



ANCIENT TREASURES OF JORDAN & EGYPT

Egypt is one of the most iconic travel destinations on earth, while Jordan is quickly rising up the travel ranks as a surprising destination of immense beauty.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



North Africa & Middle East,
Egypt, Jordan



16 days from AU\$20,695 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Egypt is one of the most iconic travel destinations on earth, while Jordan is quickly rising up the travel ranks as a surprising destination of immense beauty. On this luxurious 16-day adventure you'll journey to the heart and soul of two ancient lands where the archaeology is unparalleled and the landscapes breathtaking. Lose yourself in the sweeping deserts of Wadi Rum, the red-rock facades of Petra and the ancient Roman ruins of Jerash. Then fly to enigmatic Egypt, where you'll explore the most iconic museums and ancient monuments around Cairo and along the Nile on a lavish four-night cruise between Aswan and Luxor guided by one of our signature expert Egyptologists.

Journey Highlights

- Walk through the ancient streets and temples of Roman Jerash
- Be swept away by the magic of ancient Petra
- Explore the extraordinary lunar landscapes of Wadi Rum on camelback
- Bathe in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea
- Marvel at 4,500 years of history at the Great Pyramids
- Sail down the Nile aboard a luxury vessel stopping at private A&K docks along the way



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Amman, Jordan

Arrive at Jordan's capital Amman to a warm A&K welcome and transfer privately to your luxury hotel.

Fairmont Amman

Day 2: Amman - Jerash - Amman

Wake in Amman, a modern city of great archaeological value. Begin your adventure at the ancient city of Jerash, which ranks among the largest and best-preserved Roman and Byzantine ruins in the world. It is believed that Jerash grew to a thriving city during the 4th century BC under the rule of Alexander the Great. Make your way through the Oval Forum and its towering columns, where old Jerash reveals itself in a grandeur of stillness. Listen in as your historical guide tells of the various theories behind its emperors and invaders; learn what Roman life was like for the layperson; and discover the story of Jesus' miraculous exorcism, cited in the Bible.

This afternoon, after a local lunch, wander through the National Archaeological Museum to learn about Jordan during prehistoric times. Rest your feet in the 6,000 seat Roman Amphitheatre, and then stroll through Darat al Funun Arts Centre, where you'll encounter contemporary artists at work. Your evening is at leisure.

Fairmont Amman / Meals: BL

Day 3: Amman - Madaba - Kerak - Petra

Every traveller to Jordan must experience the famous King's Highway, an ancient trade route that has been used by civilisations for over 5000 years. Winding its way through the desert, it offers rare glimpses into day-to-day rural life. You'll pass through numerous small villages and settlements, and witness some of the country's most spectacular scenery. Explore the Christian town and church of Madaba, famous for its mosaic map depicting the holy land, Jerusalem. Continue to Mt Nebo where there's time to admire magnificent views of the Jordan Valley. It is from this vantage point that Moses is said to have gazed down on the Promised Land.

This afternoon, visit the 12th century crusader castle of Kerak, where the fates of kings and nations were decided for centuries before continuing on to Petra. This evening, see Petra lit by the light of 1,800 candles. Walk through the Siq to the Khazneh following a candle-lit path and enjoy the evocative songs of the Bedouin at the Treasury.

Mövenpick Resort Petra / Meals: BL

Day 4: Petra

Explore on foot the many wonders of the 'Rose-Red City', one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Once the capital of the ancient Nabataeans, the entire city was carved into red sandstone rock some 2,000 years ago. Enter through the sinewy helix of the Siq — a naturally occurring geological rift — to uncover a vast site, full of dwellings, baths, temples, tombs and markets. To think that this entire city lay undiscovered until just 200 years ago is unbelievable. Discover the famed Treasury, the Roman Theatre, the Corinthian and Palace Tombs, and the Roman Road, and later climb the 1,200 steps to the summit of the monastery.

This evening, a Chef's Table experience takes you on a journey of the palate to learn the fine art of Jordanian cooking. Led by your masterful chef, you'll plan and cook an authentic three-course meal, learning time-honoured skills you can take home forever. Listen in as your teacher reveals culinary traditions, paying special heed to the history of Jordanian spice, from cardamom and cloves, to cumin, ginger, cinnamon, pepper and chilli. The mouth-watering Chicken Maqloubeh is a showstopper for the celebrated tradition of flipping the pot and serving the dish upside down. Afterwards, feast on your fare as you look out over the Petra Hills.

