



Pre-Departure Information

JORDAN PRIVATE JOURNEY



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WELCOME!

We're delighted to welcome you on this adventure! This booklet is designed to guide you in the practical details for preparing for your trip. As you read, if any questions come to mind, feel free to give us a call or send us an email—we're here to help.

PLEASE SEND US

- Trip Application:** Complete, sign, and return your Trip Application form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Medical Form:** Complete, sign, and return your Medical Form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Air Schedule:** Please forward a copy of your email confirmation, which shows your exact flight arrival and departure times. Refer to the Arrival & Departure section of the Detailed Trip Itinerary for instructions. Please feel free to review your proposed schedule with Wilderness Travel before purchasing your tickets if you have any questions about the timing of your arrival and departure flights or would like to confirm we have the required minimum number of participants to operate the trip.

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW

- Travel Documents & Medical Information:** Carefully review the Travel Documents and Medical Information sections of this booklet to familiarize yourself with Passport and Visa entry requirements for your destination, as well as any recommended inoculations.
- Optional Travel Insurance:** Review the Trip Cancellation & Transfer Fee Schedule included in the Detailed Itinerary. We recommend that all trip members purchase Travel Insurance.
- Final Documents:** Approximately three weeks before your trip, we will send you final departure documents, including hotel and local contact information and rendezvous instructions.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 1-800-368-2794, go to our **website** (www.wildernesstravel.com) or e-mail us at: info@wildernesstravel.com.

Travel Information

PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for your trip. Be sure to check the expiration date. Your passport must be valid for six months after your date of exit from Jordan. In addition, we recommend your passport have at least two completely blank visa pages for every country you will be visiting. It is very important that the blank pages say “Visas” at the top. The last few pages of your passport, which say “Amendments and Endorsements,” and the final page of your passport, which may not have a page number, are not considered to be legitimate visa pages. The service of adding pages for visas was discontinued as of January 1, 2016. You can request a new passport through **US Passport Services Office** (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>) or use a visa service agency, which can take care of your passport renewal and expedite the process, if needed. We recommend **Passport Visas Express** (<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=2120>). Be sure to allow sufficient time to acquire this before your trip.

It is a good idea to carry photocopies of your passport’s photo page and any acquired visa pages for your trip (if applicable) in case your passport is lost or as an additional piece of identification, as well as two extra passport photos.

VISAS

US citizens need a visa for Jordan. Visas can be obtained easily on arrival at the Amman airport in Jordan (and at the Cairo airport in Egypt if you are extending).

Jordan: If you are getting your visa on arrival at the Amman airport, the visa fee is waived for trip members staying for a minimum of 2 consecutive nights in Jordan. Upon arrival at the Amman International airport before the immigration area, you will be met by our local Representative in front of the gate, they will be holding a sign with your name on it for identification. They will also assist you with the visa process. Note that in the unlikely event the visa fee waiver request is not in their system, be prepared to pay 40 Jordanian dinars (approx \$60USD per person) in cash.

Egypt (if extending): Visas can be obtained easily on arrival at the Cairo airport in Egypt. For the Egypt visa, US citizens pay \$25 on arrival. Upon arrival, in the arrival hall, you will need to find one of the many banks. Here you will purchase a visa stamp for \$25 US per person. You put this into the first empty page in your passport and then proceed on to the immigrations desk.

Israel (if extending): See separate information re border crossing.

If you prefer to get your visa prior to your arrival you may contact our , or you may contact our recommended passport and visa processing service, **Passport Visas Express**(<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=2120>) (PVE). On the PVE website, purchase the Jordan Tourist Single Visa (valid for 3 months). PVE can also be reached by phone at 888-596-6028. Let them know you are booked on a Wilderness Travel trip.

If you are a citizen of any country other than the US, check with a local consulate for entry requirements.

MONEY

The unit of currency in Jordan is the Dinar. Major credit cards are accepted at larger hotels and shops. Traveler's checks are not recommended as they can be difficult and time-consuming to cash.

You will need to budget spending money for gratuities, for any meals not included in the trip itinerary, for international and domestic airport departure taxes, and for personal items as snacks, phone calls, etc.

If you plan to use your credit cards, inform your credit card company before your departure that you will be using the card abroad. To use an ATM internationally, you must have a four-digit PIN.

Plan to not have too much Jordanian currency left over at the end of the trip as it can be difficult to convert back to dollars.

TIPPING

Tipping is completely discretionary but customary. Over the years, clients have asked us for tipping guidelines to reward outstanding service. A range of reference would be \$25-\$35 USD per day per trip member for the Jordan guide, and for the driver \$20 USD per person per day. For tipping in restaurants, we suggest 10% of the bill. Portage at hotels and airports is included. If you are extending to Egypt or Israel, the tipping suggestions are the same.

