

# SPICE ROADS

## CYCLING

### BIKE TRAILS OF JORDAN



TRAILS



DURATION

8 Days / 7 Nights



BIKE

Mountain Bike



CYCLING DISTANCE

192 km (3 full / 2 half)



DIFFICULTY

Challenging



DESTINATION

Jordan



TOUR MEETS / ENDS

Amman

#### PRICES

TOUR COST:	US\$ 2,100
BIKE HIRE:	US\$ 185
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	US\$ 255

#### DEPARTURE

2018

4 Mar – 11 Mar  
8 Apr – 15 Apr  
30 Sep – 7 Oct  
4 Nov – 11 Nov

2019

3 Mar – 10 Mar  
7 Apr – 14 Apr  
29 Sep – 6 Oct  
3 Nov – 10 Nov

#### TOUR INFORMATION

GROUP SIZE: 2-16 riders

MINIMUM AGE: 18 years

INCLUDED: SpiceRoads jersey • Water bottle  
• Support vehicle • Guide(s)  
• Meals (as indicated)  
• Accommodation • Group airport drop off • Snacks and drinks

EXCLUDED: International flights • Visa fees  
• Alcohol • Tips • Airport pick up • Jordan pass (Mandatory purchase at US\$99)

MAP: [Click for large map](#)

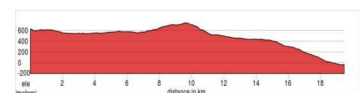


#### HOW TO BOOK

Fill out our [online booking form](#) to reserve your adventure. Places are limited so it is essential that you secure your place as early as possible.

ELEVATION PROFILE:  
+2,612m / -4,534m

[Click to see full elevation profile](#)



If you wish to make this tour a private departure, please contact [info@spiceroads.com](mailto:info@spiceroads.com)



## BIKE TRAILS OF JORDAN

Once the stopover for ancient nomadic Bedouins, Jordan is now enthralling a new generation of adventure travellers. Follow in the footsteps of Roman Emperor Hadrian, the Prophet Moses and Lawrence of Arabia and explore the majestic ruins of bygone civilizations, the uber-salty Dead Sea and the bareness of the sands of Wadi Rum. Mountain biking on the former caravan routes offers a local perspective, gets you up close and personal to the shepherds and perhaps even to a camel or two.

From vibrant and urban Amman, flanked by ancient citadels and Roman amphitheatres, we explore this oasis of the Mid East from north to south. When possible we transfer high and bike down, including a descent to the lowest place on earth, the Dead Sea. Float and cover yourself in mud before heading up to Mount Nebo, where Moses looked across at the Promised Land, from which we descend to the edge of the Dana Nature Reserve, a bird watchers paradise. Dirt trails take us along a ridge and eventually above Petra, though the city itself is purposefully difficult to see and will be discovered the next day on foot. Trade ancient civilizations for the stark desert of Wadi Rum, also known as the valley of the moon. We rehydrate at the Red Sea, our last stop in southern Jordan.

Jordan will be unveiled to you in a myriad of layers, from ancient ruins, vibrant culture, unique overnights to exquisite cuisine and all while biking the length of the country.

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## TRIP PROFILE

We ride 192 km, about 80 per cent off road, in 5 cycling days. The trails are single track to gentler dirt roads. We will be riding through valleys, alongside and into streams, and there will be some climbing. Please note the daily ascents and descents listed below. There are a few sections with limited vehicle support on this tour due to the remoteness of the trails. In case of an emergency we will be able to call for assistance. Please bring a camelbak or similar hydration system for water and to carry snacks. Your guide's expert knowledge of the area and terrain means that you always know what is coming up in terms of distance and difficulty.

**Suitability:** You should be confident of your physical condition and bike handling skills. Some climbs are challenging and therefore you should have a good level of fitness to cope with more than 1000 m of climbing on day 4. As mountain biking surfaces require competent bike handling skills it is advisable to have off road and preferably some single track experience, although difficult obstacles can always be avoided. Suitable for cyclists with a keen attitude and adventurous nature!

**Biking Conditions:** This tour follows a mixture of dirt trails, rocky surface, gravel paths, off-road biking as well as sections of tarmac. The daily distances aren't long, between 20-54 km in a day, but we will be stopping to see sites along the way and challenged by the uphill and downhill.

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## DAY TO DAY

**B** = Breakfast   **L** = Lunch   **D** = Dinner

### DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN AMMAN

Welcome to the Kingdom of Jordan! We will meet at the hotel for a welcome dinner and go over the details of our upcoming adventure.