Mövenpick Resort Petra / Meals: BLD

Day 5: Petra - Wadi Rum

One visit to Petra is rarely enough. Spend your morning back on-site exploring areas you didn't get to or perhaps climbing up to the Place of High Sacrifice for grand views. Alternatively sit and simply take in Petra's majesty. This afternoon, drive to Little Petra, home to a number of notable tombs, high gorges and carved facades, with magnificent views over the mountainous landscape. Like Petra, the site here dates all the way back to the first century and may have been a suburb where the merchants lived.

Continue to Wadi Rum, the epic location of some of Hollywood's greatest films, from *Dune* to *Lawrence of Arabia* to *Star Wars*. A cavernous ocean of ochre dunes and sandstone sculptures, Wadi Rum forms the largest dry valley in Jordan, and is about the size of New York city. Explore the canyons in a 4x4 safari jeep, romping around mountains, rock formations and rippled sand dunes. This evening, enjoy sundowners and authentic cuisine as the sun sets over the red-rock wilderness. If the sky is clear, prepare for a night of stargazing at your luxury Bedouin camp.

Discovery Bedu Camp / Meals: BD**Day 6: Wadi Rum - Dead Sea**

This morning, experience the desert landscape of Wadi Rum like the Bedouin have done for centuries, from the back of a camel. The Valley of the Moon in the morning offers a whole new perspective as the sun rises over the dunes.

This afternoon, travel north to the lowest land-based point on earth, the Dead Sea. This natural lake is a source of rich minerals used by the ancient Egyptians for mummification. As the lake recedes it reveals exquisite salt formations encrusted into the shores. Arrive at your accommodation, arguably the most luxurious resort on the Dead Sea.

Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea / Meals: B**Day 7: Dead Sea**

Take the day at leisure to enjoy the resort's lavish facilities and soak in the mineral-rich waters. The high levels of salt are nearly 10 times that of the ocean and keep the body afloat, while the variety of minerals, including magnesium, sodium, potassium and bromine, promote health and wellbeing. Perhaps enjoy the facilities of the award-winning spa, with its six outdoor relaxation areas, hydro-facilities, Tepidarium heated lounges and Dead Sea pool.

Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea / Meals: B

Day 8: Dead Sea - Amman - Cairo, Egypt

Transfer privately to Amman airport and journey to Cairo, a city full of ancient monuments, glittering mosques, imposing citadels, bustling bazaars and Coptic churches. On your arrival, meet your A&K representative and transfer to your luxury hotel on the banks of the Nile.

Four Seasons Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: B**Day 9: Cairo**

Wake in the land of the Pharaohs, where you'll journey back through time with your own private Egyptologist, discovering mysteries of Egypt's greatest monuments. Begin at Sakkara, an active archaeology site home to various tombs and burial sites. Discover the famous Step Pyramid of Djoser, and descend into the Tomb of Mereruka, the largest and most elaborate of all the non-royal tombs containing an impressive 33 chambers. See the extraordinary artwork on the walls depicting scenes of daily life, including workers harvesting the fields and men hippo-hunting on the Nile.

Continue to the 4,500-year-old Pyramids of Giza, stopping along the way for a local lunch. Descend into the Pyramid of Cheops, which is the only 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World' that still exists. Just to the east, feast your eyes on the legendary Great Sphinx rising from the Giza plateau. Having inspired the imaginations of emperors, poets, artists and travellers for centuries, it remains a truly enigmatic feature of Cairo.

Four Seasons Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BL**Day 10: Cairo**

Wander through 7,000 years of history accompanied by your Egyptologist at the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, with special access to the treasures of Tutankhamun. Set your eyes on the gold-clad funerary mask, and imagine the boy-king's reign while viewing his illustrious collection of jewellery and clothing.

This afternoon, after a local lunch, see the ancient city of Cairo your way. Choose a walking tour of Islamic Cairo, an adventure through the Khan El Khalili bazaar, or visit old Cairo to see the Coptic Museum.

Four Seasons Cairo at Nile Plaza | Meals: BL

Day 11: Cairo - Aswan

Set off on your early morning flight to Aswan, and on to the colossal temples of Abu Simbel. Carved into the west bank of the Nile between 1274 and 1244 BC, to see the vibrant artwork inside and take in its revered atmosphere is magnificent.

Fly back to Aswan where you're welcomed aboard your Nile cruise ship. After lunch, join other guests from the boat* for a tour by felucca (Egyptian sailboat) powered only by the breeze. Ply a course around Elephantine Island where fertile mango and papaya trees grow, and Lord Kitchener's Botanical Garden with magical views of the Agha Khan Mausoleum.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV / Meals: BLD**Day 12: Aswan - Philae - Kom Ombo - Edfu**

This morning, cruise the Nile on a colourful motorboat to the romantic Temple of Philae. This feminine temple was dedicated to the Goddess Isis and depicts carved artworks of women during childbirth and its revered rituals, many of which are still prevalent today.