SPECIAL DIETS

We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, however, please keep in mind that certain cultural differences or limitations due to logistics can make it extremely difficult and at times impossible to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please inform us at least eight weeks before your trip if you have a restricted diet. It is important to bring a flexible attitude and supplemental snacks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Time Zone

Jordan is two hours ahead of GMT, or seven hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time. Daylight Savings Time in the US may affect these times.

Telephone

The international dialing code for Jordan is 962. Please contact your cell phone company for specific instructions for international use.

Email & Internet Access

Internet access is available at all our hotels but not at our camp in Wadi Rum.

ELECTRICITY

Jordan has 220-volt current. In Jordan, you may encounter plugs with two round pins, three round pins in a triangular configuration, or three rectangular prongs. Bring a converter and plug adaptor kit for appliance use.

Medical Information

The following recommendations should be used as a guideline only; consult your physician for medical advice. It is vital that you let Wilderness Travel know of any medical problems, allergies, or physical limitations you may have. Please fill out and return the personal medical questionnaire, and feel free to consult us if you have any questions about your ability to undertake this particular trip.

Wilderness Travel is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding what medications or inoculations you and your physician decide are necessary for your safe participation in the trip.

Traveler's health information is available from the **Centers for Disease Control**. (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>) Medical travel products are available from **Travel Health Medicine** (<http://www.travmed.com>) and from **Magellan's Travel Supplies**. (<http://www.magellans.com>)

INOCULATIONS

Entry requirements are subject to change; check with the Centers for Disease Control for updates. All shots should be entered on your International Health Card (yellow card), which is provided by the facility giving the shots. Keep it with your passport while traveling. This provides an important personal record for you to refer to when making future travel plans. We recommend you discuss the following with your physician:

Yellow Fever

This is the only vaccination currently subject to international health regulations. The vaccination is required for entry into many African countries if you are arriving from an “endemic yellow fever zone” country (most of sub-Saharan Africa and South America). For more information, refer to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm.

Polio

People who have received the primary series of at least three doses of polio vaccine are considered fully immunized. People who are unsure of their status should receive the vaccine (three doses spaced at intervals).

Hepatitis

The vaccines HAVRIX and VAQTA (two injections, six to 18 months apart) give long-term protection against Hepatitis A and are worthwhile if you travel regularly to developing countries.

Tetanus Booster

A booster is strongly recommended (effective for 10 years).

Typhoid

The CDC recommends the shot or the oral vaccine, Vivotif Berna. You may not be able to take the oral vaccine simultaneously with mefloquine (for malaria prevention).

MALARIA PREVENTION

Malaria is uncommon in Jordan so we do not recommend that you take antimalarial medications for travel in Jordan. For further malaria information, consult your doctor or the **CDC Malaria Hotline**(<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/malinfo.htm>): 888-232-3228.

STAYING HEALTHY

In hotels and aboard the boat, don't brush your teeth with tap water; use bottled water. Don't use ice in your drinks unless you are sure it was made with treated water. When in doubt, ask your Trip Leader for guidelines.

Helpful Information

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. Camera equipment is available for rent from **Borrow Lenses** (<https://www.borrowlenses.com/discount/wildernesstravel>), with a 10% discount offered to Wilderness Travel clients. This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip.

Camera Accessories

We recommend bringing at least two large capacity memory cards or a small digital storage unit (or tablet) to back up your photos, freeing space on your memory cards. Don't forget to bring a battery charger and a backup battery so one is always charged and ready to use. For trips where you may be away from power sources for multiple days, consider looking into a solar-powered battery charger or buying additional backup batteries, and check that you have the appropriate adapter for the electrical outlets in your destination.

Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to wtphotoblog@gmail.com or tag us **@WildernessTravel** on social media.

Photography Etiquette

When taking pictures of local people, be aware of cultural considerations. Approaching people with a warm smile and using polite gestures or simple phrases to ask permission to photograph them usually works well. It is always recommended to engage people in conversation before asking to photograph them, but if people do not wish to have their photo taken, please honor their requests. We urge travelers to avoid giving money in exchange for photo opportunities, which makes it harder for future travelers to have a meaningful personal interaction with local people. Please always heed your Trip Leader's guidelines for what is appropriate.

BEING A CONSIDERATE TRAVELER

Please show respect for the cultures we are visiting by observing local customs concerning appropriate dress, particularly in sacred places. Your Trip Leader is always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. If it is necessary to use a cell phone during the trip, please do so privately. Smoking is rarely an issue these days, but if you do smoke, please do so only away from the group.

Packing List

THE ESSENTIALS

- Air tickets (or E-tickets)
- Passport
- Jordan visa
- One other picture ID, such as a driver's license
- Expense money

WT GEAR STORE

To help you prepare for your next WT adventure, we've put together a great collection of top brands including Patagonia, Outdoor Research, Eagle Creek, and more at our **WT Gear Store** (<http://wildernesstravel.newheadings.com>).

