

2023 - "YOU HAVE CHOSEN WISELY...", LIFE ON MARS, AND FLOATING IN THE DEAD SEA

GENERAL ITINERARY

| | | | |
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| Day 0 | 19-Oct | Thursday | Fly JFK to Amman (overnight flight) |
| Day 1 | 20-Oct | Friday | Amman (arrive 4pm); taxi to Amman; check in hotel; evening in Amman |
| Day 2 | 21-Oct | Saturday | Full day in Amman |
| Day 3 | 22-Oct | Sunday | Taxi to airport for car rental; road trip to Desert Castles and Jerash, dinner in Jerash; drive to Dead Sea |
| Day 4 | 23-Oct | Monday | Dead Sea, scenic sea and mountain drives to Wadi Mujib and Ma'in Hot Springs; Bethany Jesus Baptism Site |
| Day 5 | 24-Oct | Tuesday | Dead Sea to Wadi Musa (Petra) via Madaba, Mount Nebo, and Kerak; drive via Kings Highway, Desert Highway, and other roads |
| Day 6 | 25-Oct | Wednesday | Day 1 at Petra; and Petra by Night |
| Day 7 | 26-Oct | Thursday | Day 2 at Petra: trails |
| Day 8 | 27-Oct | Friday | Day 3 at Petra (morning); Little Petra; drive to Wadi Rum; camel ride in Wadi Rum |
| Day 9 | 28-Oct | Saturday | Day in Wadi Rum - full day jeep tour |
| Day 10 | 29-Oct | Sunday | Wadi Rum to Aqaba; swim in Red Sea; day in Aqaba |
| Day 11 | 30-Oct | Monday | Morning in Aqaba; drive from Aqaba to Amman; return car at the airport; taxi to Amman; Downtown Amman and Amman street food |
| Day 12 | 31-Oct | Tuesday | Fly back home (noon flight) |

DETAILED ITINERARY

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| Day 0 | 19-Oct | Thursday | Fly JFK to Amman (Air Jordanian overnight flight) |
| | | | |
| Day 1 | 20-Oct | Friday | Amman (arrive 4pm); use Jordan Pass for Visa on arrival; taxi to Amman; check into hotel; evening in Amman |
| | | | - taxi to Downtown Amman |
| | | | - check into Concord Hotel (right across Roman Amphitheater) |
| | | | - Roman Amphitheater |
| | | | - Odeon Theater |
| | | | - Hashemite Plaza |
| | | | - Citadel Complex with The Hand of Hercules and Temple of Hercules; sunset from Citadel |
| | | | - street art |
| | | | - supper at Hashem Restaurant: humus, moutabel, falafels, ful medames, bread, tea |
| | | | - Rainbow street |
| | | | - downtown Amman streets |
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| Day 2 | 21-Oct | Saturday | Full day in Amman |
| | | | - The Jordan Museum (Dead Sea Scrolls) |
| | | | - Royal Automobile Museum (excellent!) |

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| | | | - Al Hussein Park |
| | | | - King Hussein Ben Talal Mosque |
| | | | - King Abdullah I Mosque |
| | | | - walk to 2nd Circle |
| | | | - snack at Reem Shawerma (beef shawerma) and sweets (kunafe, baklava...) at Nafeeseh Sweets |
| | | | - beer at Corner's Pub |
| | | | - Uber to 7th Circle |
| | | | - walk back to Rainbow Street via Circles 7 --> 1 and parallel streets |
| | | | - dinner at Fatatri Restaurant (salad and feteer) on Rainbow St |
| | | | - ice cream at Gerard Ice Cream on Rainbow St |
| | | | |
| Day 3 | 22-Oct | Sunday | Taxi to airport for car rental; road trip to Desert Castles and Jerash, dinner in Jerash; drive to Dead Sea |
| | | | - check out of hotel and Uber to Airport |
| | | | - pick up car rental at airport (Dollar/Thrifty) - Nissan Kicks |
| | | | - drive to the East visiting Desert Castles: |
| | | | - Qasr Al-Harranah |
| | | | - Quseir 'Amra |
| | | | - Qasr Al-Hallabat |
| | | | - drive to Jerash |
| | | | - Jerash: Arch of Hadrian, Hippodrome, South Gates, South and North Theaters, Temple of Zeus, Oval Plaza, Nymphaeum, Colonnade Street, Churches, Baths, Temple of Artemis, North Gates |
| | | | - Dinner feast at Abu Yahya restaurant Near Jerash (kebabs, humus, bread, salad, tea...) |
| | | | - drive to Dead Sea |
| | | | - check into Dead Sea Spa Resort |
| | | | |
| Day 4 | 23-Oct | Monday | Dead Sea, scenic sea and mountain drive to Wadi Mujib and Ma'in Hot Springs; Bethany Jesus Baptism Site |
| | | | - swim in Dead Sea |
| | | | - mud bath at Dead Sea |
| | | | - drive to Wadi Mujib along Dead Sea via Jordan Valley highway; then drive to Ma'an Springs via a mountainous panoramic route (steep hills) |
| | | | - drive to Bethany Jesus' Baptismal Site |
| | | | - visit Baptism site on River Jordan |
| | | | - more Dead Sea and pool swimming at the resort |
| | | | - buffet dinner at the resort |
| | | | - long walk along Dead Sea Promenade |
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| Day 5 | 24-Oct | Tuesday | Dead Sea to Wadi Musa (Petra) via Madaba, Mount Nebo, and Kerak Castle |
| | | | - check out of hotel |
| | | | - drive to Mount Nebo and visit Mount Nebo site (supposedly Moses saw Promised Land from here before his death) |
| | | | - drive to Madaba and visit Archaeological Park and St Georgian Church with oldest cartographic map of Holy Land |
| | | | - drive and visit Kerak Castle |
| | | | - long drive to Wadi Musa (Petra) via Kings Highway, side roads, and Desert Highway |

