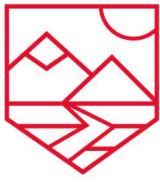


SPICE ROADS

CYCLING

DEAD SEA CIRCUIT BY ROAD BIKE



ROAD



DURATION

14 Days / 13 Nights



BIKE

Road Bike



CYCLING DISTANCE

752 km (10 days)



DIFFICULTY

Active



DESTINATIONS

Israel/Jordan



TOUR MEETS / ENDS

Jerusalem

PRICES

TOUR COST:	US\$ 5,200
BIKE HIRE:	US\$ 400
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	US\$ 650

DEPARTURE

2018	2019
2 Nov - 15 Nov	1 Nov - 14 Nov
7 Dec - 20 Dec	6 Dec - 19 Dec

TOUR INFORMATION

GROUP SIZE:	4-16 riders
MINIMUM AGE:	18 years
INCLUDED:	SpiceRoads jersey • Water bottle • Support vehicle • Guide(s) • Meals (as indicated) • Accommodation • Snacks and drinks
EXCLUDED:	International flights • Visa fees • Alcohol • Tips

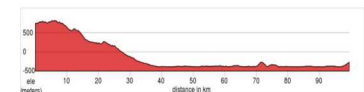
MAP:

[Click for large map](#)



ELEVATION PROFILE:
+8,955 m/-11,164 m

[Click to see full elevation profil](#)



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.

If you wish to make this tour a private departure, please contact info@spiceroads.com



DEAD SEA CIRCUIT

Since biblical times Israel and Jordan have been alluring destinations, long attracting visitors. Carved out of the desert by prophets, kings, crusaders and pilgrims, the Holy Land offers many sacred splendours, but also diverse experiences and a rich tapestry of cultures. Bike from Israel to Jordan and back and delve into astounding ancient civilizations, historic relics, impressive religious sites and exquisite natural beauty.

From the ancient metropolis of Jerusalem, sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians, we cycle down to the lowest elevation on Earth, where cycling below sea level, at -400 metres, can be your new bragging rights! During our circumnavigation of the Dead Sea there will also be plenty of arid hills, silent deserts, fertile wadis, ancient fortifications and Red and Dead seas.

On the west of the Dead Sea we will cycle through inventive desert agriculture, evaporation pools, and reservoirs that irrigate the desert and stay at idealistic communities reclaiming and living on the land from the sand. Appreciate the wonders of the arid landscape as we push up the challenging Scorpion's Ascent and cycle through multi-coloured craters and rock formations.

Entering Jordan we take a water break on the Red Sea before being dried out in the sand dunes of Wadi Rum. Sleeping at a Bedouin camp brings the stars closer. Approaching the ancient Nabatean city of Petra by bike offers a unique perspective of this seven wonder of the world.

Before we depart Jordan we have one last chance to experience the eerie stillness of the Dead Sea with a float in the salty waters. A ride in the Jordan Valley returns us to Israel, stopping in Jericho before our return to Jerusalem.

Israel and Jordan will captivate you at every turn.

TRIP PROFILE

You will cycle a total of 749 kilometres on paved roads in 10 cycling days. The arid desert landscape will reveal a myriad of colours and shapes as we circumnavigate the Dead Sea. There are some moderate climbs to truly appreciate the natural splendours, building up to the Scorpion Ascent and the hills of Jordan, where the distances are lowered to make it manageable. Accommodation varies from hostels, to kibbutz's to a luxury Bedouin camp and Dead Sea resort.

Suitability: The tour can be enjoyed by anyone with reasonably good physical condition. As is always the case, the fitter you are the more you will enjoy the riding. However, just in case, an air-conditioned bus travels behind the group for support.

Biking Conditions: We ride between 28 and 100 km per day for a total of 749 kilometres in 10 cycling days. The roads are all tarmac and in relatively good condition with occasional challenging ups and thrilling downs, which makes it all the more exciting and adventurous!

DAY TO DAY

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

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL

We meet at our Jerusalem hotel at 6 pm for a trip briefing and then head out for dinner together to mark the beginning of our adventure.

Optional: If you arrive a day early we offer a morning bike and walking tour of



Jerusalem. Cycle through the modern city, to the Tayelet viewing platform, the Old Train Station, Government Hill, Valley of the Cross, and Machane Yehuda produce market. Then walk through the Old City; here you will visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall, and get a rooftop view of the Dome of the Rock. After lunch exit the Old City through the Jaffa Gate. Please contact us for more information.

