

Petra Desert Marathon 5-day package

Welcome to the Petra Desert Marathon! Embark on an Arabian adventure and run one of the most challenging desert marathons on Earth.

Starting from the ancient city of Petra, the marathon route takes runners on a scenic tour through the stunning mountain and desert landscape. Take part in a historic run in remarkable settings. Explore the UNESCO-listed site while running a challenging desert marathon that showcases the beauty of Jordan. The marathon event consists of a full marathon and a half marathon. The event is part of a 5-day tour package which includes social events, tours, hotel accommodation, entry pass for Petra and a dip in the Dead Sea.

You can also extend your stay in Jordan with our tours suited for the adventurous or the cultural traveler.

Day 1 - 24 August

Arrival Amman

Arrive in Amman Queen Alia International Airport. Upon your arrival our meet n greet assistant will receive you in the immigration hall (before you go through passport control!) and follow you through the visa on arrival desk. Once you have collected your luggage the meet n greet assistant will follow you through customs and take you to the driver who'll bring you to your hotel at the Dead Sea.

Note that you can choose between a standard hotel package and a deluxe hotel package

The rest of the day is free to enjoy the pool and beach on your own.

No meals are included this day.

Day 2 - 25 August

Dead Sea, Petra, race briefing and pasta dinner

Waking up at the Dead Sea – the lowest point on Earth – you can start the day with a swim in the Dead Sea and relax at the pool.

In the early afternoon we check out and drive by bus to Wadi Mousa (Petra) and check in at our hotel not far from the entrance to Petra.

In the evening all runners meet for a race briefing given by the Race Officials and Medical Team and afterwards we will carbo-load with a pasta dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Breakfast, lunch and pasta dinner included this day.

Day 3 - 26 August

Petra Marathon & Half Marathon

The day we all have waited for! After an early wakeup call and breakfast all runners meet outside the Petra Visitors Center. At 5:30 all participants walk through the Siq to the start line at the Street of Facades. As Petra is not opened to the public at that time of day, runners will get the unique experience of seeing Petra without the tourist crowds. At 6:30 am the race is started for both full and half marathon runners. Although regarded as an official race following international competition rules including time taking, it is important to remember that it is first and foremost an Adventure Marathon in which the experience, scenery and satisfaction in completing is more important than winning or setting a personal record. For a detailed description of the marathon day and route, please see under "Race Information"

At the finish line, located near the Visitors Center, runners receive the medal and refreshments.

A light continental breakfast and packed lunch at the Finish included this day.

Day 4 - 27 August

Petra and Celebration Dinner

Today is the day to explore Petra at its full glory. After breakfast we walk to Petra Visitors Centre from where we will start our guided tour on foot and learn about the impressive history of yesterday's starting point.

The main entrance to the historical and archeological city of Petra is the Siq. With walls rising up to 200 meters in height, this narrow gorge, split apart by tectonic forces, winds its way 1.2 km through the mountains and ends at Petra's most elaborate ruin, the Treasury. We continue past the marvellous tombs and caves carved out of the red sandstone cliff while our guide tells us about the old Nabateans who created the city. After some time to explore the area and buy lunch on our own we head back to our hotel.

Depending on how much time you want to spend in Petra you can also relax and recover from the strenuous efforts of yesterday in one of the areas' Turkish Baths and Spas or simply treat yourself at a local restaurant with the incredibly tasty Jordanian cuisine.

In the evening all participants depart from the hotel to the desert where we will celebrate the completion of Petra Desert Marathon with a festive Celebration Dinner. Dine, drink and dance under the stars and crescent Moon.

Breakfast and Celebration Dinner included this day.

Day 5 - 28 August

Farewell Jordan or Hello Extension

Our adventure in Jordan is over and it's time to bid farewell to this extraordinary country. Check out from the hotel must be completed before 12:00 in the afternoon. All participants are transferred to Queen Alia International Airport in Amman.

Three transfers are arranged with **ARRIVAL** times at the airport on 28 August as follows:

06:00, 09:00, and 14:00.

It is possible, for an extra charge, to book a different transfer to Amman if the above scheduled group transfers don't fit your onward journey.

Participants who book one of the extensions will start these adventures after breakfast today.

Breakfast included this day.

Extend your stay and get more adventures in Jordan

Adventure Extension – 4 days/3 nights

Jordan is a true wonderland for active and adventurous souls and this extension takes us through the Wadi Rum desert, the Dana Valley reserve and the Wadi Mujib gorges.

