



# The DofE Experts

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expeditions

Jordan



## Oundle School

### Nomadic Jordan

### 2012

An exciting 8 day expedition in Jordan! We visit the incredible ancient city of Petra and float in the Dead Sea before trekking in the stunning desert of Wadi Rum, home to the Bedouin who have inhabited this region for hundreds of years. We then visit the Red Sea coast to complete our action packed adventure!



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## Day 1 Depart UK

We fly from the UK to Amman where we transfer to our hotel in the old town of Madaba. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a land of mesmerizing natural beauty and rich history. Our first visit is Madaba which lies just 30km south of Amman and is known as the 'City of Mosaics'. This fascinating market town has a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and is situated on the 5,000 year old Kings' Highway which was an important trade route in the ancient Middle East.

## Day 2 Madaba to Petra—Visiting Mt Nebo and the Dead Sea

An early start today as we explore Madaba and the surrounding area. We start with a visit to the Church of St George in Madaba which houses a wonderful mosaic map of Ancient Palestine. This is the oldest known map of the region and dates from the 6th century AD and it's said that it contains more the 2 million fragments!

We will also visit Mt Nebo, the presumed site of Moses' death and burial place. Mentioned in the Old Testament it was from here that Moses reached his goal of setting eyes on the holy land, knowing that he was never to set foot in it. From this site we are treated to breathtaking views of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea - on a clear day it is possible to see the town of Jericho and the hills of Jerusalem!

We then leave behind the hills of Madaba and descend into the spectacular Rift Valley. It is in this dramatic, beautiful landscape that we find the Dead Sea which at over 400m below sea level is the lowest point on earth. The Dead Sea is famous for its high salt content and as we immerse ourselves in the dense salty water we can sit back, relax and float on the water's surface. It takes a while to get used to but laying back in our imaginary armchairs is a wonderful, unique sensation!

After our unforgettable experience in the Dead Sea we drive to the world famous site of Petra where we spend the night.

## Day 3 Petra

The rose red city of Petra is the most mystic and glorious of Jordan's ancient treasures, nothing really prepares you for this amazing place—It really has to be seen to be believed! Located in a spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge it is the remains of the once lost capital city of the Nabataeans.

Today will be an early start as we set out on a full days exploration of Petra. We will start the day by walking down the dramatic towering siq. This is the narrow gorge that runs its way into the ancient city and to the astonishing Treasury, the most perfect of Petra's carved façades. Used in the final sequence of the film Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, the Treasury is only the beginning of today's adventure. Throughout the day we pass many more carved facades including a hike up the monumental staircase to the magical Monastery and walk to the 'end of the world' for views of the wild Negav mountains. Petra will carve itself into our minds for ever!

After our day at Petra we drive through stunning landscape to Jordan's famed desert of Wadi Rum. We will have a dinner in our desert camp and prepare for the start of our fantastic desert trek.



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## Days 4 - 6 Wadi Rum

Immortalised by Lawrence of Arabia, Wadi Rum (Wadi means valley) was once a meeting place for caravans from Arabia. As the inhabitants of Wadi Rum, the lives of the Bedouin are intrinsically linked with the desert landscape and here we will see women herding goats and families around their traditional goat hair tents. Standing amid this wonderful landscape where the red rocks rise up to meet the deep blue sky, the illusion of Wadi Rum will soon work its magic on us.

As we trek into the desert we will be expertly guided by our local Bedouin team. Our nomadic guide will be accompanied by one of his trusty charismatic camels to assist with the carrying of light supplies. As we wind our way through Wadi Rum we will pass through spectacular canyons flanked by huge sand stone bluffs affording us plenty of shade. We will also pass ancient water systems left by the builders of Petra—the Nabataeans.

Each night we will arrive to camp where our trek team will have set up and will be waiting for us with something cold to drink and something delicious to eat. We can hear about their fascinating nomadic lives and then settle down to sleep under the stunning desert night skies!

## Day 7 Red Sea - Aqaba

This morning we will wake for the final time in the desert of Wadi Rum and trek towards the village of Disi. On our way we will pass rock inscriptions of camels and wildlife which were left here by the people who inhabited this land more than a thousand years ago. We will enjoy lunch at our desert camp before bidding farewell to our Bedouin crew. We have a short drive to the Red Sea town of Aqaba.

A short drive then brings us to the Red Sea town of Aqaba which is at a point where four countries meet - the land of Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia can all be viewed from the town. Geographically Aqaba is where the narrow Gulf of Aqaba comes to an end and here the warm waters of the Red Sea support an abundance of coral life.

Aqaba is an interesting town for shopping—many varieties of nuts are traded here such as pistachios, cashews and almonds and there are many market stalls in the town where we can sample these local delicacies. We can also take time to wander along the sea front and enjoy the evening breeze coming off the water, a welcome change from the desert!

## Day 8 Return to UK

Today we make our way back to Amman along Jordan's main road, the 'desert highway' in time for our flight back to the UK.

The Itinerary: While Far Frontiers Expeditions will make every effort to provide the itinerary as presented, this is sometimes not possible and your patience and understanding are requested if the itinerary should change.



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## Oundle School—2012

### Nomadic Jordan (8 days)

#### *This expedition includes:*

- Far Frontiers Expedition Leader (qualified first-aider); School staff as appropriate; International economy class flights between UK and Amman; UK international departure tax; Passenger Service Charges; Accommodation in shared rooms; Supporting in-country guides; All camping equipment (except sleeping bag); All transfers by minibus or bus as per itinerary; Fully supported trek; All applicable camping fees; All meals from dinner on day of arrival to breakfast on day of departure; Vegetarian or other meal plan can be provided\*—please specify at time of booking

#### *This expedition excludes:*

- Personal travel insurance premiums; Immunisation costs; Personal equipment and clothing; Sleeping bag; Visa fees; Items of a personal nature such as laundry, drinks, telephone calls, souvenirs etc; Tipping for local guide and drivers

\* We will do our best to ensure that you are given the diet you require, both in flight and while on expedition. However, we cannot be responsible for life threatening illnesses which may occur if certain foods are eaten (e.g. severe nut allergy).

The air holiday package shown is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9281.



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