



# Middle East



Anthony Ham, Paul Clammer, Orlando Crowcroft, Mark Elliott, Anita Isalska, Jessica Lee, Virginia Maxwell, Simon Richmond, Daniel Robinson, Anthony Sattin, Dan Savery Raz, Andy Symington, Jenny Walker, Steve Waters

## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to the Middle East .....	6
Middle East Map .....	8
The Middle East's Top 21 .....	10
Need to Know .....	20
What's New .....	22
If You Like... ..	23
Month by Month .....	27
Itineraries .....	31
Visas & Border Crossings .....	38
Activities .....	42
Travel with Children ...	47
Countries at a Glance ...	49

## ON THE ROAD

<b>EGYPT.....</b>	<b>52</b>
Cairo .....	53
Saqqara, Memphis & Dahshur .....	77
Mediterranean Coast ...	80
Alexandria .....	80
Nile Valley .....	86
Luxor .....	86
Esna .....	100
Edfu .....	101
Kom Ombo .....	101
Aswan .....	101
Philae (Agilika Island) ..	106
High Dam .....	106
Abu Simbel .....	106
<b>Western Oases .....</b>	<b>107</b>
Al Kharga Oasis .....	107
Dakhla Oasis .....	108
Bahariya Oasis .....	110
Siwa Oasis .....	111
<b>Red Sea Coast .....</b>	<b>113</b>
El Gouna .....	113
Hurghada .....	114
Marsa Alam .....	116
<b>South Sinai .....</b>	<b>117</b>
Ras Mohammed National Park .....	117
Sharm el-Sheikh .....	117
Dahab .....	121
St Katherine Protectorate .....	125
Nuweiba .....	125
Taba .....	128
<b>Understand Egypt ...</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Survival Guide.....</b>	<b>131</b>

Kandovan .....	153
Qazvin .....	153
Alamut Valley .....	155
<b>Central Iran .....</b>	<b>156</b>
Kashan .....	156
Esfahan .....	158
Yazd .....	164
Shiraz .....	170
Persepolis .....	175
Naqsh-e Rostam & Naqsh-e Rajab .....	177
Pasargadae .....	177
<b>Northeastern Iran....</b>	<b>178</b>
Mashhad .....	178
<b>Understand Iran .....</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>Survival Guide.....</b>	<b>185</b>

<b>IRAQ.....</b>	<b>190</b>
Iraq Explained .....	191
History .....	192
People & Society .....	197
Further Information ...	198

<b>ISRAEL &amp; THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES .....</b>	<b>199</b>
---	------------

<b>Jerusalem .....</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Mediterranean Coast... 221</b>	
Tel Aviv-Jaffa (Yafo) ...	221
Caesarea .....	231
Haifa .....	231
Akko .....	236
<b>Lower Galilee &amp; Sea of Galilee .....</b>	<b>238</b>
Nazareth .....	238
Tiberias .....	240
Sea of Galilee .....	242
Beit She'an .....	243
<b>Upper Galilee &amp; Golan Heights.....</b>	<b>244</b>



JERASH RUINS (P301), JORDAN



ST KATHERINE'S MONASTERY (P125), EGYPT

# Contents

INSPIRED BY MAPS/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



MASJED-E JAMEH (P165),  
YAZD, IRAN

Tsfat (Safed) .....	244
Golan Heights .....	247
<b>Dead Sea .....</b>	<b>249</b>
Ein Gedi .....	249
Masada .....	250
Ein Bokek .....	251
<b>The Negev .....</b>	<b>251</b>
Mitzpe Ramon .....	251
Eilat .....	252
<b>West Bank .....</b>	<b>256</b>
Ramallah .....	256
Jericho & Around .....	259
Bethlehem .....	261
Nablus .....	264
Jenin .....	265
<b>Gaza Strip .....</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Understand Israel &amp; the Palestinian Territories .....</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Survival Guide .....</b>	<b>275</b>

<b>JORDAN .....</b>	<b>285</b>
<b>Amman .....</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>Jerash &amp; the North ...</b>	<b>300</b>
Jerash .....	301
Ajloun .....	304
Ajloun Forest Reserve ..	305
Irbid .....	306
Umm Qais (Gadara) .....	306
<b>Dead Sea &amp; the West .....</b>	<b>307</b>
Bethany-Beyond- the-Jordan (Al-Maghtas) .....	307
Dead Sea .....	308
Mujib Biosphere Reserve .....	310
<b>Azraq &amp; the East .....</b>	<b>310</b>
Hallabat .....	310
Azraq .....	311
Around Azraq .....	312

<b>Madaba &amp; the King's Highway .....</b>	<b>313</b>
Madaba .....	313
Mt Nebo .....	316
Machaerus (Mukawir) ...	316
Karak .....	317
Tafila .....	318
Dana Biosphere Reserve .....	318
Shobak .....	320
<b>Petra &amp; the South ...</b>	<b>320</b>
Petra & Wadi Musa. ....	320
Wadi Rum .....	333
Aqaba .....	337
<b>Understand Jordan. ...</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>Survival Guide .....</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>LEBANON .....</b>	<b>354</b>
Beirut .....	356
<b>Central Lebanon .....</b>	<b>372</b>
Jeita Grotto .....	372

## ON THE ROAD

Byblos (Jbail) .....	373
<b>North Lebanon .....</b>	<b>375</b>
Batroun .....	375
Tripoli (Trablous) .....	377
The Qadisha Valley .....	380
<b>South Lebanon .....</b>	<b>382</b>
Sidon (Saida) .....	382
Tyre (Sour) .....	385
<b>Chouf Mountains .....</b>	<b>387</b>
Deir Al Qamar .....	388
<b>Bekaa Valley .....</b>	<b>389</b>
Baalbek .....	390
<b>Understand Lebanon. ...</b>	<b>392</b>
<b>Survival Guide. ....</b>	<b>401</b>

<b>SYRIA .....</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>Syria Explained .....</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>History .....</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>People &amp; Society .....</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>Further Information ...</b>	<b>412</b>

<b>TURKEY .....</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>İstanbul .....</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Aegean Coast .....</b>	<b>436</b>
Çanakkale .....	436
Troy .....	440
Eceabat .....	440
Gallipoli Peninsula .....	441
Bursa .....	442

Bergama (Pergamum) ...	443
İzmir .....	444
Selçuk .....	446
Ephesus .....	449
Kuşadası .....	451
Pamukkale .....	452
Bodrum Town .....	453
Marmaris .....	456
<b>Mediterranean Coast .....</b>	<b>458</b>
Fethiye .....	458
Patara .....	460
Kalkan .....	461
Kaş .....	461



GIZA (P60), EGYPT



DEAD SEA (P308), JORDAN



CAPPADOCIA (P475), TURKEY

# Contents

## UNDERSTAND

Olympos & Çıralı .....	463
Antalya .....	463
Side .....	467
Alanya .....	468
<b>Central Anatolia .....</b>	<b>469</b>
Ankara .....	469
Safranbolu .....	472
Konya .....	473
<b>Cappadocia .....</b>	<b>475</b>
Göreme .....	476
Avanos .....	478
Ürgüp .....	478
Kayseri .....	479
<b>Black Sea Coast &amp; Northeastern Anatolia .....</b>	<b>480</b>
Trabzon .....	480
Erzurum .....	482
Kars .....	484
Doğubayazıt .....	485
<b>Understand Turkey .....</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>Survival Guide .....</b>	<b>488</b>

<b>The Middle East Today .....</b>	<b>494</b>
<b>History .....</b>	<b>496</b>
<b>Religion .....</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Architecture .....</b>	<b>531</b>
<b>Middle Eastern Cuisine .....</b>	<b>536</b>
<b>The Arts .....</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Landscape &amp; Environment .....</b>	<b>552</b>

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

<b>Traveller Etiquette ....</b>	<b>558</b>
<b>Safe Travel .....</b>	<b>560</b>
<b>Women Travellers ....</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>Directory A–Z .....</b>	<b>564</b>
<b>Transport .....</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Health .....</b>	<b>577</b>
<b>Language .....</b>	<b>582</b>
<b>Index .....</b>	<b>594</b>
<b>Map Legend .....</b>	<b>605</b>

## SPECIAL FEATURES

<b>The Pyramids of Giza ...</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Petra .....</b>	<b>322</b>
<b>Luxor's West Bank ....</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Aya Sofya .....</b>	<b>418</b>
<b>St Katherine's Monastery .....</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>Topkapı Palace .....</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Temple Mount/ Al Haram Ash Sharif ...</b>	<b>210</b>		

# Itineraries



## 2 WEEKS Amman to Cairo

This journey represents a shorter version of the old Istanbul-to-Cairo traveller favourite (no longer possible because of the war in Syria) and includes some of the Middle East's premier attractions.

Your journey starts in **Amman**, a cosmopolitan city with Roman ruins and brilliant restaurants. After visit to the **Dead Sea** (an easy day trip from the capital), detour to **Jerusalem**, the Middle East's spiritual heart. Returning to Jordan, spend some time exploring fabulous **Petra**, the Middle East's most beguiling ancient city. Further south, Petra's rival to the title of Jordan's most spectacular site is **Wadi Rum**, a soulful red-hued desert landscape that rewards those who spend a couple of days exploring. From here, leave Jordan behind and cross the Red Sea at **Aqaba** to **Nuweiba** in Egypt. Where you go from here depends on the prevailing security situation, with much of the Sinai Peninsula considered risky at the time of research. Assuming all is well, continue on from Nuweiba to **Dahab**, for Red Sea snorkelling and an excursion to catch sunrise from atop **Mt Sinai**. From Dahab (or from Nuweiba if security is uncertain) make for clamorous, attraction-rich **Cairo**.





BRONZE SNAKE MONUMENT ATOP MT NEBO BY ITALIAN ARTIST GIOVANNI PANTONI, JORDAN PIX/GETTY IMAGES ©



JAVIER CREPO/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Above: Bronze sculpture at Memorial Viewpoint (p316), Mt Nebo, Jordan

Left: Grotto of the Nativity (p261), Bethlehem, Israel & the Palestinian Territories

3  
WEEKS

## The Middle East's Heartland

Welcome to the Middle Eastern heartland for a trip through the best that Jordan and Israel and the Palestinian Territories have to offer. Although distances can be small, there's a lot to pack in. Most of this trip is best accomplished using public transport.

