

DANA TO PETRA

BASIC INFORMATION FOR YOUR
DANA TO PETRA HIKE



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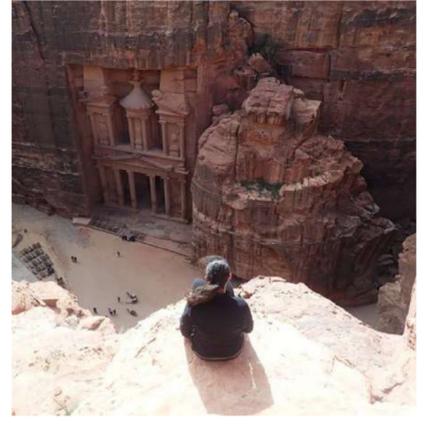
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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Queen Alia International airport is located 20 miles (30km) south of Amman, the capital city of Jordan. It is the home hub of Royal Jordanian Airlines, and is currently being used by over 40 airlines.

The airport has one terminal divided into 2 levels with free wifi throughout. After baggage claim you will find a Duty Free section. Post arrivals there is a convenience store, Starbucks, and ice cream. No full restaurants can be found at arrivals, but in the departure level you will find several restaurants as well as a few duty free areas and another Starbucks.

JORDAN VISA REQUIREMENTS

Many nationalities can get a visa for Jordan at the airport or at the Sheikh Hussein crossing. However, the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge crossing and the Arava Border crossing do not issue visas. Visa requirements for Jordan are shown on the Jordan Tourism Board Website. The entry visa to Jordan is 40JD, and must be paid in Jordanian Dinar. There are currency exchanges and an ATM at the ports of entry. *Please refer to your itinerary for questions about visas as this has already been planned for by your travel specialist.*

Jordan Pass is a fantastic sightseeing package tailor-made for guests visiting Jordan. It gives you the pleasure of visiting top sights and attractions whilst saving time, money, and stress. A onetime purchase before entering the country gives you free access to many of the most famous historical sites in the country. Learn more at jordanpass.jo.



VACCINATIONS & HEALTH INFO

Although the following vaccinations are recommended for most travelers to Jordan, before traveling talk with your health care professional about the current information and requirements for vaccinations:

diphtheria & tetanus – single booster recommended if you've had none in the previous 10 years,

hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, mumps & rubella, polio, typhoid, yellow fever – vaccination is required for entry into Jordan for all travelers over one year of age if coming from infected areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of South America.

You should carry along an adequate supply of any prescribed medications you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage (not in checked baggage) in their original, labeled containers only.

Travelers with physical disabilities and those who require frequent or ongoing medical attention should advise us of their health situation at the time of booking.

SMOKING

Although smoking can be seen in most places in the country, we ask that you refrain from smoking while in sightseeing vehicles.

In addition to cigarettes and cigars, Arguilah (hubbly bubbly, shisha, water pipe) is practiced at most cafes and restaurants.



CURRENCY

The currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD) – known as the jay-dee, which is made up of 1000 fils. You will sometimes hear piastre or girsh, which are both 10 fils (10 qirsh equals 100 fils).

Try to change larger notes as often as possible at larger restaurants and when paying your hotel bill. Changing money is very easy in Jordan, and most major currencies are accepted in cash and travellers cheques. US dollars are the most accepted, followed by UK pounds and euros.

ATMs abound in all but the smaller towns. Visa is the most widely accepted card followed by MasterCard. Other cards, such as Cirrus, AMEX, and Plus, are also accepted by many ATMs. Although credit cards are widely accepted, cash is still king here.

ELECTRICITY

In Jordan electricity runs 220/240 volts with thin, circular two pin plugs. If you do bring electrical appliances, take along international converter kit complete with a set of adapter plug.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is usually available at larger hotels. However, remember to check the hotel's individual laundry return policy and pricing schedule before choosing to have laundry done at a hotel. It is also suggested that you request laundry service only when you have a sufficient length of stay remaining to ensure that your laundry is to you before depart.

