



## 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 - 30 August**

#### **Arrival Amman**

Arrive in Amman Queen Alia International Airport (AMM).

There is no set arrival time, so you can book the flight most suitable from your departure airport.

*Kindly note that a visa is required for all visitors to Jordan. For more visa details please read the Important Info section below.*

In the arrival hall our representative will meet you and take you to the driver who will bring you to your hotel at the Dead Sea.

Note that you must choose between a standard hotel package and a deluxe hotel package.

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

No meals are included today.

### **Day 2 - 31 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). On the way we stop for lunch and upon arrival in Wadi Mousa we check in at our hotel not far from the entrance to Petra.

In the late afternoon 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 - 1 September**

#### **Petra Desert Marathon & Half Marathon**

The day we have all been waiting for! After an early wakeup call and breakfast, all runners meet outside the Petra Visitor Centre. At 5:30 all participants walk through the Siq to the start line at the Street of Facades.

As Petra is not open to the public at that time of day, runners will get the unique experience of seeing Petra without the crowds. At 6:30 am the race starts 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.

Runners receive their medals and refreshments at the finish line.

In the evening we offer two optional local experiences that can be booked in addition to the tour package.

Petra by Night is a unique way to visit the most famous of Petra's landmarks - the Treasury. The 1.2 km long

Siq is lit by candles all the way to an illuminated Treasury where bedouin music is played and local stories are told. This experience is normally only available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but we have secured an extra tour especially for Petra Desert Marathon participants.

Petra Kitchen teaches you how to cook some of the most tasteful Jordanian dishes. Under professional guidance from your chef you will cook a full meal with delicious appetizers and a traditional main course. Of course we will sit down and enjoy the meal together and the full recipe is handed out to everyone, so you can cook for your friends and family at home. A fun and festive way to celebrate your completion of the Petra Desert Marathon today.

A light continental breakfast and packed lunch at the finish area are included today.

#### **Day 4 - 2 September** **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 metres 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 temple, 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 celebrate the completion of the Petra Desert Marathon with a festive celebration dinner. Dine, drink and dance under the stars.

Breakfast and celebration dinner included today.

#### **Day 5 - 3 September** **Farewell Jordan or Hello Extension**

Our adventure in Jordan is over and it is time to bid farewell to this extraordinary country. Checkout from the hotel must be completed before 12:00 (noon). All participants are transferred to Queen Alia International Airport in Amman.

Four transfers are available with **ARRIVAL** times at the airport on 3 September as follows: 05:00, 08:00, 13:00 and 18:00.

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

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

Breakfast included today.

**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 – 3 September** **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 – 4 September** **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 – 5 September** **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 – 6 September** **Farewell Jordan**

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Breakfast included today.

### **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 – 3 September 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 – 4 September 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 with a dinner at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.

#### **Day 3 – 5 September 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.



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