



Wadi Rum Desert Trail

Weight limit: 85kg / 13.3 stone

Nearest airport: Amman

10 days / 9 nights / 6 days riding

Overview:

Discover the southern parts of Jordan on horseback where the rugged nature is breathtakingly beautiful. The natural wonder of Wadi Rum is one of the most impressive desert landscapes in the world. This echoing and colourful desert is a true paradise for nature lovers. Ride over the mountainous area around Petra with stunning views to the desert and enjoy long canters across the vast sand plains. Spend the evenings at camp sitting around campfire, tasting delicious Arabic dishes and soaking in the quietness of the desert under starlit skies.



The Riding

The riding on this trail is a mix of relaxed riding at walk with long trots and canters where the terrain allows faster riding. There are also opportunities to gallop. All riders should be fit enough to ride 5-6 hours a day, sometimes in the heat of the desert. Previous trail riding experience is a must and each participant should be confident and in control at all paces out in the open on a forward going horse.

Wearing a hard hat is strongly recommended.



Guides & Group sizes

You will be guided by Eid who was born and raised in Wadi Musa. He has more than 20 years of experience in working with horses and guiding trails in Wadi Rum.

The maximum number of riders in a group is 7.

Horses and Tack

The horses on this trail are local Arabs and Arab crosses. They are forward going rides and can be spirited. They are small but tough and perfectly suited for the desert environment.

All the horses will have their own individual English saddle and bridle fitted to them. The saddle pads have pockets that can carry the daily essential items, such as water bottles, sun cream and camera.

The guests can participate in grooming and tacking up their horses each day, as well as, helping with the feeding and watering of the horses.

Accommodation & Dining

The accommodation during the first and last night of the holiday will be in a hotel in Madaba with breakfast included. On days 2 and 8 you will be staying in a hotel near Petra, with breakfast and dinner included.

While out on trail in the desert the accommodation will be in a mobile camp in dome tents (bring your own sleeping bag!) Each guest will have their own tent with a mattress provided. Sanitary facilities in the camps are basic and there is a limited amount of water available for washing. Each participant should help out with camp chores, such as putting up and taking down tents. During the ride in the desert you will enjoy a full board of delicious Arabic dishes. Tea will always be available, as well as, water and soft drinks (no alcohol). Allergies or special dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice.

Luggage will be transported by the support vehicle between overnight camps. The support vehicle meets the group each day also at lunch time so you will have access to your belongings during the day as well.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive at Amman Airport and get a transfer by car to a hotel in Madaba; a mostly Christian town. If time allows, you can visit the St. George church and the mosaics at the archaeological museum. Our partners in Jordan can highly recommend you a very nice Jordanian dinner at a local and unique restaurant: Haret Djoudna.

Day 2: Visit Petra (no riding)

08.30 AM: transfer to Petra (3 hrs). You will be taken to the hotel where you can leave your luggage (Early check-in if possible). A short walk takes you to the visitor centre of Petra where they scan your Jordan Pass and you start your visit via the Siq, the Treasury, the street of façades and the colonnaded street. Climb up to visit the Monastery and the High

Place of Sacrifice. Tonight you will have dinner at Petra B&B with your trail riding guide and fellow riders.

Day 3: Start of the ride in the mountains

After breakfast: transfer to the starting point of the ride. In the mountains you start your adventure with great views over Petra. 3 hrs of riding takes you to an area with natural springs and tree gardens with amazing views over Petra and Wadi Araba. Continue riding after lunch for another 2.5 hours via the viewpoint of Dilagha and then descend down into Wadi Thugra where the camp will be set.

Day 4: To Wadi Rum

Groom and tack up your horse and the day can start! Ride via a small Bedouin village and slowly but surely mountains become desert; After about 2.5 hours you reach "the 3 trees", the only shady place in this area and a good lunch spot. Continue riding towards the village of Humayma, where you can lead your horse across the Desert Highway into the north part of Wadi Rum, the Kharaza area. It will take another 2 hours to reach the camp for the night by a beautiful U shape rock formation. It's the perfect spot to see the moon rise over the mountains and wake up to a beautiful sunrise.

