

Jordan and Israel Discovery



TRIP OVERVIEW

Home to a host of iconic sights such as Petra, Jerusalem and Nazareth the area is also blessed with stunning desert landscapes, the vibrant colours of the Dead Sea and picturesque Galilee.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Jordan and Israel. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Galilee D

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in picturesque Galilee.

DAY 2: Galilee B/D

The Sea of Galilee is home to some of Christianity and Judaism's most important sites; the area around this lake also offers rolling hills, valleys and quaint, small towns. Enjoy a day exploring the biblical sites of this region, set against this picturesque backdrop. Sail the Sea of Galilee as you cross these waters by boat to the ruins of the former fishing village of Capernaum, once home to the apostles Simon, Peter, Andrew, James and John. Continue onward to the secluded site of the feeding of the 5,000 before visiting the Mount of the Beatitudes, where Christ gave his Sermon on the Mount. Today, the site is a tranquil garden with a Byzantine church featuring stained glass depictions of the eight beatitudes and sweeping views over the lake and countryside. This afternoon a tour of a local kibbutz gives you a chance to witness this unique, communal style of living and learn more about the values of social equality and shared ownership that underpin these communities.

DAY 3: Galilee to Jerusalem B/D

Depart Galilee for Jerusalem, stopping en route in Nazareth where you can wander the cavernous interior of the Church of Annunciation, believed to be the home of the Virgin Mary. Continue north to the extensive archaeological ruins of Bet Shean, best known as the site where King Saul was killed by the Philistines. Explore the fascinating excavations peppered throughout the area, which include amphitheatres, bathing houses and pagan temples. Continue to Jerusalem, passing through the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley, dotted with palm-filled date farms.

DAY 4: Jerusalem B/D

Churches, mosques and synagogues lie side by side in Jerusalem, a site of spiritual significance for three of the world's major religions. On today's tour, follow a part of the path Jesus took to his crucifixion as you walk the Via Dolorosa, a winding street that leads to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. A visit to this church gives you access to two of Christianity's holiest sites - the hill of crucifixion and the tomb where Christ was buried and resurrected. Journey through Kidron Valley along the route of Jesus' flight to the Mount of Olives, as you make your way to the centuries-old religious monuments of Temple Mount, including the gleaming, golden Dome of the Rock - an Islamic shrine and important pilgrimage site. Continue onward and join the pilgrims fervently praying at the Wailing (or Western) Wall. In the afternoon visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum where you will gain insight into the experiences of the Jewish people during World War Two. The nine galleries of the museum display photographs, films, documents, letters, works of art,

and personal items found in the camps and ghettos of Nazi Germany.

DAY 5: Jerusalem to Amman B

Drive to the Allenby Bridge where you will cross from Israel into Jordan.

DAY 6: Amman B/D

A morning tour of Amman's historic downtown area takes in the cultural artefacts of the Archaeological and Folklore Museums, the hilltop ruins of the Citadel, the mosaic dome of the Blue Mosque and the vast ruins of the Roman Amphitheatre. Continue to the ancient city of Jerash which teems with well-preserved Roman ruins. Witness its long-standing theatres, soaring hilltop temples, and spacious public squares and plazas before returning to your hotel in Amman.

DAY 7: Amman to Petra B/D

Set out for the city of Madaba, famous for its 6th century map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land as well as its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics. Travel onward to Mount Nebo, renowned as the biblical city where Moses was granted a view of the 'Promised Land' that he would never enter. From here, journey south to explore Al Karak's imposing 12th-century crusader's castle before continuing to Petra for your overnight stay.

DAY 8: Petra B/D

Today's exploration of the awe-inspiring city of Petra starts with a dramatic entry through a long, narrow gorge flanked by soaring cliffs. Pass dazzling rock formations before the final turn opens to a view of the iconic 2,000-year-old facade of the treasury. Believed to be a royal tomb, the impressive rock-hewn site may be recognised from the film 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade'. Continuing deeper into the ancient city, you'll have a full day to explore its elaborate, rock-cut tombs, temples, sacrificial altars and Roman-style theatres.

