

TREK TO ANCIENT PETRA



DURATION: 8 Days

DEPART: London airport to Amman, Jordan

Make 2024 a year to remember by joining us on one of the world's best hikes to Petra. On this eight-day challenge, we'll explore Jordan's remote and breath-taking landscape as we hike an ancient Bedouin migration route to the 'Red-Rose City', one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

This trek will certainly challenge you, covering up to 10 miles a day, over five consecutive days through stunning valleys, arid desert and dramatic sandstone canyons. Growing in reputation as the 'Inca Trail of the Middle East' and voted by National Geographic as one of the world's best hikes, this is a trek to add to your bucket-list and one you'll certainly never forget.

JORDAN is an incredible country of contrasts, renowned for its rich culture, heritage and hospitality. This Arabic country offers everything you could want from a Middle Eastern cultural adventure from ancient history, lifeless seas, bold flavours, spectacular scenery and vast deserts, to a trendy and buzzing capital city, Amman.

PETRA is an unmissable place that gives you a fabulous opportunity to imagine you are living out an Indiana Jones story as you hike to the dramatic 'lost' city. This spectacular sandstone city was the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom, built around 2,300 years ago. The imposing rose-stone palaces are an impressive testament to the power and influence of the Nabataeans, who controlled trade around the area in the 3rd century BC. Suffice to say, no visit to Jordan is complete without a visit to this remarkable ancient city.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 (SAT): LONDON TO JORDAN

Fly from London to Jordan and transfer to a nearby hotel for an overnight stay.

DAY 2 (SUN): WADI FEINAN – WADI BARWAS

Transfer to Wadi Feinan for our first day's hike across 'hamada' landscape – dry, rock-strewn desert, with little sand. There are spectacular mountain views and expansive wadis (dry valleys) as well as Byzantine and Nabatean ruins to be seen during today's trek. Tonight, you will set up camp in Wadi Barwas.

Trekking: Approx. 14 Km (8.7 miles) / 6 hours

Operated by The Different Travel Company Ltd, ATOL 6706 on behalf of Julia's House.



DAY 3 (MON): WADI BARWAS – RAS EL FEID

Leaving the stony “hamada” desert behind this morning, we hike around the foot of the mountains to reach an ancient Bedouin migration path that ascends steeply across rocks and small boulders, going high into the mountains. This section is challenging and takes around 3 hours, but the reward is amazing views over the stunning Wadi Araba desert. We eventually descend into Wadi el Feid for a well-deserved dip in its cool waters—a perfect place for lunch and a rest. We then walk upstream through dense foliage before reaching a dry river-bed surrounded with colourful sandstone outcrops to reach our camping spot.

Trekking: Approx. 9.5 Km (6 miles) / 6-7 hours

DAY 4 (TUE): RAS EL FEID – SHKARET MSA'ED

This morning we retrace our route along the riverbed and gradually climb up the hills following Bedouin shepherd paths to discover some of the most spectacular scenery in Jordan! The trail continues along the wadi floor and gently climbs up into the pale coloured sandstone hills with incredible views across the surrounding mountains and canyons.

Trekking: Approx. 16 Km (10 miles) / 8 to 9 hours

DAY 5 (WED): SHAKRET MSA'ED – BEIDA – LITTLE PETRA

Along the way today, the scenery changes dramatically from deep wadis to wonderful wide open sandstone hills. The trail passes through agricultural fields and some Bedouin encampments as you enter into the ancient city of Petra. We first pass through Beida and descend into Little Petra to visit this fabulous site for a taster of the main site which we will encounter tomorrow. A short walk then takes us to a permanent campsite, uniquely located in the midst of the sandstone mountains.