Larsa Hotel. D

## DAY 2 – AMMAN - DEAD SEA

After breakfast we'll see the highlights of the city and visit the ancient Citadel and the Roman Amphitheatre, a 3,000-year-old piece of history built into one of the many hills in downtown Amman. Time to see more of Jordan, so we transfer north to our cycling start point at 625 m. We have an easy start on a ridge, to give you a chance to get used to the bike and a gradual 2 km climb will be a good test of your gears. Then enjoy the dirt track as you start the long descent to the Zarqa River. In biblical times, the river was known as the Jabbok River, where Jacob wrestled with God. The beautiful long descent caps off one of the best sections of the Jordan Bike Trail. After crossing the river we hop in our vehicles for a transfer to the Dead Sea. We arrive early in the afternoon so you can enjoy a float in the salty waters at the lowest point on earth, 410 m below sea level.

Holiday Inn Resort Dead Sea. Ride 19 km . 70% Off Road, 30% Road. +169 m / -1,145 m. B L D

## DAY 3 – DEAD SEA - DANA

As we are starting below sea level we have a 1,000 m transfer up the mountainside to the plateau for a visit to Mount Nebo, this is where Moses looked across at the Promised Land before he died. We continue on to the Christian town of Madaba to see the mosaic map of the Holy Land before we reach our start point. We cycle south on quiet roads across the plains of the Madaba plateau and through the village of Ma'in. The route then starts a long descent following Wadi Zarqa Ma'in on smooth roads passing the Zarqa Ma'in dam and continues following the river. This portion of the trail is another scenic highlight with brown-rocky mountains on one side and lush green mountains on the other. The terrain includes road, dirt track, rocky paths and gravel roads. We overnight on the edge of the Dana Biosphere, Jordan's largest nature reserve and home to a great variety of wildlife. Our hotel is in Dana Village which has been occupied since about 4,000 BC. Today, Dana is inhabited mostly by clans of the "Al Ata'ata" tribe, which settled in the area during the Ottoman period, about four hundred years ago, and built the present village. Many of the families moved away in search of better jobs, schools, and housing and the crumbling village was nearly abandoned but now 70 of the traditional stone houses have been restored, enabling some families to remain in the village.

Dana Tower Hotel. Ride 28 km. 75% Road, 25% Off Road. + 282 m / - 836 m m. B L D

## DAY 4 – DANA - LITTLE PETRA

This morning we drive the short distance to visit Shobak Castle. The first of the series of Crusader Castles built in Jordan; which was constructed by Baldwin I in 1115 and only surrendered in 1189 to the Great Salahdin. We will have more climbing today than any other day, and we start with an incline on a paved road, curling around the castle, until we reach the top of the hill. Here we hit the dirt trail and begin a stunning section, traversing the side of the mountain, overlooking the mountains of Ras Al-Feid and Mount Safaha, and Gbour Wahdat with the Jordan valley in the distance.

The jeep width dirt track crosses dry streams and then climbs to a higher elevation track that gives us our first glimpse of Petra, Wadi Musa, and the small town of Um Sayhoun, with Aaron's Shrine barely visible in the distance on top of Jebel Haroun. Finish with a slightly technical descent to the entrance of Petra and then we take the tarmac road to the entrance of Little Petra. We walk through Little Petra and clamber up to the dining room with 2,000-year-old frecoes discovered just in 2010. It is a short cycle from here to our Bedouin camp for the night. We are in tents with cots and shared facilities.

Seven Wonders Camp. Ride 54 km. 70% Off Road, 30% Road. +1248 m / -1539 m.



B L D

#### DAY 5 – PETRA DISCOVERY

A highlight of any trip to Jordan is to see firsthand the archaeological wonders of Petra. Famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system the Rose City is not to be missed. After breakfast at camp we drive to the modern visitors centre and start our walk to the narrow and famous entrance to the Treasury. Then you will enter the Siq, exploring the ancient rock carved ruins of Facades Street, the theatre, and the court. After lunch we let you explore on your own to discover some of the less visited monuments such as the monastery, the Khubtha Mountain or the High Place of sacrifice.

Petra Palace Hotel. B L D

#### DAY 6 – RAJIF - WADI RUM

A long gradual downhill takes us through quintessential middle-eastern desert landscape on caravan tracks. We transfer uphill to the small town of Rajif where we get on our bikes for the desert descent. After a short section on the King's Highway the fun begins with a downhill dirt track through pure countryside. On reaching the desert highway, we transfer to Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon. Cut into sandstone and granite rock it is Jordan's largest Wadi. Shots of Wadi Rum in Lawrence of Arabia kick-started Jordan's tourism industry, but you may also recognize it from Red Planet and The Martian. We go for a sunset jeep tour to experience a beautiful night under the stars in the desert.