**Amman** may lack the cachet of other Middle Eastern cities, but most travellers end up staying longer than planned. From here, it's easy to make side trips to many of Jordan's must-see destinations; the echoes of Moses at **Mt Nebo** and the mosaics of **Madaba** deserve your time. When you're ready to move on, head to **Jerash**, a quiet yet rewarding ancient site with a wonderful colonnaded way running through its heart. Travelling south, **Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan**, the place where Christ was baptised, resonates strongly with pilgrims, while floating in the buoyant waters of the **Dead Sea** is a signature Middle Eastern experience.

Across the Jordan River, roiling **Jerusalem** is the starting point of so much Middle Eastern history. From Jerusalem, make for the biblical towns of **Bethlehem** and **Jericho**. In Israel's north, timeless **Akko** and the world-class ruins of **Caesarea** are worth as much time as you can give them. On your way back, don't miss **Tel Aviv**, a lively place to let your hair down and discover the hedonistic side of Israeli life. Its antithesis, the **Negev desert**, is a wilderness area that you simply don't expect to find in this ever-crowded corner of the earth.

Crossing back into Jordan, the Crusader castle of **Karak** and the spectacular scenery of **Dana Biosphere Reserve** shouldn't be missed, while **Petra** is an astonishing place, where reality outstrips even the most lofty expectations. If time allows, spend at least a couple of days here, so you can savour the main tombs as well as visit the site's more outlying areas. The same applies to **Wadi Rum** – you could get a taste of this soulful place in a day, but you'll gain a deeper understanding of its gravitas if you sleep out under the stars for at least one night. The laid-back Red Sea port of **Aqaba**, with world-class diving and snorkelling, provides the perfect place to rest at journey's end.





4  
WEEKS

## Modern Turkey, Ancient Persia

From marvellous Istanbul to the fascinating cities of central Iran, this itinerary takes you from the Middle East's most Western-oriented corner to its least. Neither, however, conforms to stereotypes and the journey between the two is like traversing the region's complicated soul. Allow two weeks for each country.

**Istanbul** is at once a destination in its own right and the starting point of so many Turkish journeys. After a few days, make for **Ankara**, the country's underrated capital and then take a detour to conservative but welcoming **Konya**, the spiritual home of the Sufis. Perhaps returning via Ankara, make for the otherworldly landscapes of **Cappadocia** that seem to have sprung from a wonderfully childlike imagination. Linger as long as you can here – it's a landscape that really gets under your skin the longer you stay. When you can finally tear yourself away, begin the long journey east to the brooding statues of **Nemrut Dağı**, surely one of Turkey's most thought-provoking sights. By the time you reach **Erzurum**, you'll have left the last remnants of tourist Turkey, and your reward in this eastern city is a fine open-air gallery of Seljuk and Mongol-era monuments. Consider climbing **Mt Ararat** (although you need to plan well in advance to do so), before crossing the border into Iran.

Your first stop in Iran should be **Tabriz**, not least because its bazaar is one of the finest, most evocative of all Middle Eastern markets. Spend a day or two in **Tehran**, itself home to an overwhelming market as well as fine museums. But after a couple of days, stop resisting the temptation and head on to **Esfahan**, one of the Middle East's most beautiful, most bejewelled cities (at least in the centre), with its utterly exquisite gardens, arched bridges and tiled mosques. **Shiraz** is a cultured, appealing city, not to mention the gateway to **Persepolis**, that towering monument to all that was good about Ancient Persia. Continue to **Yazd** and check into an atmospheric traditional hotel in the old town. Spend two days exploring the old city, visit the Zoroastrian Towers of Silence and perhaps take a trek into the desert. Finish up in **Kerman**, from where you can take a tour to the remarkable 'sand castles' of the Kaluts.



## 3 WEEKS Land of the Pharaohs

There's so much to see in Egypt that it deserves its own itinerary. Count on a week for Cairo and Alexandria, a week for the Western Oases, and another week for the country's south.

So many Egyptian journeys revolve around **Cairo**, and you'll return here again and again. Apart from being the Middle East's largest and most clamorous metropolis, Cairo is also home to the iconic Pyramids of Giza, the Egyptian Museum and a wonderful coffeehouse culture. After Cairo, head north to **Alexandria**, Egypt's sophisticated and quintessentially Mediterranean city. It feels like nowhere else in the country, and a combination of terrific museums and great food gives you further reason to visit. A *really* long journey west is worth it for your first sight of **Siwa**, one of the Sahara's great oasis outposts and home to an ancient temple in the sands. It's the sort of place where you can stand on the outskirts of the village, just as Alexander the Great did, and contemplate eternity. Dusty desert trails lead to the **Bahariya Oasis**; you'll need to rent a private 4WD to reach Bahariya, but why not make it part of a deep desert expedition from Bahariya into the White and Black Deserts.

It's back to Cairo to enjoy the pleasures of civilisation for a day or two before jumping on a train south to **Aswan**, one of Africa's loveliest riverside spots. There's a monastery and museum to anchor your explorations of the city, but its real charm is its proximity to the Nile. Take the detour south into Nubia to **Abu Simbel**, one of Egypt's most extraordinary temples, then from Aswan sail slowly up the Nile aboard a felucca, savouring the slow rhythms of life along this, the world's longest river, all the way to **Luxor**, home to the richest collection of Pharaonic sites in the country. Here you'll find so much of what drew you to Egypt in the first place, including the Temples of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens.



DIEGO FORTI/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



MURRAY/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Above: Tyre (p385),  
Lebanon

Left: Armenian church,  
Van, Turkey



### 3 WEEKS A Mediterranean Loop

For this Mediterranean sojourn, count on a week to 10 days in Lebanon and two weeks in Turkey.

Begin in **Beirut**, a glamorous metropolis, the Middle East in complicated microcosm and filled with Mediterranean *joie de vivre*. If it's safe, head south to the Phoenician heartland – **Saida**, the **Temple of Echmoun** and **Tyre**. Next, head north to the pretty fishing port of **Byblos** and then finish up with some hiking through the **Qadisha Valley**, finally putting on your skis at the **Cedars**.

From Beirut, fly to **Istanbul** for a few days in that most glorious of cities. Three days should give you a taste before you move on to visit **Gallipoli**, with its poignant echoes of WWI, and **Troy**, where altogether more ancient battles took place. Work your way around the coast, pausing at the mighty ruins of **Ephesus**, which rank among the Middle East's most imposing, and lingering in the delightful Mediterranean villages of **Kaş** or **Olympos** where you'll wonder why life can't always be like this.



### 3 WEEKS Among the Kurds

The Kurdish homeland spans Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq, although Syria and Iraq are off limits, and expressions of Kurdish identity are rare in Iran. Fortunately, journeying through Turkey's east and southeast provides numerous opportunities for experiencing Kurdish culture. Count on three weeks, although you could do it in two.

Begin in **Ankara**, where you'll find a splendid museum and a fine citadel. On your way southeast into the Kurdish heartland, stop in **Cappadocia** and **Nemrut Dağı** before exploring the rarely visited but always fascinating cities of **Gaziantep** and **Şanlıurfa**. Nearby **Mardin** combines a beautiful setting with equally beautiful architecture and a fascinating cultural mix. By the time you reach **Diyarbakir**, with its intriguing architecture, you're deep in Kurdish territory. Head for **Doğubayazıt**, one of eastern Turkey's most extraordinary sights, with a legendary castle and stunning views of **Mt Ararat**; the mountain could not be climbed at time of research, although most travellers content themselves with not-so-distant views from the town anyway. Further south, **Van** is home to the lovely Armenian church on Akdamar Island.

# Behind the Scenes

## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travellers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-travelled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

Visit [lonelyplanet.com/contact](http://lonelyplanet.com/contact) to submit your updates and suggestions or to ask for help. Our award-winning website also features inspirational travel stories, news and discussions.

Note: We may edit, reproduce and incorporate your comments in Lonely Planet products such as guidebooks, websites and digital products, so let us know if you don't want your comments reproduced or your name acknowledged. For a copy of our privacy policy visit [lonelyplanet.com/privacy](http://lonelyplanet.com/privacy).

## OUR READERS

**Many thanks to the travellers who used the last edition and wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes:** Alberto Fernandez, Charles Cox, Christian, Enass Isaksson, Harry Machin, James Dahringer, Justin Atcho, Marketa, Mizio Matteucci, Raffaella Brignoni, Stine Kærgaard Nissen

Jill Robinson, Theresa Jackson, Daniella Van Haltren, Rajesh Oja, Bradley Moss and Tim Neville. Finally, thanks and love above all to Robyn, for everything as always.

### Orlando Crowcroft

I would like to thank my friends Nigel Wilson and Mary Pelletier in Ramallah, MC in Jerusalem and Heidi Levine in Tel Aviv. A big shout out to all the staff at Area D Hostel, Ayman at the Cinema Guesthouse in Jenin, Canaan Khoury and family in Taybeh and all those who made me feel welcome during my stay in the Palestinian Territories. I'd also like to thank my editor Lauren Keith and fellow authors Anita Isalska, Daniel Robinson and Dan Savery Raz. And my wife, Helen, for everything.

### Mark Elliott

Many, many thanks to gallant guides Shahram and Mojtaba, to Helen, Dylan and Megan for making things possible and to Sally Kingsbury and my unbeatable parents for so much love and support. Thank you also to countless kind Iranians and travellers who were so generous with their time, hospitality and information, notably Vali, Reza and family, Rino, Ahmad, Amir, Jalal, Mohammad and Akbar.

### Anita Isalska

Countless chance encounters and conversations enriched my research; thank you to

## WRITER THANKS

### Anthony Ham

Thanks to my editors Helen Elfer and Lauren Keith for the privilege of writing about such an extraordinary corner of the world. Huge thanks to my coauthors who brought such wisdom and expertise to the project: a special mention to Jenny Walker, Andy Symington and Virginia Maxwell for their combined insights over many years. Thanks to Sarah Bailey and Andrea Dobbin for such careful editing.

