of traveller/s to be picked up

If you do not want an airport transfer to the hotel, please let us know by either phoning the office (0208 099 95 96) or sending us an email (info@traveltalktours.com). Please note the hotel check-in time is from 13:00.

ACCOMMODATION

The hotels used on Travel Talk Jordan tours are rated 4 and 3 star. The main criteria in the hotel selection process are cleanliness, private bathroom facilities and location (generally central). If you are travelling on your own, you'll be allocated a twin or triple room with other group members of the same gender. Travellers who have paid single supplement will stay in single rooms. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee the availability of double beds, but will try our best. Your tour leader will organise the rooming arrangements when checking into the hotels according to the rooming lists. Therefore we cannot guarantee any last minute changes.

PRE&POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

Should you require pre and/or post-tour accommodation, please notify us (or your agent) at the time of booking. This information has to be also clearly stated on your voucher (check-in date, check-out date, number of travellers etc.). Unless a room is immediately available, most hotels will not allocate your room until at least midday.

TRANSPORTATION

You can expect comfort and reliability on our modern coaches and mini buses. Most vehicles feature air-conditioning, safe and secure luggage storage, comfortable seats, and a sound system.

TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly. He/she will share their local knowledge, advise you on ways to spend your free time and coordinate the day-to-day running of the tour. From time to time, unpredictable situations can occur and things may not go according to plan. Your leader may require your cooperation and understanding in that case. If you have any problems on tour, please let your leader know so that the correct steps can be taken. Please bear in mind that when you travel on a combined tour, you will have different groups and a different leader for each leg.

ENTRANCE FEES

- ➔ Wadi Rum – Dissah 5 JD
- ➔ Dead Sea & Lunch 24 JD
- ➔ Jerash 8 JD
- ➔ King Abdula Mosque 5 JD
- ➔ Roman Theatre Amman 1 JD
- ➔ Madaba & Mt .Nebo 2 JD
- ➔ Kerak Castle 1 JD
- ➔ Amman Castle 2 JD
- ➔ Petra 50 JD
- ➔ Citadel 2 JD

MISSED THE WELCOME MEETING?

Being avid travellers ourselves, we know that the unforeseen circumstances can arise. If you miss your welcome meeting or arrive on the second day of the tour, please don't stress. If you arrive late at night on the first day, please check the info board at the lobby for the next day's programme. If you arrive on second day, please contact your tour leader to join the group. On Day 2 there is a city tour in Amman in the morning that you may be able to join, depending on arrival times.

RAMADAN IN JORDAN

Ramadan is the Holy month of the Islamic calendar and a time when Muslims fast from sun rise until sunset. Fasting means 'nil by mouth' including food, water and cigarettes. The day's fast is broken at sunset, often with soup and dates. Many local cafes and restaurants remain closed during the day however tourists are not expected to fast and there are cafes and restaurants that stay open to cater for you. During Ramadan you are encouraged to show your respect by not walking around in public eating, chewing gum, smoking or drinking. It is fine to do so in your hotel or in a cafe or restaurant recommended by your tour leader. Your tour leader will organise lunches and dinners for you which will make Ramadan easier. During the month you will find that tourist sites often close early to allow staff to return home in time to break their fast and shops often open late and close early. Following Ramadan is Ede, a three-day celebration (there is another Ede four-day celebration later in the year called Eid Ul-Adha). During this holiday it is more likely that shops (including the souks, but not restaurants) will be closed, and other services may be disrupted.

LANGUAGE

Jordanian language is Arabic. Below you will find some phrases that may help you during your stay.

Hello	Selaam
Goodbye	Ma Salama
Yes	Aiwa
No	La
Welcome	Marhaba
Please	Minfudluk
Thank you	Shokran
Excuse me	Lao Samaht
Sorry	Assef
Perhaps	Yenken
How are you ?	E-zayak
Good morning	Sabah El-kheir
Good evening	Masa El-kheir
Good night	Tesbah Ala kheir
Today	En nahar-da
Tomorrow	Bukra
Yesterday	Imbarih
I'm well, thank you	El Humdoolelaa
Money	Fuluss
How much is it ?	Bekam ?
Too much !	Ketir !
I don't understand	Ana mish fahem
Leave me alone	Etrokny wahdy
Where is ...?	Fein....?
Here	Hena
Water	Maya
Coffee	Ahwa
Tea	Shy
The bill	El Hesab
Pharmacy	Ssaydaliya
Doctor	Doctur
Museum	Mat-hhaf
Ticket	Tazkara



Although a tiny strip of land at the centre of Middle East, Israel offers a great variety of experiences. Witness the holy Jerusalem as you roam its ancient walls and streets while listening to the prayers of Muslims, Christians and Jews. The Old City of Jerusalem carries monumental religious importance with countless battles won and lost over it. The city remains a spiritual capital of the world, attracting pilgrims globally for centuries.