Arcadia Hotel. D

DAY 2 – JERUSALEM – MASADA

Depart Jerusalem through the quiet Sabbath streets and start your descent to the lowest point on earth – the Dead Sea. Leaving the European climate of Jerusalem you will quickly feel the temperature change as we enter the arid Judean Desert. We pass the Inn of the Good Samaritan and will see the impressive plateau of Masada in the distance. Our overall descending ride will end at the foot of the ancient fortification of Masada.

Masada Hostel. Ride 100 km. +831 m / -1900 m. B L D

DAY 3 – MASADA – HATSEVA

We have an early morning excursion up to the fort of Masada and return via cable car for a late breakfast. We hit the road biking south along the Dead Sea, below the hilltop fortress of Masada, and are now on the Peace Trail on the Israeli-Jordanian border. Impressive desert agriculture is showcased as we cycle past Dead Sea evaporation pools, the Dead Sea Works and reservoirs that irrigate the fields of the Arava Desert. The mountains of Edom are also in view today. The first half of our day will be nice and easy but the second half will be a gradual grind uphill. We overnight at a research station popular with bird watchers.

Hatseva Field School. Ride 88 km. +809 m / -626 m. B L D

DAY 4 – HATSEVA – YERUHAM

We have an easy 20 km of warm up before we begin climbing out of the Arava Desert up the winding Scorpion's Ascent. The Romans built the ascent in the late 1st century during their control of the Middle East. Under British control, the ascent was slightly rebuilt and it has since been paved. The views from the summit of the stunning silence of the desert landscape are spectacular. We continue cycling through the Makhtesh Gadol, a large crater and one of five makhteshim in Israel and only seven in the world. We overnight in the sleepy town of Yeruham at a hotel that was established on the combination of a Zionist vision with a social-economical one as a substantial part of the hotel's revenue will be invested in the local community, towards the development of its education and economy.

Desert Iruv. Ride 53 km. +1100 m / -533 m. B L D

DAY 5 – YERUHAM – MITZPE RAMON

Riding through the Negev Desert we have more of an ascending than descending day. We leave on the main desert road and pass Sde Boker, a kibbutz best known as the retirement home of Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. Cycling on the edge of the Makhtesh Ramon, the world's largest at 40 km long, 2–10 km wide and 500 metres deep. The desert road takes us to our overnight in Mitzpe Ramon. Take a wander through the Spice Route Quarter, the old industrial zone of Mitzpe Ramon which has become a hive of cute little boutique stores, bakeries, restaurants, and even a jazz club.

Ramon Suites. Ride 56 km. +718 m / -362 m. B L D



DAY 6 – MITZPE RAMON – KIBBUTZ KETORA

Cycling through the Makhtesh Ramon note the diversity of rocks, their fantastic red and yellow colours and forms. Finally a descending day as we ride out of the Negev Desert and back down to the Arava valley. We overnight at the green oasis of Kibbutz Ketora, established in 1973. This ideological community is based on collective living and an eco lifestyle.

Kibbutz Ketora. Ride 100 km. +902 m / -1634 m. B L D

DAY 7 – KIBBUTZ KETORA – AQABA

A short transfer to the start of today's ride. A day of gains and losses. We have a very gradual ascent, 500 metres over 40 kms, and then lose 800 metres over 30 kms as we reach the border town of Eilat. Here we will process through to Jordan. Once through the border formalities we cycle to Aqaba city center and our hotel.

My Hotel. Ride 76 km. +833 m / -1223 m. B L D

DAY 8 – AQABA FREE DAY

Enjoy the day exploring the Red Sea shore and town. We can assist in arranging a boat tour if you would like to spend the day snorkeling.

My Hotel. B D

DAY 9 – AQABA – WADI RUM

We transfer out of Aqaba to avoid a busy road and a climb and start our cycling at the entrance of Wadi Rum desert area, also known as the Valley of the Moon. Cut into sandstone and granite rock it is Jordan's largest Wadi, or valley. 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 follow a quiet road and arrive in time for lunch at the Bedouin Camp where we will also overnight. As skinny tires don't do well in the sand a jeep will drive us through the reserve. Enjoy a night of Bedouin hospitality.

Milky Way Bedouin Camp. Ride 47 km. +358 m / -323 m. B L D

DAY 10 – WADI RUM - PETRA

You have the option to ride back on the same route to the Desert Highway and ascend to Ras Al-Naqab, or spend more time at camp and transfer this section. From Ras Al-Naqab it is downhill to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra. On top of the plateau the route turns off the main road onto quieter roads to Rajif and finishes in the town of Wadi Musa, home to the archeological site of Petra.