### Paul Clammer

Thanks to Hakim al-Tamimi and Mahmoud Freihah at the Jordan Tourism Board. In Amman, thanks to Muna Haddad, Nabil Tarzi, Daniel Robards, Jon Killpack and Ayman Abd Alkareem. Thanks of course also to Susan Andrew and Soda. Thanks to Odeh Sawalah and Ammar al-Damseh in Madaba, and to Atallah Dakhilallah in Wadi Rum. Hugs to the brilliant 'Team Feynan' – Kirsten Alana,

everyone who knowingly or unknowingly guided my travels. I'm especially grateful for the suggestions and insights from Noga Tarnopolsky, Riman Barakat, Linda Gradstein, the Educational Bookshop & Cafe crew, and for Slavica and Einav, who pointed me to some excellent tips. Deep thanks to Anna Heijblok, whose stories of her Jerusalem will stay with me. And, as ever, heartfelt gratitude to Normal Matt for cheerleading from the wings.

## Jessica Lee

Among the vast number of people who gave me handy tips, helped with information and dealt with weird and obscure queries, these folk especially deserve a huge *shukran*: Salama Abd Rabbo, Sameh Tawfek, Salah, Asmail, Hisham, Wadia, Ben, Aisha and Mohammed. Also, a big thanks to fellow writer Anthony and to fellow Egypt travellers Chris, Lou and Nat. In Turkey, a big thank you to Celil Ersözoglu for hilarious stories, Ozan Balkan for wrangling that bit of extra information I needed, Erzurum tourist information office for being Turkey's most astoundingly helpful tourist office, Jodie Redding for cross-checking information updates, Fatih and Faruk Salva for an unexpected southeast Anatolia reunion in Marmaris, and Okba Aldaheer for looking after my place while I was on the road.

## Virginia Maxwell

Many thanks to Pat Yale, Mehmet Umur, Emel Guntas, Faruk Boyaci, Tahir Karabas, Jen Hartin, Eveline Zoutendijk, George Grundy, Ramazan Altuntas, Jess Lee and the many others who assisted me with this update.

## Simon Richmond

Many thanks to the following for their assistance in preparation for and during my research in Iran: Andrew Burke, Gabe Kaminski, Laili Sadr, Mathew Scott, Yi-Juan Koh, William Lodder, Navid, Sogand, Matin, Shirin, Ali, Farah, Ramin, Armin, Masoud, Jalal and Berzhad.

## Daniel Robinson

Special thanks to (from south to north): Chini Da-Silva, Gili Bat-Sara, Eran Hejams, Jody Sirota and Michael Chen (Eilat); Yair Sela (Samar); Alex Cicelsky, Doria Pinkas and Maya Galimidi (Lotan); Anat Sha'ul (Ne'ot Smadar); David and Ofra Faiman (Sde Boker); Gil Shkedi (Ne'ot HaKikar); David Lew (Masada); Lee, Meitar and Shani (Ein Gedi Field School); Sliman (Ein Gedi Nature Reserve); Eldad Hazan (Ein Feshkha/Einot Tzukim); Nisim Bados (Beit She'an); Nati and Ofer (Banias); Rachel Eshkol (Tzipori); Ido Itai and Amir Aviram (Gamla); Gregory and Hanoch (Yehudiya); Alon Malichi (Katzrin); Omer Feldman and Ya'akov Leiter (Tsfat); Ron

Tsvi, Amihai and Tehila (Rosh Pina); HaKupa'it Vera (Tel Hatzor); Mordechai Kohelet Israel (Dalton); Tony (Jish); Inbar Rubin (Agamon HaHuleh); Anat Nissim (Galil Nature Museum); Shadi (Tel Dan); Talal (Mt Hermon); and, most especially, my wife Rachel and my sons Yair and Sasson for their support, understanding and patience.

## Anthony Sattin

Many people have helped create this book by providing assistance, information, tips for things to see and even directions when I took a wrong turn. Among them are: H.E. Khaled El-Enani and the staff at the Ministry of Antiquities; Mrs Rasha Azaizi and staff at the Ministry of Tourism; Bahaa Gaber, Cecilia Udden, Mounir Neamatalla, Amr Khalil, Ghada Shahbender, Ahmed Shandawili, Selim Shawer, Wael Abed, Abdallah Baghi, Peter Wirth, Badr Abdalmoghny, Mohsen Abdelmonem, Galal, Zeina Aboukheir, Eleonore Kamir, Enrique Cansino and Mamdouh Sayed Khalifa.

## Dan Savery Raz

Thanks to destination editor Lauren Keith for kicking off this project and making it run so smoothly. Also thank you to Maoz Inon (travel entrepreneur and peace warrior), Yoram Hai (for vegan tips) and Bea Hemming (for recommending Bicletta). Biggest thanks goes to my wife, Shir, for looking after the kids while I tapped away on my laptop, and my two girls, Hila and Maya, for always making me smile.

## Andy Symington

During my trip to Lebanon, I got a big welcome and great advice from so many people that it would be impossible to list them all. But particular thanks for going out of their way to help are to Dana Nasr, Saskia Nout, Joseph Abou Kheir, Pierre Abi Saad, Craig Barker, Walid and Ghayem. Thanks too go to Lauren Keith and the Lonely Planet team for the opportunity to update in this fabulous country.

## Jenny Walker

Returning to Jordan is always a pleasure, thanks to the strength of welcome unflinching received. Over many years of writing and updating the Lonely Planet *Jordan* guide, I have inevitably become indebted to friends in Jordan who have helped shape the information in the general sections of this edition. Alas, there isn't space to do justice to individuals here, but I acknowledge their collective help with gratitude. In Iran, general thanks to all who helped contribute information. Specific thanks to Bijan Nabavi for setting the scene, to Mostafa Ramezanzpoor for attention to detail and most especially to Mojtaba Heidari for his extreme efforts in



extreme circumstances – not forgetting his signature coffee stops! My biggest thanks, however, are reserved, as ever, to my beloved Sam (Owen) – husband, co-researcher and fellow traveller.

## Steve Waters

Thanks to all the beautiful Iranian people who smoothed my way, picked me up when I was miles from nowhere, bought me tea and chocolates, or *chelo kabab*, who taught me lessons in humility, patience and honesty, who told me subversive jokes, made me laugh, shared their food and persevered with my mangled Farsi. And thanks to Rahel, Kaz, Hamish, Megan and Roz for being yourselves.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 11, 163344.

Illustrations pp62–3, pp92–3, pp126–7, pp210–11, pp424–5 and pp418–19 by Javier Zarracina; pp322–3 by Michael Weldon.

Cover photograph: Masjed-e Nasir Al Molk, Iran; Alexander Mazurkevich/Shutterstock ©.

## THIS BOOK

This 9th edition of Lonely Planet's *Middle East* guidebook was researched and written by Anthony Ham, Paul Clammer, Orlando Crowcroft, Mark Elliott, Anita Isalska, Jessica Lee, Virginia Maxwell, Simon Richmond, Daniel Robinson, Anthony Sattin, Dan Savery Raz, Andy Symington, Jenny Walker and Steve Waters. This guidebook was produced by the following:

**Destination Editors** Lauren Keith, Tom Stainer

**Senior Product Editor** Elizabeth Jones

**Product Editor** Carolyn Boicos

**Senior Cartographer** Valentina Kremenchutskaia

**Book Designer** Clara Monitto

**Assisting Editors** Sarah Bailey, Imogen Bannister, Katie Connolly, Peter Cruttenden, Andrea Dobbin, Emma Gibbs, Carly Hall, Jennifer Hattam, Gabrielle Innes, Ali Lemer,

Jodie Martire, Lou McGregor, Rosie Nicholson, Kristin Odijk, Chris Pitts, Gabrielle Stefanos, Ross Taylor, Saralinda Turner, Fionnuala Twomey

**Cover Researcher** Naomi Parker

**Thanks to** Stephanie d'Arc Taylor, Kate Chapman, Barbara Delissen, Grace Dobell, Helen Elfer, Sunny Fitzgerald, Shona Gray, Karima Hassan Ragab, Kate James, Andi Jones, Anne Mason, Claire Naylor, Karyn Noble, Jacqui Saunders, Shadi Salehian

# Index

## ABBREVIATIONS

- E Egypt  
In Iran  
Iq Iraq  
IPT Israel & the  
Palestinian Territories  
J Jordan  
L Lebanon  
S Syria  
T Turkey

## A

- Abu Simbel (E) 106-7  
accommodation 136, 564-5,  
*see also individual  
locations*  
language 583, 584, 586,  
587-8  
Acre, *see* Akko  
activities 27-30, 42-6, *see  
also individual activities*  
Aegean Coast (T) 436-57,  
**437**  
Afrodisias (T) 453  
Agilika Island (E) 106  
air travel 571-2, 573  
Egypt 134, 135  
Iran 187-8, 189  
Israel & the Palestinian  
Territories 281, 282  
Jordan 351, 353  
Lebanon 404  
Turkey 491-2  
Ajloun (J) 304  
Ajloun Forest  
Reserve (J) 305  
Akko (IPT) 236-7, **237**  
Al Haram Ash Sharif (IPT)  
208, **210-11**, **210-11**  
Al Kharga Oasis (E) 107-8  
Al Maghtas (J) 307-8  
Al Qasr (E) 108  
Al Quseir (E) 116  
Alamut Valley (In) 155-6  
Alanya (T) 468-9  
alcohol 540-1  
Alexander the Great 500  
Alexandria (E) 80-6,  
**82-3**, **84**  
Amasra (T) 481  
Amman (J) 288-300, **290**,  
**292-3**, **296**  
accommodation 291-4  
activities 291  
children, travel with 294  
courses 295  
drinking & nightlife 297-8  
emergency services 298  
entertainment 298  
food 294-5  
history 288  
internet access 298  
medical services 298  
money 298-9  
shopping 298  
sights 288-91  
tourist offices 299  
travel to/from 299  
travel within 299-300  
ancient cities 23  
Ancient Galilee Boat (IPT)  
242  
Andej (In) 155  
Ani (T) 485  
animals 26, 311, 327, 553-5  
Anit Kabir (T) 469  
Ankara (T) 469-72, **470**  
Antalya (T) 463-7, **464**  
Anzac Cove (T) 441  
Aqaba (J) 337-42, **338**  
Arab Spring, the 524-5  
Arabic language 582-4  
Arabs 515  
Aramgah-e Shah-e Cheragh  
(In) 170-1  
Arafat, Yasser 517, 523  
archaeological sites 23, *see  
also ruins, tombs*

