

Byroads

JORDAN & EGYPT

Step back in history to the ancient lands of Jordan & Egypt

20 DAYS - STARTING AMAN 3rd FEBRUARY 2020





JORDAN & EGYPT

Trip Outline

Step back in history and discover the ancient lands of Jordan and Egypt. The tiny Kingdom of Jordan with its stunning desert landscapes, a plethora of ancient towns and amazing World Heritage sites is comfortable, safe and welcoming and is one of the region's most rewarding destinations. Across the Gulf of Aqaba, Egypt has held the imagination of travellers for millennia with its ancient civilization and stunning monuments. The great Nile River is the artery that brings life to the desert and has enabled the Egyptian civilisation to flourish. This special Byroads tour of Jordan and Egypt brings to life the great temples, monuments and natural beauty of the region.

From Amman we travel north to ancient Jerash, occupied by humans for more than 6500 years. Later we descend to the Dead Sea, whose salt enriched waters are known for their healing properties. Turning southward we travel on to Aqaba to swim in the warm waters of the Red Sea before the short drive to magnificent Wadi Rum, one of the most spectacular desert valleys in the Middle East. We spend the night in a luxurious bedouin style encampment, climb sand dunes, and enjoy a camel ride at sunset.

Leaving the desert valley behind us we head to the ancient Nabataean site of Petra. Your first view of the ancient Treasury building is breath taking. Enroute back to Amman we visit the imposing 12th Century Shobak Crusader castle and take a stroll through the ancient villages of Dana and Madaba.

Flying to Cairo we visit the Egyptian Museum, the Great Pyramids of Giza and the enigmatic Sphinx. We also wander the winding alleyways of Khan al-Khalili Bazaar and Islamic Cairo before taking the sleeper train south to Luxor where we explore Karnak Temple and the amazing Valley of the Kings. A luxury cruise on the Nile visiting Edfu and Komombo temples then brings us to Aswan where we enjoy a sail in a Felucca, visit Philae Temple and the Aswan High Dam. No visit to the south is complete without a visit to the great Nubian Temples at Abu Simbel.

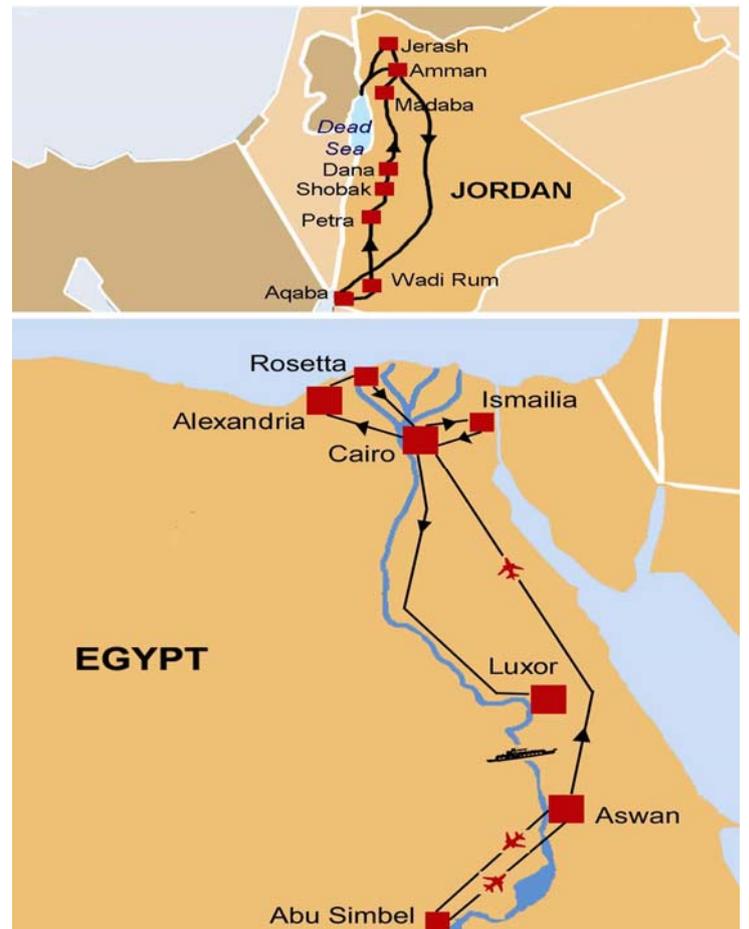
Flying back to Cairo we travel to Ismailia to see the great engineering feat that is the Suez Canal and then continue to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria with its stunning library, ancient catacombs and old fort. Before returning to Cairo we visit the WW II cemetery at El Alamein and discover the rich farm lands of the Nile Delta.

Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has nearly 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He has worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies including 13 years as a Product Manager and Operations Director for Peregrine Adventures.

With our Byroads itineraries you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions – however there are some days when you'll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.



2020 ITINERARY - STARTS IN AMMAN

MON 3 FEB: AMMAN – Upon arrival at the Amman International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the city. The balance of the day is at your leisure and we will plan to hold a short meeting in the evening before going out for dinner.

TUE 4 FEB: AMMAN-JERASH-DEAD SEA-AMMAN – Following breakfast this morning we will drive to the ruins of Jerash located just over an hour away. These imposing Greco-Roman ruins were once home to approximately 35000 inhabitants and the area abounds with the remains of temples, churches, an amphitheatre, ancient water systems and detailed friezes and mosaics. The site has been occupied continuously for 6500 years. Later in the morning we drive to the Dead Sea. This is the deepest, non submerged point on earth and it's a unique sensation to float in the Sea's extremely salty waters. We enjoy lunch here before returning to Amman for the evening. (B, L)

WED 5 FEB: AMMAN-AQABA – This morning we enjoy a walk downtown to visit the Jordan Museum followed by Darat al Funun, a foundation for the arts and artists from the Arab world. Jordan is a small country and its only a 5 hour drive south to the port of Aqaba located at the top of the Red Sea and next to the Israeli city of Eilat. We will visit the historical Aqaba Fort, once the scene of a great Arab victory in 1916 over the Turks when the stronghold fell to a daring Arab camel charge. Later we have time to swim and relax and to get ready for our desert adventure. (B)

THU 6 FEB: AQABA-WADI RUM Just over an hour away from Aqaba, Wadi Rum is one of the most spectacular natural environments in the Middle East. The wadi itself is one of a sequence of parallel faults forming valleys in the sandy desert south of the Shara mountains. The desert scenery found at Wadi Rum is a major highlight of our tour and our overnight stay in a comfortable Bedouin style camp only adds to the specialness of the experience. Today we will enjoy a jeep ride through the wadi and at sunset we will take a camel ride through the desert. This is Lawrence of Arabia country. (B, D)

FRI 7 FEB: WADI RUM-PETRA – Arising early we take our breakfast and set out with our Bedouin guide to visit the sand dunes. After preparing a Bedouin tea for us our guide then takes us to meet our 4WD team who transfer us to the Wadi Rum Visitors Center from where we rejoin our vehicle for the drive to Petra. On arrival in Petra we check into our hotel and the rest of the afternoon and the evening is free at our leisure. (B)

SAT 8 FEB: PETRA – Following breakfast the gates of the past open up to one of the world's most famous wonders; the ancient city of Petra. Experience the magic of this ancient site as you are guided through the architectural and spiritual wonders of the Rose City. Entering through the long, narrow canyon you come face to face with the magnificent Treasury building which has come to symbolise the city. Like the other buildings at Petra it has been carved from the pink-struen rock. The site has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was described as "one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage". Following our visit to the site there is time for your own discoveries or you can decide to return to the hotel to relax, or to wander the shops and bazaar of the town. (B)

