

Dana Trek to Petra, Jordan

An unforgettable desert and mountain trek to the 'rose red' city of Petra.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Style | Trek |
| Accommodation | Hotels, Camping |
| Grade | Moderate / Vigorous |
| Duration | 9 days from London to London |
| Trekking / Walking days | On trek: 6 days |
| Min/Max group size | 4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4 |
| Trip Leader | Local Leader, Jordan |
| Land only | Joining in Amman, Jordan |
| Max altitude | 1,170m/3,900ft, Jebel Garoun, Day 6 |

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Departures

Group departures

2022 Dates:

Sat 26 Mar - Sun 03 Apr

Sat 01 Oct - Sun 09 Oct

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



Throughout the trip you will be accompanied by a professionally trained English-speaking Jordanian guide, who will have a large fund of knowledge regarding the history and culture of the country.

We can attest to the fact that the guides in Jordan are fun, friendly, well informed and extremely helpful. They become good friends in the short time that you have the pleasure of their company.

Your trip highlights

- Trek the most awe-inspiring section of the Jordan Trail - named by National Geographic as one of the best 15 hikes in the world
- Explore Petra, entering by the lesser-visited 'backdoor'. Stop at Little Petra en route.
- Begin your trek at Dana Nature Reserve - one of Jordan's must-see natural sights
- Avoid very long days and enjoy a well-paced itinerary with ample time to take in the superb scenery
- Experience floating in the salt-rich waters of the Dead Sea
- Enjoy a first rate camping experience on trek and stay in good quality hotels in Madaba and Petra.

At a glance itinerary

| | |
|----------|---|
| Day 1 | Fly to Amman. Drive to Madaba. |
| Day 2 | Drive to Dana. Begin the trek. Walk from Dana to Wadi Feynan. |
| Days 3-4 | Trek to Wadi Abu al-Sakakin. Walk to Ras el Feid in the mountains. |
| Days 5-6 | Ascend to a ridge for views, and up to the summit of Jebel Garoun, 1,170m/3,839ft. Trek to 'Little Petra', and explore the site. Visit Baidha Neolithic site. |
| Day 7 | Trek to Petra. Explore the Monastery and Treasury. Overnight in Petra. |
| Day 8 | At leisure in Petra. Dive to Madaba via the Dead Sea. |
| Day 9 | Fly to London. |

Trip summary

This excellent trip offers the ultimate trekking adventure in Jordan, following the most outstanding section of the long-distance Jordan Trail. The itinerary has been carefully designed to offer trekking in amazingly varied and dramatic desert landscapes, combined with some of the region's most celebrated historical sights. 2012 saw the celebration the 200th anniversary of the rediscovery of Petra by Swiss Explorer Johann Ludwig Burchardt. The gorges, canyons and astonishingly eroded cliffs make the trekking portion of this holiday a continuous experience of wonder!

Leaving the Dana Nature Reserve you will trek to the edge of the desert through a rugged landscape, surprisingly rich in flora and fauna. The high cliffs here are home to ibex and wild cat, over 200 species of bird and a huge variety of plants including medicinal herbs and unique flowers. Crossing the desert, you will follow ancient Bedouin trails through broad wadis into the mountains and over high passes; a harsh, but beautiful environment. Each night, your crew will prepare your evening meal and you will be able to relax in the cool night air. This trek finally leads you into Petra through the 'back door' past one of the city's wonders, the Monastery.

You will have plenty of time to explore Petra's myriad temples, tombs and dwellings both with your guide when you first arrive and then on your own the following morning when you can re-visit your favourite sights. You'll then head out to the Dead Sea to experience floating in its saline rich waters before finally driving back to Madaba and a farewell dinner to mark your final night.

This trek has been designed to avoid long trekking days - all times shown in the itinerary include lunch and rest stops.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Amman

You will be met on your arrival in Amman and then make the 30 minute transfer to your overnight hotel in Madaba.

Overnight: Best Western Grand Hotel or Similar, Madaba

Day 2: Drive to Dana - 2 hours. Trek from Dana to Wadi Feynan - 5-6 hours.

Boarding your transport you head south along the Kings' Highway to reach Dana Nature Reserve. This is a drive of around two hours. From here it is a short drive to the trailhead in Dana village. As with the remainder of your trek, you'll only need to carry your day sack with you today (your main luggage will be transported to your next overnight stop for you). Don't forget your camera! Descending initially on a broad track, your trek follows the bed of Wadi Dana which begins as a narrow canyon with high rock walls. In spring, oleander bushes bring a splash of colour to the Wadi and springs at Qussaib and Atta help to support vegetation all year round, including stands of bamboo and autumn crocuses. In the first couple of hours of trekking you may see what will become a common sight whilst in Jordan, a small herd of goats accompanied by their Bedouin herder. However, for the most part you're likely to have the trail to yourselves.