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| | | | - check into Petra Peace Hotel in Wadi Musa |
| Day 6 | 25-Oct | Wednesday | Day 1 Petra; and Petra by Night (visit main Petra sites with amazing views all around) |
| | | | - walk from hotel to Petra Visitors Center (15min) |
| | | | - Visitor Center |
| | | | - The Main Trail |
| | | | - Djinn Blocks |
| | | | - Obelisk Tomb & Snake Tomb |
| | | | - Dam |
| | | | - Al-Siq (The Gorge) length: 0.75 miles |
| | | | - The Treasury (Al Khazneh) |
| | | | - Treasury Viewpoints (visited 3 over period of 2 days) |
| | | | - Street of Facades |
| | | | - Tomb of 'Unayshu |
| | | | - Nabatean Theatre |
| | | | - Royal Tombs (Urn Tomb, Silk Tomb, Corinthian Tomb, Palace Tomb) |
| | | | - Nymphaeum |
| | | | - Colonnaded Street |
| | | | - Great Temple |
| | | | - Qasr al-Bint (Temple) |
| | | | - The Monastery Trail (Ad-Deir Trail) - (roundtrip distance 1.6 miles; time to complete: 2.5 hours; difficulty: hard) |
| | | | - The Monastery (Al-Deir) - to get to the Monastery after the Main Trail ends, is a steep walk with 850 steps |
| | | | - visit various Viewpoints with spectacular Monastery views |
| | | | - walk back the same route stopping by Lion Triclinium |
| | | | - Treasury |
| | | | - stay for "Petra by Night" show near Treasury (climb with local "mafia guide" to the left (if facing Treasury) viewpoint and watch Petra by Night show from there; show is only 20min long; stayed there from 6pm-10:20pm) |
| | | | - walk down and spend some time by Treasury (10:20pm-10:50pm) |
| | | | - Al-Siq |
| | | | - walk back to hotel |
| Day 7 | 26-Oct | Thursday | Day 2 Petra: trails (amazing views every step of way) |
| | | | - walk from hotel to Petra Visitors Center |
| | | | - Visitor Center |
| | | | - Djinn Blocks |
| | | | - Obelisk Tomb & Snake Tomb |
| | | | - Dam |
| | | | - Al-Siq (The Gorge) 1.25 miles |
| | | | - The Treasury (Al Kaznah) |
| | | | - Street of Facades |
| | | | - Nabatean Theatre |

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| | | | - Royal Tombs (Urn Tomb, Silk Tomb, Corinthian Tomb, Palace Tomb) |
| | | | - Al-Khubtha Trail (from Palace Tomb to the Treasury's high overlook; then return the same route; roundtrip distance: 2.2 miles; time to complete: 2.5hrs; difficulty: hard; freshly squeezed Pomegranate juice at the bedouin tent at the top) |
| | | | - return to Street of Facades and walk to entrance of High Place of Sacrifice Trail (located before Nabatean Theater) |
| | | | - High Place of Sacrifice Trail (Farsa Valley Loop) (distance one way: 2 miles; time to complete: 3.5 hours; difficulty: hard) |
| | | | - break for a snack on a way to the top with great Nabatean tombs views |
| | | | - High Place of Sacrifice |
| | | | - Altar of Sacrifice |
| | | | - Obelisks |
| | | | - Lion Fountain |
| | | | - Garden Temple |
| | | | - The Colored Triclinium |
| | | | - Roman Soldier's Tomb |
| | | | - Triclinium |
| | | | - Renaissance Tomb |
| | | | - Broken Pediment Tomb |
| | | | - The Skull Cave |
| | | | - walk through the valley via the trail to Qasr al-Bint (Temple) |
| | | | - Colonnaded Street |
| | | | - Winged Lion Temple |
| | | | - Byzantine Church |
| | | | - Street of Facades |
| | | | - Nabatean Theatre |
| | | | - Treasury |
| | | | - Al-Siq (leave at closing - 6pm) |
| | | | - dinner at Rock Cave Bar/Restaurant by Visitor Center |
| | | | - return to hotel |
| | | | |
| Day 8 | 27-Oct | Friday | Day 3 Petra: morning at Petra; Little Petra; drive to Wadi Rum; camel ride in Wadi Rum |
| | | | - drive from hotel to Visitors Center at 7:30am |
| | | | - Visitor Center |
| | | | - Djinn Blocks |
| | | | - Obelisk Tomb & Snake Tomb |
| | | | - Dam |
| | | | - Al-Siq |
| | | | - The Treasury (Al Kaznah) |
| | | | - climb with local "mafia guide" to the right (if facing Treasury) viewpoint - most popular viewpoint with spectacular views |
| | | | - 9:30am say goodbye to Petra and go back to the car |