DAY 9: Petra to Wadi Rum B/D

After breakfast, visit Al Beidha, known as 'Little Petra' for the similarity of its rock-cut tombs and structures. Witness centuries-old dining halls, washrooms, fountains and rooms which are skilfully hewn into the stone. Next, travel further south to the undulating desert dunes of Wadi Rum where you'll embark on a scenic jeep safari. Described by T.E Lawrence as 'vast, echoing and god-like', the locals refer to the untamed sea of red sand as the 'Valley of the Moon'. Soak in the breath-taking crimson mountains, canyons and dunes and overnight in a desert camp. Why not enjoy an optional Star-Gazing Experience from £39pp?

DAY 10: Wadi Rum to the Dead Sea B/D

Transfer from Wadi Rum to the Dead Sea. A day at leisure provides the perfect opportunity for relaxation or a trip to the shores of Dead Sea where you can float on its salty waters & cover yourself in its rejuvenating, black mud.

DAY 11: Dead Sea B/D

Take another day to relax on the Dead Sea or explore this area of incredible colour and beauty.

DAY 12: Dead Sea to the UK B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION: Day 9: Star-Gazing Experience from £25

Wadi Rum is one of the world's best star-gazing locations, this incredible experience offers the chance to learn more about the sparkling night sky in this stunning desert location.

You will be picked up from your camp at approximately 7:45pm in winter (summer times vary, you will be advised on the day). Your adventure starts with a 20-minute presentation that takes you on a journey that sheds light on the Cosmos. Anchored in the solar system you venture out in the Milky Way and then travel to all parts of the Universe. As the presentation ends, you step out into the real world and begin a trek across the sky. Guests will be split into 2 equal groups as follows;

Group 1

Follow the light of the green laser surrounded by a candle track. A professional astronomer takes you around the night sky, explaining how to find directions in the night through the stars' system before explaining the daily and annual rotation of stars. You will be shown various constellations and horoscopes with the aid of the laser. The astronomer will explain ancient mythologies about the sky from various cultures. This session takes 35 minutes.

Group 2

You will spend time on large telescopes, computerized with GPS locating systems. You will see various targets like galaxies, nebulae, planets and its moons, the Earth Moon, Binary stars, etc. The session is guided by another professional astronomer. This session takes 35 minutes.

In the middle of the show group 1 and 2 will switch.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to camps. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Jordan and Israel. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day.) Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner where included, will be taken in local Jordanian restaurants, whilst dinner will be served at your hotels. A variety of restaurants are visited, giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours. Any dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Tel Aviv you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Isram Israel**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/**Isram Israel** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Isram Israel

Telephone: 00972 3 694 7777
Email: Kelly@isram.co.il

Travco Jordan

Telephone: 00962 6 5666866
Email: Shatha.barqawi@travco.com or to3jordan@travco.com

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Isram Israel
24-hour phone number: 00972 52 588 8760

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Travco Jordan
Zaid Al-Kurdi: 00962 77 8464013
E-mail: Zaid.alkurdi@travco.com

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

IMPORTANT: Visas and border taxes

Israel: A visa is not required for entry into Israel as a tourist. On entry, visitors are granted leave to enter for a period of up to 3 months. Visitors entering via Ben Gurion airport are given an entry card instead of an entry stamp in their passport. While this practice is in place at other ports of entry, there have been instances where passports have been stamped for entry purposes. You should keep your entry card with your passport until you leave. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into Israel. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destination's tourist board or embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Jordan: A visa is required for your trip to Jordan. For UK Nationals, the Jordanian Government has waived visa fees for travellers staying a minimum of two consecutive nights. Our representative in Jordan will apply

for this visa on your behalf, therefore, please ensure that you have uploaded your passport information to 'My Booking' on the Mercury Holidays website at least 60 days prior to departure. Failure to receive this in the given time will mean that we are unable to apply for a visa on your behalf, and you will need to obtain your own visa. You can get a single-entry visa valid for 1 month on arrival at the airports or the Sheikh Hussein/North Border crossing at the Jordan/Israel border. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up to date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Border taxes: A border tax must be paid at the border crossing at Allenby Bridge from Israel to Jordan and is approximately 63US\$ (subject to change). This must be paid directly at the border.