Day 5: Further into the desert

The third day of riding begins in a stunning part of the desert, far away from the tourist areas. Today you will see natural rock bridges, the "mushroom", and inscriptions. There will be plenty of chances for nice, long canters. Enjoy a relaxed lunch in the shade after a 2,5 hour morning ride, maybe have a little power nap, take pictures and enjoy the scenery. After lunch continue for another 2,5 to 3 hrs on endless sand roads, perfect for long canters. In this area the sand has many colours so keep your camera ready!



Day 6: Protected Area of Wadi Rum

Today the ride will take you via the mudflat to Um Salab where you cross into the Protected Area of Wadi Rum! Experience riding through a stunning canyon to Um Ishrin, where you'll stop for lunch. Ride for another 3 hours in the afternoon crossing the highest sand dunes in

Wadi Rum and past the inscriptions of the Nabateans. Call by Laurence's house before continuing to Burdah Bridge where the camp is set for the night.

Day 7: More amazing desert

This morning ride for about 2.5 hours from Burdah Bridge to the back of Um Fruth Bridge and enjoy a lunch break here. After lunch the ride will take you from Um Fruth Bridge to the 5-kilometre-long Barrah Canyon. The camp will be set in the canyon. Embrace the silence!

Day 8: Ride back to civilization

Continue our ride through Barrah canyon and from there towards and through Siq Um Foos and Siq Um Atawaki where you will have lunch after a 2.5 hour ride in the morning. The ride continues across the mud flat, a great place for a long canter. This afternoon you'll say goodbye to your horse and to the team at Wadi Rum, transfer back to Petra where you will spend the night at a hotel where you can wash away all the dust and enjoy a dinner at Petra B&B.

Day 9: Dead Sea and Madaba (no riding)

8.30 AM: transfer to the Dead Sea (3 hrs). You will spend the afternoon at the 5* Holiday Inn Resort, where you have access to the beach, the pools and other facilities and where you will enjoy lunch at their buffet restaurant (drinks are not included). Around 5 PM: Transfer to your hotel in Madaba via the scenic Mt. Nebo way through the hills.

Day 10: Departure

Pick up 2,5 hours before the departure time of your flight.



Jordan Pass

We recommend purchasing a Jordan Pass (www.jordanpass.io) before the start of your holiday. The Pass that you will need is called the “Jordan Wanderer” and the cost is 70 JOD. By purchasing this Pass your visa fee upon arrival to Jordan will be waived, and the entry to Petra and Wadi Rum are included in the price too. Please PRINT your Jordan Pass so that the guide can take it to the visitor centre at Wadi Rum.



Price includes

- 6 full days of riding
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddlebags
- Night in a hotel in Madaba on Days 1 and 9, including breakfast
- Night in a hotel near Petra on Days 2 and 8, including breakfast and dinner
- 5 nights camping in the Wadi Rum
- Full board during the ride in the desert
- All land transfers
- All arrangements for duration of holiday
- Services of guide

Not included

- Flights
- Jordan Pass
- Tips

International flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

The closest airport is Amman.

Airport transfers to/from the airport are included in your holiday. Individual transfers are arranged if participants are arriving too far apart. Transfer time is approximately 25 minutes.

What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please use the packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Comfortable riding trousers / jodhpurs
- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Riding boots/ walking boots with a good grip (riding boots with smooth sole are not recommended as they can be slippery when walking)
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Long sleeved shirts to protect against the sun and sand
- Warm fleece / jumper for the cooler nights
- Waterproof jacket
- Comfortable clothes for evening
- Lightweight shoes for evening
- Thermal underwear to sleep in especially during winter months
- Buff / bandana to protect you from the sun and sand
- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses & sunhat
- Bumbag
- Sleeping bag & small travel pillow
- Small towel
- Bathing suit for your visit to the Dead Sea
- Camera + extra batteries
- A good head torch
- Insect repellent
- Personal medication
- Copy of passport & insurance details
- Jordan Pass printed

Climate

Winter months from Dec to Feb in Wadi Rum offer cooler temperatures ranging from approx. 15°C during the day to below 0°C during the night. Spring and autumn (March-April & Oct-Nov) are normally warm with temperatures of 20-30°C during the day and 10°C at night. The hottest time of the year is between May and September. The temperatures can rise way above 30°C during the day and stay at approx. 15°C even at night.