SUN 9 FEB: PETRA-SHOBAK-DANA-MADABA-AMMAN – Our drive back to Amman today is packed with interesting sites. First stop is the 12th Century Shobak Crusader Castle. Perched atop a rocky conical mountain it is an imposing site. Following on from Shobak we explore with a guide the village of Dana, a picturesque cluster of stone cottages huddled together on a cliffside outcrop. Abandoned in the middle of the last century the village is being restored and revitalised as part of a hub for sustainable, eco tourism. Further on is the market town of Madaba. Located only 30km southwest of Amman the town is famous for its Byzantina mosaics found in the churches and museums of the town. Of particular interest is the 6th Century mosaic map of the Holy Land. The mosaic at the Church of the Apostles should not be missed and the town itself is definately worth a wander along its narrow streets with its fine Ottoman stone houses. We arrive back in Amman in the late afternoon and check into our hotel for our last night of the tour. (B)

MON 10 FEB: AMMAN-CAIRO – Our adventure in Jordan ends in Amman after breakfast today. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Cairo to the start of your Egyptian portion of your tour. Upon arrival in Cairo you will be met and transferred to your hotel. (B)

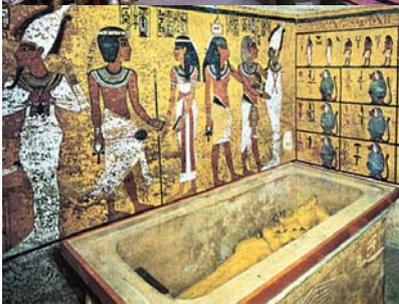




TUE 11 FEB: CAIRO & GIZA – Today we start our tour of Egypt visiting the Grand Egyptian Museum which is the world's largest archaeology museum filled with treasures uncovered after decades of archaeological discoveries. Following lunch we explore the Giza Pyramid complex with a guided tour around the pyramids and the Sphinx and then the stepped pyramid at Saqqara. (B)



WED 12 FEB: CAIRO – Following breakfast we continue our discovery of this historic city. We visit the maze like Khan El Khalil Bazaar where everything is for sale at a haggler's price. We visit Islamic sites such as the Ibn Toulon Masjid and Gayer Anderson Art Museum. In the afternoon we return to our hotel where there is time to freshen up before we are transferred to the railway station for the overnight sleeper train to Luxor. (B, D)



THU 13 FEB: LUXOR & KARNAK – After an early breakfast on board, the train rolls into the Nile port city of Luxor. Explore Karnak, one of the world's most celebrated temple complexes, with our informative guide. In the afternoon we will be transferred to our Nile cruise boat, which will be our home for the next four nights. (B,L, D)

FRI 14 FEB: LUXOR, VALLEY OF THE KINGS & CRUISE – Rise early this morning and head into the Valley of the Kings. We visit three of the ancient royal tombs and the Tut Ank Amoun tomb. Take time to have the Hatshepsut Temple and Colossi of Memnon explained by our guide. In the afternoon we begin our journey along the Nile taking in the sights of the fertile Nile etched against the desert sands. We pass through Esna Lock and dine on the boat as we cruise southward (B, L, D)



SAT 15 FEB: NILE RIVER, EDFU & KOMOMBO TEMPLES – Continuing our southward cruise along the Nile we stop at the great temple complexes at Edfu & Komombo. Time on board to relax, enjoy a drink and to take a dip in the swimming pool. (B, L, D)

SUN 16 FEB: ASWAN – In the morning our cruise arrives in Aswan and we visit the stunning Philae Temple that is dedicated to the goddess Isis, located on an island in the lower Aswan Dam. Enjoy a relaxing sail on a traditional felucca boat to experience the traditional way of travelling along the Nile. (B, L, D)



MON 17 FEB: ABU SIMBEL & ASWAN – Today we take a short flight to reach iconic Abu Simbel. The four colossal statues of Ramses guarding the Great Temple are one of Egypt's most memorable sights. In the evening we will visit a Nubian village and enjoy the warm hospitality (and cuisine) of these locals. You will also be treated to some Nubian dancing and may even have the chance to try some moves yourself. (B, D)

