

Jordan's Dana to Petra Trek

Trip Code: JDP

Version: JDP Jordan's Dana to Petra Trek



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk amongst sculpted sandstone following the most famous section of the Jordan Trail
- Explore the wonders of the 'Rose-Red City' of Petra
- One-week linear walking holiday through gorges and over high ridges
- Camp Bedouin style under the desert stars & full baggage support

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days trekking
- Max altitude 1100 metres
- Join at Amman

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 7 Breakfasts
- 6 Lunches
- 6 Dinners
- 5 nights Camping
- 2 nights Hotel

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This excellent trekking holiday in Jordan takes us from the Dana Reserve, southwards to the ancient 'Rose-Red City' of Petra. This trek has rapidly gained a reputation as one of the finest in the Middle East. Six days of trekking takes us through the most rugged country in Jordan, straddling the edge of the great Rift Valley. Starting out from Wadi Feinan in the Dana Nature Reserve, the trek takes us on hunters' trails through deep gorges and across high ridges, climbing gradually from around 300 metres at Feinan to around 1100 metres at the high viewpoint above Petra. Nights will be spent camping Bedouin-style with the local guide and crew. Crossing a final escarpment, we reach the spectacular 'Monastery', which heralds our arrival at Petra - one of the world's 'New7Wonders'. The route from Dana to Petra is now part of the 'Jordan Trail' which spans the length of this interesting and diverse country. The 'Jordan Trail' is an upcoming brand new way-marked trek and the Dana to Petra section is probably the most beautiful and best. This great adventure follows in the footsteps of many explorers and is a magical week of discovery, walking and above all, Jordanian hospitality.

View our full range of [adventure holidays in Jordan](#).

Is this holiday for you?

On this holiday we will be trekking through a desert world that has been crossed by nomadic people and their livestock for generations. Nowadays, the area is just about accessible by 4WD vehicles and there are rough 'roads' to the various camping places that we will use. We will be trekking on scant trails, however, far away from the route taken by our support vehicle. The underfoot conditions will include dry wadis, open sandy desert and rocky desert known as 'hamada'. There are also sections of narrow trail across rocky terrain including some easy scrambling. The tracks and trails we use are generally not difficult. We will walk for an average of 5 to 6 hours on each of days 2 to 6, covering as much as 15 kilometres each day and with a reasonable amount of ascent and descent. This is a relatively short trekking holiday and at low elevation.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Meet at the group hotel in Madaba. A single timed transfer from Amman Airport is provided.

Meet at the group hotel in Madaba. A single group transfer from Amman Airport to the group hotel in Madaba or Amman is provided. This transfer is normally in the late evening and a representative of our local agent will accompany the group on the 30 minute journey to the hotel.



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Transfer to Dana Village. Meet Bedouin trek crew and hike to Wadi Feinan.

We will make an early start for the drive southwards to the Dana Nature Reserve. Here, we meet our trek crew and trekking guide set off on a first day's walk which will take 6 hours including a stop for lunch. The walk from Dana to Feinan is essentially downhill with the initial 800 metre descent taking place in the first hour of the walk. After this, the route levels out and we can enjoy a far more gentle walk through a wide open valley flanked by the Dana Mountains. Arriving in Wadi Feinan, we set up our first camp of the trip.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Camping



Ascent
200M



Descent
1100M



Time
4 - 5 hrs trekking



Distance
16KM

DAY 3

Trek to the dry canyon of Wadi Barwas passing through Byzantine ruins along the way.

This is another 6-hour walking day, which will take us across classic 'hamada' landscape - dry, rock-strewn desert, with little sand. The route is quite level and there are spectacular views of the high mountain ranges to the east and the expansive Wadi Araba Desert stretching out to the west. Although the terrain is essentially flat, there are several small wadis (dry valleys), that must be crossed throughout

the day. We pass both Byzantine and Nabatean ruins during the course of today's walk and our local guide will point these out. We set up camp for the night in Wadi Barwas.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 350M		Descent 400M		Time 6 - 7 hrs trekking		Distance 18KM
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DAY 4

Follow ancient Bedouin trails to the lush valley of Reis al Feid.