- Abu Simbel (E) 106-7  
Afrodisias (T) 453  
Al Bass Archaeological  
Site (L) 385  
Al Mina Archaeological  
Site (L) 385  
Alamut Castle (In)  
Ancient Bathhouse  
(Nazareth; IPT) 238  
Ancient Katzrin Park  
(IPT) 248  
Ancient Patara (T) 460  
Baalbek Ruins (L) 391  
Beit She'an National Park  
(IPT) 243  
Bergama Acropolis (T)  
443  
Byblos Archaeological  
Site (L) 373  
Capernaum (IPT) 242  
Catacombs of Kom Ash  
Shuqqafa (E) 81  
City of David (IPT) 208  
Colossi of Memnon  
(E) 87  
Dahshur (E) 77  
Deir Al Medina (E) 91  
Gebel Al Mawta (E) 111-12  
Jerash ruins (J) 18,  
301, **18**  
Jerusalem Archaeological  
Park & Davidson Centre  
(IPT) 207  
Kom Al Dikka (E) 81  
Kursi National Park (IPT)  
243  
Luxor (E) 15, 86-95, **88-9**,  
**92-3**, **94-5**, **15**, **92-3**  
Madaba Archaeological  
Park I & Virgin Mary  
Church (J) 314  
Magdala (IPT) 242  
Masada (IPT) 250-1  
Memphis (E) 77  
Necropolis of Al Bagawat  
(E) 107  
Old Jaffa Visitors Centre  
(IPT) 224  
Petra (J) 11, 320-6,  
**322-3**, **324-5**, **10-11**,  
**322-3**  
Pyramids of Giza (E) 11,  
60-4, **62-3**, **64**, **11**,  
**62-3**  
Ruins of Abu (E) 102  
Saqqara (E) 77  
Troy (T) 440  
Unfinished Obelisk (E)  
101-2  
Western Wall Tunnels  
(IPT) 206-7  
architecture 225, 531-5  
Armenians 510  
art galleries, *see* museums  
& galleries  
arts 543-51, *see also  
individual arts*  
Aspendos (T) 466  
Aswan (E) 101-6, **102**, **104**  
Aswan High Dam (E) 106  
Atatürk, Mustafa  
Kemal 469  
ATMs 566  
Avanos (T) 478  
Aya Sofya (T) 416, 418-19,  
**418-19**, **418-19**  
Azraq (J) 311-12

## B

- Baalbek (L) 390-2  
*badgir* 169  
Baghdad (Iq) 502  
Baha'i Gardens (Haifa;  
IPT) 231  
Bahariya Oasis (E) 110-11  
ballooning 476  
Banksy 263  
Baraka (J) 22  
Basilica Cistern (T) 416  
bathrooms 569  
Batroun (L) 375-7  
Bauhaus architecture 225  
bazaars, *see* markets  
Bazar-e Bozorg (In) 158-9  
Bcharré (L) 380-2

beaches 25  
 Eilat (IPT) 254  
 Ein Bokek (IPT) 251  
 Fethiye (T) 458  
 Kalkan (T) 461  
 Patara (T) 460  
 Tel Aviv (IPT) 224, 227  
 Beirut (L) 14, 22, 356-72,  
**358, 360, 362, 14**  
 accommodation 362-4  
 activities 359  
 courses 361  
 drinking & nightlife  
 368-70  
 entertainment 370  
 festivals & events 362  
 food 365-8  
 medical services 371  
 safe travel 370-1  
 shopping 370  
 sights 356-9  
 tourist offices 371  
 tours 361-2  
 travel to/from 371  
 travel within 371-2  
 Beirut International Film  
 Festival 30  
 Beit She'an (IPT) 243-4  
 Beiteddine Palace (L)  
 387-8  
 Bekaa Valley (L) 389-92  
 belly dancing shows 69  
 Bergama (T) 443-4  
 Bethany-Beyond-the-  
 Jordan (Al-Maghtas;  
 J) 307-8  
 Bethlehem (IPT) 261-4  
 bicycle travel, *see* cycling  
 birds 554, 556  
 Black Desert (E) 110  
 Black Sea Coast (T) 480-6  
 Blue Mosque (T) 416  
 boat travel 572, 573  
 Egypt 134, 135  
 Iran 188-9  
 Jordan 352  
 Lebanon 404  
 boat trips 45-6  
 Alanya (T) 468  
 Antalya (T) 465  
 Aswan (T) 106  
 Bosphorus (T) 416  
 Fethiye (T) 458-9  
 Nile (E) 65, 98  
 Bodrum Town (T) 453-6,  
**454**  
 books 494  
 history 497, 501, 503,  
 504, 506, 509, 516,  
 517, 518, 520, 521, 525

Israel & the Palestinian  
 Territories 514  
 border crossings 40-1, 572  
 Egypt 40, 134  
 Iran 40, 188  
 Israel & the Palestinian  
 Territories 280, 281-2  
 Jordan 351-2  
 Lebanon 404  
 Turkey 41, 491  
 Bosphorus trips (T) 416  
 Bursa (T) 442-3  
 bus travel 573-4  
 Egypt 135  
 Iran 188, 189  
 Israel & the Palestinian  
 Territories 283  
 Jordan 353  
 Lebanon 404  
 Turkey 492  
 business hours 567-8  
 Byblos (L) 373-5, **374**  
 Byzantine Empire 501

**C**  
 Caesarea (IPT) 231  
 Cairo (E) 22, 53-77, **58-9**,  
**64, 66-7, 70, 72, 74**  
 accommodation 64-8  
 drinking & nightlife 69-71  
 entertainment 71  
 food 68-9  
 history 53  
 medical services 73  
 safe travel 73  
 shopping 71, 73  
 sights 53-63  
 tourist offices 74  
 tours 64  
 travel to/from 74-5  
 travel within 75-7  
 calendars 568  
 call to prayer 527-8  
 Çanakkale (T) 436-40  
 canyoning 314  
 Capernaum (IPT) 242  
 Cappadocia (T) 14, 475-80,  
**475, 14**  
 Cappadox Festival 28  
 car & motorcycle travel  
 574-5  
 Egypt 135  
 Iran 189  
 Israel & the Palestinian  
 Territories 283-4  
 Jordan 353  
 Lebanon 404  
 safety 560  
 Turkey 492

Cardo Maximus (IPT) 207  
 carpets  
 Iran 184, 187  
 Jordan 345-6  
 Turkey 417  
 Çarşı (T) 472  
 castles & fortresses 24  
 Alanya Castle (T) 468  
 Aljoun Castle (J) 304  
 Ayasuluk Fortress (T)  
 447  
 Bodrum Castle (T) 453  
 Fortress of Shali (E) 111  
 Kars Castle (T) 484  
 Kayseri Castle (T) 480  
 Marmaris Castle &  
 Museum (T) 456  
 Nimrod Fortress (IPT)  
 248  
 Qasr Al Azraq (J) 311  
 Qasr Kharana (J) 313  
 Qusayr Amra (J) 312  
 cedars 400  
 Cedars, the (L) 382  
 cell phones 569  
 Chak Chak (In) 165  
 children, travel with 47-8,  
 581, *see also individual*  
*locations*  
 Chouf Mountains (L)  
 387-9  
 Christianity 530  
 Christmas 30  
 Christmas (Orthodox)  
 27, **29**  
 churches & cathedrals  
 architecture 534  
 Basilica of St John (T)  
 446-7  
 Basilica of the  
 Annunciation (IPT)  
 238  
 Church & Monastery of  
 the Apostles (IPT) 240  
 Church of All Nations  
 (IPT) 209  
 Church of Mary  
 Magdalene (IPT) 209  
 Church of St Sergius &  
 Bacchus (E) 57  
 Church of the Ascension  
 (IPT) 208  
 Church of the Holy  
 Sepulchre (IPT) 203  
 Church of the Nativity  
 (IPT) 261  
 Church of the Primacy of  
 St Peter (IPT) 242  
 Greek Orthodox Church  
 of St George (IPT) 266

Greek Orthodox Church  
 of the Annunciation  
 (IPT) 238  
 Grotto of the Nativity  
 (IPT) 261, **32**  
 Hanging Church (E) 57  
 Jacob's Well (IPT) 264  
 Mount of the Beatitudes  
 (IPT) 242  
 St Anne's Church (IPT)  
 203  
 St Catherine's Church  
 (IPT) 261  
 St George's Church  
 (J) 313  
 St James' Cathedral  
 (IPT) 203-4  
 St Peter's Church (IPT)  
 240  
 Çifte Minareli Medrese  
 (T) 482  
 cinema, *see* film  
 Çiralı (T) 463  
 Citadel (IPT) 207  
 City of David (IPT) 208  
 climate 20, 27-30, *see also*  
*individual locations*  
 coffee 540  
 Colossi of Memnon (E)  
 87, 90  
 consulates 565, *see also*  
*individual locations*  
 cooking courses 22, 423  
 Coptic Museum (E) 56-7  
 country codes 568-9  
 credit cards 567  
 crime 561  
 Crusades, the 503-5  
 culture 543-51  
 currencies 20  
 customs regulations 565  
 cycling 43, 276, 282-3, 284,  
 346, 353, 573

