
GEEO ITINERARY

Jordan 6/27/2024

Day 1: Amman Arrive in Amman at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Amman at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in the Middle East at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jetlag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Amman before and/or after the trip. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. Amman is a very big city, and there is not one central area to stay—hotels are spread out across various neighborhoods within the city. For this reason, to move around the city during your free time, you will need to take taxis. Please feel free to ask your tour leader or the hotel front desk for recommendations and assistance.

Day 2: Amman/Jerash/Dead Sea/Amman (B) Guided tour of the ancient Roman town of Jerash. Visit the Dead Sea. Return to Amman for the night.

This morning, we set off on a half-day trip to Jerash, a fascinating site and one of the largest and most well-preserved Roman ruins outside Italy. Wander amid its paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theaters, spacious public squares, and plazas, baths, fountains, and city walls pierced by towers and gates – all in exceptional condition. We then discover the legendary healing qualities of the Dead Sea, famous for its unique mineral makeup and salinity. Spot salt chunks drifting by like icebergs on the water's surface. Take a dip yourself and float like a buoy or cover yourself in the mud along the shore, believed to have medicinal and therapeutic benefits. There are showers nearby to wash off after. We return to Amman for the night. Approximate travel time: 5-7 hrs total by private vehicle with stops along the way

Day 3: Amman/Karak/Petra (B) Guided visit to the Madaba mosaics. Take in the views from Mount Nebo. Visit the crusader castle at Karak. Continue to Wadi Musa for the evening.

We depart early for the first stop, Mount Nebo, a historic site believed by many to be the location of Moses' death and has thus been a center for pilgrimage since the earliest Christian times. Trek to the summit (817 m or 2,680 ft) and be rewarded with views of the stunning surrounding countryside and Israel in the distance. Learn the ancient history of this spot and check out the views. We continue on to Madaba to explore its long history on this guided tour, including its role as the center of early Christianity. We will see some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in the world, including the famous sixth-century mosaic map of the Middle East. Tour churches, the Archaeological Park, and the local museum that's housed in several old Madaba residences. After, we take a walk through history on a guided tour of Karak Castle, the largest late-Islamic castle in Jordan. Explore its unique construction – initially built in the Crusader period, it was expanded and refortified during the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras. In the early evening, we arrive in Wadi Musa, the town just outside Petra. Approximate travel time: 3-4 hrs total by private vehicle with stops along the way

Day 4: Petra (B) Start early to visit iconic Petra. This evening, opt to visit a Turkish bath or visit Petra by night.

We journey to Petra today to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site. Each tour will be different

depending on the interests of the group, but everyone arrives through the dramatic Siq, rounding a corner and setting eyes on the famous treasury building. With time, hike approximately 25 km (15 mi) to cover the entire site. Climb (steps) to two sacred hilltops. Depending on the weather and the interests of the group, you may opt to hike an additional 2 km (1.2 mi) to see the magnificent views from the top of the treasury. This makes for a unique and unforgettable experience. We will get a brief history of the city, one of the greatest tourist attractions in the Middle East. The Nabateans carved this capital from the living rock of the surrounding mountains in Petra. Visit monuments that include the Pharaoh's Castle, the triumphal arch, the amphitheater, and the monastery. In the afternoon, you may return to Wādī Mūsá or continue exploring on your own.

Day 5: Petra/Wadi Rum (B, D) Opt to visit Little Petra in the morning. Continue to Wadi Rum. Head out on a 4x4 excursion during the day before a traditional dinner and overnight at a Bedouin desert camp.

In the morning, you can take the opportunity to visit Little Petra (Siq al-Barid). We then drive to Wadi Rum, a vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds and the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes. Journey into the stunning, colorful desert on a 4x4 excursion. Make stops along the way to get out and explore, learn about the region or scramble up rocks or sand dunes. We arrive at the camp in time for a traditional meal and learn more about this ancient culture. Our dinner is prepared in traditional fashion, with the meat and vegetables cooked in an underground oven. Soft drinks and water are available for purchase. Spend the evening sitting under the stars, around a fire, listening to stories from the Bedouin hosts. If really lucky, they may bring the drums out for some music! Accommodation in the desert is in individual cabins that are all attached. Each room contains a bathroom. Basic linens are provided, but many travelers prefer to bring a sleep sheet for extra comfort. The rooms at the desert camp can be very hot during the summer, so many travelers opt to sleep outside. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle, 2 hrs by 4x4

Day 6: Wadi Rum/Aqaba (B) Journey to the Red Sea, where you can opt to snorkel, relax at the beach, or enjoy a relaxing boat trip.

Today, we drive to the Red Sea resort city of Aqaba where you will have free time to relax at the beach, swim in the refreshing water, or check out the city. Make sure to try some fresh seafood for dinner. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle

Day 7: Aqaba/Amman (B, L) Journey back to Amman. En route, stop at a G Adventures-supported community cafe for lunch.

Today, we journey back to Amman. En route, we will stop at a G Adventures-supported community cafe for lunch. Al Safi Kitchen is a nonprofit organization working in the South Ghour region, south of the Dead Sea, to create a sustainable future for the community. The mission of the company is to raise awareness about the importance of cultural heritage and natural resources of the area. Their tourism program is key to the expansion of their environmental and social mission. Stop for lunch at Al Safi Kitchen to enjoy a traditional Jordanian meal. Take a tour of the grounds and learn about how this small nonprofit is working to create a sustainable future for community members near the Dead Sea. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle

Day 8: Amman (B) Depart Amman at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Amman at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Amman, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your

travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.