Leaving the stony 'hamada' desert behind, there is a steep ascent across rocks and small boulders which eventually leads to a twisting goat herder's track. The initial uphill section takes approximately 3 hours. The track leads up into the mountains through a narrow and dramatic valley with wonderful views eastwards towards the Wadi Araba Desert. This is a steep and challenging section of the route, but extremely rewarding, as we finally reach the top of a high saddle. The descent to the river valley beyond is on a well-defined trail through rocky surroundings. There are views ahead of the next day's route. On reaching the dry river bed, we turn upstream for half an hour to our camp at Ras el Feid.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 1000M		Descent 350M		Time 5 - 6 hrs trekking		Distance 12KM
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DAY 5

A spectacular day of desert mountain trekking to camp at Shkaret Umseid.

We retrace our route along the riverbed, before turning off on a Bedouin trail that traverses a rocky valley side, gradually ascending by way of dry wadis and indistinct cols. This part of the path is particularly challenging, becoming less well-defined, with some easy scrambling to overcome the largest obstacles. This section lasts approximately 2 hours and eventually descends to a riverbed with perennial water. Look out for the elusive ibex in this remote area. The trail continues along the wadi floor and gently climbs up into the pale coloured sandstone mountains of the Petra region. The climb from the valley to the escarpment (where Petra is situated) is gentle and beautiful with a slight uphill climb towards the end across bare rock slabs. We camp at the col of Shkaret Mseid.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 650M		Descent 600M		Time 4 - 5 hrs trekking		Distance 14KM
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DAY 6**Trek through rock canyons to Little Petra. Onward descent to Beidah.**

Leaving the campsite at Shkaret Msei'd the scenery changes dramatically. We leave the narrow, confining wadis behind and find ourselves amongst wide-open sandstone hills that have something of the feel of a moonscape. The rock is smooth and soft and the terrain is easy to negotiate, with wide tracks and walkways. The Nabatean influence is apparent here and the first cut steps can be seen. The trail passes through Bedouin encampments, before reaching another rocky area. We descend into Little Petra using a little used route. The splendour of Little Petra provides an insight into what lies ahead at the main Petra site. From the main entrance of Little Petra, we make our way towards Beidha with evidence of modern human settlement in the form of jeep tracks.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 450M		Descent 450M		Time 4 - 5 hrs trekking		Distance 15KM
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DAY 7**Trek into Petra via a spectacular cliff side trail. Guided tour of Petra.**

We will say goodbye to our local trekking guide and crew this morning and we continue with our tour leader. The walk from here to Petra will take between 2 and 3 hours, with the initial walk across open farmland. The route then follows a well-defined mountain track with fantastic views across to the Araba Desert, some 100 km / 60 miles away. The walk into Petra is magnificent and is the culmination of 5 days of hard walking. The initial glimpse of the top of the Monastery, as it comes into view through the mountains, has a similar effect of the first glimpse of the Treasury from the Siq. We will then trek down from the Monastery and exit Petra by the secondary Siq before re-entering the site through the main Siq so you get to see the most famous view of Petra as though you are entering for the first time. After our sightseeing visit to Petra, we overnight at a hotel in nearby Wadi Musa.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Hotel		Ascent 700M		Descent 700M		Time 5 - 6 hrs trekking		Distance 16KM
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DAY 8**Departure day. A single timed transfer to Amman Airport is provided.**

The holiday ends after breakfast. A single timed transfer (3hrs) to Amman Airport is provided. If you would like to extend your visit in Jordan to visit the Red Sea, the Dead Sea or Jerash, please contact our team of adventure travel consultants.

Meals: **B**

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Red and Dead Sea Extension

Aqaba on the Red Sea, with its warm temperatures, is the perfect place for some relaxation after your adventure holiday. It is said that some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world can be found in here. The lack of strong currents, together with the warm sea temperature, creates perfect conditions for coral growth and this has resulted in fabulous underwater life. You can also swim with sea turtles and dolphins amongst schools of multi-coloured fish or take a glass-bottomed boat ride over the reefs. There is also, of course, the option to simply relax in the sun on the sandy beaches.