Continue to the great Unfinished Obelisk commissioned by Queen Hatshepsut. Lying as a sleeping giant in a bed of granite, the Unfinished Obelisk is an incredible look at the building and engineering methods of the ancients. Picture hundreds of men and their ropes rolling the 1,200-tonne monolith on long dense tree logs and find out how they managed to get them into the air.

Later this afternoon, cruise to Kom Ombo at sunset and venture ashore to the magical temple dedicated to the crocodile-God Sobek. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where, in ancient times, sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank. Watch as the artworks are washed in the tangerine glow of the temple at dusk.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV / Meals: BLD

Day 13: Edfu - Luxor

This morning you'll explore the stunningly vibrant Temple of Horus. Despite being built by the Greeks 2,500 years ago, this is the largest and most completely preserved Pharaonic temple in Egypt. Marvel at newly restored colours and learn how the Greco-Romans ruled over Egyptians while continuing to pray to their mystical Gods. You'll also witness depictions of Christ in an extraordinary lesson about the interconnectivity of the world's great faiths.

After lunch, enjoy an Egyptian cooking lesson onboard as you cruise to Luxor. Learn age-old mezze recipes that you can take home forever, like the delicious baba ganoush. Slow it down and take to the top deck where you can relax in the pool and watch rural life pass by as you cruise to Luxor. After tea, head ashore to visit the graceful Temple of Luxor with its elegant colonnaded hypostyle hall and ornate carvings.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV / Meals: BLD**Day 14: Luxor**

Wake in Luxor home to the Valley of the Kings, and the vast and sprawling Temple of Karnak. Spread over 200 acres, this complex of ruined temples, pylons, sacred lakes and chapels is a breathtaking insight into the valiant achievements of the pharaohs.

This afternoon, channel your Indiana Jones as you join your Egyptologist to explore the Valley of the Kings, home to 63 tombs where snakes and scorpions once guarded the dead. This is where the country's very first mummies were discovered, ingeniously hidden in an unsuspecting hole in a sandstone cliff. Descend into the tomb of King Tutankhamun and gain Insider Access to the wonderous tomb of Seti I. You'll also explore the Valley of the Queens and enter the stunning tomb of Nefertari before visiting the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

Sanctuary Sun Boat IV / Meals: BLD**Day 15: Luxor - Cairo**

Disembark your boat and transfer privately to the airport for your flight to Cairo, with the rest of your day at leisure.

Four Seasons Cairo at Nile Plaza / Meals: B

Day 16: Depart Cairo

Bid farewell to Egypt and transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

**Note: This journey includes shore excursions conducted in small groups during the cruise portion of the itinerary in Egypt. Should you prefer to organise a private Egyptologist and private vehicle for the duration of your cruise please contact Abercrombie & Kent and we can organise a quotation for these additional services.*

Map



Accommodation

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza



The majestic Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza is a beacon of sophisticated hospitality on the legendary Corniche along the bank of the river. The hotel provides stunning views of the Nile and is within easy reach of the other-worldly sights and sounds of Cairo.

Reflecting the vibrancy of modern Cairo, the airy guest room interiors feature natural wood finishes and comfortable, stylish furnishings. Most have private outdoor terraces for relaxing or dining, and all have triple-glazed windows to ensure that interiors remain cool and quiet

Why we like it

- This hotel is located in the exclusive Garden City in the heart of Cairo and near the Cairo Museum on the banks of the Nile
- The rooms and suites offer views of the Nile or the Citadel and Garden City
- Three heated pools are located on the secluded rooftop terrace and surrounded by lush landscaping, shaded alcoves, cabanas and umbrellas
- Dining options amongst the hotel's seven restaurants include cucina rustica in Bella, authentic Cantonese cuisine in Spice, the genuine flavours of Egypt in Zitouni and tasty barbecues in the sunlit Shisha Lounge
- The Spa offers a comprehensive range of massages and all-natural treatments

