

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: JORDAN & ISRAEL



TRIP CODE:

TJIAT4

TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & North Africa (TD)

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 EXCEEDED expectations in every. single. way. Ready to see why?

WORTH NOTING...

Heads up! On Day 7, our awesome Topdeck Trip Leader and driver will say their goodbyes in Jordan and a local Israeli Trip Leader will accompany us for the remainder of the trip.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Download app



Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?
The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Airport transfer
- 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
- Visit the Roman ruins of Jerash
- Walking tour of Jerusalem with Trip Leader
- Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial site
- Walking tour of Bethlehem with Trip Leader
- Boat tour of Lake Galilee
- Local Israeli wine tasting
- Walking tour of a Kibbutz with local guide
- Walking tour of Nazareth with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Tel Aviv and Old Jaffa with Trip Leader

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 & the Palestinian Territories - ILS

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | AMMAN (JORDAN)

Punch '7000 BC' into the time machine and hold onto your backpack, you've just landed in a city discovered thousands – yep, THOUSANDS – of years ago. Find your name on a placard at Arrivals – it's in the hands of your super-stoked Topdeck Rep. Fling your stuff in the hotel room, introduce yourself to the rest of the #travelgang and get ready to make memories. Got a growling tum? Stuff your face with local eats at tonight's included group dinner.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Airport transfer

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

Get your fill of brekkie goodness. You're gonna need it as we hit the road to Petra. The Lost City is the end goal, but the journey is just as sweet. First? Madaba. Known as the City of Mosaics, every corner EXPLODES with intricacy, vitality and colour. Want to see the blueprint of today's Sat Nav? The ancient Madaba Map – detailing sacred lands from Egypt to Lebanon – is not to be missed. Next stop: Mt Nebo. Step into the sandals of Moses and soak up breathtaking views of the Promised Land. Then: saddle up and charge Karak Castle, one of the largest crusader strongholds ever built. About to collapse from pure elation? We're not done yet. Flex your chef skills in an optional local cooking class. Then experience Petra – after dark. Opt for a surreal walking tour feat. traditional music and a carpet of 1,500 glowing candles. One word: astounding.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Madaba
- Visit Mt Nebo
- Visit Karak Castle



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Cooking class in Petra: from 47 USD
- Petra by Night tour: from 24 USD

DAY 3 | PETRA

Can you imagine wandering through the streets of a 10,000-year-old city? Don't just imagine it. LIVE it. The Lost City is a labyrinth of ancient tombs, hypnotic temples and flaming-red cliff faces. Our day begins with an orientation walk with our expert Trip Leader. Then: spend the arvo uncovering all of Petra's secrets for yourself. A fan of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade? Rock the fedora and pose for a photo in front of the iconic rose-red façade. Bucket-list moment: tick! Worked up an appetite? You won't wanna miss tonight's optional dinner: an authentic meal of maqluba with a local family. Awesome food with awesome people guaranteed.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Petra with Trip Leader



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Dinner with a local family in Petra: from 43 USD

DAY 4 | PETRA – WADI RUM

After brekkie, hop in a 4x4 and cruise across the burnt-orange sands of The Valley of the Moon. Our destination for one night only? A Bedouin Camp in the crux of the Jordanian desert. Dinner is prepared by a nomadic tribe who has seen the world evolve before its very eyes. Authentic food, hearty tales, and a group of unforgettable camp mates – what more could you want? Oh go on, there's the chance to get starry-eyed with an optional stargazing experience later too. Perfect.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Stargazing in the desert: from 30 USD

DAY 5 | WADI RUM – AQABA

We're swapping sand for sea today, so get ready for all things aquatic at Aqaba! The only coastal city in Jordan sits on the edge of the Red Sea. You know what that means? It's your chance to trade feet for fins and dive right in! Spot Sebastian, Nemo and some coooool dude turtles. Discover lost army tanks, sunken airplanes and mysterious shipwrecks. Once you're done with your gills, it's time to hang up the flippers and head to the beach for sunset. A shawarma (Jordanian kebab) isn't for sharing, but there's plenty to go round!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Diving in Aqaba: prices available locally
- Snorkelling in Aqaba: from 45 USD

DAY 6 | AQABA – DEAD SEA – AMMAN

A big fan of salt? You love it on your hot chips. But how about on your skin? 'Cos the Dead Sea is FULL of it. Float on top of the rippling water like a weightless cloud. Even after a hefty serving of breakfast. Ever dipped a papercut into salt by accident? Yep. You've just scrunched up your face. Same thing applies here – let those hairs grow. Nobody is looking – pinky swear. Soak up the natural minerals, say see ya to stress, and then wave goodbye to the lowest point on Earth. We're going full circle back to where this journey began: Amman. Here, our top-tier Trip Leader will fill you in on alllll the historical deets with a walking tour. Byzantine Basilica, Ummayad Palace, the Temple of Hercules... Hope you're ready to catch your jaw – it's about to DROP.