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| | | | - go back to Hotel and check out |
| | | | - drive to Little Petra |
| | | | - explore Little Petra and Canyon: Tomb Façade, The Siq, Triclinium, Tombs and caves, Albayadah Forest |
| | | | - leave Wadi Musa town and stop by "I Love Petra" sign with amazing views of Petra mountains |
| | | | - drive to Wadi Rum, with stops at various spectacular viewpoints of mountainous ranges |
| | | | - Wadi Rum Visitor's center |
| | | | - Seven Pillars of Wisdom mountain |
| | | | - Wadi Rum Village - check in with the host, leave car, put belongings into Jeep to relocate into Bedouin Camp |
| | | | - 30min camel ride in Wadi Rum |
| | | | - Jeep ride to Wadi Rum Travel Camp (tents) |
| | | | - Maqluba (upside down dish) dinner and camp fire at the camp |
| Day 9 | 28-Oct | Saturday | Day in Wadi Rum - full day jeep tour |
| | | | - Full Day Jeep tour in Wadi Rum visiting Red and White deserts and numerous sites: |
| | | | - Red and White deserts |
| | | | - Sand Dunes |
| | | | - Cow Rock |
| | | | - Mushroom Rock |
| | | | - Burdah Rock Bridge (natural bridge) from distance |
| | | | - Sandboarding in Dunes |
| | | | - Abu Khashaba Canyon - short hike though it |
| | | | - Umm Frouth Rock bridge (natural bridge) - climb to the top of the arch |
| | | | - Bedouin Lunch in the desert |
| | | | - Little Bridge (natural bridge) - climb to the top of the arch |
| | | | - Lawrence's House |
| | | | - Lawrence Spring |
| | | | - Kazali Canyon |
| | | | - Sunset in Dunes |
| | | | - Zarb dinner at the camp |
| Day 10 | 29-Oct | Sunday | Wadi Rum to Aqaba; swim in Red Sea; day in Aqaba |
| | | | - Jeep drive back to Wadi Rum Village, pick up the car from camp's host house, drive back to Visitor's Center |
| | | | - visit Wadi Rum Train Station (old 1920's train) |
| | | | - drive to Aqaba |
| | | | - check into Laverda Hotel |
| | | | - Arab Revolt Plaza and Flagpole |
| | | | - swim in Red Sea at Al-Grandouir Beach (public beach) |
| | | | - walk around Aqaba town - streets and shops |
| | | | - dinner at Khashoka Aqaba restaurant |
| Day 11 | 30-Oct | Monday | Morning in Aqaba; drive from Aqaba to Amman; return car at the airport; taxi to Amman; Downtown Amman and street food |
| | | | - visit Aqaba Fort |
| | | | - morning in Aqaba by the beach |

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| | | | - check out of the hotel |
| | | | - snack at Al Basha Restaurant |
| | | | - drive to Amman Airport via Desert Highway |
| | | | - return car at the airport |
| | | | - Uber to Antica Hotel on Rainbow St (next to Circle 1) |
| | | | - walk to Circle 2 (10min) |
| | | | - eat Shawerma at Reem Shawerma and Kanafe at Nafeeseh Sweets |
| | | | - return to Rainbow Street |
| | | | - eat baked Fava Beans, drink freshly squeezed Pomegranate juice |
| | | | - walk the stairs down to Downtown Amman area and walk around the streets and re-visit Roman Amphitheater |
| | | | - return to Rainbow Street and eat ice cream at Gerard Ice Cream |
| | | | |
| Day 12 | 31-Oct | Tuesday | check out from the hotel, Uber to airport, Fly back home (noon flight) |
| | | | |