YOUR FIRST TRIP TO JORDAN

A practical 5-day itinerary + budget planner

Petra. Wadi Rum. The Dead Sea. Amman. Plan an unforgettable first visit without rushing between destinations.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- A realistic 5-day route and where to sleep
- Entry requirements, Jordan Pass and Petra tickets
- Transportation choices and sample travel budgets
- Local money tips, packing essentials and booking checklist

Prepared October 2026 | Prices and entry rules can change. Verify before booking.

01 | Before you book

Who this itinerary is for

A first-time international visitor with five full sightseeing days, comfortable with moderate walking, who wants to experience Jordan's best-known highlights. Allow an extra arrival or departure day if flight times are inconvenient. This is a route template, not a promise that every activity fits every traveler.

Best travel seasons

Spring (March-May) and autumn (September-November) are often comfortable for Petra and Wadi Rum. Summer can be very hot; winter nights in the desert can be cold. Check the forecast, daylight and flash-flood alerts before outdoor activities.

Decide these 5 things first

- Your passport nationality and entry/visa rules (not everyone has the same requirements).
- Whether your trip is 5 full days or 5 calendar days including flights.
- Your pace: relaxed, balanced or active; Petra alone deserves substantial time.
- Your transport: self-drive, pre-booked driver, scheduled coach or a combination.
- Your accommodation level and whether you want a desert camp with a private bathroom.

A route that avoids backtracking

Amman / Madaba → Petra (Wadi Musa) → Wadi Rum → Dead Sea → Amman. This is a suggested sequence, not a geographic scale map. The long transfer from Wadi Rum to the Dead Sea requires planning.

Alternative: if you arrive late, spend the first night in Amman and start sightseeing the following morning. If you want two full days in Petra, add a sixth day or remove a stop.

02 | Your 5-day Jordan itinerary

DAY 1 | Amman and local flavors

Morning: Explore Amman Citadel and the Roman Theater. Afternoon: Walk around Downtown Amman, try falafel, hummus and knafeh, and browse local shops. Evening: Dinner in Amman. Sleep: Amman.

Local tip: Carry small JOD notes; not every downtown shop or street vendor accepts cards. Avoid overloading this day if you have just landed.

DAY 2 | Madaba / Mount Nebo to Petra

Morning: Depart Amman and visit Madaba; optionally add Mount Nebo if timing allows. Afternoon: Continue toward Wadi Musa (Petra town), check in and rest. Sleep: Wadi Musa.

The scenic King's Highway takes longer than the faster Desert Highway. Choose one based on your available daylight; do not assume every detour will fit.

DAY 3 | Petra, the main event

Early start: Enter Petra near opening, walk through the Siq to the Treasury and continue along the main trail as your fitness and time allow. The Monastery is an optional strenuous extension, not a quick add-on. Late afternoon: Transfer to Wadi Rum if you have arranged transport and sufficient daylight. Sleep: Wadi Rum camp.

Petra involves extensive walking, uneven ground and limited shade. Bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Do not promise yourself both every Petra trail and a full desert tour on the same day.

DAY 4 | Wadi Rum desert experience

Morning: Join a pre-booked jeep excursion with a licensed/local operator, with stops suited to your group. Afternoon: Travel toward the Dead Sea area (a long road transfer). Sleep: Dead Sea area or Madaba, depending on your plan.

Confirm exactly what the camp includes: transfer from the visitor area, dinner/breakfast, jeep tour duration and any park-entry charges.

DAY 5 | Dead Sea and departure positioning

Morning: Enjoy a Dead Sea beach or resort day pass, where available. Afternoon: Return toward Amman or Queen Alia International Airport. Leave generous time for your flight; do not assume an early flight can fit this plan.

At the Dead Sea, avoid getting salty water in your eyes and follow on-site safety instructions. Swimming access and facilities vary by property.

03 | Jordan Pass: is it worth it?

For many eligible first-time visitors planning to enter Petra, the Jordan Pass can be cost-effective. It is a sightseeing package, not a visa, and it does not guarantee entry to Jordan.

Official pass	Price	Petra admission
Jordan Wanderer	70 JOD	1 day
Jordan Explorer	75 JOD	2 consecutive days
Jordan Expert	80 JOD	3 consecutive days

The pass lists admission to 40+ participating attractions, including Petra, Jerash, Wadi Rum and Amman Citadel. Always check the current included-attractions list and individual site conditions.

Important visa caution

Jordan Pass official pages currently show inconsistent minimum-stay wording for the visa-fee waiver: one prices page says at least two nights / three days, while another official page says three nights / four days. Do not rely on either figure without verifying your nationality, arrival point and latest official conditions directly before buying. Some nationalities require advance approval or have different rules.

Petra without Jordan Pass

The official Petra site lists daytime admission for visitors staying at least one night in Jordan at 50 JOD for 1 day, 55 JOD for 2 days and 60 JOD for 3 days. Other visitor categories have different rates. Petra by Night is not included in standard daytime admission or the Jordan Pass.