IMPORTANT: Entry requirements to be completed before travel

All non-Jordanian travellers should complete the Travel To Jordan

Declaration Form on the Gateway2Jordan platform, www.gateway2jordan.gov.jo and follow all guidance provided by the Government of Jordan. Upon completion of the form you will be given a QR code which you must take with you and show at check-in.

The Gateway2Jordan form requires all travellers to submit a medical cover declaration. See the FCDO's guidance on foreign travel insurance www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance. Travel insurance must cover medical costs, emergencies and COVID-19 treatment. All passengers should check requirements with their airlines as visitors may be asked for evidence of insurance upon check-in.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Jordan & Israel Discovery is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. In Israel you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you always have first-hand knowledge. Should the tour not meet minimum numbers, then it will be operated with local guides only. In Jordan your local English-speaking tour guide will be with the group from days 2-6. During your time at leisure the tour guide will not be with the group, and for transfers an English-speaking driver guide will assist the group. Please note on Day 5, when you cross the border from Israel into Jordan, you will be met by a Travco representative at the Allenby Border, who will escort you to your hotel.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion; however, we would recommend approximately USD\$10-\$13 per person per day. Any accompanying guides we suggest approx. \$6-\$8 per person per day and for the driver we suggest approx. \$3-\$4 per person per day. All tips will be collected by your guide at the beginning of your tour for your convenience. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged. It is customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately £1.50 for the driver and £3 for the guide per person per day, and £1.50 for the airport representative. This is a total of £21 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips for the driver and guide can be given at the end of your tour for convenience, or you can choose to tip as you go. Tips can be given in any currency you have.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 15, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 15 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Israel is the Israel Shekel. Currencies such as Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Israel. ATMs and exchange facilities are available. We advise that you request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases. The currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar, known as JOD, but US Dollars are also widely accepted in the major cities. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in the local currency. Tipping is at your discretion in Israel, however we would recommend approximately USD\$10-\$13 per person per day. Any accompanying guides we suggest approx. \$6-\$8 per person per day and for the driver we suggest approx. \$3-\$4 per person per day. All tips will be collected by your guide at the beginning of your tour for your convenience. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in the local currency. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Local Tax

There is a departure tax to be paid when crossing from Israel to Jordan. This must be paid locally in local currency and is approximately £45.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions

Previous travel to Israel

Evidence of a previous visit to Israel like an Israeli entry/exit stamp in your passport does not normally cause any difficulties when entering Jordan. It is, however, for the Jordanian authorities to determine the right of entry into the country. If you have any concerns, you should contact the Consulate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in London .

Ramadan

Ramadan is estimated to begin on the 10th March-9th April 2024 & 28th February-30th March 2025. Ramadan is the most important month in the Muslim Calendar, and it is a time for people to be with their loved ones, self-reflect and renew their faith. During this time Muslims fast from dawn until dusk and abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and chewing gum. If you are a tourist visiting Jordan, you will not be expected to fast. While eating, drinking and smoking is strictly prohibited in public places, hotels will offer meals and non-alcoholic drinks at many of their restaurants and bars. If you wish to consume alcohol during your trip, you may do so in your hotel room during the day, and some bars will be open as normal after sunset. Your guide during your tour will be on hand to give you any additional information that you require. When packing for your trip, it's important you include a couple of different outfit options, so you're prepared for all the activities you wish to take part in. When you're relaxing by the hotel pool or sunbathing on the resort beach it's fine to wear swim wear and beach clothes. However, when out in public during the day, it is advisable to be more covered up to show respect to the local customs. We would recommend that women cover their shoulders and knees and men should wear knee length shorts or trousers when out in public areas.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Jordan and Israel is 230 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