LUGGAGE

- Soft suitcase (wheeled versions are OK), with small padlock (must use a TSA approved lock for air travel)
- Daypack for camera gear, water bottle, and personal items needed during the day

NOTES ON CLOTHING

This list is meant as a guideline only. We encourage you to pack light. For city and hotel attire, smart casual is acceptable. For men, jackets can be worn for evening dinners but are optional. All visitors to mosques must remove shoes on entry. Women visiting mosques may want to wear a kerchief.

CLOTHING

- Fleece jacket or sweater for cool evenings and early mornings
- Knee-length walking shorts
- Light cotton or quick-drying synthetic pants or long skirts
- Long-sleeved shirts/blouses
- T-shirts
- Underwear/ socks. Synthetics dry faster
- Sleepwear
- Bandanna
- Shade hat with wide brim
- Sturdy walking shoes with good traction and ankle support
- Texas or other sturdy sandals
- Bathing suit (for swimming pools)
- City/hotel attire

EQUIPMENT

- Good quality sunglasses with case
- Plastic bags to organize items in luggage
- Personal toiletries, money belt

PERSONAL FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Every trip member should bring a small kit for personal use. Your own experience will influence your choices.

- Sunscreen of SPF #30 or higher. We recommend mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they do not contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. Brands such as Honest Company, Badger, and Alba Botanica are found in most sporting goods stores and drugstores.
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol, Tylenol PM for sleeping
- Topical antibiotic (such as Neosporin) for cuts, bites, or sores
- Insect repellent
- Blister kit. Look for the long-lasting gel-type bandages that you can apply directly on blisters, such as Band-Aid Advanced Healing Bandages or Curad Gel Multi-Day Bandages. "Liquid band-aids," such as New-Skin, are useful because they dry rapidly to form a tough protective cover over a blister.
- Anti-bacterial gel for hand washing
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl and cold remedy such as Sudafed
- Imodium for diarrhea. If you wish to bring an antibiotic for diarrhea prophylaxis, please consult your physician.
- Prescription medications properly labeled
- Spare contact lenses or spare prescription glasses

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Converter/plug adaptor for appliance use in hotels. Jordan has 220-volt current; plugs usually have two round pins.
- Camera, spare batteries, spare flashcards
- Reading/writing material
- Travel clock
- Money belt or neck pouch. Always carry your passport, credit cards, and cash with you in a money belt or neck pouch tucked down inside your shirt or blouse.
- If you really feel the cold, a Gore-tex jacket for cold nights and mornings in the desert

Reading List

ESSENTIAL READING

Petra and the Lost Kingdom of the Nabataeans

Jane Taylor

2012, 224 PAGES

Petra's history from the Stone Age to the Nabataeans (who constructed the city) through the Crusades is documented with 150 full-color photographs.

Arabic, a Language Map

Kristine K. Kershul

2003

This durable, foldout card gives easy phonetic pronunciation for several hundred of the most commonly needed words and phrases.

Jordan Map

Cartographia

2007

A folded, colorful map of Jordan at a scale of 1:700,000.

Married to a Bedouin

Marguerite Van Geldermalsen

2010, 279 PAGES

"Where you staying?" the Bedouin asked. "Why you not stay with me tonight -- in my cave?" Thus begins the fascinating odyssey of a young nurse from New Zealand who would marry and raise her family among the community of 100 Bedouin families living in the ancient city of Petra.

Lonely Planet Jordan

Jenny Walker

2015, 352 PAGES

A practical guide in the popular series, featuring maps, tips and much sightseeing information.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

The Snorkeller's Guide to the Coral Reef, From the Red Sea to the Pacific Ocean

Paddy Ryan

1994, 184 PAGES

This take-along guide covers coral reefs, fish, invertebrates and plants of the Indo-Pacific and includes 200 color photographs.

Jordan & Syria Map

International Travel Maps

2010

This double-sided regional map (1:700,000) shows not only Jordan and Syria, but also all of Israel.

Birds of the Middle East

Simon Aspinall

2010, 384 PAGES

An outstanding guide to 700 species of the birds in the region from the Arabian peninsula to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Cyprus. Second edition.

Baedeker Jordan

Verlag Karl Baedeker

2013, 274 PAGES

This full-color Baedeker features the best places to stay, eat, drink and sight-see alongside 3D laminated cut-outs and a pull-out map.

Footprint Jordan Handbook

Jessica Lee

2016, 172 PAGES

A sturdy practical guide in the British Footprint series, featuring in-depth practical information, sketch maps and an overview of history and culture. Covers: Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea.