Quick value check

Example only: A 70 JOD Wanderer pass compared with a 50 JOD one-day Petra ticket leaves a 20 JOD difference before considering other included attractions or any eligible visa-fee waiver. Compare your actual sites and visa situation before deciding.

Official sources: jordanpass.jo/Contents/Prices.aspx | jordanpass.jo/Contents/jordanpass_prices.aspx | visitpetra.jo/en/Petrafees

04 | What will the trip cost?

These are planning allowances, not verified quotes. They exclude international flights and shopping. Costs change with season, occupancy, exchange rates and how many people share a car or room. The Jordan Pass and Petra prices on the previous page are official published amounts.

Per person / day	Budget style	Comfort style
Accommodation	20-40 JOD	45-100+ JOD
Meals & drinks	10-20 JOD	20-40 JOD
Local spending / extras	5-15 JOD	10-25 JOD

A sample five-day planning envelope

Item	Budget-oriented example
4 nights accommodation	80-160 JOD
5 days meals	50-100 JOD
Jordan Wanderer pass (if suitable)	70 JOD
Ground transport + tours	100-220 JOD
Extras / contingency	30-70 JOD
ILLUSTRATIVE TOTAL	330-620 JOD

This range assumes shared or economical transport choices and can be exceeded easily by solo private transfers, upscale hotels, additional desert activities or peak-season rates. It is not a package price or offer. A five-day itinerary may require five nights depending on arrival and departure.

Three ways to save

• Compare a Jordan Pass with the attractions you will actually visit.

• Book intercity transfers early; a last-minute private car can change the budget substantially.

• Use a mix of simple local meals and planned paid experiences, rather than paying for convenience at every stop.

05 | Getting around Jordan

Travel comfortably, plan realistically

Jordan has beautiful destinations spread across the country. Transfers between Amman, Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea can take several hours. Build your route around realistic driving times, daylight and rest stops.

Oryx Journey provides transportation services in Jordan. Ask us about your intended route, travel dates, group size and luggage so we can discuss transport options and availability.

What to confirm before a transfer

Confirm the pickup address and time, drop-off point, total quoted fare, luggage space, stops, waiting time and cancellation conditions before you book.

For Wadi Rum, check whether your camp requires a separate transfer from the visitor area. For Petra, plan enough time for walking and a comfortable return journey.

Free local advice, even without a booking

Not sure which places fit into five days? Have a question about money, weather, arrival logistics or local customs? You are welcome to contact Oryx Journey for free guidance. You do not need to book transportation to ask.

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A useful reminder

Travel times and transport availability vary with route, season, traffic and weather. Confirm details before making non-refundable reservations.

06 | Local tips you will actually use

Money and payments

• The currency is the Jordanian dinar (JOD). Keep small notes for markets, snacks, short rides and tips.

• Cards are widely usable at many hotels and larger businesses, but some small shops and vendors are cash-first.

• Use reputable ATMs; ask your bank about international withdrawal and exchange fees.

Culture and practical comfort

• Dress respectfully at religious sites and in more conservative neighborhoods.

• Ask permission before photographing people, especially in shops and communities.

• Keep a refillable water bottle, sunscreen, a hat and sturdy shoes for Petra.

• Desert temperatures can swing significantly between day and night. Pack layers.

• Check the latest travel advice and local weather; avoid wadis during heavy rain or flash-flood warnings.

Five mistakes to avoid

• Trying to visit Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba and the Dead Sea in a single day.

• Booking hotels without checking how you will travel between them.

• Relying exclusively on cards in downtown Amman and local markets.

• Buying attraction tickets before comparing the Jordan Pass and eligibility rules.

• Assuming public buses will conveniently reach every site on your schedule.

Emergency readiness

Save your accommodation contact details offline, share your route with a trusted person, keep travel insurance information accessible and confirm current emergency numbers with official travel guidance before departure.

07 | Your pre-trip checklist

Before booking flights and accommodation

[ ] Check passport validity and nationality-specific visa requirements.
[ ] Decide whether you have five full sightseeing days or fewer.
[ ] Compare Jordan Pass eligibility and official attraction admission prices.
[ ] Match overnight stops with realistic transfer times.

Before you travel

[ ] Confirm Petra opening hours and weather conditions.
[ ] Check what your Wadi Rum camp includes and its pickup location.
[ ] Save maps, booking confirmations and insurance information offline.
[ ] Prepare small Jordanian dinar notes for markets and small shops.
[ ] Confirm pickup points, luggage and transfer arrangements.

More than just a ride

Oryx Journey offers transportation services across Jordan, free local travel tips and friendly customer support for your questions about visiting Jordan - even if they are not related to a booking.

Thinking of visiting Jordan? Tell us your travel dates, group size and destinations. We can help you understand the route and discuss transportation options. No booking is required to ask for advice.

CONTACT ORYX JOURNEY

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Important

This is a free planning guide, not a tour package or a price quote. Official entry rules, opening hours, fares and schedules may change. Recheck them before traveling.