



WORLD DISCOVERY

— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

The King's Highway



Jerash – the unique Oval Plaza.

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.

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 6 – 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 7 - The Dead Sea.

At leisure. A wide range of spa treatments is available at the hotel.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 8 - Depart for home.

Private transfer to Queen Alia Airport for your flight home.

Meals included: Full breakfast.