Depending on your preferred airline, it may be possible to fly from Aqaba. Please ask for further details.

4 days from
US\$695 per person



Guided tour of Jerash

Enjoy a full day exploring and learning about the main sites of the ancient city with a private guide. Jerash is one of the best preserved Roman cities in all of the Middle East and only an hour north of Amman. Within the remaining city walls archaeologists have found ruins of settlements dating back to the Neolithic age, indicating human occupation for more than 6500 years. Jerash is most famous for its Triumphal Arch, the Hippodrome, baths, and the wide street of columns leading to the Temple of Artemis.

2 days from
US\$350 per person



Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea Extension

Arriving at Wadi Rum, you will meet your Bedouin hosts and have the rest of the day to soak up the desert atmosphere, before settling down to sleep either in one of our traditional goat's hair tents, or outside under the canopy of stars - your choice! Day 2 is a full day of trekking in the region with a second night under canvas in the Wadi Rum National Park. On Day 3, we leave the desert for the salty-low of the Dead Sea. With free time to soak in the saline waters, we head onto Mount Nebo before continuing onto our accommodation in Madaba.

4 days from
US\$835 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Bedouin trekking guide
- Amman Airport transfers as described
- All land transport involved in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as per the Meal Plan
- Guided sightseeing tour of Petra including entrance fees
- Entrance fee for Dana Reserve
- A full service on trek including food and all equipment (excluding personal equipment)

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Some meals as per the Meal Plan
- Airport transfers other than those described
- Tips for local staff including the local guide and drivers
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Madaba

A single group transfer from Amman Airport to the hotel will be provided.

At the end of the holiday there will be a single timed transfer from the group hotel in Wadi Musa back to Amman Airport.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals except 1 dinner are included in the holiday price. Dinner on the first evening in Madaba is not included. Most group members will arrive late in the evening having taken dinner on the plane. For those arriving earlier the hotel has a restaurant or there is a wide range of dining options nearby (allow £10 - £15 for a dinner).

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Breakfasts on trek consist of bread, a variety of cheese, honey, jams, yoghurt, fruit, tea and Nescafe. For lunch there will be a variety of salads, spicy humus, breads and other dishes from which we can select, or a full packed lunch. Dinner will usually be a soup followed by barbeque or pan fried meat and vegetables with plenty of bread, yoghurt, and humus followed by fresh fruit and tea or coffee. Mineral water is provided. Vegetarians can be catered for.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

We will spend 1 night in a comfortable family-run hotel in Madaba and 1 night in a similar standard of hotel in Wadi Musa (Petra). All rooms are en suite.

Whilst on trek there are 5 nights supported camping. When camping, we provide 2-man tents, but it is quite usual for group members to find a secluded spot in the dunes (or by the campfire if preferred) and to sleep out under the blanket of stars. There will also be a basic toilet tent and washing facilities.

Accommodation is twin share. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. In addition during the trek, there will be a Bedouin trekking guide and a support crew of one or more drivers who will assist with the cooking.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately £100-£125 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses and the cost of your visa. You should carry your travel money in the form of cash and you should exchange the majority of this on the day of your arrival at the airport in Amman. Sterling, Euros and US dollars can easily be exchanged in Jordan. The unit of currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You should also allow a total of approximately £70 for tips to your drivers, local guides and trek crew. The cost of the Petra visit is included in the trip price. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Also, if you expect to buy considerable quantities of drinks or other refreshments, you should allow for this.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guides and porters. Tips do not form part of the wages of local staff but are seen as a personal thank you from group members. KE always pays local crews the best rates of pay, no matter what country they are in. For our part, we advise local teams that tips are not a duty or a prerequisite but are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that was given. For your trek crews we recommend that you give a tip if you feel that their services have met your satisfaction. We recommend that tips be given from the group as a whole rather than individually and as a rough guide we suggest a contribution of £70 from each group member should provide an adequate 'pool' for tipping your crew.