Sun City Camp. Ride 51 km. 90% Off Road, 10% Road. +462 m / -1038 m. B L D

#### DAY 7 – WADI RUM - AQABA

An morning cycle on the desert salt flats around Wadi Rum will give you yet another perspective on this stark and harsh landscape. Mid morning we transfer to Aqaba, Jordan's window to the sea, to enjoy and relax on a well-deserved boat ride on the Red Sea. We will have a leisurely lunch onboard and ample opportunity to see the vibrant coral while snorkeling. Meet up for our farewell dinner at the hotel and the last night of your tour.

Marina Plaza Tala Bay Hotel. Ride 40 km. 65% Road, 35% Off Road. +367 m / -213 m. B L D

#### DAY 8 – DEPARTURE

After breakfast at the hotel there will be one group drop off at Queen Alia International Airport at approximately 11:30 am. Please schedule your return flight accordingly. If you wish to extend your stay in Jordan, Aqaba is the perfect place to dive or snorkel the Red Sea and the city also borders Israel and is a popular place to cross.

B

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## NUTS & BOLTS

### BIKES

Because some people can't imagine going on a trip without their own beloved bicycle, we do not provide them as part of this tour. However, you are able to hire bikes locally for the price listed on the front page of this document. The bikes are Scott Aspect mountain bikes with lightweight alloy frames, 30-speed Shimano gearing, disc brakes and front suspension. If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is a mountain bike,



preferably with front suspension, and that it is in good mechanical order.

#### **BIKE REPAIRS**

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

#### **SAFETY**

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

#### **SUPPORT**

For a few short sections there will be limited support on this tour due to the fact that a vehicle cannot follow us on the trails. Your baggage will be transported everyday to the next hotel. A vehicle will always be nearby and available for emergency assistance.

#### **GUIDES**

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 11 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

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### **THE NITTY GRITTY**

#### **ARRIVING AND DEPARTING**

This tour begins and ends in Amman, Jordan. International and domestic flights to and from Amman are not included in the tour price. Queen Alila International Airport (QAIA) is the main airport of Jordan serviced by many global airline carriers, located 35 km south of Jordan. One group drop-off to the airport on Day 8 is included in the tour cost. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times.

#### **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

We require all clients to purchase the [Jordan Wanderer Pass](#) online prior to arrival. This pass includes your visa fee and entrance to 40 attractions, including Petra. The Jordan Wanderer Pass can be purchased [here](#) for USD 99.

#### **HEALTH**

No vaccinations are required.

#### **WEATHER**

The optimal months to visit Jordan is March – May, and Sept- Nov when the temperature is comfortably warm, not scorching. The heat will hit in summer from June – September, when temperatures can rise up to 40 C, and lots of water and sun cream is a must! However, it's dry heat rather than humid. December – February is winter time; snow and rain can be found throughout the country along with short days and freezing nights. It is also regarded as a quiet time for visiting.



## FOOD

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Middle Eastern cuisine is a highlight of this tour. Popular everyday snacks include hummus, falafel, baba ghanoush, tabbouleh, olives and pita bread. As one of the largest producers of olives in the world, olive oil is the main cooking oil. Jordanian cuisine ranges from baking, sauteeing and grilling of meats to stuffing of vegetables – leaves and eggplants. Also common is roasting or preparing foods with special sauces. In Southern Jordan a specialty and delicacy of the area that you will get to enjoy is the *Zarbs*, which is prepared in a submerged oven called a *taboon*.

## DRINK

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water, some energy-restoring soft drinks are included in the tour price while riding. Soft drinks and other beverages during meals are not included. But you may also want to bring electrolyte in powder or tablet form. Alcoholic drinks are available in hotels, but are NOT included in the price.

## SOLO TRAVELERS

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for traveling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveler of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

## EXTRA EXPENSES

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra liras for possible incidentals that might arise. It is always wise to have some paper currency in case of ATM absence or credit card problems. This will save you a lot of unnecessary worries.

It is also customary to tip local tour guides and drivers; however, the amount you give should be dependent on the level of service you receive.

## MONEY

The Jordanian Dinar is the currency of Jordan. ATMs are available in Amman and Aqaba. The use of credit cards; American Express, Visa, Master Card, Diners club are accepted at some hotels, however, it is recommended to have some cash at hand.

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*The information in this document is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, however, we will always do our best to adhere to this original itinerary.*

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