Pimsleur Quick & Simple Arabic (Eastern)

Pimsleur Language Method

2005

An audio CD with eight 30-minute lessons in basic Eastern Arabic, covering elementary vocabulary and phrases used in travel and everyday situations.

A History of Jordan

Philip Robins

2004, 243 PAGES

An informative, brief history of Jordan and its monarchy from the 1920s to the present by a professor of politics at Oxford. Robins was previously a Jordan-based correspondent for the BBC and The Guardian.

Bedouin and Nomads

Etienne Dehau

2007, 206 PAGES

Photographer Etienne Dehau delivers a dramatic portrait of the bedouin and nomads who have made the deserts of Arabia their home, from the ancient rock facades of Petra to the camel breeders of the Rub al-Khali Desert.

Islam, The Straight Path

John L. Esposito

2010, 304 PAGES

A well-written survey of the faith, practice and beliefs of Islam. Its balanced tone and content are intended for an undergraduate audience, yet it also functions as an excellent overview for the general reader.

National Geographic Atlas of the Middle East

National Geographic Maps

2008, 128 PAGES

These maps graphically illustrate the history, politics, people and resources of the Middle East. With 40 photographs and 80 maps, including a two-page spread on each of the 16 nations.

Spectrum Guide to Jordan

Camerapix

1999, 347 PAGES

This handsome guidebook features in-depth essays and hundreds of color photographs introducing the culture, history and archaeology of Jordan. With travel information, maps, wildlife checklists and information on politics and the economy.

A Map and a Lens, A Photographic Exploration of Jordan's Religious and Cultural Heritage

Bashar Tabbah

2016, 275 PAGES

The product of ten years of work, this collection of photographs captures Jordan's most iconic archaeological landmarks and historic sites. British-Jordanian photographer Bashar Tabbah mixes his photos (artfully composed portraits and landscapes) with maps, timelines and informative text.

Islam, A Short History

Karen Armstrong

2002, 230 PAGES

Armstrong brings authority and experience to this vivid, clear-headed survey of the history and impact of Islam, from the birth of Mohammad to present-day challenges.

Lawrence in Arabia

Scott Anderson

2014, 624 PAGES

The four spies and adventurers who star in this captivating account -- the Briton T.E. Lawrence, the German archaeologist Curt Pruffer, the American oil agent William Yale and the Zionist agronomist and spy Aaron Aaronsohn -- played an outsized role in the making of the modern Middle East.

Live from Jordan, Letters Home from My Journey through the Middle East

Benjamin Orbach

2007, 304 PAGES

Orbach's down-to-earth, eyewitness report of daily life, attitudes and politics in Jordan.

Seven Pillars of Wisdom, A Triumph

T.E. Lawrence

1991, 672 PAGES

The monumental story of Lawrence of Arabia, as colorful and long as the famous movie it inspired. Some of the action is set around Wadi Rum in Jordan.

The Young T. E. Lawrence

Anthony Sattin

2015, 336 PAGES

The untold story of how the young T.E. Lawrence, an awkward archaeologist out of Oxford, first fell in love with Arab culture, embarking on the journey that would transform him into the legendary Lawrence of Arabia.

Mrs. Pollifax, Innocent Tourist

Dorothy Gilman

1997, 224 PAGES

Mrs. Pollifax must smuggle a manuscript out of Jordan, a document that encodes the shocking truth of Saddam Hussein's reign.

The Dead Sea and the Jordan River

Barbara Kreiger

2016, 304 PAGES

In this historical profile, scholar and Dartmouth professor Barbara Kreiger jumps into the history of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, bodies of water that hold immense religious and historical significance, but present a modern-day conservation crisis.

Petra, The Rose-Red City

Jean-Marie Dentzer

2000, 144 PAGES

Jam-packed with color illustrations, archival material, maps and site plans, this shirt-pocket encyclopedia includes a detailed overview of individual buildings and sectors within the desert city that was occupied by the Nabataeans from the fourth-century BC, conquered by the Romans and overrun by the Crusaders.

The Language of Baklava

Diana Abu-Jaber

2006, 330 PAGES

In this evocative culinary memoir, the Jordanian-American novelist recalls growing up with her gregarious, homesick Jordanian father, who cooked to remember the place he came from and to pass that connection to his children. With one recipe per chapter.

Appointment with Death

Agatha Christie

2011, 256 PAGES

Hercule Poirot steps into the story when an American tourist on a grand tour of the Holy Land is found murdered in Petra.

Women of Sand and Myrrh

Hanan Al-Shaykh

1992, 280 PAGES

Four women in an unnamed Arab country struggle for personal autonomy in this novel by a Lebanese author known for her beautiful and explicit prose.

Fishwatcher's Field Guide Red Sea

Jerry Greenberg

1982

This double-sided plastic card shows 64 of the most commonly encountered reef fish of the Red Sea in full-color illustrations, convenient for the boat or beach.

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