



TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & North Africa (TD)

(Previously called: Jordan & Israel) TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Fiery desert landscapes to world-class wreck diving. Ancient sandstone cities to ultra-modern metropolises. Floating weightlessly on the surface of the Dead Sea to partying like a local in lively Tel Aviv... it's hard to know what to expect from these two incredibly diverse countries except the fact that they EXCEED 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



Delve Deep



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

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
- + Orientation walk of Petra with Trip Leader
- + Wadi Rum 4x4 excursion
- + Stay overnight in Bedouin desert camp
- + Float in the Dead Sea
- + Walking tour of Amman with Trip Leader
- + See the Roman ruins of Jerash
- + Walking tour of Jerusalem with local guide
- + Walking tour of Bethlehem with local guide
- + Local Israeli winery tour
- + Walking tour of Old Jaffa with local guide

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Airport transfer
- + Visit Madaba
- + Visit Mt Nebo
- + Visit Karak Castle
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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 -
- + Israel & the Palestinian Territories -

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | AMMAN (JORDAN)

Touch down in one of the oldest cities in existence. Ready to experience the new and exotic? Thought so. Spot your Topdeck Rep at the airport (hint: they're holding a placard with your name on it). Dump your stuff at the hotel and meet your fellow explorers. We might be a mixed bunch but we're all in it together. Hungry? That's lucky – tonight's our first chance to sample some lip-smacking local eats at an included group dinner.



MEALS:

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Airport transfer

DAY 2 | AMMAN – MADABA, MT NEBO AND KARAK – PETRA

Rise and shine! We're off to the Lost City after breakfast. But it's not just about the destination – the road to Petra is gonna be amazing. First? Madaba: the site of an ancient holy map that's so detailed it puts Google Maps to shame. Check out the vibrantly coloured and intricately detailed Byzantine-era mosaics scattered across the city before we take in allllll the views of the Promise Land from Mt Nebo. Seen Kingdom of Heaven? Channel your inner Orlando Bloom as we storm through the Crusader stronghold of Karak Castle. And to round it all off? Experience Petra – by night. Opt for a goosebump-inducing walk down the dark ravine, following the sound of traditional music and the soft glow of a candle-lit desert floor. Awesome is an understatement.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Madaba

+ Visit Mt Nebo

+ Visit Karak Castle



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Petra by Night tour: from 25
USD

DAY 3 | PETRA

Words can't describe how breathtaking this place is, so why would we try? Spend the whole day uncovering the magic of the Lost City and learn why people have been drawn to this place since 312 BC. With towering burning-red cliff faces and a façade made famous by Indiana Jones, this place rocks (sorry not sorry). Get your bearings on an orientation walk with our expert Trip Leader. Then: the rest of the day is yours to explore. Just be back in time for tonight's optional dinner – a delicious traditional meal of maqluba with a local family. This is as authentic as it gets.



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation walk of Petra with
Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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

DAY 4 | PETRA – WADI RUM

Back in the day, camels were the go-to way to cross the desert. But we've got a more buttock-friendly transport option today as we switch the coach for a 4X4 and venture across The Valley of the Moon to our traditional Bedouin Camp in the heart of the Jordanian desert. If you want to see if Alice really does have two humps, there's an optional ride on offer today. Or just sit back and take it all in. This is your moment. Tonight's included dinner is brought to you by one of the world's most ancient nomadic tribes – tuck in around the camp fire and learn all about Bedouin life with your trip mates. We're spending the night under the best-looking night sky you've ever laid eyes on. Heck yes!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Camel ride: from 20 USD

DAY 5 | WADI RUM – AQABA

From a sea of burnt-red sand to well, the actual sea – we're making tracks to Jordan's only coastal city. Dating back to 4,000 BC, Aqaba's located smack-bang in the middle of the Red Sea, with temps rarely dropping below 20°C. Meaning? It's THE place for diving, snorkelling and Nemo-spotting. And you've got the whole afternoon to do just that. Scuba dive around sunken military tanks, transport planes and Lebanese freighters. Make friends with flashy fish, colourful coral and green turtles (maybe). Then, gather the gang for a shawarma (Jordanian kebab) and sunset on the beach. This is livin'.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Diving in Aqaba: prices available locally
- + Snorkelling in Aqaba: from 25 USD

