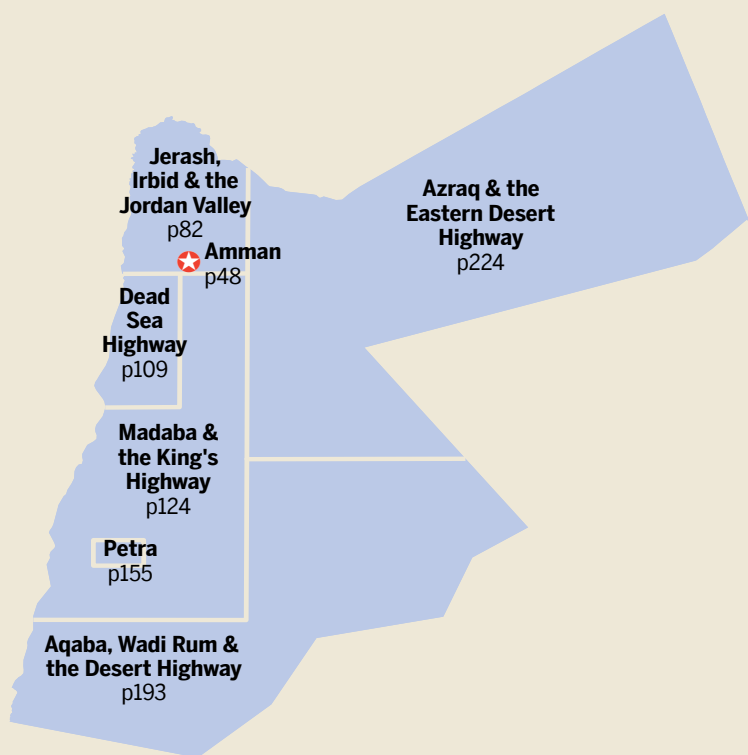




Jordan



Jenny Walker, Paul Clammer

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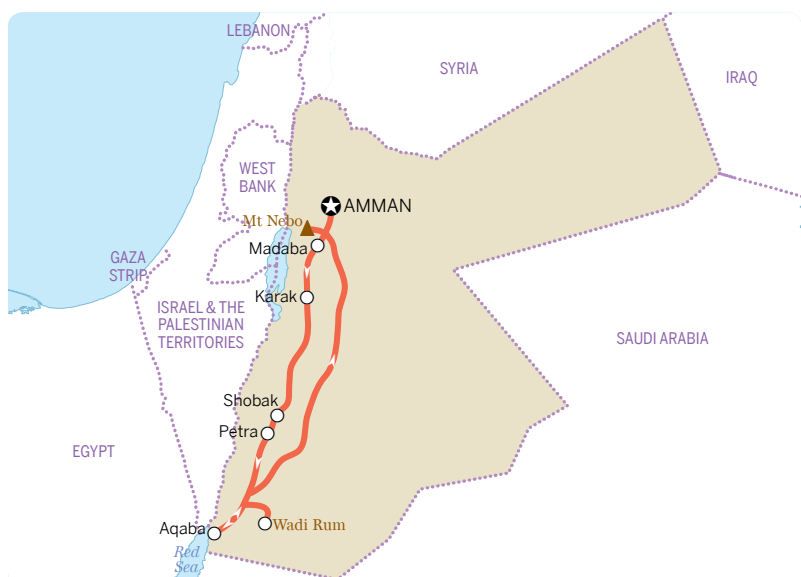
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ARABIC COFFEE JUG AND SWEETS P288

Itineraries



1
WEEK

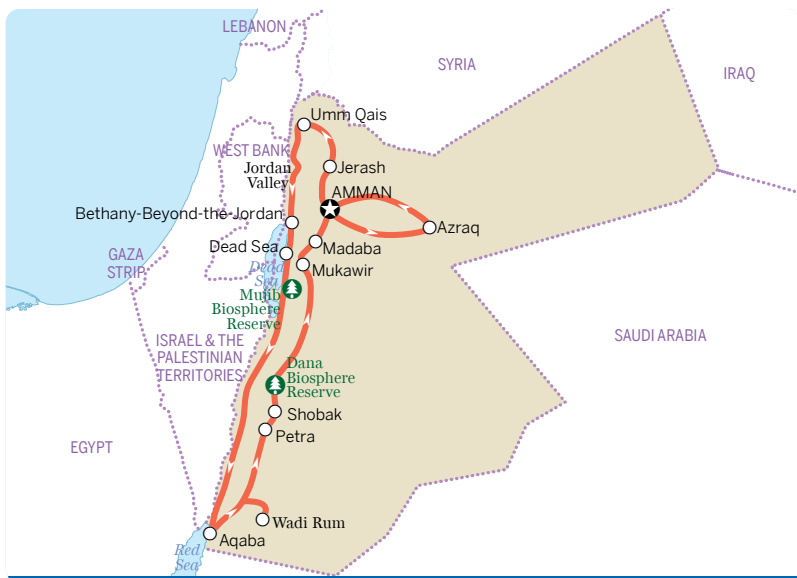
In the Footsteps of Kings: Amman to Aqaba Return

Thanks to its relatively compact size, Jordan rewards even the shortest of getaways, especially if you're prepared to hire a car. This route takes in most of Jordan's key sites in a journey along the King's Highway, the ancient backbone of the country.

