

ETHICAL SCHOOL ADVENTURES SINCE 2006





# Jordan

### Dana to Petra

Join us on this amazing adventure to the legendary country of Jordan. We will trek the most iconic section of the Jordan Trail on this expedition—Dana to Petra—rated as one of the National Geographic's all-time treks, often called the Inca Trail of the Middle East. Exploring the magical and ancient City of Petra, including a memorable horse rise, we move onto an amazing Bedouin experience, including 4x4 jeep action and an overnight sleep under the bright and beautiful stars. In short, this is an exceptional adventure in a beautiful area of the world, that will stay with you for ever.

### 10 Days



earn more about ou. <u>Carbon Labels</u>

Day 1	Depart from the UK and arrive in Amman You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel in Madaba for settling in. If flights allow, we will have a traditional Jordanian Shawarma experience in Madaba.	LD
Day 2	Madaba—Mt. Nebo—Dana Nature reserve Today we visit the oldest map of the Holy Land on the floor of Saint George's Church. Madaba features many famous mosaics that exist in public and private buildings. A short drive takes us to Mt. Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses, overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. We then drive to the Feynan end of the Dana Nature reserve located in the area of the old Roman Copper Mines Lodge. This marks our start of the Bedouin Trail to Petra—exciting!	BLD
Day 3	Wadi Feynan to Wadi Barwas Today is a 6-hour walking day. The route is flat but stony with absolutely spectacular views over the Wade Araba desert and high mountains. There are a series of small valleys (Wadis) that we cross throughout the day. We will see a Roman pool, Watermill and Aqua ducts as well as many desert birds as we travel.	BLD
Day 4	Wadi Barws to Ras El Fed Today is a 6–8-hour trekking day. We head off towards Abu Sakakin which is where we start our ascent. Climbing gently on the initial part, we will follow a twisty goat herders track. This will be more challenging, but extremely rewarding in terms of beautiful views. The top of the high saddle is 720m above sea level. We then begin a well-defined descent which ends on a dry riverbed. Camping overnight near the Sakakin Canyon—amazing!	BLD
Day 5	<b>Ras El Fed to Shkart Msei'd</b> Today is an 8–10-hour trekking day. We walk back along the dry riverbed of the Sakakin canyon for approximately 1km until we reach the goat herding trail, still used today as the Bedouin migrate their animals to avoid extreme temperatures. Some of the paths today may be particularly challenging, requiring hand and foot holds! However, the scenery is so superb it is all worth the effort. We follow as the trail snakes along the Wadi floor, through the light sandstone mountains to Shkart Msei'd.	BLD
Day 6	Shkart Msei'd to Little Petra Today is a 6-hour trekking day. This morning our scenery changes dramatically from a well-defined wadi and mountain to wide open sandstone hills with a moonscape feel! The terrain is easy to go through with wide tracks and walkways. The start of the Nabatean influence is apparent here and	BLD



the first cut steps can be seen. The trail passes through Bedouin encampments and enters a mazelike track, with some light scrambling required. We reach a plateau and descend into Little Petra

(Beidha).

#### Little Petra—Petra

We have a 3-hour trek and then a 4–6-hour trek in Petra today. Walking through the mountain range of Petra, the first settlement we encounter is the Neolithic village of Beidha, situated in a well-defined Wadi. Our initial walk is across wide farmland. We then see fantastic views from across the mountains down towards the Araba desert 100km away. The walk into Petra is magnificent and is the culmination of 5 days' hard walking, what a reward! The initial glimpse of the top of the Monastery, as it comes into view through the mountains, is utterly beautiful. A full tour of Petra follows, including a short horse ride opportunity between the visitor centre and the Siq (included). This City, which is surrounded by hundreds of carved structures including Roman theatres, burial chambers, large and small houses, is one of the world's most famous archaeological sites in the world. This UNESCO World Heritage landmark is a great reward at the end of our fulfilling trek.

#### Day 8 Wadi Rum

Day 7

Leaving Petra we drive south to the magical desert of Wadi Rum, home of "Lawrence of Arabia". We take a local jeep tour and head into the desert to visit the sites of Rum. We visit Lawrence's spring and the Khazali Canyon, where we can see many Nabatean inscriptions and drawings. We visit a traditional Bedouin family who live nomadically, learn how to make Aboud bread in the ashes of the fire and drink Bedouin tea. Heading to Salem Metluz we can appreciate the changes in temperature and rock colour as the desert night draws in. The stars will provide the entertainment this evening as they light up the night sky better than you ever thought possible!

#### Day 9 Dead Sea

Lots of fun today in the warm and minerally rich, salty waters of the Dead Sea. We can experience the famous healthy black mud in the same way King Herod and Cleopatra did. Having soaked up the sun and minerals we head back into Amman for a spot of shopping from traditional Jordanian stall holders. We have an evening walking tour of downtown Amman, sampling local street foods with dinner at the locals' choice; Hashems, to fully complete our Jordanian experience.

#### Day 10 Amman, fly home

We head back to the airport for our return flight back to the UK, full of great memories to take home.



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### Look what's included:

#### · International flights

- · All accommodation, transportation and activities
- · All food as described above
- · Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- $\cdot$  Parent and student trip launch presentation
- · Pre-travel training programme
- $\cdot$  1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- $\cdot$  ATOL financial protection
- · Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance

- · Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- · BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- $\cdot$  Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- $\cdot$  Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- · Permanent operations team in your destination
- · 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- $\cdot$  Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- $\cdot$  Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination

### What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- · Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests

- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance

### A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



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This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit: https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/

### Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 4

### A A A A A/5

Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four-month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip.

### Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



### **Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training**

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

#### **Responsible Tourism workshop**

An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- · Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

#### **Travel Safety Training**

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas



### A journey of 1,000 miles...

## **Starts with a single step...** Contact us now to start your expedition journey

### **1** Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

### 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

### 3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

his is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a omprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the buildip to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.





Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.

**STC** ESCAPES

Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places. "I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the incountry staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest." **Teacher feedback,** King's High Warwick

### **Contact Us:**

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