On the other hand, Tel-Aviv is the hub of progress as the technological and economic heart of Israel. Enjoy the golden beaches, taste delicious local cuisine and pastries. Go on to sip your cocktail before hopping aboard the vibrant nightclubs. On the way, get to discover Nazareth, a huge open-air museum on its own and visit the childhood village of Jesus Christ.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you make sure you have the following:

- ➔ Passport
- ➔ Airline or transportation ticket
- ➔ Tour voucher
- ➔ Insurance policy
- ➔ Visas (if necessary)
- ➔ Label on your travel bag
- ➔ Pre-departure information
- ➔ Money / Credit card

VISAS

Citizens of Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and South Africa do not require a visa for a touristic stay of up to 3 months. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the end date of your travel, and have an empty page. Official passport holders (government officials) from USA or South Africa are not exempt of a visa and may require to apply in advance.

Although Israel no longer stamps passports at airports and entry via land borders, it is recommended people travelling to Arab countries, following an entry to Israel, officially request that their passports are not stamped. Please notify the clerk accordingly as you hand your documents.

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is mandatory for all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have a personal travel insurance to cover medical and repatriation costs. A suitable insurance policy should provide adequate cover for medical expenses arising through illness or accident prior to or during the holiday and loss of holiday monies through cancellation and curtailment of the

holiday for insurable reasons, as well as any additional coverage per your personal needs and preferences. Please do not forget to take a copy of your insurance policy with you, which you'll be requested to provide when joining the tour. While there are no mandatory vaccinations for Israel, it is advisable to ensure Dengue, DTP, Hepatitis A inoculations are up to date.

Most people find that Israel is a friendly and hospitable country and feel quite comfortable wandering around alone during the day. However, as with any country and touristic site, show great care for your belongings at crowded tourist areas.

WHAT TO WEAR

As a general guideline, clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting, hard-wearing and easily washed. In summer, cotton clothing is much more comfortable than synthetic materials like nylon or polyester. Clothing that will protect you from sunburn is an absolute necessity. Especially in summer months white or light coloured, long sleeve cotton shirts are preferable.

In winter (December-March) you will need some warm, woollen clothing but in general, the weather is still quite warm. Please also keep in mind that when visiting religious sites, appropriate attire is required (scarf for females etc.).

MONEY

Israeli New Shekel (ILS or NIS) is the official currency in Israel. Bank notes are available in 20, 50, 100 and 200 Shekels. Coins are used for 10, 5, 2, 1, 0.50 and 0.10 Shekels.

Approximately GBP 1 = 4.44 ILS, however please check the latest conversion rates. There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that a visitor may bring into Israel, but large amounts above 80,000 ILS should be declared on arrival. Banks and ATMs can be found almost everywhere in Israel. We recommend you take USD, EUR or GBP as these are the easiest to exchange.

Credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and hotels (with the exception of American Express).

WEATHER

The weather in Israel is pleasurable for travel throughout the year. The most comfortable times to visit are Spring when temperatures are on average in the low 20's and Autumn with temperatures around the high 20's. During the summer months, the average temperatures are over 30C and closer to 40C in the Southern parts, while the coastal areas are less affected. The Winter months are still mild in Israel, although there are occasional storms in the coastal areas in December and January, and it sometimes even snows in Jerusalem. May and October are generally considered as good times to visit, due to less tourists at the sites and great weather! It isn't too hot as some find it in the summer, but less unpredictable than the winter. September is also a great time, but is often affected by the Jewish Holidays of Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana which almost shut down the country for a couple of days.

EATING & DRINKING

Food in Israel is a mixture of Jewish, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine. Some of the popular meals in the region include falafel, hummus, delicious aubergine dishes as Baba Ghanouj shakshouka, couscous and za'atar. A standard meal will consist of a main dish, supplemented by a number of appetisers (mezzes) such as tahini (sesame seed puree), Baba Ghanouj (tahini, garlic and charred aubergines) dips and salads. The cuisine incorporates olives, chickpea, wheat, dairy, tomatoes, aubergine, zucchini, fish and delicious bakery. Special dishes are also prepared during Shabbat and different Jewish holidays with the tradition of keeping kosher however some shops may be closed during the holidays. Tea and coffee are widely popular in Israel. Mint, thyme, or saga are often used to flavour the tea.



