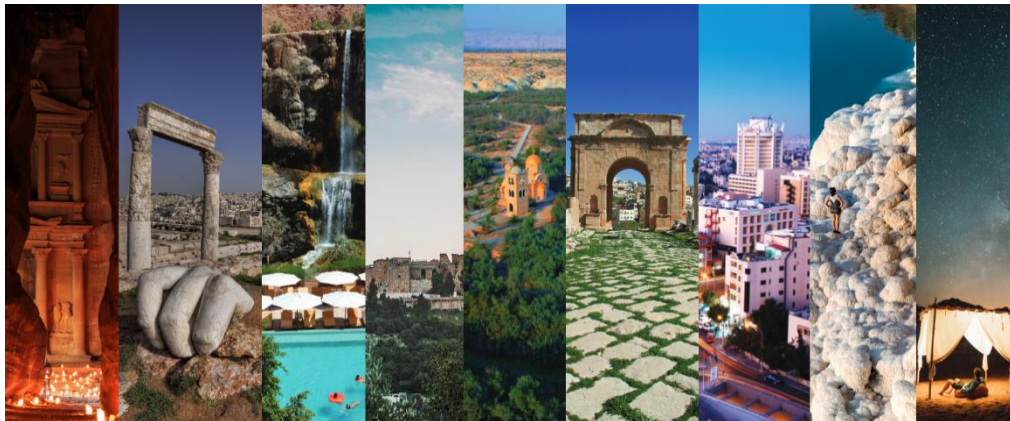




**TRAVEL PASSION INC.**  
A PASSION FOR TRAVEL

## Pilgrimage and Culture Tour of Jordan 11 Days 10 Nights



### Brief Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrival – Queen Alia International Airport – Amman
- Day 2:** Amman – Jerash – Amman City Tour
- Day 3:** Amman— Ajlun (Mar Elias & Ajlun Castle) – Anjara — Amman
- Day 4:** Amman – Umm Qais – Pella – Salt – Amman
- Day 5:** Amman – Bethany – Lot's Cave – Dead Sea & Lunch – Madaba
- Day 6:** Madaba – Mt. Nebo – Madaba
- Day 7:** Madaba – Mukawir – Um Ar-Rasas – Karak – Petra
- Day 8:** Petra
- Day 9:** Petra – Wadi Rum – Aqaba
- Day 10:** Aqaba – Amman

### Day 01: Arrival at Queen Alia International Airport – Amman

Arrival at Queen Alia International Airport near Amman. Our airport representative will be waiting for you to assist with the VISA procedures. The airport representative will walk you through customs and down to the luggage hall (**Please, do not proceed without him**). Afterwards, meet with your driver in the arrival hall. The driver will be holding a name sign. And after you will transfer together to your hotel in Amman for Overnight.

### Day 2: Amman – Jerash – Amman City Tour

After breakfast at your hotel, drive on to Jerash (Gerasa), to visit the world's best preserved Roman





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provincial city. Jerash lies on a plain surrounded by hilly wooded areas and fertile basins. Conquered by General Pompey in 63 BC, it came under Roman rule and was one of the ten great Roman cities of the Decapolis League in Jerash you can at least find 15 churches. Continue to Amman, Jordanian capital, was known in the Old Testament as Rabbath-Ammon, the capital of the Ammonites around 1200 BC, it was also referred to as "the City of Waters". This is the place where David sent Uriah the Hittite to the front lines of battle. The massive fortifications, where David, an ancestor of Jesus, brought about Uriah's death so that he could marry his widow Bathsheba, are still standing. You will start of by visiting the Citadel, towering above downtown Amman, the site gives beautiful views over the city. It includes many structures such as the Temple of Hercules, the Omayyad Palace and the Byzantine church. Continue to visit the Roman Theatre in downtown Amman. This magnificently restored theatre is the most obvious and impressive remnant of Roman Philadelphia and is the highlight of Amman for most foreign visitors. The theatre itself is cut into the northern side of a hill and has a seating capacity of 6000. Overnight in Amman.