TIME ZONE
CLIMATE
HOLIDAYS



TIME ZONE

Jordan is 3 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) during Daylight Savings Time and GMT+2 for the remainder of the year. Please always check the time difference before arrival to Jordan. We wouldn't want you to miss any of your adventures!

CLIMATE

Jordan has a hot, dry climate characterized by long, hot, dry summers and short, cool winters. The climate is influenced by Jordan's location between the subtropical aridity of the Arabian desert areas and the subtropical humidity of the eastern Mediterranean area.

COLD WEATHER

January is the coldest month, with temperatures from 5°C to 10°C. During the colder months of November - March there is rain and potentially snow in January and February. Pack accordingly!

WARM WEATHER

August is the hottest month at 20°C to 35°C. Daily temperatures can be very hot, especially in the summer; on some days it can be 40°C or more. Because of this, it is very important to stay hydrated when you visit Jordan, especially if you plan on going on adventures to some of Jordan's many wadis. We recommend bringing a reusable bottle with you.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Holidays in Jordan are often flexible. It is common for the government to change the day which a holiday is supposed to be celebrated on to another day — usually to prolong a weekend. It is highly recommended that you check online prior to booking your trip.



FOOD

Middle Eastern food is world famous! Make sure to try a variety of dishes. Jordanian food can be found at several restaurants from Mansaf (lamb and rice with yogurt sauce) to Mezze (mix of salads) to manageesh (flatbread with different toppings) to falafel and schwerma sandwiches (meat sandwich in flat bread).

Market stalls are full of fresh produce that literally arrives within hours of having been picked. A wide variety of foods and vegetables at reasonable prices can be found at the local markets and supermarkets. Although fruits and vegetables are considered safe to eat, remember to wash all produce bought in open-air markets before eating.

Although some of the locals drink the tap water, it is recommended to drink bottled water. It is all right to shower and brush your teeth using tap water.

EATING OUT

Amman in particular boasts a variety of chain restaurants from all over the world. If you are wanting to take a break from Arab food, you can easily find not only fast food options, but excellent burger places, pizza, and basic western foods.

In addition to the basics, there is a growing restaurant scene in Amman. Before visiting spend a little time on Trip Advisor to find the latest in the food scene, or ask us for recommendations.

There are also excellent options available for vegetarian eaters. Although largely it is still a new concept in Jordan so be sure to ask questions when ordering.



LANGUAGE

Arabic is the official language of Jordan, but in most tourist places people understand and speak some English. Hospitality is a very important part of Jordanian culture, because of this people will be helpful when you need assistance. Practice these phrases and ask your guide or driver to help you use these and other phrases appropriately.

Shukran (shoe-kran): Thank you!

Ahlan Wasahlan (ah-lan wa-sah-lan): Welcome!

Inshallah (insha llah): God willing

Alhumdulilah (al-hum-du-li-lah): Praise God!

Yislimoo (yis-la-moo): Bless your hands, use when being served

SHOPPING

Shops offer wide variety of merchandise, including jewelry, oriental carpets, leather goods, paintings and sculptures, ceramics, silverware, copperware, embroidered goods, and religious items. Jewellery and diamonds should be purchased at proper establishments only.

There are several shops and stalls selling hand-made arts and crafts at each tourist site, as well as the Down Town area of Amman. Bargaining is expected in virtually all Arab markets. While you should not be intimidated into buying something you don't want, neither should you encourage a merchant unless you do plan to make a purchase. Trading is enjoyable to merchants in bazaars, but they do expect (eventually) to arrive at a purchase price.

Please note: Your agent assumes no responsibility for any purchases made while traveling. This includes shipping costs, which may be considerably higher than quoted at the time of purchase.