On day one, experience modern Jordan in the souqs of **Amman**. On day two, piece together a biblical history in the mosaic town of **Madaba** and, like Moses, survey the Promised Land from neighbouring **Mt Nebo**.

Spend day three following the caravans of history along the King's Highway, crossing mighty Wadi Mujib. Visit the Crusader castles in **Karak** and **Shobak** and listen for ghostly hooves against cobbles.

Rise early on day four to experience the Siq at **Petra** and climb to a High Place for lunch. On day five, attempt the back trail to Petra and watch the sunset at Petra's iconic Monastery. Proceed to the seaside town of **Aqaba**, two hours away. On day six, wash off the desert dust in the spectacular Red Sea before returning to Amman (four hours via the Desert Highway) on day seven; with an early start, a desert lunch is possible at **Wadi Rum** en route.

3
WEEKS

The Best of Jordan

With around 21 days, you can unravel a path through Jordan's most famous sites, travelling in the footsteps of Roman legionnaires, Crusader craftsmen, Islamic warriors and Bedouin nomads. This route takes you on a comprehensive tour of all Jordan's main highlights and throws in a few wild cards too.

Begin with two days in **Amman** and a third day at the spectacular Roman ruins of **Jerash**. For a springtime flower show, camp overnight at the oak woodlands of Ajloun Forest Reserve or spend day four wading knee-high among daisies at the ruins of **Umm Qais**. On day five descend to the subtropical Jordan Valley, pausing at the point where Jesus was allegedly baptised in **Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan**.

Follow Jordan River towards a night of luxury at the **Dead Sea**, followed by an early morning float on day six at the world's lowest point. Survey the West Bank from a higher vantage at the Dead Sea Panoramic Complex en route for **Mujib Biosphere Reserve**. Splash, swim and struggle through 'Petra with water' on the unguided Siq Trail. Dry out along the Dead Sea Highway to Lot's Cave and swap stories about the adventure over a vegetarian supper at candlelit Feynan Ecologde.

Begin week two chilling in **Aqaba** for two days, sparing time for a dive or snorkel in the fabled Red Sea. With batteries recharged, tackle a hike in **Wadi Rum** on day 10 and stay overnight in a Bedouin camp. Spend the next three nights in Wadi Musa, joining Petra by Night for a magical introduction to the world wonder of **Petra**.

Head north from Petra via the ancient King's Highway on day 14, sparing time to pause at the imposing castle of **Shobak**. Break the journey at **Dana Biosphere Reserve** and relax on day 15, taking village walks or longer guided hikes.

Spend day 16 making the most of the King's Highway to Madaba, pausing at Karak and Herod's Castle in **Mukawir**. Allow day 17 for souvenir shopping in **Madaba**, the closest town to Queen Alia Airport, or at craft shops in Mt Nebo. From days 18 to 20, cross the desolate Eastern Badi'a, overnighing at Burqu's ecolodge and Azraq Lodge, touring the desert castles, birdwatching at **Azraq's wetland reserve** and going on oryx safari at nearby Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.



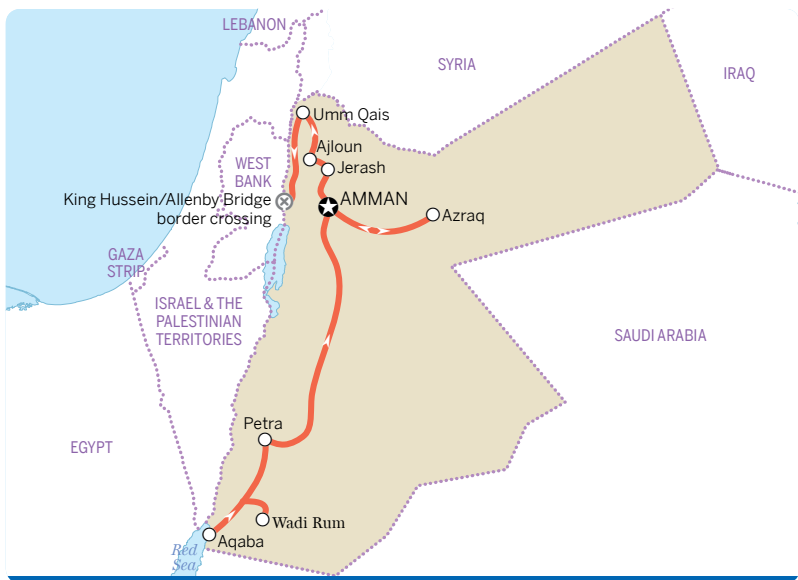
LESTERIAN SHUTTERSTOCK ©



RICHARD YOSHIDA SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Top: Painted ostrich
eggs (p282), Amman

Bottom: Ruins of
Shobak Castle (p153)

2
WEEKS

Middle East Heartland: Border to Border

Jordan is plumb in the middle of a richly historic region, making it essential to a Middle East adventure. This 14-day route by public transport assumes entry by ferry from Egypt and exit by bus to Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Check the latest travel advisories before making this trip as the security situation in South Sinai (Egypt) is changeable.