### Day 3: Amman— Ajlun (Mar Elias & Ajlun Castle) – Anjara — Amman

After breakfast at your hotel, you will drive to Ajlun Nature Reserve and visit Mar Elias, the ruins of one of Jordan's oldest churches. It is named for the Prophet Elias, or Elijah, to whom Mar Elias is dedicated. The trail leads through fig and pear orchards, amongst forests of oak and oriental strawberry trees. The stonewalls that crisscross the valley guard the farmers' crops inside from both the winter rains and wild boar. Relax in the shade with a glass of tea before climbing to the hilltop ruins, which provide sweeping views of the surrounding area. The hike also includes a locally prepared picnic lunch near the ruins. After your hike you will visit Ajlun Castle and then continue driving to Anjara. Jesus Christ, his disciples, and the Virgin Mary, passed through Anjara once and rested in a cave there during a journey between the Sea of Galilee, the Decapolis cities, Bethany Beyond the Jordan and Jerusalem. The cave in Anjara has long been a holy place for pilgrims and has now been commemorated with a modern shrine, the Church of Our Lady of the Mountain. The cave was also designated by the Catholic Churches of the Middle East as one of the five pilgrimage sites for the year 2000. After back to Amman for overnight

**(Optional as a supplement) Cooking Experience:** Enjoy cooking in the middle of Nature! Join one of our Local chefs and learn the secrets of cooking favorite Jordanian dishes in front of your eyes, listen carefully to his tips and secrets. The organic farm cooking experience gives you the opportunity to explore two of the most delicious and traditional meals in Jordan.

- Sajyeh: Traditional Jordanian dish, made of chicken or beef, served with Salads, Seasonal Fruits, Chilled Juice, and water.
- Gallayeh: Traditional Jordanian dish, made of Tomato and Onion, served with Salads, Seasonal





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Fruits, Chilled Juice, and water. After finishing this tasty meal, enjoy a cup of tea made on firewood.

### Day 4: Amman – Umm Qais – Pella – Salt – Amman

After breakfast at your hotel, meet with your driver and drive on north to visit Umm Qais in the Bible, Umm Qais is referred to as Gadara and was also a member of the Decapolis. This 10 cities alliance already existed at the time of Christ (Matthew 4:25). According to Matthew 8:28 - 34, Jesus casted the evil spirits out of two men in today's Umm Qais. Proceed to Pella, It was a city of Decapolis and after A.D. 70 became a center of the Christian community and refugees from Judea. Continue to Salt which is the first capital of Jordan houses the tomb / shrine of Job, one of the earliest patriarchal figures in the Bible. Salt is also the location of the tomb / shrine of prophet Jethro, who was the father in Law of Moses. Afterwards return to Amman for an overnight at your hotel.

### Day 5: Amman – Bethany – Lot's Cave – Dead Sea & Lunch – Madaba

After breakfast drive to Bethany Beyond the Jordan. The site of John the Baptist's settlement at Bethany Beyond the Jordan, where Jesus was baptized, has long been known from the Bible (John 1:28 and 10:40) and from the Byzantine and medieval texts. Afterwards to Lot's Cave on a hillside above the town of Zoar (modern day Safi), Byzantine Christians built a church and monastery dedicated to Saint Lot. The complex was built around the cave where Lot and his daughters found refuge. Continue; to the Dead Sea the lowest spot on earth 400 meters below sea level. The Dead Sea has a historical and spiritual legacy of its own. It is believed to be the site of five biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar. Spend the day sunbathing, swimming, and relaxing in the gently lapping waters of the Dead Sea and be amazed that you can never sink! At the end of your day continue to your hotel in Madaba for an overnight.

### Day 6: Madaba – Mt. Nebo – Madaba

After breakfast drive to Madaba for a short city tour, "the City of Mosaics", in the Bible, Madaba is named Madeba or Medeba, city of the Sihon (4 Moses 21:30). The city lies in what was the territory of the race of the Reubens (Joshua 13:15 - 16 or Isaiah 15:2 and 1 Chronicles 19:7). Also, it is best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, is home to the famous 6th century mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. With two million pieces of colored stone, the map depicts hills and valleys, villages and towns as far as the Nile Delta. You will visit the St. George Church with its famous mosaic map. Continue to Mt. Nebo, from where Moses viewed the Promised Land Overnight in Madaba.