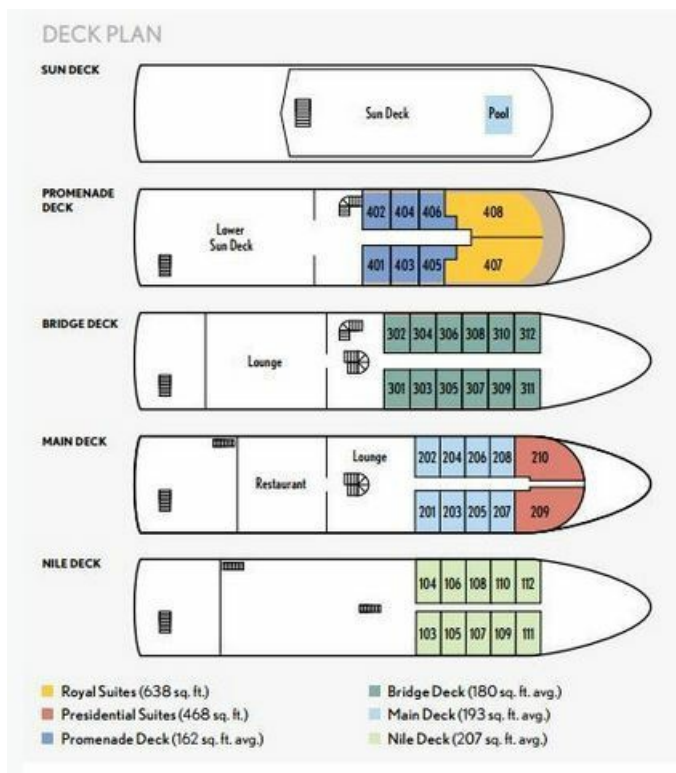
Sanctuary Sun Boat IV



This beautifully appointed and perfectly designed vessel offers a cruise experience like no other. The craft is spacious, intimate and elegant and features on A&K's 'Nile in Style'.

Luxury cabins (15-18m²) are scattered throughout the boat while there are two Royal Suites (55m²) with balcony and two Presidential Suites (38m²). All cabins are fully air-conditioned with panoramic windows and a private bathroom, satellite TV, CD player, phone, safe and mini-bar.

There is ample space on board and the public areas are elegantly furnished. Views throughout are magnificent and an intimate bar and lounge area provide the perfect setting to relax and reflect on the day's activities. Award winning chefs create exquisite meals combining local fare and international choices with in-room dining also available. Recreational facilities include a small gym, heated plunge-pool and two spacious sundecks with plush lounges. Internet access is available as are the services of the fleet physician. A multi-lingual library and games room, laundry service, and a gift shop complete the offering.



Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea



In true Kempinski style, the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea is elegant and contemporary in design with direct access to the Dead Sea. Quiet enclaves set amidst gardens, lagoons, winding rivers and waterfalls are ideal places to snatch a quiet moment, whilst the terrace provides stunning views of the Dead Sea - especially at sunset as you relax with a classic cocktail in hand. Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea is beautifully appointed, based on a Babylonian-inspired theme - carved in natural stone and styled with contemporary fittings. There is a real sense that every detail has been pored over to create an immaculate living space.

Why we like it

- The longest private beach in Jordan
- All rooms offer enchanting sea view balconies
- Four restaurants serve delicious Thai, Italian and world cuisine
- The Ishtar Spa by Resense, tennis court, bowling centre and Children's Club ensure guests are well occupied
- The Health Centre is full of whirlpools, steam rooms and saunas, also has meditation and yoga rooms

Mövenpick Resort Petra



With its prime location a stone's throw from the entrance to the historic city of Petra, the Mövenpick Resort Petra is a perfect retreat from a day's exploration. Recently refurbished, it is decorated with handcrafted Oriental wood and embroidered cushions and has a fun, buzzing atmosphere that caters for all age groups. Dine in the award winning Al Iwan restaurant, which serves delicious Mediterranean delicacies against the backdrop of the central marble fountain.

Why we like it

- The modern guest rooms and suites boasting state-of-the-art technologies
- The lush Al Ghadeer roof garden offers an exotic Arabic setting with argileh (water pipes), live Arab musical entertainment and glorious sunset views
- The Fun Factory offers billiards and games for children and teenagers
- The Wellness Centre has an outdoor pool, steam bath and fully equipped gym
- Don't forget to enjoy Mövenpick Premium Ice Cream on the pool terrace

Fairmont Amman



With a prestigious address within walking distance of the city's most affluent neighbourhoods, Fairmont Amman is the newest landmark in the city's smartest district. This modern urban oasis features elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites with unparalleled views of the stunning Amman hills. Rooms are spacious and architecturally designed with stunning interiors that combine classic luxury with contemporary design, using the finest wood and marble. An exceptional selection of dining options is on offer and the Willow Stream Spa is amongst the city's most luxurious. A fitness centre and outdoor pool complete the wellness facilities.

Abercrombie & Kent

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