**D**  
 Dahab (E) 121-5, **122**  
 Dakhla Oasis (E) 108-9  
 Dana Biosphere Reserve  
 (J) 318-20  
 dangers, *see* safe travel  
 Darakeh (In) 145  
 Darband (In) 145  
 Dead Sea (IPT) 249-51,  
**250**  
 Dead Sea (J) 17, 308-10,  
 555, **17**  
 Dead Sea Scrolls (IPT)  
 215, 249  
 Deir Al Qamar (L) 388-9  
 Dendara (E) 96

Derinkuyu (T) 478  
desert castles 311, 312  
desert safaris 43-4  
desertification 556  
deserts 23, 552  
Dhiban (J) 317  
diarrhoea 580-1  
Didyma (T) 452  
diphtheria 578  
disabilities, travellers  
with 569  
diving & snorkelling 25, 44  
Dahab (E) 123  
Eilat (IPT) 253  
Hurghada (E) 114  
Jordan 339  
Kaş (T) 461-2  
Red Sea (E) 17, **17**  
Sharm El Sheikh (E)  
119, 120  
Doğubayazıt (T) 485-6  
Dome of the Rock (IPT) 12,  
208, **12**  
drinks 376, 540-1  
driving, see car &  
motorcycle travel  
Dung Gate (IPT) 207

## E

Easter 27  
Eceabat (T) 440-1  
Edfu (E) 101  
Egypt 49, 52-135  
accommodation 52, 131  
border crossings 40  
children, travel with 131  
climate & travel seasons  
52  
culture 129, 130-1  
electricity 132  
embassies & consulates  
131-2  
food 52, 130, 131, 133  
highlights 54, **54-5**  
history 129-30  
internet resources 53  
money 132-3  
safe travel 133  
telephone services 133  
travel to/from 134  
travel within 135  
visas 38-9, 134  
Egyptian Museum (E) 53,  
56, 57, **56**

Ein Bokek (IPT) 251  
Ein Gedi (IPT) 249-50  
Eilat (IPT) 252-6, **253, 254**  
El Alamein 80  
El Gouna (E) 113-14  
electricity, see *individual  
countries*  
embassies 565, see also  
*individual locations*  
embroidery 346  
emergencies 565, see also  
*individual locations*  
language 583, 585,  
586, 588  
environmental issues 556  
Ephesus (T) 22, 449-51,  
**450**  
Erzurum (T) 482-4, **483**  
Esfahan (In) 12, 22, 158-64,  
**160**  
Esna (E) 100-1  
etiquette 558-9  
Evan Lake (In) 155  
events 27-30  
exchange rates 567

## F

Farsi language 584-5  
feluccas 65, 98, 106  
festivals 27-30  
Fethiye (T) 458-60  
film 494, 543-6  
food 536-40, see also  
*individual locations*  
dizi 180  
etiquette 558  
kababs 184, 537-8  
language 583, 584-5,  
586, 588  
fortresses, see castles &  
fortresses

## G

Gadara (J) 306-7  
Galilee, Lower (IPT) 238-  
44, **239**  
Galilee, Upper (IPT) 244-9,  
**245**  
galleries, see museums &  
galleries  
Gallipoli Peninsula (T)  
441-2, **442**  
Garden of Gethsemane  
(IPT) 209  
Garden Tomb (IPT) 209  
gardens, see *individual  
gardens*  
Garmeh (In) 163  
gay travellers, see LGBTIQ  
travellers

Gaza Strip (IPT) 266-7  
Gazor Khan (In) 155-6  
Gebel Al Ingleez (E) 110  
Gelemiş (T) 460  
Gelibolu, see Gallipoli  
Peninsula  
geography & geology 552-3  
Giza pyramids (E) 11, 60-4,  
**62-3, 64, 11, 62-3**  
Golan Heights (IPT) 247-9  
Golestan Palace (In) 137  
Göreme (T) 476-8  
Grand Bazaar İstanbul  
(T) 417  
Grand Bazaar Tehran  
(In) 137  
Güllüdere (Rose) Valley  
(T) 476

## H

Haifa (IPT) 231-6, **232-3**  
Hallabat (J) 310-11  
hammams 26, 264, 423,  
465, 472  
Hanukkah 30  
Haram-e Razavi (In) 178  
health 577-81  
heat exhaustion 580  
Hebrew language 585-7  
Hebron (IPT) 266  
hepatitis A 578  
hepatitis B 579  
Herod's Gate (IPT) 207  
Hezbollah 384, 396, 524  
High Dam (E) 106  
hiking 25, 43, 44-5  
Egypt 22  
Iran 44, 155  
Israel & the Palestinian  
Territories 44-5, 276  
Jordan 22, 45, 305, 326  
Lebanon 45, 381  
Turkey 45, 460, 462  
history 496-525, see  
also *individual  
countries*  
1948 Arab-Israeli War  
512  
1967 Six Day War 517  
1979 Islamic Revolution  
519  
1991 Iraq War 521  
2003 Iraq War 524  
Alexander the Great 500  
Arab Spring, the 524-5  
Armenians 510  
Iran-Iraq War 517  
Lebanese Civil War 520  
Phoenician Empire 498  
Sumerian history 496-7

hitching 189, 353, 575  
holidays 568  
horse riding 45  
hot-air ballooning 476  
Hurghada (E) 114-16

Ihlara Valley (T) 478  
insect bites & stings 580  
insurance 566, 574-5, 577-8  
internet access 566  
internet resources 21  
Iran 49, 136-89, 494  
accommodation 185  
activities 185  
arts 184-5  
border crossings 40  
calendars 183  
climate 136  
consulates 185-6  
drinking 184  
embassies 185-6  
emergency services 137  
etiquette 186  
exchange rates 137  
food 136, 184  
health 186  
highlights 138, **138-9**  
history 182-3  
insurance 186  
internet access 186  
languages 137  
legal matters 186  
money 137, 182, 186  
opening hours 186  
politics 181-2  
population 523  
safe travel 185  
shopping 187  
telephone services 187  
time 137  
tours 187  
travel to/from 187-9  
travel within 189  
visas 39, 187  
Iranian poets 184, 547  
Iraq 49, 190-8, 523, **191-8**  
Irbid (J) 306  
Isis 191-8, 406  
Islam 501-2, 526-8  
Islamic calendar 568  
Israel & the Palestinian  
Territories 50, 199-284  
accommodation 275-6  
activities 276-7  
arts 273-4  
books 514

border crossings 280, 281-2  
 checkpoints 258  
 children, travel with 277  
 climate 199  
 embassies & consulates 278  
 exchange rates 201  
 food 229, 274, 276  
 highlights 200, **200**  
 history 267-71  
 internet access 278  
 internet resources 201  
 itineraries 202  
 language 274  
 money 278  
 opening hours 278-9  
 politics 271-2  
 population 271  
 religion 272-3  
 safe travel 277, 279  
 telephone services 279-80  
 travel to/from 281-2  
 travel within 282-4  
 visas 39, 280-1  
 Israeli passport stamps 39  
 Israeli settlements 248, 260  
 Israel's separation wall (IPT) 264  
 İstanbul (T) 15, 22, 416-36, **420-1, 426-7, 430-1, 434-5, 15**  
 accommodation 423, 428-9  
 courses 423  
 drinking & nightlife 432  
 food 429, 432  
 medical services 433  
 safe travel 433  
 sights 416-23  
 tourist offices 433  
 tours 423  
 travel to/from 433  
 travel within 433, 436  
 İstanbul Music Festival 28  
 itineraries 31-7, **31-7**, *see also individual locations*  
 İzmir (T) 444-6

## J

Jaffa (IPT) 224-5, **228**  
 Jaffa Gate (IPT) 207  
 Jbail (L) 373-5  
 Jeita Grotto (L) 372-3  
 Jenin (IPT) 265-6  
 Jerash (J) 18, 301-4, **302, 18**

Jerash Festival 29  
 Jericho (IPT) 259-61  
 Jerusalem (IPT) 201-21, **204-5, 212-13, 214**  
 accommodation 215-17  
 drinking & nightlife 218  
 entertainment 218-19  
 food 217-18  
 history 201-2  
 internet resources 218  
 medical services 219  
 safe travel 219  
 sights 202-15  
 tourist offices 219  
 tours 215  
 travel to/from 219-20  
 travel within 220-1  
 Jolfa (In) 159  
 Jordan 50, 285-353, 495  
 accommodation 347  
 activities 314, 347  
 arts 345  
 bathrooms 350  
 books 344  
 children, travel with 347  
 climate 285  
 consulates 348  
 culture 345  
 customs regulations 348  
 disabilities, travellers with 350  
 embassies 348  
 environment 346-7  
 food & drink 304, 346, 348  
 highlights 286-7, **286-7**  
 hiking 305  
 history 343-4  
 holidays 350  
 internet access 348  
 internet resources 289  
 itineraries 288, 330  
 language 289  
 measures 349  
 money 289, 347, 348-9  
 nature reserves 285, 298  
 newspapers 349  
 opening hours 349  
 photography 349  
 politics 343  
 postal services 349  
 public holidays 350  
 radio 349  
 safe travel 350  
 scams 351  
 smoking 349  
 telephone services 350  
 time 350  
 toilets 350

tourist offices 350  
 tours 300, 311  
 travel to/from 351-2  
 travel within 352-3  
 TV 349  
 visas 39, 350  
 weather 285  
 weights 349  
 women travellers 351  
 work 351

Jordan River (J) 308  
 Judaism 528-30

## K

Kalkan (T) 461  
 Kaleiçi (T) 463-5  
 Kandovan (In) 153  
 Karak (J) 317-18  
 Karnak (E) 87  
 Kars (T) 484-5  
 Kaş (T) 461-2  
 Kashan (In) 156-8  
 Katzrin (IPT) 248  
 Kaymaklı (T) 478  
 Kayseri (T) 479-80  
 Khan, Genghis 503  
 Kharanaq (In) 165  
 King's Highway (J) 313  
 Kom Ombo (E) 101  
 Konya (T) 473-5, **474**  
 Kurds 522-3  
 Kuşadası (T) 451-2

