



WORLD DISCOVERY  
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

## Lawrence's Jordan



The glorious landscape of Wadi Rum

### 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 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 Desert Castles.

The desert plains to the east of Amman are dotted with a string of early Islamic hunting lodges known as the **Desert Castles**. Today you will visit three of them, beginning with the atmospheric **Qasr Kharana**, dating from Omayyad times. Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Qasr Amra**, whose walls and ceilings are covered with lively frescoes, and finally **Qasr Azraq**, whose origins go back to Roman times but whose fame results from its use as a base for T.E.Lawrence ('Lawrence of Arabia') during the Arab Revolt. Return to Amman in the afternoon.

**Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.**

## DAY 4 - Drive 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 your Jordan holiday.

**Included meals: Full breakfast, lunch.**

## DAY 5 - 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 6 – Petra. Wadi Rum.

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. In the late afternoon you will be driven to Wadi Rum in time for sunset and for an overnight stay in a tented camp. Wadi Rum was one of Lawrence's favourite locations. In 'The Seven Pillars of Wisdom', his classic account of the Arab Revolt, he describes his first view of the valley: "Day was still young as we rode between two great pikes of sandstone to the foot of a long, soft slope poured down from the domed hills in front of us. It was tamarisk-covered: the beginning of the Valley of Rumm, they said. We looked up on the left to a long wall of rock, sheering in like a thousand-foot wave towards the middle of the valley; whose other arc, to the right, was an opposing line of steep, red broken hills....Deep alleys, fifty feet across, divided the crags, whose plans were smoothed by the weather into huge apses and bays, and enriched with surface fretting and fracture, like design.....our little caravan grew self-conscious, and fell dead quiet, afraid and ashamed to flaunt its smallness in the presence of the stupendous hills".

**Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.**

## DAY 7 – Wadi Rum. Return to Amman.

Awake to the surreal landscape of Wadi Rum. After breakfast enjoy a 90 minute jeep ride through the valley, before returning along the Desert Highway to Amman.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**

## DAY 8 - Depart for home.

Private transfer to Queen Alia Airport for your flight home.

**Meals included: Full breakfast.**