You will have a break for lunch in a shady spot along the way, before continuing on, leaving Dana to reach the edge of Wadi Araba. Incidentally, you also occasionally stop on the trail throughout the trek for 'tea breaks'. The donkey man or your guide boil a kettle on an open fire and then produce delicious herbal tea. Most refreshing! Your overnight camp is just a short walk away. There is no ascent on today's trek.

Dana

Dana Nature Reserve was established in 1989 by Jordan's Royal Society for The Conservation of Nature. The remit of the RSCN is to protect and manage the natural resources of Jordan, a role it has fulfilled with educational programmes, breeding programmes for endangered species, and the creation of seven protected areas covering over 1,200 square kilometres, of which Dana is just one.

Dana village is believed to have seen continuous occupancy since 4,000 BC. Natural springs, fertile soil and a strategic position overlooking Wadi Dana have drawn Palaeolithic, Egyptian, Nabatean, and Roman civilisations here. Within the last century or so the village began to fall into decline, but with the combined efforts of the RSCN and the remaining villagers, Dana is gradually recovering. Amongst the tumble down dwellings and neglected terraces are now carefully restored homes and gardens of fruit trees.

The Reserve itself consists of a mountainous area divided by a network of wadis, which extends to the lowland desert of Wadi Araba, some 1,600 vertical metres below. The altitude range contributes to Dana's great diversity of flora and fauna. The wardens have recorded a total of 690 different plants and 449 animals: 25 of which are considered endangered species including the sand cat, the Syrian wolf and the lesser kestrel.

Overnight: Fully Supported Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 3: Trek from Wadi Feynan to Wadi Abu Al Sakakin - 5-6 hours.

In spite of its apparently remote setting, the area around the Feynan Lodge has seen much activity through the ages. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of Iron Age settlements and copper mining was once a major industry. Within the first hour of your trek you will see evidence of the mines, the church built by Byzantine pilgrims in commemoration of the many early Christians forced to work in the mines and who ultimately perished there. You will trek along the western edge of Wadi Araba today, again following dried up river and stream beds. The terrain is rough and stony, with occasional desert acacia and juniper trees offering shaded rest stops. There are some gentle sections of uphill trekking, but for the most part you will be walking on level ground. Heading south, you're likely to come across further herds of goats, sometimes camels and the occasional Bedouin encampment.

The majority of Jordanians are thought to be descended from the Bedouin 'desert dwellers', but today, only a

small number live traditionally as nomads. This involves tending goats, sheep or camels until the available grazing is exhausted, usually a matter of a few months. Although many Jordanian Bedouins will now own a vehicle or other 21st century consumables, their tents are still constructed in traditional style, rectangular, with three fixed walls, open on the fourth side and woven from black goats' hair. The Bedouin call their tents *beit al-sha'ar*, or 'house of hair'. Tonight you will camp to on the edge of the deep, Wadi Abu al-Sakakin.

Behind camp rise spectacular cliffs which turn a shade of orange at sunset. You look out and down on the desert stretching out in front of you. To the north is a small rocky hill which is a short walk and gives great views of the camp. There are some ancient burial mounds at its foot.

Overnight: Fully Supported Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Trek from Wadi Abu Al Sakakin to Ras El Feid - 5-6 hours.

After breakfast you leave your camp and set off, away from the Wadi floor, up into the mountains. The Bedouin call this route *Naqb Shdayed*, or 'the hard way' and after two days of predominantly downhill, or level trekking, the reason for this moniker is self-evident. Although well defined, the trail is stony and rough, making a pair of trekking poles a useful item to carry. After an hour and a half of steady ascent you reach a small col, at 630m/2,067ft. After a short descent, you then enter a high mountain gorge on Sakakin mountain and make the straightforward ascent to a pass above at 895m/2,936 ft. Reaching this point, you have excellent views across Wadi Araba to the Negev Desert beyond and also of your next goal, a peaceful and surprisingly verdant valley with its thickets of juniper and wild pistachio trees. The descent from the pass is steep in parts but on a good path, and after a short diversion to see the attractive *Faid* waterfall, you'll probably take lunch in the shaded valley floor. This is an idyllic spot among bamboo thickets next to a stream. After around 30 minutes walking along the sandy bed of the valley, you enter a narrow section with steep, yet beautifully sculpted, rock walls. This is fantastic scenery - a series of magnificent gorges and incredibly eroded cliffs sculpted by time and wind. A further 30 minutes of easy walking brings you to your overnight camp, at Ras El Feid. Today's trek involves a total ascent of around 850m/2,789 ft. Again camp will be already set up and you can relax in your Bedouin tent. Undoubtedly you will want to explore the strange 'beehive'-like rock formations in front of your camp. How on earth were they formed?