## L

language 582-8  
 Arabic 582-4  
 Farsi 584-5  
 Hebrew 585-7  
 Turkish 587-8  
 Lebanese Civil War 520  
 Lebanon 50, 354-404  
 accommodation 354, 401  
 activities 371  
 ATMs 402-3  
 bargaining 401  
 civil war 396-7  
 climate 354  
 embassies 402  
 emergency services 402-4  
 environment 400  
 food & drink 354, 398-9  
 highlights 355, **355**  
 history 392-8  
 holidays 403  
 internet access 402  
 language 357

money 357, 402-3  
 music 400-1  
 opening hours 403  
 politics 392  
 population 357  
 public holidays 403  
 religion 399  
 safe travel 383, 390, 401-2  
 smoking 403  
 telephone services 403  
 travel to/from 404  
 travel within 404  
 visas 40, 403  
 weather 354  
 women travellers 403-4  
 legal matters 566  
 leishmaniasis 579  
 lesbian travellers, *see* LGBTIQ travellers  
 LGBTIQ travellers 565-6  
 Egypt 132  
 Iran 186  
 Israel & the Palestinian Territories 278  
 Jordan 348  
 Lebanon 402  
 Turkey 489  
 Lions' Gate (IPT) 203, 207  
 literature 546-9, *see also* books  
 Lone Pine (T) 441  
 Luxor (E) 15, 86-100, **88-9, 94-5, 15, 92-3**  
 accommodation 96-7  
 activities 95-6  
 drinking & nightlife 98-9  
 food 97-8  
 history 86-7  
 medical services 99  
 safe travel 99  
 shopping 99  
 sights 87-94  
 tourist offices 99  
 tours 95-6  
 travel to/from 99-100  
 travel within 100  
 Lycian Way (T) 460

## M

Machaerus (J) 316-17  
 Madaba (J) 313-16  
 Majdal Shams (IPT) 248-9  
 malaria 579  
 markets 23-4  
 Bazar-e Bozorg (In) 158-9  
 Carmel Market (IPT) 221

markets *continued*

- Grand Bazaar İstanbul (T) 417  
 Grand Bazaar Tehran, (In) 137  
 Jaffa Flea Market (IPT) 225  
 Kemeraltı Market (T) 444-5  
 Khan Al Khalili (E) 57, 60  
 Mahane Yehuda Market (IPT) 215  
 Spice Bazaar (T) 420-1  
 Souq Al Abiad (IPT) 236  
 Souq Al Qattani (IPT) 203  
 Tabriz Bazaar (In) 18, 149, **18**  
 Trabzon (T) 481  
 Marmaris (T) 456-7  
 Marsa Alam (E) 116-17  
 Masada (IPT) 250-1  
 Mashhad (In) 178-81, **179**  
 Masjed-e Jameh (In) 158, 165  
 Masjed-e Nasir Al Molk (In) 170  
 Masjed-e Shah (In) 158  
 medical services 578  
 Mediterranean Coast  
 Egypt 16, 80-6, **16**  
 Israel & the Palestinian Territories 221-37  
 Turkey 458-69  
 Memphis (E) 77-80  
 Mesr (In) 163  
 Meybod (In) 165  
 Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) 579  
 Miletus (T) 452  
 Mitzpe Ramon (IPT) 251-2  
 Mleeta Resistance Tourist Landmark (L) 384  
 Mo'allam Kalayeh (In) 155  
 mobile phones 569  
 monasteries  
 Ethiopian Monastery (IPT) 203  
 Mar Saba Monastery (IPT) 262  
 Monastery of the Qurantul (IPT) 259  
 Qadisha Valley (L) 381  
 St George's Monastery (IPT) 259

- St Katherine's Monastery (E) 16, 125, **126-7, 16, 126-7**  
 Sumela Monastery (T) 480-1  
 money 20, 566-7, *see also individual countries*  
 Moses 316  
 mosques 23  
 Al Aqsa Mosque (IPT) 208  
 Al Azhar Mosque (E) 60  
 architecture 533-4  
 Aya Sofya (İstanbul; T) 416  
 Aya Sofya Mosque & Museum (Trabzon; T) 481  
 Blue Mosque (T) 416  
 Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs (IPT) 266  
 Masjed-e Jameh (In) 158, 165  
 Masjed-e Shah (In) 158  
 Masjid Jenin Al Kabir (IPT) 265  
 Mosque-Madrassa of Sultan Hassan (E) 60  
 Rüstem Paşa Mosque (T) 422  
 Süleymaniye Mosque (T) 417, 420, **15**  
 Ulu Camii (T) 482  
 Yeşil Camii (T) 442  
 Mount of Olives (IPT) 208  
 Mount of Remembrance (IPT) 215  
 Mount of Temptation (IPT) 259  
 mountain biking 43  
 mountains 552  
 Mt Ararat (T) 485-6  
 Mt Gerizim (IPT) 265  
 Mt Nebo (J) 316, **32**  
 Mt Sinai (E) 16, 125  
 Mujib Biosphere Reserve (J) 310  
 Mukawir (J) 316-17  
 Muradiye Complex (T) 442  
 museums & galleries 22  
 Alexandria National Museum (E) 81  
 Animalia (E) 101  
 Antalya Museum (T) 465  
 Aya Sofya (İstanbul; T) 416, 418-19, **418-19, 418-19**  
 Aya Sofya Mosque & Museum (Trabzon; T) 481

- Beit Hatfutsot (IPT) 225  
 Bergama Archaeology Museum (T) 444  
 Bible Lands Museum (IPT) 215  
 Bibliotheca Alexandrina (E) 80  
 Carpet Museum (T) 417  
 Carter's House & the Replica Tomb of Tutankhamun (E) 91  
 Clandestine Immigration & Naval Museum (IPT) 232-3  
 Darat Al Funun (J) 289  
 Egyptian Museum (E) 53, 56, 57, **56**  
 Ephesus Museum (T) 446  
 Eretz Israel Museum (IPT) 225-6  
 Fethiye Museum (T) 458  
 Golan Archaeological Museum (IPT) 248  
 Golden Mummies Museum (E) 110  
 Göreme Open-Air Museum (T) 476  
 Haganah Museum (IPT) 221  
 Hecht Museum (IPT) 231-2  
 Hierapolis (T) 452  
 Holocaust History Museum (IPT) 215  
 Israel Museum (IPT) 215  
 İstanbul Archaeology Museums (T) 417  
 İstanbul Modern (T) 422  
 İzmir Museum of History & Art (T) 445  
 Jordan Museum (J) 291  
 Luxor Museum (E) 87  
 Manial Palace (E) 57  
 Mevlâna Museum (T) 473  
 Mit Rahina (E) 77, 80  
 Museum of Anatolian Civilisations (T) 469  
 Museum of Innocence (T) 422  
 Museum of Islamic Art (E) 60  
 Museum of Palestinian Heritage (IPT) 262  
 Museum of Seljuk Civilisation (T) 479-80  
 Museum of Turkish & Islamic Arts (T) 416-17  
 Museum of Underwater Archaeology (T) 453

- Museum on the Seam (IPT) 209, 213  
 Nubia Museum (E) 101  
 Palestinian Heritage Museum (IPT) 209  
 Pera Museum (T) 422  
 Rockefeller Museum (IPT) 209  
 Sa'd Abad Museum Complex (In) 140-1  
 Tel Aviv Museum of Art (IPT) 221  
 Tile Museum (T) 473  
 Treasury of National Jewels (In) 137-40  
 Yad Vashem (IPT) 215  
 Yakutiye Medresesi (T) 482  
 Yasser Arafat Museum (IPT) 256  
 Yitzhak Rabin Centre (IPT) 226  
 Zelve Open-Air Museum (T) 478  
 music 549-51

**N**

- Nablus (IPT) 264-5  
 Na'in (In) 163  
 Naqsh-e Rājāb (In) 177  
 Naqsh-e Rostam (In) 177  
 national parks & nature reserves 555  
 Ajloun Forest Reserve (J) 305  
 Azraq Wetland Reserve (J) 311  
 Banias Nature Reserve (IPT) 246  
 Caesarea National Park (IPT) 231  
 Dana Biosphere Reserve (J) 318-20  
 Ein Gedi Nature Reserve (IPT) 249  
 En Avdat National Park (IPT) 252  
 Hamat Tveriya National Park (IPT) 240  
 Hula Nature Reserve (IPT) 246  
 Makhtesh Ramon Nature Reserve (IPT) 252  
 Ras Mohammed National Park (E) 117  
 Shouf Biosphere Reserve (L) 388  
 Shaumari Wildlife Reserve (J) 311  
 Tel Dan Nature Reserve (IPT) 246  
 Travertines (T) 452



Nazareth (IPT) 238-40  
 Negev, the (IPT) 251-6  
 Nevruz (No Ruz) 27  
 Nile (E) 12, 65, 98, **13**  
 Nile Valley (E) 86-107  
 nomads, Iran 162  
 Nuweiba (E) 125, 128

## O

oases 23  
 Olympus (T) 463  
 opening hours 567-8  
 Ordu (T) 481  
 oryx 22, 553  
 Ottoman Empire 505-9

## P

palaces, *see also* castles & fortresses  
 Beiteddine Palace (L) 387-8  
 Caesarea (IPT) 231  
 Dolmabahçe Palace (T) 422-3  
 Golestan Palace (In) 137  
 Herodium (IPT) 262  
 Hisham's Palace (IPT) 259  
 İshak Paşa Palace (T) 486  
 Topkapı Palace (T) 417, 424-5, **424-5**, **424-5**  
 Pamukkale (T) 452-3  
 paragliding 458  
 Park HaYarkon (IPT) 226-7  
 parks, *see individual parks*  
 Paşabağı (T) 478  
 Pasargadae (In) 177-8  
 Passover 28  
 passports 571