Baggage Allowance

During the trip your baggage will be carried by bus and by 4WD vehicles. The only baggage limit is that which is imposed by your airline. However, Jordan is a hot country and you will not require any heavy clothing, nor are you required to bring a camping mattress. Travelling light will also make transiting airports a much more pleasant experience for you.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Visa Jordan

If you are a UK, Canada, USA or Australia passport holder, travelling on a KE organised itinerary (inc pre or post tour extensions), you may now be eligible to receive a free visa upon entering Jordan. Please look for a representative with a KE sign between the arrival gate and before the immigration desks and they will accompany you to arrange the free visa and passport stamp. The free visa is reliant on us receiving your passport and flight details prior to travel and to you meeting with the KE representative before heading to immigration to join the single timed transfer. If you have not given us these details or if you do not meet with the representative for the single timed transfer you will have to purchase an individual visa for 40JD. Please ask for further details.

If you are arranging your own pre or post trip accommodation/excursions or transfers we will be unable to arrange a free visa for you and you will need to purchase an individual visa on arrival for 40JD

Other nationalities are included in the free visa scheme, please check with your individual embassy.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking holiday, getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. For this trip you need to be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking up to 5 or 6 hours each day for several days continuously. There are some easy scrambling sections during this trip and although these not difficult or dangerous you should be comfortable also with a degree of exposure. We would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to departure. Regular walking in hill or back country is the best preparation but if this is not possible, regular exercise with your preferred sport or pastime such as jogging, squash and swimming, will develop better fitness and stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country.

Climate

The best period for trekking in Jordan is in the late autumn through to early spring season, from October through to mid April. Outside of this period it can be very hot, with temperatures, rising to 40°C in July and August. In October and in April, the maximum daytime temperature is likely to be in the high twenties or low thirties °C, falling as low as 10°C at night. Heading into November the temperatures begin to cool and by December/January, typical daytime maximum temperatures are around 12 - 15 °C falling as low as 5°C at night. In December and January it can even snow in Amman.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Maps

Reise Know-How Verlag 1:400,000

Double-sided and detailed map, dividing the country horizontally just underneath al-Karak. Combines clear road and tourist detail with general relief indicated by contours, altitude tinting, mountain passes and peak heights.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You **SHOULD** bring the following items:

- Sleeping bag (comfort rated -5°C)*
- Hiking boots / Sturdy approach shoes
- Water bottles - 1 litre x 2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Trainers or sandals for sightseeing and camp use
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers

- Underwear
- At least 1 long sleeve shirt with collar (for sun protection)
- T-shirts
- Warm jacket (eg. Fleece)*
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Sunhat
- Warm hat (for chilly evenings in the desert)
- Sunglasses
- Daypack of approx 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Lighter/matches - for burning toilet paper
- Washbag and toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Antibacterial handwash (note that washing water can be limited in the desert)
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Shorts**

- Small towel
- Sleeping bag liner
- Thermarest (a foam mattress is provided)
- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Swimming shorts/costume (if extending at the Red or Dead Sea)
- Spare laces
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes

*For the November - February trips when night-time temperatures can fall below freezing in the desert, we recommend a sleeping bag comfort rated -10°C). a warmer jacket such as a down-filled jacket, and thermal baselayers.

**As Jordan is an Islamic country, modest dress is preferable in the towns and cities. Shoulders should be kept covered, and full-length trousers/skirts are recommended. Knee-length shorts are OK once on trek.

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers.
[-> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for joining in Amman. Single timed transfers to/from Amman airport are included at the start/end of the holiday.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Amman International Airport. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the afternoon, arriving late evening. Return flights will depart from Amman late morning on the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the afternoon.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Our Dana to Petra trek is KE's most sought-after trip worldwide. We seek the hidden trails and off-the-beaten-track routes of the Jordan Mountain Trail, offering a unique perspective of the stunning wild desert landscape. Our approach into the fabled Nabataean city of Petra is via the little known 'backdoor', bringing us to the foot of the imposing Monastery; an unforgettable and intimate moment.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 13/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change