Overnight: Fully Supported Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Trek from Ras El Feid to Shkaret Msei'd - 6-7 hours.

Today begins with an easy decent into the upper end of yesterday's gorge before another steep ascent of around an hour and a half, so you will probably make an early start to complete this before the warmest part of the day. As you gain height you may be able to make out Dana village on the far horizon behind you. After around 300m/984ft of ascent you reach a broad ridge that provides an excellent viewpoint of the surrounding wadis and mountains. Far below you lies the head of Wadi Abu Al Sakakin; beyond the striking peak of Abu Mahmoud and the Kutleh and Hudus valleys. Following the line of the broad ridge you will traverse above the network of steep gullies and deep wadis. After a couple of hours walking, you reach the ruins of a Neolithic village sited next to a deep well from which water can still be drawn. You may take lunch either here, or if time allows, continue right along the top of the line of cliffs ahead until eventually you come to an extraordinary rock formation. It is like a gigantic egg or boulder, but is actually part of the cliffs on which it 'sits'. It is a fabulous picnic place.



In early afternoon, you will begin to descend from the high ground through a landscape of sandstone cliffs and outcrops to reach your overnight campsite at Shkaret Msei'd. Today's trek has a total ascent of around 420m/1,378ft.

This camp if anything has an even more impressive setting than the first two nights. Your staff may even be able to gather enough dead wood for a small camp fire.

Overnight: Fully Supported Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Trek Shkaret M'Seid to Little Petra - 6-7 hours.

After some excellent high mountain and desert trekking, a day of further contrasts lies ahead today. Leaving your camp you gradually ascend to reach a broad open valley, irrigated by water from a nearby recycling plant. The land here has been divided up by a number of Bedouin families and a wide variety of crops are carefully tended, including feed for livestock, root vegetables, olives, lemons and pomegranates. Following paths and tracks through farmed land you reach a second broad valley, home to a number of Bedouin families and their camels and goats. A gradual ascent along a rough track leads you beyond the settlements to the col, or saddle between the summit of Jebel Garoun at 1,170m/3,839ft and its neighbour. This peak is named after a former treasurer to the Egyptian Pharaohs. The col gives a dramatic view of Wadi Araba and all the way northwards to the high pass on Mount Sakakin, crossed earlier in your trek. To the south you can see the summit of Mount Hoor, which stands above Petra beyond.



Turning now towards Petra you descend from the pass on a wonderful path and continue across the valley floor to reach a large sandstone outcrop. In amongst the cliffs and rocks here lies Siq Al-Barid - more commonly known as Little Petra. You reach a tarmac road that ends near the Siq entrance. There are a few souvenir shops here and a car park. This is quickly crossed and left behind as you enter the very narrow passageway between cliffs that brings you directly into Little Petra - an enclosed area with a series of rooms, tombs, water channels and cisterns, cut deep into the walls of a canyon. Little Petra is just 350m/1,148ft long but it's well worth taking some time to explore. A number of the chambers are readily accessible and inside one you can see the remains of painted frescoes dating to the 1st Century AD. At the height of caravan trade in this region, Siq Al-Barid was a busy caravanserai (overnight halt). Camels could graze outside the Siq, whilst inside the chambers were used for storing the treasured goods and for eating, entertainment and sleeping. Having punished your camera enough and left Little Petra in awe, you now trek for a further hour or so to a camp near the 'back door' of Petra itself. There will be an end of trek party tonight and the possibility that musicians may be 'found' to aid the Jordanian style of dance!

Overnight: Fully Supported Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Trek to Petra - 5-6 hours. Visit the Monastery and Treasury.

From Little Petra it's a short walk to the Neolithic site of Baidha. Alongside Jericho, this is thought to be the oldest inhabited site in the entire Middle East. Originally excavated in 1958, archaeologists now believe the ruins date back 7,000 BC. Your onward route into Petra lies alongside Baidha and you head off, having had a foretaste of the historic treasures to come.