Trekking: Approx. 14 Km (8.7 miles) / 5 to 6 hours

DAY 6 (THU): PETRA

Today our trail takes us across open farmland for the first two hours, and then contours around the mountain ridge to enter Petra itself, ‘through the back door’! The views are impressive and after 5 days of hard trekking, the first glimpse of the top of the Monastery is literally jaw-dropping! Our route now takes us into the main site and the heart of Petra, exiting via the Dark Siq to enable us to re-enter the site through the Main Siq, and experience the most famous view of Petra - the Treasury. We then proceed with a full sightseeing tour, including the Facades Street, Urn Tomb, the Theatre, Colonnaded Street, Royal Tombs and Qasr al Bint, before leaving the site and heading to our hotel in nearby Wadi Musa for a comfortable night’s sleep!

Trekking Distance: Approx. 16 Km (10 miles) / 5 to 6 hours to the Treasury + 3 to 4 hours Sightseeing.

DAY 7 (FRI): SIGHTSEEING

Spend the day visiting more highlights of this fascinating country. You will either visit Wadi Rum on a jeep tour to explore further in this spectacular desert including Lawrence of Arabia’s Spring and the natural rock bridge of Jebel Um Fruth, or head north towards the Dead Sea for an opportunity to have a float in the waters! If time allows you will also visit Mount Nebo, where Moses is said to have seen the promised land and the ancient town of Madaba. There may also be an opportunity to extend your trip if you would like to see more of what this incredible country has to offer.

DAY 8 (SAT): JORDAN – LONDON

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

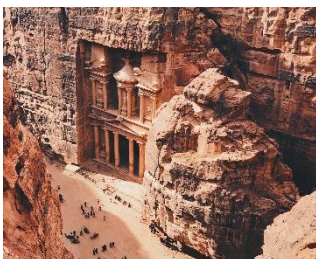
- ✓ Flights from London (including all current airport taxes & airline fuel surcharges)
- ✓ All transfers & transport in Jordan
- ✓ Accommodation in 3 star hotels, lodges and tents on trek
- ✓ ATOL protection
- ✓ All meals & drinking water, including a traditional Jordanian celebratory farewell dinner
- ✓ Local English-speaking guides and full support crew on the trek
- ✓ All entrance fees, conservation fees and permits
- ✓ Different Travel Tour Manager and a dedicated contact at Julia's House, who will join you on the trek and give you one-to-one support all the way
- ✓ An invitation to the hospice where you can meet fellow trekkers and see how the money you raise will make a difference to our families
- ✓ Fundraising support, ideas and tips
- ✓ Free training weekends – again, another fantastic way to meet your fellow trekkers!
- ✓ Regular communications to keep you up to date
- ✓ Huge cheers and support throughout the trek!

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ Personal expenses (such as other drinks and souvenirs)
- ✗ Any visas (currently 40 Jordanian Dinars) and vaccinations required
- ✗ Personal travel insurance
- ✗ Optional tips for local guides

Please note the itinerary may be subject to slight changes - we will always do what's best for the group.

CHALLENGE INFORMATION



Who accompanies us?

You will be accompanied throughout the trek by an English-speaking guide and local guides who have an excellent knowledge of the culture and hiking in the region. The guides are first aid trained and will support you throughout your journey. You will also be accompanied by a team of support staff including camping crew and cook, donkey handlers, jeep driver (transporting luggage) and a Different Travel Company UK tour manager. A representative from Julia's House will also join you on the trek - you will be in very safe hands!

How tough is it?

The trek is rated challenging for someone of a good fitness level. You will be trekking for five consecutive days, averaging six hours each day. The terrain is largely rocky, dry and uneven and some paths are along mountain edges and narrow ledges with sheer drops. Although some of the days trekking have a very gentle increase in elevation, some days have very challenging sections with steep uphill and downhill gradients and in some parts may involve scrambling over rocks. Temperatures pose a specific challenge, historically reaching up to 30°C. You must be of a good fitness level before departure to ensure fast recovery each day.

What is the climate like?