FLIGHT INFORMATION

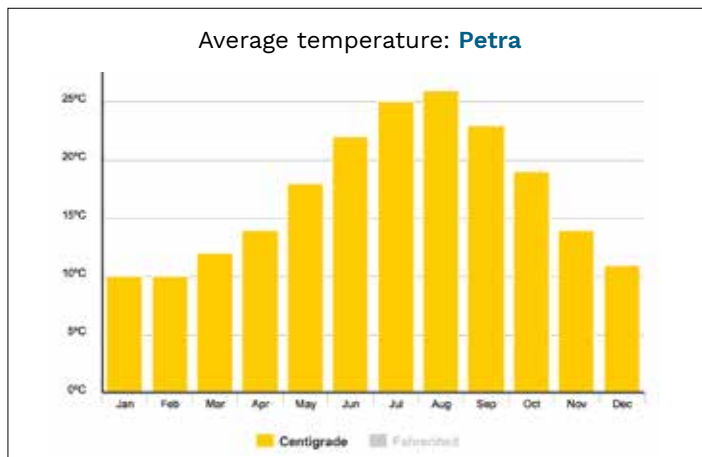
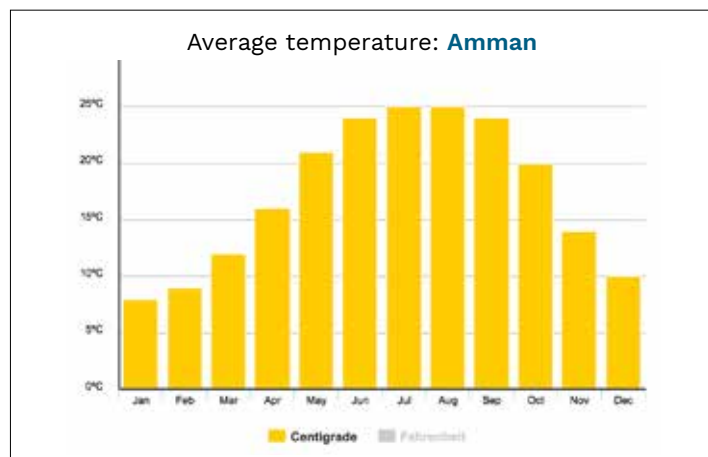
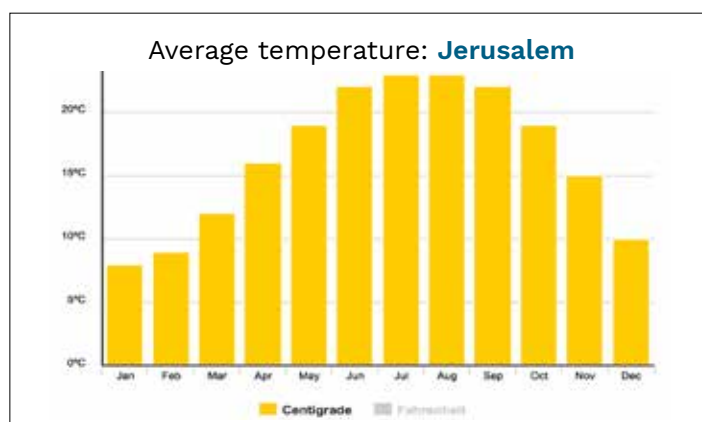
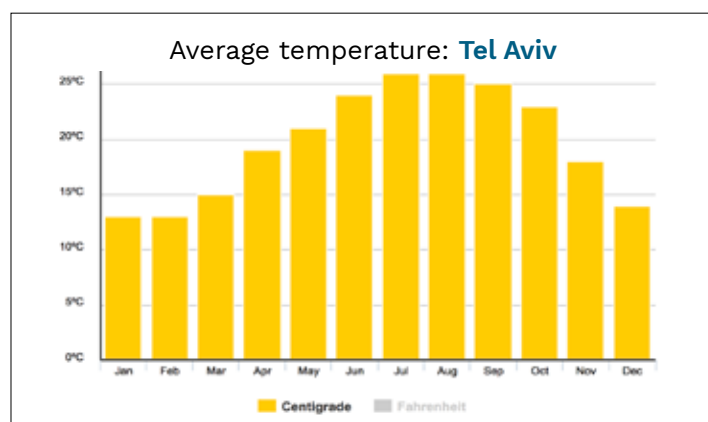
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Aqaba Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

This Jordanian port city on the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba is renowned for its beautiful beaches and also boasts historic fortresses, mosques and archaeological museums. Add on 3 nights in the luxurious beachfront hotel of Kempinski Aqaba Red Sea and make the most of Jordan's year-round sunshine.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Aqaba.

