

Petra Trek, Jordan

Discover this amazing archeological site by foot



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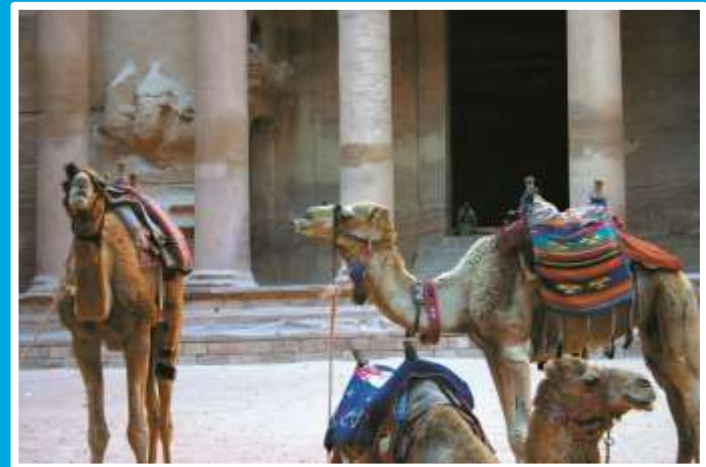
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Jordan, Petra Trek

Discover one of the hidden gems of the Middle East

The Kingdom of Jordan sets the romantic scene of Bible stories, lost cities and Lawrence of Arabia, and more recently Indiana Jones! On this weekend trekking challenge in Jordan, you will witness at first hand spectacular desert landscapes, unspoiled wilderness and archaeological remains steeped in history and culture. You will pass mountain scenery on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, canyons and gorges as we follow ancient Bedouin and hunter trails. Nights will be spent camping 'Bedouin style' in remote locations, and in the evenings you can enjoy and experience true Bedouin food and lifestyle, after watching the miraculous colours of the rocks changing as the sun sets.

Our trek starts at Dhana, situated on the edge of Wadi Dana, a large natural canyon, and has views over Wadi Araba (the border between Jordan and Israel)., Culminating at Petra! This unique ancient city was hewn from a towering rock wall; few of the imposing facades of its great buildings are freestanding. It's hard to overrate Petra. There's no other sight in Jordan, or perhaps the whole Middle East, as compelling. Once the capital of the Nabateaeans, a 3rd century BC Arab dynasty, Petra was forgotten for 1000 years and only rediscovered in 1812. Set in a deep canyon and only accessible through a narrow winding cleft (or siq) in the rock, Petra is carved from sandstone that takes on deep rusty hues interlaced with bands of grey and yellow.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK to Amman, Jordan

Departure from London direct to Amman.

Day 2: Dhana to Mansura

We have a short transfer from our hotel to the start of the trek to the Reforestation Station. We follow down the valley and have lunch. This afternoon we continue, passing unexcavated Roman, Nabatean and Iron Age sites. Tonight, we camp in the valley close to Mansura.

Day 3: Mansura to Baga'a

5-7hrs trekking

Approx. 16km

Today, we hike along the valley plateau between the Shara'a Mountain peaks and the range which rises from the Rift Valley floor. In this surprisingly verdant terrain, you'll encounter the Bedouin families living in their black tents and watching their herds, along with freshwater springs, enchanting secret valleys, and unexcavated ruins of Edomite, Nabatean and Roman civilizations. When we arrive at camp there will be a freshly brewed Bedouin tea waiting for you!

Day 4: Bega'a to Beidha

5-7hrs trekking

Approx. 18km

Today we have a wonderful trekking experience leaving from Bega'a along Jordan's Rift Valley to Beidha. Beidha is a Neolithic archaeological site dating back 9000 years and, along with Jericho, constitute one of the oldest archaeological sites in the Middle East, and is included in Petra's UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Day 5: Beidha to Petra

6-8hrs trekking

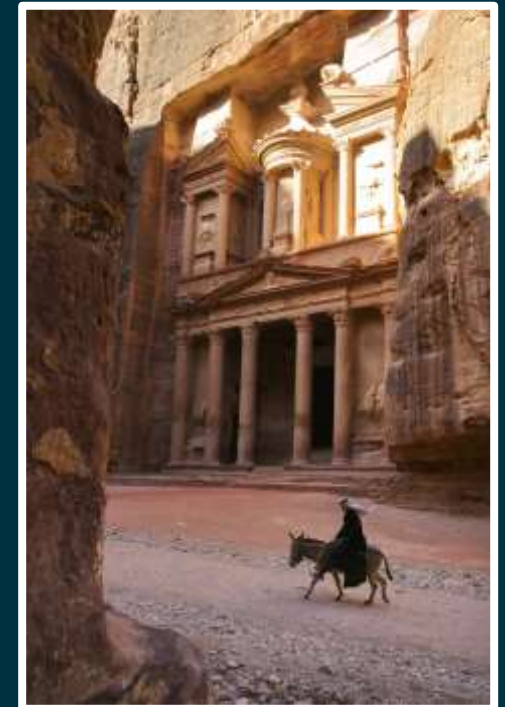
Approx. 18km

An early start this morning as we trek from Little Petra (Siq al Barid) the ancient Nabatean customs point outside the boundary of the city of Petra.



Day 5: cont.

Once here we enter Petra through the back to ad-Deir 'The Monastery' a monumental building carved out of the rock in the ancient Jordanian city of Petra. We leave the site by the Wadi Turkomanieh gate for transfer to the hotel in Petra and a well-earned shower.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Petra full day

Today we see the magnificent ancient red rose city of Petra, with entry by Siq. Petra was once a stronghold of the gifted Nabateans, an early Arab people; Petra was renowned for its massive architecture and the ingenuity of its pools, dams, and water channels. Today, you can thread your way through a narrow gorge until you come upon colossal ruins cut into the rock - magnificent, silent and unchanged. As we exit from the shadows of the gorge, el Khazneh (the Treasury) towers above you in the sudden brightness.



Day 6: cont.

Carved out of solid rock and nearly 140 feet high and 90 feet wide, this fabulous antiquity is Petra's most impressive monument. Beyond el Khazneh, you are surrounded on both sides by soaring temples, elaborate royal tombs, a Roman amphitheatre of (seating 3,000), burial chambers, banquet halls, water channels and reservoirs, monumental staircases, arched gates and paved streets. From here back to the hotel and a well-deserved celebration dinner!



Day 7: Departure day

Early transfer from Petra to Amman for mid-morning departure back to London.

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Moderate to tough

Best time of year

January to April and September to December