Being so close now to the 'back door' you can arrive at the monastery before the crowds and enjoy this part in peace and quiet. From camp you cross desert scenery with little indication that there are the remains of an ancient civilisation of world scale significance just ahead of you. The path is good throughout, following a series of rocky ledges up through the mountains. As you near the main Petra site, you'll catch sight of the occasional rock tomb, or dwelling, seemingly inaccessible in the high cliffs. Two to three hours after leaving Baidha you will breast a small rise and suddenly before you stands al-Deir, the 'Monastery'. This giant, beautifully carved facade is Petra's largest monument and is thought to have either been a temple, or a tomb for one of the later Nabatean Kings. Inside is one large, plain, undecorated chamber, but it is worth clambering over the large step, if only to have your picture taken on the threshold of the most unusual doorways you're likely to stand in. Across from the Monastery you can rest awhile in the shade of a cave from where Bedouin tea and cold drinks are served.

Probably less than half of Petra's visitors actually see the Monastery and the reason for this becomes apparent, as you watch those toiling up the 900 rock cut steps which lead you down into the main site proper. As you descend the sheer scale of Petra becomes apparent. Away in the distance you will see the Royal Tombs, a row of mausolea including: Urn Tomb, fronted by an impressive colonnade; Silk Tomb, so named because of its multicoloured sandstone walls; and the large Palace Tomb. At the foot of the steps it is a short walk to Qasr al-Bint al Pharaun, a temple to Dushara - a Nabatean deity and then on to the Colonnaded Street, a paved Roman road. On a slight rise above the street lies a recently excavated Byzantine Church, with a wonderfully well-preserved mosaic floor. Slightly higher again, is a small mound giving a panoramic view of the whole site.

No visit to Petra is complete without a visit to the Treasury, standing some 130m/4,27ft tall, the Treasury is Petra's largest and most famous monument. Carved out of a sheer rock wall some 2,000 years ago it is thought to have been the tomb of a Nabatean King. The façade has ornate carvings of Nabatean gods, as well as two representing Pollux and Castor, sons of Zeus. On top of the temple sits a large rock urn, heavily damaged by Bedouin who took occasional pot-shots at it, hoping to break free the gold they believed to be held within: a belief that led to the name - "Treasury". You will exit Petra via the Siq, this is the classic gateway to Petra, a 1¼km twisting, narrow gorge with 200m high walls which leads you gently uphill. The Siq has been paved in parts, but sections of Roman paving remain along with sections of the rock-cut channels that brought water into the city in ancient times.

You will overnight in a hotel in Petra.

Overnight: Petra Moon Hotel or Similar (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: At leisure in Petra. Drive to Dead Sea and continue to Madaba.

You will have a morning at leisure in Petra for your own further exploration.

Later you will drive to the famous Dead Sea, bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and Palestine to the west. The Dead Sea is located 430m/1,412ft below sea level and is nearly nine times as salty as the ocean. You should have time for a swim there to experience for yourself the super buoyancy that this salinity causes.

You will then continue north to Madaba where you will go out for a farewell dinner.



Overnight: Best Western Grand Hotel or Similar, Madaba (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Group transfer to airport. Fly to London.

After breakfast you will be transferred to Amman airport in time for your flight home. **(Meals: B)**

Our grading system

Dana Trek to Petra is graded as a Moderate/Vigorous trekking holiday, as described below.

Moderate

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

Vigorous

Typically these trips involve 8 to 14 days (occasionally more) trekking in relatively remote landscapes. High passes up to 4,900m/16,000ft may be crossed (sometimes snow-covered) and there may also be glacier travel and peak ascents. Walking days can be between 5 and 8 hours with considerable ascents and descents. This grade also covers some European treks of shorter durations. Overnight stops on trek could be in tea houses, mountain huts or camping.

These holidays would suit enthusiastic hill/mountain walkers.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ A Local English-speaking Leader
- ✓ Good standard hotel accommodation (usually 3/4 star) in Petra and Madaba
- ✓ All camping facilities including a Bedouin tent for dining in and all meals on trek
- ✓ Camp staff to carry out all camp work
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Vehicle support for transport of baggage
- ✓ Sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle
- ✓ Opportunity to join one of our pre-trip meets in the Cotswolds

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Lunch and evening meal in Madaba on Day 1 and lunch on Day 9
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Fully Supported Camp

Whilst on trek, Days 2-6, you'll sleep in regular 2-3 person sized dome/ridge tents. On trek there will be a Bedouin tent for relaxing in and for meals. We even bring in a 'portaloo' by vehicle each night. There is a separate kitchen tent. There is also a rudimentary shower.



Petra Moon Hotel or Similar

Located just 300ft from the entrance gates to the historic site of Petra, the Petra Moon Hotel offers both comfort and convenience. Rooms are spacious and well-appointed with flat screen TVs and air conditioning. The hotel has a restaurant, outdoor pool and delightful roof terrace with views across to the surrounding mountains.