Temperatures in November can range from 22°C to 30°C during the day and drop to around 0°C at night. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful to the local culture and cooler in the heat than having exposed skin. Weather during the trek will be dry but there may be some strong winds. Rain, although very rare, is not impossible. Please note: the temperatures and conditions above are historically accurate but climate change can impact the seasons so you may experience uncharacteristic conditions during the trip which are out of our control. The guides will assess the situation and make decisions to ensure the best enjoyment and safety of the group.

What about transport?

You will be transported by minibus or coach (depending on the group size) and 4WD vehicles.

Where will we stay?

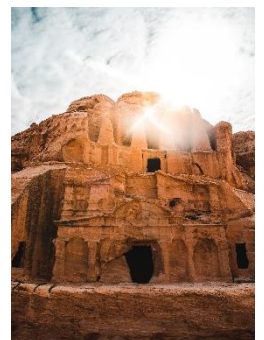
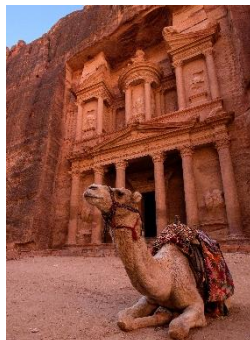
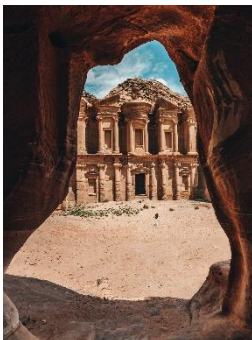
You will stay in a hotel with en-suite facilities while in Amman or Aqaba (location dependent on flight schedules), a guesthouse in Wadi Musa and you will camp in tents during the trek (two to a tent). Foam sleeping mats are provided but you will need to bring a sleeping bag. Toilet facilities during the trek consist of a small toilet 'tent' covering a hole in the ground. There may be very basic shower facilities at camp but this is not guaranteed and water must be used sparingly, so we advise that you don't rely on this and bring a pack of baby wipes. A small bowl of water is provided to wash your hands before meals. Although the accommodation is basic, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views, amazing sunsets and magical nights under the stars!

Most accommodation will be twin-share. Please tell us if you know somebody else on the trip that you would like to share with but don't worry if you don't know anyone else in the group, we always pair you up with someone of the same gender and a similar age where possible.

What is the food like?

Your meals during the trek are cooked by a chef who will prepare simple but nutritious dishes. Typical breakfasts may include cheese, eggs, jam, butter, tomatoes, cucumber, fruit, tea and black coffee. For lunch each day you will prepare your own sandwiches to carry with you and dinner will comprise of dishes such as soup, chicken, rice, vegetarian dishes and salad. Plates, mugs, cutlery and other equipment are provided. While staying in cities meals will be at the hotel or at local restaurants. Please let us know in advance if you have any dietary requirements as we will always do our best to accommodate them. Please bear in mind that being vegetarian is not generally well-understood in this region, so meals may not be as varied as you are used to.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Who can take part?

The minimum age is 18 (or 16-17 if accompanied by a parent/guardian). There is no upper age limit. An ideal

candidate is someone who is open minded, positive, flexible and enjoys the challenges of the great outdoors.

How should I prepare?

If you do not already regularly exercise you should aim to start training as early as possible. The best training is hill walking, which will prepare you for the type of terrain you will experience trekking to Petra.

Julia's House will offer free training walks in the Wiltshire and Dorset countryside, so you can meet your fellow trekkers and test your fitness levels. Other activities which can complement hill walking include running, cycling, gym workouts, boot camps etc.

What happens with our luggage?

Your luggage will be transported for you by 4WD from one night-stop to the next. Space is limited so we ask that your kit is packed in a soft bag, rucksack or expedition kitbag. You should also bring a small daypack to carry for items needed during the day, including lunch and water as you will not have access to your main luggage until the evening.

Health declaration

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used and other medical issues must be specified. All your medical details are treated in the strictest confidence.

The information will be securely screened by a qualified medical professional and details provided to your tour manager and local guides so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. By completing our booking form you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow up questions regarding your health.