Hotel Information

Aqaba (4 nights)

Your stay in Aqaba will take place at one of the following hotels:

(3 nights) 5★ Al Manara Luxury Collection on Bed & Breakfast

Overlooking the Red Sea and the private hotel lagoon, this luxury 5-star resort boasts a unique design which blends Aqaba style with authentic Jordanian traditions. Offering excellent guest facilities including a private beach, dynamic cuisine at each on-site restaurant and an outdoor infinity pool, this hotel exudes tranquility.

Address: Al-Hashemi Street, Aqaba 1968 Jordan

Phone: 00962 3 202 1000

(1 night) 4★ Geneva Hotel Amman on Bed & Breakfast

The Geneva Hotel Amman is located close to the centre of Amman and shopping centre. It features an onsite outdoor pool and restaurant and has good quality rooms.

Address: Geneva Hotel Amman, Abdulla Ghosha Street, 11185 Amman,

Jordan. Phone: 00962 6 585 8100.

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Tour guides

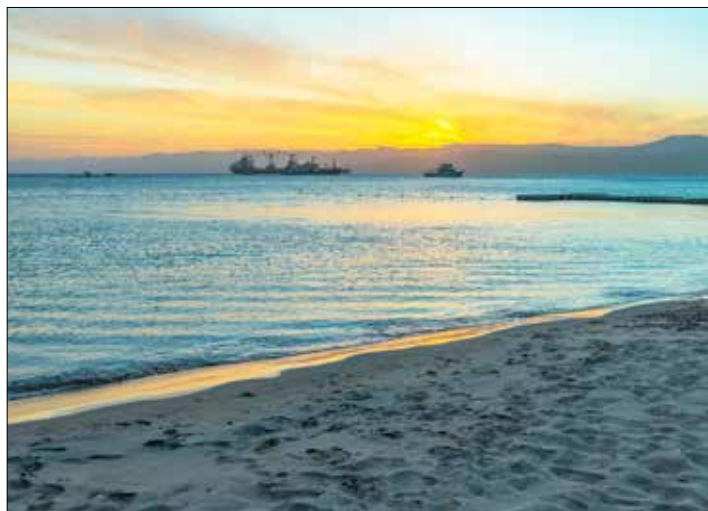
Your stay in Aqaba is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any additional meals, snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay in Aqaba will take place at the end of your main tour.



5★ Al Manara Luxury Collection

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Dead Sea Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



5★ Crowne Plaza Dead Sea

TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your stay with a beach break and relax in the beautifully serene surroundings, flanked by mountains to the east and the rolling hills of Jerusalem to the west. Situated over 400 metres below sea level in a remarkable landscape, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth. The land-locked waters of the Dead Sea evaporate to leave a dense, rich cocktail of salts and minerals, supplying industry, agriculture and medicine with some of its finest products.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to the Dead Sea region

Hotel Information

Dead Sea Region (2 nights)

Your stay in Aqaba will take place at one of the following hotels:

5★ Crowne Plaza Dead Sea on Bed & Breakfast

Overlooking a sandy beach and with the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea just moments away, the luxurious 5-star Crowne Plaza Dead Sea Resort offers a wealth of excellent guest facilities including an indoor and outdoor pool, access to FREE Wi-Fi and stylishly designed rooms.

Address: Ein Bokek M.P.O Dead Sea, 86930, Israel

Phone: 00972 8-659-1919

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Tour guides

Your stay in Israel is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any additional meals, snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay in Israel will take place at the end of your main tour.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**