CLOTHING SHOES



CLOTHING

In Amman and other cities conservative clothing is a good idea out of respect to the culture, particularly if you want to visit any religious sites. Women should have clothing that covers their shoulders and reaches their ankles. Men should wear trousers and cover their shoulders. In Petra, Dead Sea, Aqaba beach resorts, and Wadi Rum people are use to seeing tourists and a more relaxed dress code is acceptable.

Due to hot temperatures in the summer months, clothing of lightweight fabric (such as cotton) is most appropriate, including slacks and open-neck shirts for men and daytime dresses, slacks, and blouses for women. Few men wear jackets and ties in the summer, except for business and other more formal occasions. It is suggested that you also pack a sweater or lightweight jacket for cooler evenings.

Highly recommended is packing sunglasses, a lightweight (fold-up) sun hat with brim, a reusable water bottle, and sun block. A swimsuit and beachwear will be appropriate for the Dead Sea resorts and Aqaba.

In the winter, you will need warmer clothing, including an overcoat, sweater, raincoat, hat, good socks, and warm hat and gloves.

If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, we recommend that you bring an extra pair of glasses (as well as a copy of the prescription).

SHOES

A pair of comfortable, soft-soled walking shoes is suggested for touring (even in the summer months when sandals and open shoes are acceptable.) Pack a pair of nice shoes for evenings out.

See ["Hiking" section for more about proper apparel for hiking.](#)



TIPPING

Many travelers view tipping as a difficult subject, though this need not be the case. The first thing to remember is that tipping is not compulsory, nor are there any fixed amounts. Many cafes in Jordan now have the gratuity listed on the bill alongside the tax. Make sure to view your bill before tipping an additional amount.

Tips of 10% are generally expected in better restaurants. Elsewhere, rounding up the bill to the nearest 250 fils or with loose change is appreciated by underpaid staff, including taxi drivers. Hotels and restaurants in the midrange and, especially, top-end categories generally add on an automatic 10% service charge, although whether this actually returns to the staff who served you is another question.

Gratuities for guides and drivers are not included in the price of your tour so we offer the following tipping guidelines.

Recommended tipping schedule for groups:

Guide: \$5 per person per day
Driver: \$3 per person per day
Hotels: \$2 per person per day
Restaurants: \$1 per person per restaurant.

Recommended tipping schedule for small groups or Individual Travellers:

Guide: \$10-\$20 per person per day
Driver: \$10-\$20 per person per day



PHOTOGRAPHY

We recommend that you bring all the photographic equipment you will need from home, including additional camera batteries. It is also suggested that you check the working order of your camera and have your equipment insured before you depart.

When photographing people, always ask permission first. The only exception to this is when you are photographing a public scene with a lot of people in it, aiming at no one in particular. Always be considerate of anyone's desire not to be photographed. There are some places where photography is prohibited, and these areas are usually clearly marked.

Do not take photographs of military installations or airports. If you are uncertain about whether or not photography is permitted, ask. Taking photographs when permission is not granted is inconsiderate at best and may result in the confiscation of your camera.

VALUABLES & TRAVEL INSURANCE

Exercise the same safety precautions throughout your travels as you would at home. Be especially careful with your passport. It is a great idea to carry a photocopy of the informational pages of your passport (the pages containing your photograph and passport details, as well as any amendment pages and visas) and to leave a copy at home. Follow the security measures included with your travellers' checks, and also leave an additional record of their numbers at home.

We recommend that all travelers purchase adequate trip cancellation/interruption, medical, and baggage insurance and that they carry the details of their coverage with them on the tour.