If you declare any medical conditions you may be asked to provide more information or we may request to contact your GP. In the event that your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and wellbeing, or the safety and wellbeing of others in the group, you may be recommended not to take part. If this happens your booking will not be confirmed and the deposit will be refunded.

We must be informed if any conditions or medication change or if new conditions develop. If necessary confirmation of fitness to travel from your GP or specialist may be required. Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation on a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.

Health and safety

Your health and safety is our top priority so rest assured that we are taking steps to ensure you not only have a memorable experience, but a safe one too.

We constantly monitor and follow the advice of the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) who provide recommendations and advice to British travellers about travel to a certain destination. Health and safety is our top priority so we will **NEVER** operate a trip in an area where there is clear and present risk to our team members, whether that is due to a health outbreak, political instability, natural disasters or anything else. If travel restrictions either in the UK or Jordan prevent safe travel we will look to either postpone or cancel your trip at no cost to you.

With regards to vaccinations, The Different Travel Company and Julia's House cannot provide specific medical advice or recommendations. We recommend speaking to your GP or travel health professional. You can find general health information and advice on vaccinations here: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk> and <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk>.

Please note that at the time of travel there may be enhanced safety and security measures in airports, bag drop may take longer, and you may need to provide a certificate of health or proof of vaccination. We will inform you about any information pertinent to your travel arrangements. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch.

TRIP COSTS AND FUNDRAISING

The registration fee is £350, and then...

Option A: Fundraise or donate

Pledge to raise or donate £2,900 to Julia's House

Option B: Self-fund (pay your own trip costs)

Pay £1,900 to cover the cost of your trip and then fundraise as much as possible. We would love you to try and raise at least £1000.

Option C: Flexi (pay part of your trip costs and fundraise the rest)

Pay £1000 towards the trip costs and fundraise a minimum of £1,900 for Julia's House.

80% of your fundraising is due at least 12 weeks before departure and we ask that you raise the remaining 20% by 2nd December 2024.

Trip costs are based on a minimum of 14 participants. There may be a reduction in costs should the final group size be larger.

Pay your registration fee in instalments.

Pay £100 to secure your place on the trek and then pay the rest of your registration fee in instalments – just speak to us and we can arrange this for you.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Most people find fundraising is far easier than they first imagined. We will support you every step of the way to ensure you reach and even exceed your target!

Here are some suggestions:

- Ask your friends, family and colleagues to sponsor you through JustGiving: £500
- Five cake sales at work throughout the year: £40 x 5 = £200
- Car boot sales, eBay auctions or sell some stuff on Facebook Marketplace: £400
- Host a couple of dinner parties and charge your friends £10 to come: £200
- Hold a quiz night at your local pub: £250
- Ask your work or local school to hold a non-uniform day: £300
- Ask your local supermarket if you can bag-pack or hold a collection: £300
- Hold a couple of sweepstakes with family, friends and colleagues throughout the year: £150
- Ask local companies to donate prizes for a raffle: £300
- Matched funding through your employer: £300

Total: £2,900

This trek is exclusive to Julia's House fundraisers and offers a great opportunity to explore Petra whilst raising much needed funds for our families. Whether it's your first or fifty-first challenge, we're here to help you along the way. **If you choose to sign up to this challenge, it's really important that you are committed to fundraising or would like to provide a personal donation.**

COME TO OUR FREE INFORMATION EVENING...

Find out if this amazing adventure is for you!

Tuesday 12th September
Corfe Mullen, Dorset | 6pm or 7pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

Wednesday 27th September
Devizes, Wiltshire | 6pm or 7pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

OR SIGN UP TODAY!

Sign up at juliashouse.org/petra

You can also call Sarah on 07557 992310 to secure your place today.

Due to the demand for places on this challenge, we ask you to book no later than 31st January 2024. We may still be able to take bookings after this date subject to availability and potential surcharges.

ATOL Protection

This trip is operated by The Different Travel Company Ltd (ATOL No 6706). This flight-inclusive holiday is financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels, and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to www.caa.co.uk.