Petra Palace Hotel. Ride 44- 100 km. +569 m / -1092 m or +1393 m / -1092 B L D

DAY 11 – PETRA

Time off the bikes and exploring by foot the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra. You will be guided through the ancient city, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. We stroll through the Colonnaded street, where we stop for lunch. In the afternoon you have several hours to explore on your own, with options including ascending to the Monastery and beyond to the superb views across the Jordan Valley, or taking the back route to the High Place of Sacrifice, or ascending Jebel Khubtha, to view the Treasury from above.

Petra Palace Hotel. B L D



DAY 12 – PETRA – DEAD SEA

We will ride out of Petra and climb up to Shobak, the first of the series of Crusader Castles built in Jordan. We catch our breath after the epic climb and explore this impressive fort. An undulating road skirting Dana Biosphere Reserve prepares us for our exciting descent to below sea level. From a high of 1,200 m we descend to -300 m! From here we will transfer by bus along the Dead Sea Highway to the hotel. This afternoon be sure to head down to the sea's edge for a unique float in the hypersalinic waters.

Holiday Inn Dead Sea. Ride 104 km. +1793 m / -3249 m. B L D

DAY 13 – DEAD SEA - JERICHO

A short 30 km ride on a flat road will take us to the Allenby Border Crossing. Here we will follow procedures to cross back to Israel. Once through all the formalities we are back on the bikes to Jericho for lunch. Considered one of the oldest continuous inhabited cities, Jericho is of great archaeological importance. We transfer to Jerusalem after lunch and meet up in the evening to celebrate the end of our ride.

Arcadia Hotel. Ride 28 km. +190 m / - 189 m. B L D

DAY 14 – DEPARTURE

The tour ends after breakfast.

B

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 Specialized Allez road bikes or similar. If you bring your own bike, please make sure 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

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 follow us on day 3, but will only be available for emergency assistance on the other days.



GUIDES

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 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.

THE NITTY GRITTY

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

This tour begins and ends in Jerusalem, Israel. International flights to and from Israel are not included in the tour price. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. Pick-up and drop-off to/from Ben Gurion International Airport is not included in the tour price.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months from the date you are departing and there are two blank pages.

- Israel

Up to 99 countries do not require a visa for Israel for a maximum stay of 3 months for tourism. This includes the US, UK, Australia and the majority of European nations. However, you must present a machine-readable passport at the port of entry. Israel no longer stamps passports at airports and land crossings and now issues entry and departure records on small slips of paper with a barcode which is used as a gatepass to exit out of the passport control hall.

- Jordan

Up to 120 countries are eligible for a visa on arrival. This includes the US, UK, Australia and the majority of European nations. The fee is JOD 40 for a maximum of 2 months and a single entry. There is a JOD 15 exit tax from Jordan at land borders.

HEALTH

No vaccinations are needed.

WEATHER

The most popular time to travel to Israel and Jordan is in the late spring and fall, when the weather is warm but not oppressively hot, and fairly dry. Summer brings extreme heat, especially in July and August when temperatures can rise up to 40 C. In the fall daytime temperatures are very pleasant; around 15-25 C degrees in most of the country, though they are usually higher around the Dead and Red Seas. Jerusalem will be in the 5-10 C degrees range in the evening. There is a chance of rain towards the end of the year.

BE AWARE

Overall, the level of petty crime is much less than in most Western countries. However, take the usual precautions about avoiding rowdy political demonstrations, not flashing money around and being aware of pickpockets in crowded places.

FOOD

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Middle Eastern cuisine is a highlight of this tour in both Israel and Jordan. Popular



everyday snacks include hummus, falafel, baba ghanioush, tabbouleh, olives and pita bread. Israel continues to adapt, elements of various styles, but also incorporating local agricultural products such as avocado. As Jordan is 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, especially in a desert environment. 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 Israel everywhere but only in hotels in Jordan. Alcohol is NOT included in the tour 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

Israel's currency is the New Israel Shekel (NIS). ATMs give standard rates and are available in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in heavily touristed areas, but there are few in other cities so it is recommended to have some shekels on hand before departing Jerusalem.

The Jordanian Dinar (JOD) 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.

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.

CONTACT US

45 (Sub Soi Pannee) Soi Pridi Banomyong 26
Sukhumvit Soi 71 Klongtan Nua, Wattana
Bangkok, Thailand 10110

T : +66 (0) 2 381 7490
E : info@spiceroads.com

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