Israeli stamps 39  
 Patara (T) 460-1, **45**  
 Pergamum, *see* Bergama  
 Perge (T) 466  
 Persepolis (In) 14, 175-7, **176**, **14**  
 Petra (J) 11, 320-33, **324-5**, **10-11**, **322-3**

accommodation 327-30  
 activities 326  
 ATMs 331  
 courses 326-7  
 drinking 330  
 food 330  
 itineraries 330  
 money 331  
 safe travel 331  
 shopping 330

sights 321-6  
 tickets 321  
 tourist offices 331  
 tours 327, 331  
 travel to/from 331-2  
 travel within 332-3  
 Philae (E) 106  
 Phoenician Empire 498  
 photography 568  
 planning, *see also individual countries*  
 activities 42-6  
 border crossings 40-1  
 calendar of events 27-30  
 children, travel with 47-8  
 countries 49-50  
 health 577  
 internet resources 21  
 itineraries 31-7, **31-7**  
 Middle East basics 20-1  
 repeat visitors 22  
 travel seasons 20, 27-30  
 visas 38-40

poetry 546-8  
 poliomyelitis 579  
 politics 494-5  
 pollution 556  
 population 494-5  
 postal services 568  
 Priene (T) 452  
 public holidays 568  
 Egypt 133  
 Israel & the Palestinian Territories 279  
 Jordan 350  
 Lebanon 403  
 Turkey 490  
 Pyramids of Giza (E) 11, 60-4, **62-3**, **64**, **11**, **62-3**

## Q

Qadisha Valley (L) 380-2  
*qanats* 170  
 Qazvin (In) 153-4  
 Qumran (IPT) 249  
 Quran, the 527

## R

rabies 579  
 Rabin Square (IPT) 221  
 rafting 247  
 Ramadan 28, 542  
 Ramallah (IPT) 19, 256-9, **19**  
 Ras Mohammed National Park (E) 117  
 Red Sea (IPT) 252-6

Red Sea Coast (E) 17, 113-17, **17**  
 refugees 395, 398  
 religion 495, 526-30  
 etiquette 558-9  
 religious sites 25, *see also individual sites*, churches & cathedrals, mosques, synagogues  
 Rift Valley Fever 579  
 rivers 552-3  
 Room of the Last Supper (IPT) 204-5  
 Rosh Hashanah 30  
 ruins, *see also* archaeological sites, tombs  
 Agora (T) 445  
 Ani (T) 485  
 Asklepion (T) 444  
 Aspendos (T) 466  
 Ephesus (T) 449-51, **450**  
 Kayaköy (Levissi) Abandoned Village (T) 458  
 Mausoleum (T) 453  
 Monastery of Al Kashef (E) 108  
 Olympus (T) 463  
 Perge (T) 466  
 Persepolis (In) 14, 175-7, **176**, **14**  
 Tel Al Sultan (IPT) 259  
 Temple of Artemis (T) 447  
 Temple of Bacchus (L) 391  
 Temples of Apollo & Athena (T) 467-8  
 Tyre (L) 19, 385, **386**, **19**, **36**  
 Umm Al Jimal Ruins (J) 313

## S

Sa'd Abad Museum Complex (In) 140-1  
 safaris, *see* desert safaris  
 safe travel 560-1  
 car & motorcycle travel 575  
 Egypt 133, 561  
 Iran 185, 561  
 Iraq 190, 193, 561  
 Israel & the Palestinian Territories 277, 279, 561  
 Jordan 350, 561  
 Lebanon 383, 390, 401-2, 561  
 Syria 405, 561  
 Turkey 490, 561  
 women travellers 87, 562-3  
 Safranbolu (T) 472-3  
 Saida (L) 22, 382-4  
 sailing, *see* boat trips  
 Saladin 505  
 Samaritans 265  
 Saqqara (E) 77  
 schistosomiasis 579  
 Sea of Galilee (IPT) 242-3, **239**  
 Selçuk (T) 446-9, **448**  
 Shabbat 283, 542  
 Sharm El Sheikh (E) 117-21  
 Shaumari Wildlife Reserve (J) 311  
 Shepherds' Field (IPT) 261  
 Shiite Muslims 526-7  
 Shiraz (In) 170-5, **172-3**  
 Shobak (J) 320  
 shopping, *see individual locations*  
 language 583, 585, 586, 588  
 Side (T) 467-8  
 Sidon (L) 382-4  
 Sinai (E) 117-29, **118-19**  
 sinkholes 555  
 Sinop (T) 481  
 Siwa Oasis (E) 111-13  
 Six Day War 517  
 skiing 46, 144, 382  
 snake bites 580  
 snorkelling, *see* diving & snorkelling  
 souqs, *see* markets  
 Sour (L) 385-7, **386**  
 South Sinai (E) 117-29  
 spas 249-50, 309  
 Sphinx (E) 61  
 sports, *see individual sports*, water sports  
 springs  
 Ain Gomma (E) 110  
 Cleopatra's Spring (E) 112  
 St Katherine Protectorate (E) 125  
 St Katherine's Monastery (E) 16, 125, **126-7**, **16**, **126-7**  
 Sunni Muslims 526-7  
 Syria 50, 405-12, **407**  
 synagogues  
 architecture 534  
 Ashkenazi Ari Synagogue (IPT) 244

synagogues *continued*  
 Beit Alpha Synagogue  
 (IPT) 243  
 Caro Synagogue (IPT)  
 244

## T

Taba (E) 128  
 Tabriz (In) 149-53, **150**  
 Tabriz Bazaar (In) 149  
 Tafilah (J) 318  
 taxis 575-6  
   Egypt 135  
   Iran 189  
   Israel & the Palestinian  
   Territories 284  
   Jordan 353  
   Lebanon 404  
 Taybeh (IPT) 257  
 tea 540  
 Tehran (In) 137-49, **140**,  
   **142-3**, **146-7**  
   accommodation 141-4  
   courses 141  
   drinking 145  
   food 144-5  
   information 146-8  
   orientation 146  
   shopping 145  
   sights 137-41, 145  
   tours 141  
   travel to/from 148  
   travel within 148-9  
 Tel Aviv-Jaffa (Yafa; IPT) 17,  
   22, 221-31, **222-3**, **226**,  
   **228**, **17**  
   accommodation 227  
   activities 226-7  
   drinking & nightlife 228-9  
   entertainment 229  
   food 227-8  
   medical services 230  
   shopping 229-30  
   sights 221-6  
   tourist offices 230  
   travel to/from 230  
   travel within 230-1  
   telephone services 568-9  
 Temple Mount (IPT) 208,  
   **210-11**, **210-11**  
 temples, *see also*  
   archaeological sites,  
   ruins

Chak Chak (In) 165  
 Colossi of Memnon  
 (E) 90  
 Deir Al Haggar (E) 108-9  
 Karnak (E) 87  
 Luxor Temple (E) 87  
 Medinat Habu (E) 91  
 Memorial Temple of  
 Hatshepsut (E) 91  
 Ramesseum (E) 91  
 Temple of Horus (E) 101  
 Temple of Isis (E) 106  
 Temple of Khnum (E)  
   100-1  
 Temple of the Oracle  
 (E) 112  
 Temples of Abu Simbel  
 (E) 106-7  
 textiles 157  
 Tiberias (IPT) 240-2, **241**  
 time 569  
 tipping 567  
 toilets 569  
 tombs, *see also*  
   archaeological sites,  
   ruins  
   King David's Tomb (IPT)  
   205-6  
   Qarat Al Muzawwqa  
   (E) 109  
   Shrine of the Báb (IPT)  
   231  
   Tomb of Amyntas (T)  
   458  
   Tomb of Rabbi Meir Ba'al  
   Hanes (IPT) 240  
   Tomb of the Virgin Mary  
   (IPT) 209  
   Tombs of the Nobles (E)  
   91, 102-3  
   Valley of the Kings (E)  
   90-1  
   Valley of the Queens (E)  
   91, 94  
 Topkapı Palace (T) 417,  
   424-5, **424-5**, **424-5**  
 Torah, the 529  
 Toudeshk (In) 163  
 tourist information 569,  
   *see also individual*  
   *locations*  
 tours 572  
 Trablous (L) 377-80  
 Trabzon (T) 480-1  
 train travel 576

Egypt 135  
 Iran 188, 189  
 Israel & the Palestinian  
 Territories 284  
 Turkey 492  
 travel to/from the Middle  
 East 571-2, *see also*  
   *individual locations*  
 travel within the Middle  
 East 572-6, *see also*  
   *individual locations*  
 Treasury of National Jewels  
 (In) 137-40  
 Tripoli (L) 377-80  
 Troy 440  
 Tsfat (Safed; IPT) 244-7  
 tuberculosis 579  
 Turkey 50, 413-92, 495  
   accommodation 413,  
   488-9  
   border crossings 41, 491  
   climate 413  
   electricity 488  
   embassies & consulates  
   489  
   exchange rates 417  
   food 413, 488, 490  
   highlights 414-15,  
   **414-15**  
   history 486-7  
   internet resources 417  
   money 489-90  
   opening hours 490  
   politics 486  
   population 487, 522-3  
   religion 488  
   safe travel 490  
   telephone services 490  
   time 491  
   travel to/from 491  
   travel within 491-2  
   visas 40, 491  
 Turkish language 587-8  
 typhoid 580  
 Tyre (L) 19, 385-7, **386**,  
   **19**, **36**  
 U  
 Umm Qais (J) 22  
 Underwater Observatory  
 Marine Park (IPT) 253  
 Ünye (T) 481  
 Ürgüp (T) 478-9

## V

vacations 568  
 vaccinations 578  
 Valley of the Kings (E) 90-1  
 vegetarian & vegan  
   travellers 540  
 Via Dolorosa (IPT) 203  
 visas 38-40  
   Egypt 38-9, 134  
   Iran 39  
   Israel & the Palestinian  
   Territories 39, 280-1  
   Jordan 39  
   Lebanon 40  
   Turkey 40, 491  
 volunteering 569

## W

Wadi Jadid (J) 315  
 Wadi Mujib (J) 317  
 Wadi Musa (J) 327-33, **328**  
 Wadi Rum (J) 13, 333-7, **13**  
 Walled Off Hotel (IPT) 263  
 water, drinking 580  
 water sports 46, *see also*  
   *individual sports*  
 weather 20, 27-30, *see also*  
   *individual locations*  
 West Bank (IPT) 256-66  
 West Bank checkpoints  
 (IPT) 258  
 Western Wall (IPT) 206  
 Western Wall Tunnels (IPT)  
   206-7  
 whirling dervishes 443, 473  
 White Desert (E) 110  
 wildlife 26, 311, 553-5  
 women travellers 187,  
   562-3  
   health 581  
 work 569-70