Annual precipitation in Wadi Rum is low. The rains can be very hard to predict and can occur all year round, however, they are more common during the winter months.



Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

You will need a visa to enter Jordan. For most nationalities the visitor's visa can be obtained upon arrival to Jordan. We recommend purchasing the Jordan Pass before the start of your holiday. By purchasing this Pass your visa fee upon arrival to Jordan will be waived.

For entry requirements to Jordan for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/jordan/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The local currency in Jordan is Jordanian Dinar. We recommend bringing enough local currency to pay for lunches and dinners on the days they are not included, as well as, possible souvenirs.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion.



Riding declaration

"I am an experienced rider and able to mount & dismount unaided. I have a firm seat and I'm confident and in control at all paces over rough terrain (including rising trot, light seat canters and gallops) and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others."

Booking conditions

You are booking with the riding holiday operator, these are their booking conditions:

RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I am aware that participation in any horse ride organised by HRTJ and its associates, agents and sub-contractors, contains inherent risks of illness, injury, death or loss of or damage to personal property, whether caused by accident, wild animals, forces of nature, human negligence or Acts of God. I recognize that such risks may be present at any time during the ride and I am also aware that medical facilities may not be readily available at all times and that such as are available may not always be of the highest standards.

Now in consideration of the premises and my participation in the horse ride organised by HRTJ, I HEREBY DECLARE AND AGREE on behalf of myself and of any minors accompanying me, to DISCHARGE AND RELEASE HRTJ from and hold HRTJ HARMLESS for the consequences of any personal injury (fatal, mental or otherwise) accidents, claims, losses, and loss of or damage to personal property which might occur. I expressly ASSUME any and all risks and liability or injury with respect to the horse ride in which I have agreed to participate and all the activities comprised therein. And I pledge not to sue HRTJ on account of any losses, claims, costs, liabilities or damages. I further agree not to claim the unenforceability of this Release and Assumption of Risk and that all the terms of this document shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees and those of any minors accompanying me.

HRTJ reserves the right, at its discretion at any time to cancel or terminate any booking, either before or during a horse ride, and in particular without limiting the generality of this right, to do so in the event of illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of any client who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund and shall be responsible for any additional costs, although every effort shall be made to minimize these.

INSURANCE AND MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS

I/We participate in this horse ride on HRTJ's understanding that before arrival I/we have taken out comprehensive insurance cover against trip cancellation, personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise), medical and emergency evacuation and loss of cash or loss of or damage to personal property.

LIABILITY

I/We agree to taking all reasonable precautions to ensure safety, and particularly wearing protective headgear when riding.

HRTJ may employ sub-contractors to undertake some or all of the components of the tour and all travel arrangements and other services provided by any sub-contractor are also subject to the booking and other conditions relating to the provision of arrangements and services by such sub-contractor. While every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure your safety and your property, neither HRTJ nor any of its employees, agents and independent sub-contractors are liable for any such personal injury to you or loss of or damage to your property, howsoever caused while on a tour with HRTJ; nor will HRTJ be held liable for loss actual or consequential caused to you through late bookings, cancellations, delays, sickness, injury, death or failure to take health precautions and comply with statutory or immigration requirements.

HRTJ reserves the right to cancel any ride / tour or part thereof or to make alterations to itinerary, price or other components and in the event of any tour being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable, in part or whole, whether through weather, strike, war, insecurity, Governmental restrictions or other circumstances beyond the control of HRTJ, any additional expenses shall be borne by and on the account of the Client although all efforts shall be made to keep these costs to the minimum and to consult Clients over any revision of plans.

FITNESS

I acknowledge that the horse ride may be physically and mentally demanding and that having been made aware of the minimum physical requirements, I am fit enough physically & mentally to undertake it. I am aware that previous or existing illnesses may be aggravated by participation in the horse ride contemplated, and I acknowledge that I am free from such illness and or injury and will take full responsibility for any injury or illness that may be occasioned or arise as a result of the horse ride, together with any costs arising there from or attendant thereto.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during booking process.

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