DAY 6 | AQABA – DEAD SEA – AMMAN

Ready to tick "bob on top of the Dead Sea" off your bucket list? Today is your day. At 427 m below sea level (the lowest point on Earth), the Dead Sea is so salty you can float weightlessly around like last night's second helping of shawarma didn't happen. Tip: avoid shaving your legs, face or other... parts before your swim. Sh*t stings! Give yourself a free spa treatment with the mineral-laden mud. Snap a pic for mum. And pile back on the coach – we're heading back to Amman for an education in the Roman, Byzantine AND Umayyad empires that have left their mark on this place. Check out the Roman Amphitheatre, Citadel and melting pot of ancient historical sites on a walking tour with your fact-filled Trip Leader before heading downtown for a falafel feed.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Float in the Dead Sea
- + Walking tour of Amman with Trip Leader

DAY 7 | AMMAN – JERASH – JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)

Crank the history knob to 11 with a visit to 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). Then wave goodbye to Jordan (and the trip mates who'll be leaving us here) as we cross into Israel. Flash your passport and meet your local Israeli guide. After another included group dinner, we're bunking down in the heart of Jerusalem tonight. Sit back and enjoy the view at our hostel's rooftop terrace. This is what you came for.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See the Roman ruins of Jerash
- + Local Israeli guide

DAY 8 | JERUSALEM

Christianity, Islam and Judaism all consider Jerusalem a holy place, so it's a big deal. Get educated on a guided tour of the old town, checking out the likes of Via Dolorosa, Dome of the Rock, Gethsemane, King David's Tomb, the Western Wall and Golgotha (where Jesus was crucified). Then: the rest is up to you. Need some suggestions? Take in all the I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E views from the Mount of Olives. Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed by some to be Jesus's final resting place (expect queues!). Then, check out Mahane Yehuda Market – a variety of local produce stores by day, buzzing bars and shisha stalls by night. You wanted free time to delve deeper – go get it!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Jerusalem with local guide

DAY 9 | JERUSALEM – BETHLEHEM – TEL AVIV

Today we're rolling on to the culturally rich city of Bethlehem to see the very spot Jesus was born (according to certain sources). Wander across Manger Square and check out the Church of Nativity with your local guide, before heading over to Banksy's Walled Off Hotel for the 'worst view in the world'. Think: a hotel, museum, protest and art gallery all in one. Learn your ABCs of Israeli wine with a quick stop at a local winery, before we arrive in Tel Aviv. Discover the chilled-out seaport of Old Jaffa – ticking off the Clock Tower and St Peter's Church. Then: there's a reason they call this place 'Non-Stop City' – time to gather your trip mates and find out why.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Bethlehem with local guide
- + Local winery tour
- + Walking tour of Old Jaffa with local guide

DAY 10 | TEL AVIV

The trip may be winding up – but the adventure sure isn't over yet! Today is 100% yours to delve deeper into this electrifying gem of a city. Sniff out some heady spices and show off your mad bartering skills (or not) at traditional Carmel Market. Make like a local and head to HaYarkon Park for a people-watching picnic. Or check out Sarona Market for alllll the world snacks under one roof (warning: Geminis and Librans will need help with decisions here). And this evening? Time for one final group dinner at a local eatery. WHAT an adventure it's been.



MEALS:

- + Dinner

DAY 11 | TEL AVIV

Down your pomegranate juice and brush away those tears – this morning it's time to say our goodbyes. Swap those Insta handles and pencil in next year's reunion trip. Sticking around? Track down Abu Hassan for hummus that will haunt your dreams (it's that good).

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!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 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!