EATING & DRINKING

Coffee is served Turkish style; very strong and sweet. Freshly squeezed fruit juice is readily available from street stalls and kiosks and makes a refreshing change from the carbonated drinks. Limonana is a popular type of lemonade with mint. You might also want to try Araç – a strong aniseed-flavoured liqueur. There is a wide variety of national and international cuisine, bars and clubs in Tel-Aviv. Some fine restaurants require booking in advance.

OPENING HOURS

Most stores are open between Sunday to Thursday between 9:00am and 7:00pm as Sunday is the first day of the work week. However, these hours may get extended during peak holiday times, especially in the main shopping streets and malls. Shops usually close at noon on Friday and open again on Sunday morning. Popular shopping malls and shops on main shopping streets may remain open on Saturdays or holiday nights. Coffee shops and restaurants that do not serve kosher food often remain open on Saturdays.

ELECTRICITY

In Israel the standard voltage is 220-240V with a frequency of 50Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Israel, if the standard voltage in your country is in this range (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). European type plugs with two rounded pins are used.

TIPPING

Tips are a common reward for the service staff in the Middle East. Most restaurants include service charge but if not stated, waiters expect to be tipped around 10-15% of the bill. Your bus driver and guide will also be especially honoured with such a traditional appreciation at the end of your tour.

TRANSPORTATION

You can expect comfort and reliability on our modern coaches and mini buses. Most vehicles feature air-conditioning, safe and secure luggage storage, comfortable seats, and a sound system.

DISTANCES

Below information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day. Please bear in mind that the travel time will depend on traffic congestion and may differ.

- ➔ Amman / Tel-Aviv 215 km 3 h. 45 min.
- ➔ Tel-Aviv / Jerusalem 75 Km 2 h. 15 min.
- ➔ Jerusalem / Nazareth 165 km 2h. 30 min.
- ➔ Nazareth / Tel-Aviv 105 km 1h. 45 min.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

Your arrival airport transfer is included if:

- You fly into the city in which your tour starts
- You arrive on the first day of your tour
- You forward your flight details to us, at least 10 days in advance, including:
 - Date of flight
 - Flight number
 - Arrival time
 - Name of traveller/s to be picked up

If you do not want an airport transfer to the hotel, please let us know by either phoning the office (0208 099 95 96) or sending us an email (info@traveltalktours.com).

ACCOMMODATION

The hotels used on Travel Talk Israel tours are rated 3-star. The main criteria in the hotel selection process are cleanliness, private bathroom facilities and location (generally central). If you are travelling on your own, you'll be allocated a twin or triple room with other group members of the same gender. Travellers who have paid single supplement will stay in single rooms. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the availability of double beds, but will try our best. Your tour leader will organise the rooming arrangements when checking into the hotels according to the rooming lists. Therefore, we cannot guarantee any last-minute changes.

TOUR LEADER

Your tour leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly. They will share their local knowledge, advise you on ways to spend your free time and coordinate the day to-day running of the tour.

From time to time, unpredictable situations can occur and things may not go according to plan. Your leader may require your cooperation and understanding in that case. If you have any problems on tour, please let your leader know so that the correct steps can be taken. Please bear in mind that when you travel on a combined tour, you will have different groups and a different leader for each country.

MISSED WELCOME MEETING

Being avid travellers ourselves, we know that the unforeseen circumstances can arise. If you miss your welcome meeting (at the lobby around 6pm) or arrive on the second day of the tour, don't stress. If you arrive late at night on the first day, please check the info board at the lobby for the next day's programme. If you arrive on the second day of the tour, please contact your tour leader to join the group. However, if you miss out on the departure from the starting city of the tour, it's your responsibility to meet with the group.

TOUR PRICE

Bear in mind that the tour price does not include any extra meals, entrance fees, optional activities, drinks, tips, personal expenses, visas or flights or other travel costs, unless stated in the itinerary and inclusions section of your tour online.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

As Jewish holidays are set according to the Jewish Calendar, so the exact dates shift earlier each year. During these special times, many Israelis abide by tradition and the day-to-day life is altered and some shops and offices may be closed. All Jewish Holidays begin with the sundown on the holiday eve, and the work week is from Sunday to Thursday.

Pesach is an important religious holiday in April, during which many stores and offices may be closed for a week. The first and last days of the week are official holidays and many people go on holidays in-between. Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year which is celebrated at the end of September. Yom Kippur is a unique holiday as almost all the country shuts down as the country goes quiet for a day, all private motorized vehicles stop running. Sukkot is an important holiday between 2-3 weeks following the Jewish New Year. Hanukkah is a popular Jewish Holiday at the end of December.