### Day 7: Madaba – Mukawir – Um Ar-Rasas – Karak – Petra

After breakfast check out of your hotel in Madaba and drive to Mukawir. The 1st century AD Roman-Jewish historian, Josephus, identifies the awe-inspiring site of Mukawir (Machaerus) as the palace/fort of Herod, who was the Roman-appointed ruler over the region during the life of Jesus





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Christ. It was here, at this hilltop fortified palace, overlooking the Dead Sea region and the distance hills of Palestine and Israel that Herod Antipas, the son of Herod, imprisoned and beheaded John the Baptist after Salome's fateful dance. Continue to Um Ar-Rasas, a rectangular walled city, about 30km southeast of Madaba, that is mentioned on both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. It was fortified by the Romans and local Christians were still embellishing it with Byzantine-style mosaics well over 100 years after the start of the Muslim Umayyad rule. Just outside the city walls is the recently unearthed Church of Saint Stephen with its perfectly preserved outstanding mosaic floor, the largest of its kind to be discovered in Jordan and second only to the world-famous mosaic map at Madaba. Follow the King's Highway, Abraham who passed through northern, central and southern Jordan, would certainly have used this route on his journey from Mesopotamia to Canaan. Stop at Karak for a visit to the immense Crusaders Castle. The Tomb on Noah can be found in Karak as well. You will continue driving on to Little Petra if the time permits it, for a visit before continuing to your hotel in Petra for overnight.

### Day 8: Petra

Full day to explore Petra, one of the seven world wonders. Petra seems to be mentioned in the Bible's Old Testament under several possible names, including Sela and Joktheel (2 Kings 14:7). Petra was almost certainly the last staging post of the three kings, who took frankincense, gold and myrrh to honor the baby Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12). After visiting the Siq, Treasury, Street of Façades, the Amphitheatre, you still have time to visit the High Place of Sacrifice and/or the Monastery. Overnight at your hotel in Petra.

**Optional activities for tonight (as supplement):** Petra by Night (every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening), Cooking and Culture course with dinner with local people or local Turkish Bath.

### Day 9: Petra – Wadi Rum – Aqaba

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and meet with your driver. Transfer to Wadi Rum and stop at the Visitors Centre. Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon, is a valley cut into the sandstone and granite rock. It is the largest wadi in Jordan. It is also known for its extraordinary red desert and famous for Lawrence of Arabia. Here you will enjoy a 2-hour jeep tour of Wadi Rum with freshly prepared lunch. A jeep tour is the best way to discover many sites in Wadi Rum. The jeep will stop at each site giving you time to roam around and a chance to climb some of the beautiful natural formed bridges in Wadi Rum. Continue to Aqaba where you will visit perhaps one of the oldest churches on earth. There are remains of a mud brick building at Aqaba that may be the world's oldest known purpose-built church. This Aqaba early church dates from the late 3rd or early 4th century AD (exactly between 293 and 303). After that drive on to your hotel for check in and overnight. Overnight at a hotel in Aqaba.

**(Optional as a supplement)** before/after the jeep tour, enjoy an hour camel ride.





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### Day 10: Aqaba – Amman

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy your free morning in Aqaba then check out and meet with your driver. Transfer to Amman and the rest of your day is yours spend it at your leisure. Overnight at your hotel in Amman.

### Optional tour in Aqaba:

- Aqaba panorama tour
- Enjoy a boat trip for 3 hours and watch beautiful corals (Dry Dive) with swimming, snorkeling, and.
- Enjoy a boat trip 2 hours and watch beautiful corals (Dry Dive) with swimming, snorkeling without lunch.

### Day 11: Amman – Queen Alia International Airport

At the end of your journey, check out of your hotel and transfer to Queen Alia International Airport for departure. Keep in mind that you need to be at the airport 3 hours prior to your departure time. Thank you for choosing Why Jordan Tours and we wish safe travels in your flight back home.

\*Touring and sites are subject to traffic and timing. Also, note that some sites are subject to seasons and weather conditions.

*End of your tour to Jordan: Ahlan WA Sahlan!*

