



WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

Jordan and Egypt



Petra – the Treasury.

DAY 1 – Arrival in Amman.

On arrival at Amman's Queen Alia Airport you will be met outside customs by a representative of World Discovery and taken by private car direct to your hotel.

DAY 2 – Amman, Jerash.

After a leisurely breakfast, your private guide will meet you and take you to the breathtaking ruins of Jerash, an hour's drive to the north-east of Amman. Jerash is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the Middle East and boasts a magnificent theatre, cardo (the main boulevard) and a unique Oval Plaza. Dominating the site with its towering limestone columns is the imposing Temple of Artemis, built in the 2nd century AD and considered the most important building in the ancient city.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 3 - The King's Highway to Petra.

Today's journey takes you along the scenic King's Highway, the main north-south trade route through Transjordan since prehistoric times. First stop is at **Mount Nebo**, Jordan's most important Biblical site, from where it is believed Moses viewed the Promised Land "flowing with milk and honey" in the valley below. The Moses Memorial Church at Mount Nebo contains some beautiful mosaic floors of hunting and pastoral scenes. A short journey to the town of **Madaba** next takes you to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George with its superb mosaic map of Palestine dating from the Byzantine era. Enjoy lunch at the excellent **Haret Jdoudna Restaurant** in Madaba before continuing south, traversing the spectacular Wadi Mujib, often referred to as "Jordan's Grand Canyon", to reach the majestic **Crusader castle of Kerak**, a masterpiece of 12th century military architecture. In the late afternoon today's historic journey ends with arrival in **Petra**, the highlight of any visit to Jordan.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 4 - Petra.

No photograph can prepare you for the impact of first seeing the Treasury of Petra as you approach the ancient city along the famous 'Siq', a narrow winding defile through the amazing rose-coloured mountains. Petra is undoubtedly one of the world's great destinations, an entire city carved out of the living rock in Biblical times. Built by the Nabateans, Petra dominated the great caravan routes of the Middle East until it was mysteriously abandoned and forgotten for centuries. It was only in 1812 that Petra was rediscovered - by the Swiss explorer John Burckhart. Your guide will be with you all morning to show you the lower city. You may return to the hotel for lunch or stay on in Petra to explore further. The two most popular visits are to the wonderful Monastery (El Deir) or to the High Place of Sacrifice, both involving some steep ascents but well worth the effort.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 5 – Petra. Return to Amman and fly to Cairo.

World Discovery will provide you with a special 2 day Petra entrance ticket so that you can return to the city for further exploration this morning if you wish at no extra cost. Alternatively we could arrange for you to visit Siq al-Berid, often referred to as 'Little Petra'. In the afternoon drive along the Desert Highway to Amman's Queen Alia Airport for the evening flight to Cairo. On arrival in **Cairo** you will be met in by a representative of World Discovery who will organise your Egyptian visa and assist you through immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 6 – Pyramids, Sphinx and Solar Boat Museum.

Your hotel is located close to the **Pyramids of Giza**. After a leisurely breakfast, you will meet your World Discovery guide and spend the morning visiting this last surviving wonder of the ancient world. View the three monumental pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, and also the nearby **Sphinx**, dating from 2,500 BC, whose familiar outline is known to everyone yet whose purpose and meaning still remain a mystery. An added bonus this morning is the included entrance to the **Solar Boat Museum**. Located at the foot of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, this purpose-built building houses the unique 140-foot ancient Egyptian boat which was discovered in pieces on this spot as recently as 1954 and carefully reconstructed over a period of 14 years. The afternoon is free, with the option of visiting the site of ancient **Memphis**, first capital of the unified Upper and Lower Egypt (3,200 BC), and the funerary complex of Zoser at **Saqqara**, including the superb Step Pyramid, described by one historian as the "beginning of architecture". This evening there is the option of attending the spectacular **Sound and Light performance at the Pyramids**.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 7 – The Egyptian Museum.