Spend the first two days relaxing in **Aqaba**: Jordan has a distinct character, immediately felt in the souqs and open-air restaurants of this seaside town. Spare time for a swim – Jordan’s access to the Red Sea may be diminutive, but the coral gardens are pristine and relatively unvisited. On day three take the morning bus and go in search of ‘El Lawrence’ in magnificent **Wadi Rum**. Hop astride a camel and head into the sand dunes for a camping experience with the Bedouin.

On day four rise at dawn with the locals, ready to catch the minibus to **Petra**. With two days in the ‘Pink City’, you can hike to the High Places, learn to cook Jordanian food at Petra Kitchen, watch the sunset from the Monastery and enjoy an evening in the famous Cave Bar.

On day six head north to **Amman** on frequent Desert Highway buses via Ma’an. Sample the city nightlife, including an evening’s stroll downtown through Amman’s Roman ruins. Hike from the Citadel on day seven and reward the effort with the capital’s best-loved Arabic street food at Hashem Restaurant.

Take an overnight trip on days eight and nine to **Azraq** and the desert castles. Azraq Fort was Lawrence’s winter hideout. Nearby Azraq Wetland Reserve is a reminder of the fragility of life in the black Badia (stone desert). Given the context, the shrunken waters of the oasis seem miraculous.

Head for the Roman ruins of **Jerash** on day 10. After visiting the extensive site the following morning, spend two nights in **Ajloun**. With its crumbling castle, nature reserve, Al Ayoun Trail and village homestays, Ajloun offers a rare chance to engage with rural life in the Middle East. Travel up to peaceful **Umm Qais** on day 13 for a spot of basket weaving before heading along the Jordan Valley to the border with Israel and the Palestinian Territories on day 14.

4
DAYS

Gems in Northern Jordan

With a long weekend, most visitors head straight for Petra on an overnighter from Amman. For a more rewarding use of time, leave the 'Pink City' for a longer visit and focus instead on Jordan's gems in the north. This trip bypasses the capital.

Hire a car or take a taxi from the airport in **Amman** and head to the Roman ruins of **Jerash**. On day two, amble down to the Jordan Valley via **Ajloun** and the Islamic Ajloun Castle. Pause at the point where John allegedly baptised Jesus at **Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan** and book in for some extreme R&R at the lowest place on earth at the **Dead Sea**. On day three, tear yourself away from the fluffy towels of the region's best spas (which come complete with a bob in the Dead Sea and therapeutic mud pack) and drive via the Dead Sea Panoramic Complex to nearby **Mukawir**, where Salome reputedly danced for John's head on a platter. Skirt the plateau ridge to the friendly mosaic town of **Madaba** and on day four visit **Mt Nebo** or the dolmens of Wadi Jadid. From Madaba, allow an hour to return to the airport in Amman.

6
DAYS

Petra Plus

Travellers often ask: 'Is it worth making the effort to get to Petra with only limited time?' The answer is yes! While you can cover Petra in an exhausting day trip from the capital, this route takes you on a more rewarding route through the south if you're prepared to use taxis.

From **Amman**, take the bus along the Desert Highway to **Aqaba**. With plenty of accommodation, a lively ambience and excellent seafood, it'll be hard to leave town on day three. Take the early bus to Wadi Musa, the town closest to the Nabataean treasures of **Petra**. Amble through the Siq at midday, missing the morning tour groups. Watch the sunset turn the Royal Tombs pink, and return to the lively traveller scene along the town's Tourism St.

Follow the ghosts of Crusaders along the King's Highway to **Shobak** on day four and stay overnight at **Dana Biosphere Reserve**. Hike down to **Feynan Ecologde** on day five, prearranging transport along the Dead Sea Highway back to Aqaba (or north to Amman) on day six.

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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Jenny Walker

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Paul Clammer

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A large, faint, diagonal watermark of the Lonely Planet logo is centered on the page. The logo consists of the words "Lonely Planet" in a sans-serif font, with a stylized globe icon behind the word "Planet".

THIS BOOK

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Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Jenny Walker

[Petra](#); [Plan, Understand & Survival Guide](#) chapters

Despite having travelled to over 120 countries from Mexico to Mongolia and Latvia to Lesotho, Jenny Walker's main interest is in the Middle East where she has been Associate Dean (PD) of Caledonian College of Engineering in Muscat for the past eight years. Her first involvement with the region was as a student, collecting bugs for her father's book on entomology in Saudi Arabia. She went

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Paul Clammer

[Amman](#); [Jerash](#); [Irbid & the Jordan Valley](#); [Dead Sea Highway](#); [Madaba & the King's Highway](#); [Aqaba, Wadi Rum & the Desert Highway](#); [Azraq & the Eastern Desert Highway](#)

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