TUE 18 FEB: CAIRO – ISMAILIA – SUEZ CANAL – With a morning flight we return to Cairo and then travel to nearby Ismailia City to view the engineering masterpiece that is the Suez Canal. The Canal is an economic life line for Egypt and is one of the most important waterways in the world as ships cross the desert from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. Later we return to our hotel in Cairo. (B)



WED 19 FEB: EL ALAMEIN & ALEXANDRIA – Today we take the desert road to Alexandria but not before paying a visit to the sombre Commonwealth War Graves at El Alamein. Here we pay respect to the thousands of lives lost in the World War II battles in the Western Desert campaigns. (B)

THU 20 FEB: ALEXANDRIA – Alexandria was home to the famous Alexandria Library and today we visit the remarkable modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina. We take the time to explore the Catacomb of Kom El Shuqqafa and the Al Montazah Palace and Gardens. Later we take a drive along the Alexandria corniche and to the Quit Bay Fortress where there are excellent views of the Mediterranean. (B)

FRI 21 FEB: ROSETTA, NILE DELTA, CAIRO – On our journey back to Cairo we travel through the farming communities of the Nile Delta to understand how the thin artery of life that is the Nile explodes into broad fertile plains – the bread basket of Egypt. We visit Rosetta City to see the Abou Mandour Mosque and other historical sites in this historically important delta city. We spend our final night in Cairo. (B)



SAT 22 FEB: CAIRO – Our tour ends today after breakfast. Taxis are available to the airport or Byroads can organise a transfer for you on request.

The Jordan and Egyptian portions of this tour can be booked separately. Please refer to 8 Days 'Kingdom of Jordaan' and our 13 Days 'Egypt Encompasse tours for full details.

Prices & Inclusions

20 Days – Jordan & Egypt

Provisional price: USD \$4795 (per person twin-share)

Single Supplement: USD \$1285

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local tour leader, local guides, arrival transfer, Nile Cruise, domestic flights, overnight sleeper, 19 nights accommodation, entrance fees to indicated sites, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), international flights including Amman to Cairo, additional meals, drinks, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips, departure transfer.

Transportation: Our transport is by plane, cruise boat, air-conditioned minibuses and overnight sleeper train.

Accommodation: Hotels in Jordan and Egypt tend to be reasonably new and modern in their design with few boutique style hotels available. What you can be assured of is that they will be clean, comfortable, well located and well run. Accommodation highlights include a luxury Bedouin Camp in Wadi Rum and a 4 star hotel in Cairo close to the Giza Pyramids. Comfortable overnight 2 berth sleeper between Cairo and Luxor and roomy cabins with Nile views onboard a river cruiser. In Aswan we stay in a traditional style Nubian hotel and in Alexandria our colonial style hotel sits by the Mediterranean on Alexandria's famous corniche.



Eco Friendly 3+ Star, Amman



Luxury Bedouin Camp, Wadi Rum



By the Pyramids in Cairo



Nile Cruise with River Views



Traditional Nubian style in Aswan



Comfort by the Mediterranean

Food and drink: Breakfast is provided daily and all meals while on Nile Cruise. Beer, wine & spirits are available at selected locations whilst soft drinks, juices and bottled water are available throughout.

Group size: Maximum 16 guests

Additional Expenses: Expect to pay around US\$10-\$20 for lunches and US\$20-\$30 for dinners. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights and Transfers: Various airlines fly from Australia to Amman and Cairo including Emirates, Etihad and Qatar. All arrival flights will be met, however the final departure is not included.

The flight from Amman to Cairo is not included and should be booked in conjunction with your international ticket from your home country.

Extra nights in Amman & Cairo: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Visa: Australian and New Zealand passport holders require a visa to visit Jordan and this is available at the airport on arrival. A visa is also required for Egypt. This can be applied for on-line as an e-visa.

Documentation: Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

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