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 as we cross into Israel. Flash your passport and meet your local Israeli Trip Leader. After another included group dinner, we're bunking down in the heart of Jerusalem tonight. Sit back and enjoy the vibe. This sh*t hits different.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit the Roman ruins of Jerash

DAY 8 | JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is the G.O.A.T. of holy places. Christianity, Islam AND Judaism believe it encompasses all things sacred. Get educated about this city on a guided tour. We're talking Mount of Olives for the incred views. Church of All Nations AND the Garden of Gethsemane. Then, the old city. Phew! We're not even halfway. Cue: Via Dolorosa, Stations of the Cross, and a tonne of sacred sites. Jesus's final resting place at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre? Check. The Western (Wailing) Wall aka the most sacred place in Judaism? Check. Mount Zion – the traditional site of the Last Supper? Check. (Ginny's dad being God-like has a whole new meaning.) Still got energy to explore? That daily step count is gonna explode. One thing you cannot miss this avvy: Mahane Yehunda 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 Trip Leader

DAY 9 | JERUSALEM – BETHLEHEM – JERUSALEM

Today begins on a sombre note with a visit to Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre – please dress respectfully. In the museum, you can take in the Hall of Names, read survivors' tales and see personal artifacts of Holocaust victims. It's an eye-opening experience. After, we're hitting up Bethlehem. Yep, the birthplace of Jesus himself. Our walking tour's main attraction: the Church of the Nativity. Then: get your art fix at the Separation Wall. Its history will make you feel things. The graffiti will make your jaw drop. You'll learn something that might change your outlook on life. Okayy, *deep breath* heavy chat over, it's back to Jerusalem for the night.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial site
- Walking tour of Bethlehem with Trip Leader

DAY 10 | JERUSALEM – LAKE GALILEE & GOLAN HEIGHTS – NORTHERN ISRAEL REGION

Tranquil. Stormy. Unbelievable. REAL. Nope, it's not the latest retrograde. It's Lake Galilee. Our first stop of the day. You may not get to walk on water, but you can deffo embrace the serene atmosphere on an included boat tour. Onwards to Golan Heights. Get your tastebuds ready cos a local wine tasting is about to happen. Then, it's back to the waters with a visit to Yardenit, a turquoise baptismal site on the Jordan River. Next up: a local Kibbutz. What's that? A community settlement entirely unique to Israel. You wanted to experience the authentic side of travel. This is it. And you're staying the night. With traditional dins included! Don't say we don't treat you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Boat tour of Lake Galilee
- Local Israeli wine tasting
- Walking tour of a Kibbutz with local guide

DAY 11 | NORTHERN ISRAEL REGION – NAZARETH – TEL AVIV

Our road trip continues! First stop: Nazareth. An awesome sight you'll behold on our included walking tour: the Basilica of the Annunciation. According to Catholic tradition, this is the site of Mary's home, where Angel Gabriel announced she would give birth to the Son of God. Want a beaut view of the terraced Baha'i Gardens in Haifa? Sorted. After: it's our last stop. Put the tissues away for now cos we're in Israel's capital. It's giving bright. It's giving awesome. It's giving love. Tel Aviv understands the assignment. Get to know this iconic city on a walking tour with your Trip Leader. Top sights you're gonna fall for? Jaffa's Old Port, Rabin's Memorial Site, Neve Tzedek. And MORE. Tonight, we're gonna tuck into our last supper, Topdeck-fam style. Where's the shakshuka at?



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Nazareth with Trip Leader
- Walking tour of Tel Aviv and Old Jaffa with Trip Leader

DAY 12 | TEL AVIV

Down your pomegranate juice and take a deep breath – this morning it's time to say our goodbyes. Get in on the WhatsApp group for next year's reunion, where it WILL make it out of the chat. Sticking around? Track down Abu Hassan for hummus that will haunt your dreams (it's that good).



MEALS:

- Breakfast

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, 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 so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your 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.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers 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 immediately. 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 do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don'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.

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 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 (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

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

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 adventure AND 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 room 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!

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.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

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's 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. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

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.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!