## Y

Yad Vashem (IPT) 215  
 Yazd (In) 19, 164-70,  
   **166**, **19**  
 yellow fever 580  
 Yom Kippur 30

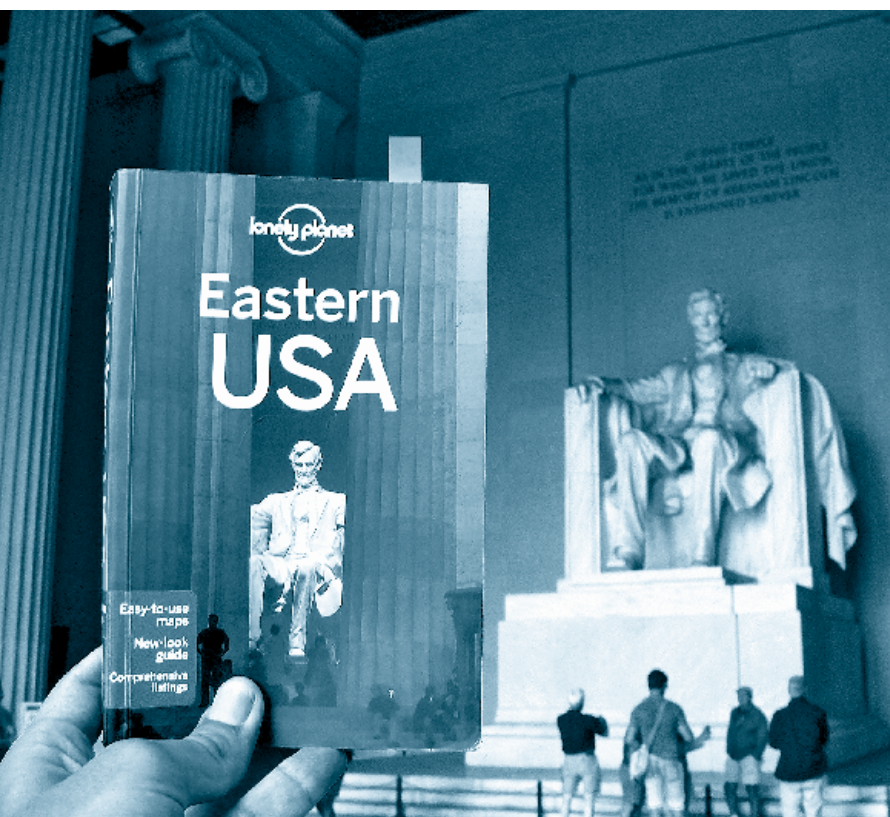
## Z

Zion Gate (IPT) 207  
 Zionism 512  
 Zoroastrianism 168

lonely planet

lonely planet

lonely planet



## LONELY PLANET **IN THE** WILD

Send your 'Lonely Planet in the Wild' photos to [social@lonelyplanet.com](mailto:social@lonelyplanet.com)  
We share the best on our Facebook page every week!



# 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



### Dan Savery Raz

**Israel & the Palestinian Territories** Dan Savery Raz is a journalist and editor from Essex, England. Since 2008, Dan has lived in Tel Aviv with his wife and has co-authored various editions of *Israel & the Palestinian Territories*. He has contributed to numerous Lonely Planet books including *Best in Travel*, *Happy, Street Food*, *Global Beer Tour* and *Great Escapes*, and written for BBC.com, *BBC History Magazine*, *HaAretz*, *Time Out*, *EasyJet Traveller* and *The Jerusalem Report*.

Back in the UK, Dan was Deputy Editor for *Flybe* magazine and Senior Staff Writer for *A Place in the Sun* in association with Channel 4. For more, see [www.danscribe.com](http://www.danscribe.com).



### Andy Symington

**Lebanon** Andy has written or worked on over 100 books and other updates for Lonely Planet (mostly in Europe and Latin America) and other publishing companies, and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar, has written a novel and is currently working on several fiction and non-fiction projects. Andy,

from Australia, moved to Northern Spain many years ago. When he's not off with a backpack in some far-flung corner of the world, he can probably be found watching the tragically poor local football side or tasting local wines after a long walk in the nearby mountains.



### Jenny Walker

**Iran, Jordan** Despite having travelled to over 120 countries, from Mexico to Mongolia and Latvia to Lesotho, Jenny'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 on to write a dissertation on Doughty and Lawrence (Stirling University),

an MPhil thesis on the Arabic Orient in British Literature (Oxford University), and she is currently writing a PhD on the Arabian desert as trope (Nottingham Trent University) in contemporary British literature. Jenny has written extensively on the Middle East for Lonely Planet for more than a decade.



### Steve Waters

**Iran** Travel and adventure have always been a part of Steve's life, and he couldn't imagine a world without them. Steve has been using Lonely Planet guidebooks for more than 30 years in places as diverse as Iran, Central Asia, Kamchatka, Tuva, the Himalaya, Canada, Patagonia, the Australian Outback, Northeast Asia, Myanmar and the Sahara. Little wonder then that he finally got a gig with the company! Steve has contributed to *Iran*, *Indonesia* and the past four editions of

*Western Australia*, and come any September you're likely to find him in a remote gorge somewhere in the Kimberley.

**Anita Isalska**

**Israel & the Palestinian Territories** Anita is a travel journalist, editor and copywriter whose work for Lonely Planet has taken her from Greek beach towns to Malaysian jungles, and plenty of places in between. After several merry years as an inhouse editor and writer – with a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between the UK, Australia and any Balkan guesthouse with a good wi-fi connection. Anita writes about travel, food and culture for a host

of websites and magazines. Read her stuff on [www.anitaaisalska.com](http://www.anitaaisalska.com).

**Jessica Lee**

**Egypt, Turkey** In 2011 Jessica swapped a career as an adventure-tour leader for travel writing and since then her travels for Lonely Planet have taken her across Africa, the Middle East and Asia. She has lived in the Middle East since 2007. Jess has contributed to Lonely Planet's *Egypt*, *Turkey*, *Cyprus*, *Morocco*, *Marrakesh*, *Middle East*, *Europe*, *Africa*, *Cambodia* and *Vietnam* guidebooks and her travel writing has appeared in *Wanderlust* magazine, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Independent*, *BBC Travel* and [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com). She tweets @jessoфарabia.

**Virginia Maxwell**

**Turkey** Although based in Australia, Virginia spends at least half of her year updating Lonely Planet destination coverage across the globe. Though the Mediterranean is her major area of interest – she has covered Spain, Italy, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and Morocco for Lonely Planet guidebooks – Virginia also covers Finland, Armenia, the United States and Australia for Lonely Planet products. Follow her @maxwellvirginia on Instagram and Twitter.

**Simon Richmond**

**Iran** Journalist and photographer Simon has specialised as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on the *Central Asia* guide. He's long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he's researched and written for the company, but covered countries including Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey. For Lonely Planet's website, he's penned features on topics from the

world's best swimming pools to the joys of urban sketching.

**Daniel Robinson**

**Israel & the Palestinian Territories** Brought up near San Francisco and Chicago, Daniel spent part of his childhood in Jerusalem, a bit of his youth at Kibbutz Lotan and many years in Tel Aviv, where he worked on a PhD in late Ottoman history, covered suicide bombings for the Associated Press, and helped lead the local Critical Mass campaign for bike paths. A Lonely Planet author since 1989, he holds a BA in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton and an MA in Jewish History from Tel Aviv

University. His favourite activities in Israel include cycling Tel Aviv's historic avenues, hiking the wadis of Ein Gedi, and birdwatching in the Hula and Arava Valleys.

**Anthony Sattin**

**Egypt** Anthony has been travelling around the Middle East for several decades and has lived in Cairo, as well as other cities in the region. His highly acclaimed books include *Lifting the Veil*, *A Winter on the Nile* and *The Gates of Africa*. His latest, *Young Lawrence*, looks at the five years TE Lawrence spent in the Middle East leading up to 1914. He happily spends several months each year along the Nile and is still looking for a plot where he can tread mud-bricks and build himself

a house. He tweets about Egypt and travel @anthonysattin.



## 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



### Anthony Ham

**Iran, Iraq, Syria** Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and US. Anthony also curated the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide chapters.



### Paul Clammer

**Jordan** Paul has worked as a molecular biologist, tour leader and travel writer. Since 2003 he has worked as a guidebook author for Lonely Planet, contributing to over 25 LP titles, covering destination swathes of South and Central Asia, West and North Africa and the Caribbean. In recent years, he has lived in Morocco, Jordan, Haiti and Fiji, as well as his native England. Find him online at paulclammer.com or on Twitter as @paulclammer.



### Orlando Crowcroft

**Israel & the Palestinian Territories** Orlando is a senior editor at *Newsweek*, author and former foreign correspondent who first visited the Palestinian Territories in 2012 to cover a football tournament and has reported from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza regularly ever since. He was based in Tel Aviv as a stringer for the *Guardian* in 2014 when he began writing for Lonely Planet. In 2017 he published his first book, *Rock in a Hard Place: Music and Mayhem in the Middle*

*East*. His passions include sampling local fire-water and road trips (ideally not at the same time) and he has never met a dive bar he didn't like.



### Mark Elliott

**Iran** Mark had already lived and worked on five continents when, in the pre-Internet dark ages, he started writing travel guides. He has since authored (or co-authored) around 60 books including dozens for Lonely Planet. He also acts as a travel consultant, occasional tour leader, video presenter, speaker, interviewer and blues harmonicist.

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CN 554153

9th edition – Sep 2018

ISBN 978 1 78657 071 0

© Lonely Planet 2018 Photographs © as indicated 2018

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Singapore

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: [lonelyplanet.com/ip](http://lonelyplanet.com/ip).

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'