Best Western Grand Hotel or Similar, Madaba

This 4 star hotel has all the modern amenities including an outdoor swimming pool. Bedrooms have air conditioning and room service.

Meal arrangements

Bed and breakfast in Madaba. All meals provided elsewhere: 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

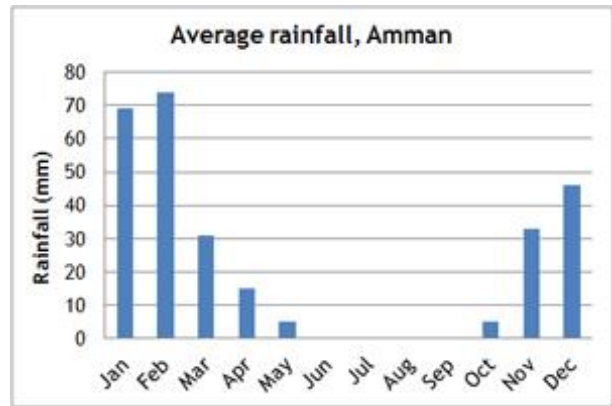
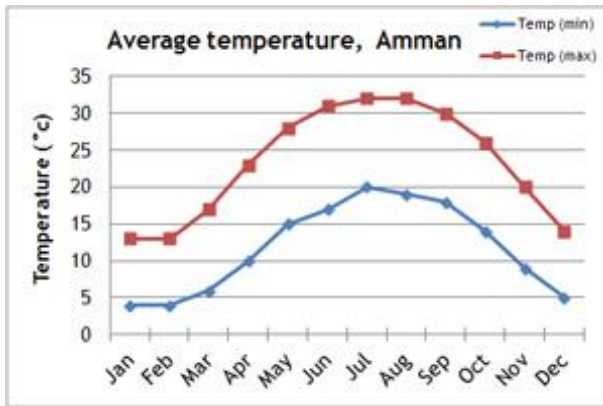
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



If you would like to extend your trip to Jordan, we would be happy to arrange this for you. Additional nights in Amman will provide time to explore the city or pay a day visit to nearby Jerash. Whilst the Dead Sea, with its well-appointed Spa Hotels, or Aqaba on the Red Sea, make for more relaxing alternatives. You could also spend some time exploring the famed desert landscape of Wadi Rum.

Wadi Rum



Add 2 or 3 extra nights to the end of your holiday so that you can explore the remarkable red-sand desert landscape of Wadi Rum. Stay in a desert camp and take walks and jeep rides to discover some of the stunning dunes, canyons and rock formations that the area is celebrated for. You will also have the opportunity to take a dip in the Dead Sea on your return to Madaba.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- Jordan is a country rich in cultural and historical interest. We have specially designed this itinerary so that you will see many of the region's most important sites, in addition to enjoying the very best trek.
- You explore 'Little Petra' which is highly impressive in its own right, and is less visited than Petra.
- On our itinerary you enter Petra for the first time through the 'back door' - used by few tourists. But you can also exit and re-enter through the Siq for those classic Petra photographs. We ensure you have ample time to explore Petra both with your guide and on your own.
- Your trek will be led by a knowledgeable, well-trained English-speaking guide supported by an experienced trekking crew who will provide an excellent standard of service. Your gear will be portered for you so all you need to carry is a small daypack.
- We provide a fully portered, full service camping experience on trek using the best available equipment, food and facilities in Jordan. You will even have a donkey to carry the drinking water.
- The hotels we use has been selected both for their location and levels of comfort.
- We have a maximum group size of 12 to provide all the benefits of a genuine small group experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger trekking groups.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What our clients say



I enjoyed the Mountain Kingdoms philosophy of using less crowded routes and supporting local enterprise and culture.
-Mr T L, Lancashire

We had a really enjoyable time in Jordan and feel that we saw and experienced all of the stuff we wanted- and more. Experiencing the canyons, desert and wilderness of Jordan was undoubtedly spectacular.
-Mr & Mrs T, Nottinghamshire



The trek was the ideal way to explore Jordan. We trekked through the beautiful Jordanian mountains and stayed in remote camps that were pitched for us each night in the best spots. Approaching Petra from the 'back door' meant avoiding all the crowds. Two other big highlights of the trip were the warm welcome that we received from the Jordanian people and the delicious food.
-Steve Berry, Mountain Kingdoms



Stunning! I can't imagine a better way to discover Petra; the trek through Dana Nature Reserve and camping under clear desert skies were a real pleasure. I would highly recommend entering Petra from the 'backdoor' - a great reward at the end of a beautiful trek. This trip was culturally rewarding from start to finish.
-Kerry Robins, Mountain Kingdoms

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