Drive into Central Cairo for your visit to the **Museum of Egyptian Antiquities**. Whilst perhaps lacking the clarity of presentation of more modern establishments, this grand old building is unmissable, and contains the finest collection in the world of ancient Egyptian artefacts, including the astonishing array of treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun. For an additional fee you may choose to visit the Royal Mummy Room containing the bodies of such legendary pharaohs as Tuthmosis II, Seti I and Ramses II. Return to your hotel in Giza for lunch, or you may choose to stay on in the city and enjoy an optional excursion to **Old Cairo**; we have a choice of 3 itineraries: (a) The Citadel of Saladin, Mosque of Mohamed Ali and the famous Khan al-Khalili bazaar, (b) Islamic Cairo, including the glorious Ibn Tulun Mosque and (c) The Coptic Museum and Gayer-Anderson House.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 8 – Fly to Luxor to join your Nile Cruise. Karnak and Luxor Temples.

An early wake-up call and breakfast, followed by your private transfer to Cairo Airport for the flight to Luxor. On arrival you will be met and transferred direct to the **M.S. Sun Ray** in time for the morning excursion. As ancient Thebes, Luxor was the capital of Egypt's New Kingdom (1550-1069 BC) and has attracted tourists and travellers since Greek and Roman times with its incomparable wealth of monuments. This morning there are included visits to the two great Pharaonic temples of the East Bank. The vast temple complex of **Karnak** is quite simply overwhelming, covering more than 100 acres. At its heart lies the enormous Temple of Amun with its colossal Hypostyle Hall of 137 columns and its sacred lake. The XVIIIth Dynasty **Temple of Luxor**, located close to the Nile in the centre of town, is built on a smaller scale, but many consider it more beautiful than Karnak. Approached through an avenue of sphinxes, the temple contains some excellent reliefs and its Colonnade of Amenophis III is renowned for the elegance of its giant papyrus columns. The afternoon is at leisure. Overnight in Luxor.
Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.

DAY 9 – Western Thebes. Sail to Edfu.

Early morning excursion to **Western Thebes**. You will visit three tombs of the pharaohs in the famous **Valley of the Kings** (the selection of tombs open for visiting varies from time to time). For an additional fee, payable on the spot, you may visit the most famous tomb of all – that of the boy-king Tutankhamun, sensationally discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. During your morning on the Western bank of the Nile you will also visit the **Valley of the Queens** and the two **Colossi of Memnon**, the latter badly ravaged by time but still impressive in their size and majesty. Return to the M.S. Sun Ray and sail south on the Nile to Edfu.
Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.

DAY 10 - Edfu and Kom Ombo temples. Sail to Aswan.

After breakfast step ashore at **Edfu** to visit the Temple of Horus, the largest and best-preserved Ptolemaic temple in Egypt. The entrance to this awesome complex is guarded by two elegant black granite statues of the falcon-god Horus, son of Osiris. Return to the M.S. Sun Ray and continue sailing to **Kom Ombo** to visit the unusual, totally symmetrical, temple dedicated to two gods – the falcon-god Haroeris (Horus the Elder) and Sobek, the crocodile god. The temple is in a beautiful setting overlooking the Nile. In the evening reach Aswan.
Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.

DAY 11 – Aswan High Dam and Philae. Felucca Ride.

In the morning you will visit the **High Dam**, and also the superb **Temple of Philae**, rescued from the rising waters of the lake by UNESCO and painstakingly reconstructed on its own new island. Philae was the centre of the cult of Isis, and the magnificent Temple of Isis dominates the site. In the afternoon enjoy a felucca sail on the Nile.
Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner.

DAY 12 – Fly back to Cairo to connect with your homeward flight.

Morning free, with the option of taking the optional excursion by air to the **Temples of Abu Simbel**. In the afternoon fly back to Cairo to connect with your homeward flight.
Meals included: Full breakfast.