



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Jordan and Jerusalem



Jerusalem – the Dome of the Rock.

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. Return to Amman for an afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 3 - Journey via Jericho to Jerusalem.

In the morning cross the River Jordan to visit Jericho, claimed to be the world's oldest city and rich in biblical associations. Also ascend by cable car to the **Mount of Temptation**. Continue up to Jerusalem for your 4 night stay.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 4 - Mount of Olives. Old Jerusalem.

The day begins with a drive to the summit of the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem spread out below. Visits will be made to **Pater Noster Church**, famous for its tiled panels inscribed with the Lord's Prayer in more than 60 languages, **Dominus Flevit Chapel**, where traditionally Jesus sat when he wept over the fate of Jerusalem, and the **Church of All Nations**, built over the rock in the **Garden of Gethsemane** on which it is believed Jesus prayed on the night before he was arrested. In the afternoon visit the Old City; walk to the **Pool of Bethesda** in the grounds of the Crusader Church of St. Anne and then follow the Way of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa** culminating in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 5 - Dome of the Rock. Bethlehem. New Jerusalem.

Enter the Old City through Dung Gate for visits of the **Western Wall** (also known as the 'Wailing Wall'), **El Aqsa Mosque** and the **Dome of the Rock**, one of the first and greatest achievements of Islamic architecture, built in the 7th century by the Omayyad caliph Abd el-Malik. Drive to **Bethlehem** for visits around Manger Square; sites here include the **Church of the Nativity** and **St. Jerome's Caves**. In the afternoon drive back to Jerusalem to see the **Shrine of the Book** and the Model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period at the time of Jesus.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 6 - Jerusalem. Optional trip to Galilee.

The day is at leisure. An optional full excursion is available to Galilee, including visits to Nazareth, Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 7 - The King's Highway to Petra.

Cross back into Jordan this morning for a memorable journey 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. Traversing the spectacular **Wadi Mujib**, often referred to as "Jordan's Grand Canyon", continue to the majestic **Crusader castle of Kerak**. As well as exploring this masterpiece of 12th century military architecture, you will have lunch in the town of Kerak before continuing south. In the late afternoon today's historic journey ends with arrival in Petra.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 8 - 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 9 – Petra.

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', or to take a late afternoon trip to Wadi Rum to see the glorious mountain and desert colours change as the sun goes down.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 10 – Shobak, the Dead Sea.

Leave Petra after breakfast and head north to Shobak, another Crusader castle which is smaller than Kerak but still of great interest. Descend from the mountains into the Jordan Valley, continuing through a barren yet dramatic landscape to the banks of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth (408m/1,305 ft below sea level). Your hotel is located on the northeast shores of this unique inland sea.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 11 - The Dead Sea.

At leisure. A variety of spa treatments are available at the hotel.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 12 - Depart for home.

Private transfer to Queen Alia Airport for your flight home.

Meals included: Full breakfast.