

Topdeck

JORDAN & ISRAEL



TRIP CODE:
MXJIAT-0

TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & Nth Africa

Fiery desert landscapes to world-class wreck diving. Ancient stone facades to churches built on grave of the big man himself. Floating weightlessly on the surface of the Dead Sea to partying with the best in lively Tel Aviv....it's hard to know what to expect from these two incredibly diverse countries except the fact that they EXCEEDED expectations in every. single. way. Ready to see why?

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

HI, AND THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO HOLIDAY WITH TOPDECK!

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit Madaba
- + Visit Mt Nebo
- + Visit Karak Castle
- + Visit Little Petra
- + Discover the 'Lost City' of Petra
- + Wadi Rum 4x4 excursion
- + Stay overnight in Bedouin desert camp
- + Float in the Dead Sea
- + See the Roman ruins of Jerash
- + City tour of Amman
- + City tour of Jerusalem
- + City tour of Bethlehem
- + Winery tour

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Airport transfer
- + Visit Madaba
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YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Amman
Jordan

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Tel Aviv
Middle East & North Africa

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Jordan - JOD
- + Israel and Palestinian Territories - ILS

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | AMMAN, JORDAN

Touch down in one of the oldest cities in existence and drop off your gear before trading bios with your new travel buddies tonight. For dinner, why not track down some falafel? We're not just talking any old falafel, though! Trust us, the stuff you get here is like nothing you'll find at home. Top tip: shimmy over to Hashem Restaurant (it's a favourite of locals and travellers alike). Please note: You will be met before immigration by an airport representative with a Topdeck sign. Please refer to the 'Visa' section below for details on this process. Once you've cleared immigration and customs you will be transferred to your hotel to check in. Transfers are included for all passengers flying into Amman. If you have booked pre-tour accommodation, please advise us no later than two weeks before arriving in order for us to make arrangements.



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Airport transfer

DAY 2 | AMMAN TO PETRA

Time to kick it old school in Madaba, the site of an ancient holy map that's so detailed it's like Google Maps for theologians. Then: soak up views of the Promised Land from the top of Mt Nebo, storm a giant Crusader castle in Karak... and we haven't even got to the Lost City yet!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Madaba
+ Visit Mt Nebo
+ Visit Karak Castle



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Dinner with a local family in
Petra: from 20 USD

DAY 3 | PETRA

'Historic' is a word that doesn't even come close to describing a city that was founded around 312 BC. With 80 m high red sandstone tunnels and a façade made famous by Indiana Jones, Petra stands as testament to man's ability to create beauty from absolutely nothing. Wander through the Siq and remember to pinch yourself when you catch your first glimpse of the Treasury.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ 'Petra by Night' tour: from 25
USD

DAY 4 | PETRA TO WADI RUM

Back in the day, camels were the go-to way to cross the desert. Nowadays, we do it in a 4x4 (though the camel ride is still an option if you fancy it). At Wadi Rum, we'll stay overnight with one of the world's most ancient nomadic tribes in a Bedouin camp. When night comes, get set for an epic show: we're talking more twinkling stars than you've ever seen before. The Milky Way is your canopy tonight!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Little Petra
- + Wadi Rum 4x4 excursion
- + Stay overnight in Bedouin desert camp



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Camel ride: from 20 USD

DAY 5 | WADI RUM TO AQABA

Founded in around 4,000 BC, Aqaba is Jordan's only coastal city – and it sits smack bang in the middle of everything that is the Red Sea. Take the option to wetsuit up and see what all those 'top dives in the world' lists are on about. Also on the optional extras menu: snorkelling and a glass bottom boat tour. Who knew the marine life here was so colourful?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Diving in Aqaba from: prices available locally
- + Glass bottom boat ride and snorkelling in Aqaba: from 50 USD

DAY 6 | AQABA TO AMMAN

Time to enjoy one of the world's oldest health resorts! At 427 m below sea level (the lowest point on Earth), the Dead Sea is so salty you can float around in it like a cork. After taking some photographic proof, we'll hit the road to Amman. Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad empires have all had their two cents when it comes to this place, creating a melting pot of ancient historical sites. You'll see the Roman Amphitheatre, Citadel and more on this afternoon's city tour.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Float in the Dead Sea
- + City tour of Amman

DAY 7 | JERUSALEM

Today we'll crank the history knob up to 11 and take you through Jerash – home to a bunch of Greco-Roman highlights, including a hippodrome which was used for chariot racing (and has nothing to do with hippos).



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See the Roman ruins of Jerash

DAY 8 | JERUSALEM

Christianity, Islam and Judaism all consider Jerusalem a holy place, so it's kind of a big deal. Today we'll check out sights like the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, King David's Tomb, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Golgotha (where Jesus was crucified), just to name a few.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ City tour of Jerusalem

DAY 9 | JERUSALEM TO TEL AVIV VIA BETHLEHEM

Step into a real-life nativity scene in Bethlehem before swapping religious sites for Tel Aviv. Wanna top up your tan? You've got 16 beaches to choose from! If you're keen for a wander, head to the chilled-out seaport of Old Jaffa. Tonight we'll find out why Lonely Planet ranked this place one of the top ten party cities in the world. But before you hit the bars, why not head out for a final dinner with your travel mates? Saluf & Sons does some tasty, traditional Yemeni food that's well worth a try!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ City tour of Bethlehem

+ Winery tour

DAY 10 | TEL AVIV

The trip might be over after breakfast, but don't leave until you track down Abu Hassan for hummus that will haunt your dreams (it's that good). Don't miss the boho neighbourhood of Florentin either – there are plenty of cafés here where you can sample local coffees and treats. Just the ticket after the night before!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Visas
- + For all non-restricted nationalities (please check the eligibility for your passport) we will obtain a free visa on your behalf. To obtain your free visa on arrival in Amman, we will require your full passport, flight and insurance details no later than t
- + Please note: Topdeck does not include visa fees for Israel. Please check the individual entry requirements for your passport.
- + Accommodation
- + On your trip you will primarily stay in quality three-star hotels on a single or twin-share basis, depending on what you have booked. You will also get to experience a night in a desert camp at Wadi Rum. The camp features twin-share tents or cabins, with
- + Please note: the bathroom facilities are basic (hey, you're in the desert!) and the showers are usually cold-water only – but it's all part of an amazing experience you'll remember forever!
- + Important note on Ramadan
- + As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that lots of restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during Ramadan. As a result, some optional and included activities on your trip may b

MEALS

Breakfasts are included every day on most trips (except on the first morning). A typical breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, cheese and a range of spreads, with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast, though on some occasions there may be some hot food available as well.

Included evening meals are in local restaurants or your place of accommodation. In most cases table water is provided with the meals, and if you wish to purchase additional drinks you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Customer Service Consultant when you book. But please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

Your included meals are detailed in the 'More Inclusions' section of this document.

Important note on Ramadan: As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that many restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during this time. Some Optional and Included Activities may also be affected. Despite some of these restraints, Ramadan is an incredibly important and sacred month for Muslims. When equipped with some basic knowledge, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in this special tradition and experience all its highlights.

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

OTHER INFORMATION

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can

consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it! (As long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is.)

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!