DANA TO PETRA OVERVIEW



OVERVIEW

The Dana to Petra trek was rated as one of the world's best hikes by National Geographic. Hike across spectacular scenery in southern Jordan, immerse yourself in local hospitality and the heritage of the wild desert, and see Petra, one of the seven new world wonders.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 5-day trekking from Dana Nature Reserve to the ancient city of Petra
- Walk through the 4 biosphere climates of Dana
- Enter Petra via the back route past the Monastery
- See the magnificence and the epic scenery of Jordan
- Experience the traditional culture of this ancient land

TRANSPORTATION

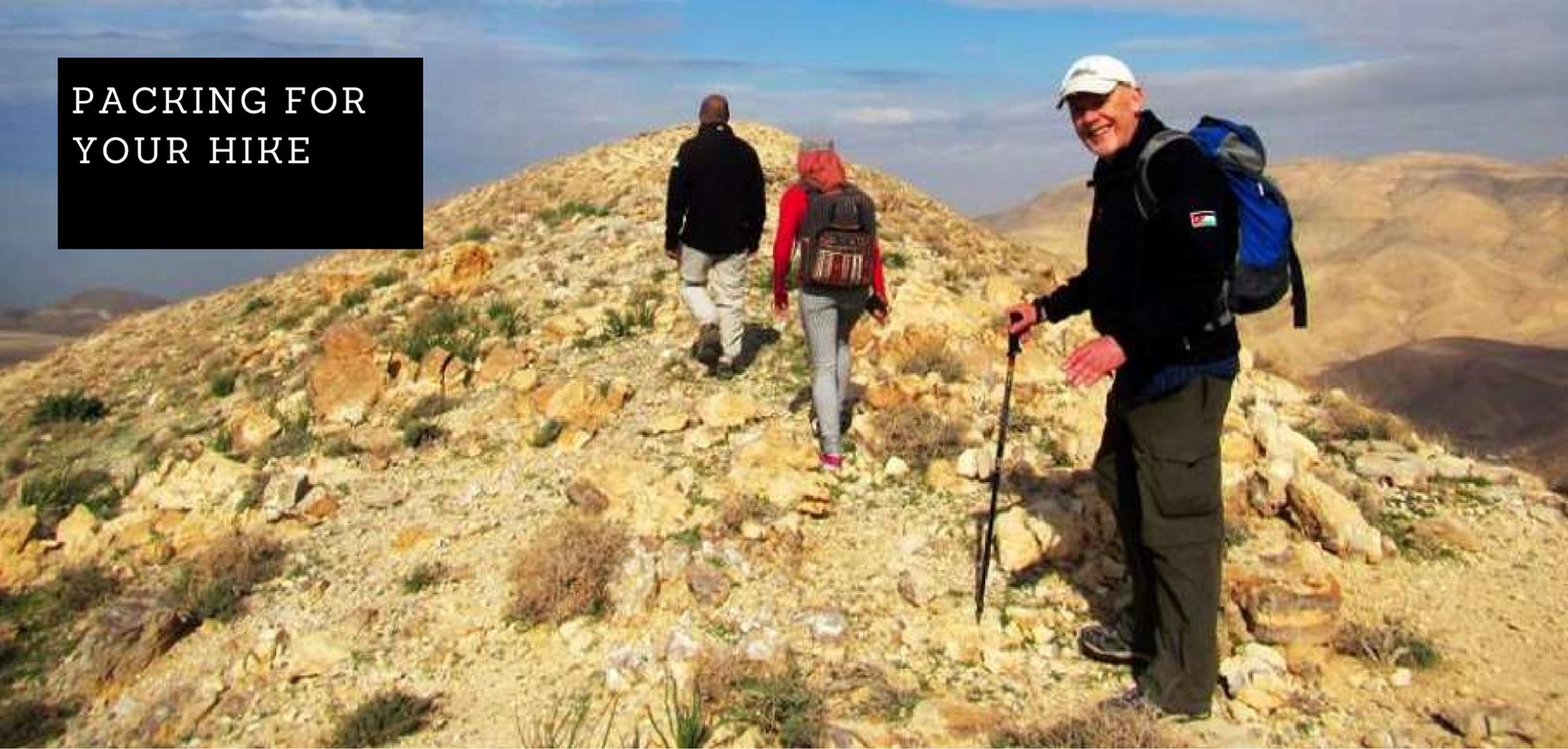
Inclusive tour arrangements for all transfers by deluxe air – conditioned motor-coach and Jeeps as necessary to complete the walking and sightseeing.

MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Your meals and accommodations have been arranged based on your preferences. If you have questions about this, please contact our company and we would be happy to explain further.

Regardless of what you have decided on, you can be assured that you will eat and sleep well. If you have chosen to stay at any hotels, trust that we have taken the time to check these facilities to ensure that your trip will be the holiday you dreamed of!

PACKING FOR YOUR HIKE



PACKING FOR YOUR HIKE

You only need to carry your day pack with you on the hikes. We will transport your overnight bag to each stop. We recommend you keep your day pack as light as possible, just to carry your water, camera and whatever else you want during the day. You will thank us later!

For your overnight bag, we recommend large rucksacks, or soft duffle bags, that can be locked.

Blankets are provided, however, some people prefer to bring their own sleeping bag, or at least a sleeping bag liner. If bringing a sleeping bag, we recommend a 2/3 season sleeping bag (If your trip takes place between November and March, you will need a warm sleeping bag and thermal underwear for the evenings.)

Temperatures in Jordan can be hot and with little rain. In the months of November to March it can be very cool at night particularly in the desert where night temperatures can drop to 5C or less. Even in the hot months out in the desert it can sometimes get cold at night.

Jordan is an Islamic nation and tends to be quite conservative so you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline, shoulders and knees should be covered at all times. The wearing of shorts is not allowed away from the beach or pool as it will restrict your entry into buildings of a religious nature and family homes. A light water and windproof jacket is useful and a hat essential. At other times a sleeping sheet will suffice. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool in the predominantly hot climate.

PACK LIST



THINGS TO CONSIDER

As a general guideline, shoulders and knees should be covered. Long shorts can be worn during hiking, though we generally recommend lightweight hiking trousers to keep the sun off. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool in the predominantly hot climate.

For your luggage, we recommend large rucksacks/backpacks or soft duffle bags that can be locked. While hiking, you only need to carry in your daypack what you need for the day (water, camera, snacks, etc). We recommend you keep your daypack as light as possible. Your luggage will be transported by vehicle to our accommodation each night.

PACK LIST

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather suggestions from our experiences.

Luggage

- Medium to large duffle or backpack (no wheels/handle preferable)
- Daypack: 20 – 30 Liters

Clothing

Casual clothing/shoes for travel and city wear (lightweight, easily washable)

Light rain/windproof jacket

T-shirts

Long sleeve shirt with collar

Hiking pants

Underwear/sports bra (quick drying)

Sleepwear

Warm hat (for chilly evenings in the desert)

PACK LIST



PACK LIST CONTINUED

Footwear

Hiking boots/shoes; suitable for rough terrain and easy scrambling (ideally light weight)

Hiking socks, synthetic or wool

Comfortable shoes/sandals/flip flops for camp use

Assorted Personal Items

Reusable water bottles 1 liter /or hydration bladder

Sunblock and lip balm (ideally with SPF)

Sun hat

Sunglasses

Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, hand sanitizer, small travel towel, etc.)

Personal first aid kit, medications, blister prevention/treatment kit

Women: Tampons – difficult to obtain in rural areas

Toilet kit: Toilet Paper, Ziplock bags (at least one for clean TP and one for dirty), wet wipes

Insect repellent

Camera/memory cards/batteries/adapters

Headlamp with spare batteries

Snacks – Dates, fruits, candy, energy bars

Don't Forget!

Passport

Air tickets

Health requirements arranged

Money – cash / debit cards / credit cards (we recommend bringing cash as cash is relatively easy to exchange and much of Jordanian society runs on cash – not everywhere will accept credit cards)

PHOTO CREDIT

Tala Dabain Photography pgs 3,4,5

Hassen Salum pgs 5,8,9,11,12,14,15

All other photos are taken by ExJO staff photographers