Day 1 – 28 August

Wadi Rum Desert

Vast, echoing and god-like is how T.E. Lawrence described the Wadi Rum desert, also known as Valley of the Moon, and now it's our turn to get lost in this stunning desert and sleep under the stars.

After breakfast we leave Petra and drive to the magnificent Wadi Rum desert. It was here the British army officer T. E. Lawrence gathered the Arab tribes to revolt against the Ottoman Turkish rule during World War I, a story that reached world fame in the movie "Lawrence of Arabia".

From the Wadi Rum Visitors Centre we change from bus to jeeps and go on a tour in the desert past sand dunes and incredible rock formation. The tour ends in the middle of the desert where we set up our tented camp for the night. Like real Bedouins we will cook dinner over an open fire with the gazing stars and Moon illuminating our outdoor hotel.

NB: Before booking this adventure kindly beware of the fact that toilets and running water will not be available at the camp!

All meals included this day.

Day 2 – 29 August

Dana Valley – White Dome Trail

We enjoy breakfast Bedouin style before the jeeps bring us back to the Visitors Centre from where our bus will take us to the village of Tafilah. From here we set out for an 8km hike through the Dana Valley – one of Jordans premier nature reserves. The trail contours the huge escarpments of Wadi Dana and offers breathtaking views of the canyon-like valley while passing through village terraced gardens.

After an estimated 4 hours we reach Rummana Camp where we find our tent for the night.

All meals included this day.

Day 3 – 30 August

Wadi Mujib and Amman

From Rummana Camp we head north along the Wadi Araba highway. Just before the Dead Sea we reach the Wadi Mujib gorge, in many ways similar to the Siq in Petra - narrow and with towering cliffs rising on both sides. Through the gorge runs the Mujib River and this unique nature reserve is home to over 400 species of plants, more than 100 species of birds and animals like the Nubian Ibex, Red Fox, Hyena, Jackal, Wild Cat, Caracal, Badger, Mongoose, Wolf and Arabian Leopard.

We will see the Wadi Mujib from inside on our 4 hours hike and swim through the river and nature reserve.

Back out we head to Amman where we check in at our hotel.

Breakfast and lunch included this day.

Day 4 – 31 August

Farewell Jordan

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Breakfast included this day.

Culture Extension – 4 days/3 nights

Although Petra is the best known historical site in Jordan this country has loads of other cultural and historical places worth a visit. On this extension we visit most of them.

Day 1 – 28 August

Shoubak, Madaba & Mt. Nebo

We start the day with a visit the old crusader fortress of Shoubak, a castle from the Mamluk period with original Crusader features. From there we continue to the historic city of Madaba, famous for the ancient “Mosaic of Jerusalem” – one of the oldest pictured testimonies of the Holy City. A church has now been build up around the mosaic to protect this historical site.

We continue to Mount Nebo, the mountain where Moses saw the Holy Land before finding his final resting place on the mountain. Like Moses we can enjoy the great views to Israel and the Jordan Valley.

We finish our day in Amman where we check in to the Grand Palace hotel.

Breakfast included.

Day 2 – 29 August

As-Salt and Baptism Site

Today we'll be heading to the small town of As-Salt. Being a living museum, As-Salt features old lanes and dazzling houses from the late Ottoman period and a walking tour through this inviting community showcases some of Jordan's most charming buildings and bazaars. In As-Salt, many traditional businesses and skilled artisans enrich the city's cultural life, and as you walk down the street, you will see a variety of different trades and shops, including blacksmiths, shoemakers, barbershops, Arabic sweet stores, and herbalists.

From As-Salt we continue down the Jordan Valley to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, or better known as the Baptism Site. The place has been identified as the site where John the Baptist preached and where Jesus was baptised by John.

We end the day in Amman where with a dinner at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.

Day 3 – 30 August

Jerash and Amman

After breakfast we head north through the Jordan Valley to the ruin city of Jerash. These well preserved ruins were once the ground pillars of a Roman Decapolis city build approximately 330BC. In its peak the city flourished from trade with the Nabateans from Petra and was one of the most important cities in the Roman province. In 747AD Jerash was hit by an earthquake and slowly the city was abandoned. As the years went by sand covered the columns and buildings, which is why everything was so well preserved when a Russian expedition excavated the city in 1878.

After our visit in Jerash we drive back to Amman and do a sightseeing tour of the capitals most prominent sites and buildings.

Breakfast and lunch included.

Day 4 – 31 August

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