

# Bike Jordan Dead 2 Red

Trip Code: DRMB

Version:



CYCLE



GUIDED GROUP



CHALLENGING



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride down to the amazing Dead Sea for a dip at the lowest point on Earth
- Spend a full guided day at the incredible 'Rose Red City' of Petra
- Enjoy a night under star-filled desert skies with the Bedouin at Wadi Rum
- Cycle to Aqaba and swim in the beautiful waters of the Red Sea

## AT A GLANCE

- 6 days biking
- 450 kms
- 30% off-road
- 99% vehicle supported
- Max altitude 1700 metres
- Join at Madaba

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

Offering an almost continuous journey by bike from Madaba near the Jordanian capital of Amman to the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, this is a classic cycling holiday. It's a thrilling journey, full of geographical and cultural splendour, as we cross the amazing Kingdom of Jordan. On this superb mountain bike ride we encounter many of the 'must see' locations of this engaging country and also experience its warm and traditional hospitality. From the spiritual site of Mount Nebo we'll witness the stunning views across to the 'Promised Land', before a descent to the shores of the Dead Sea - an incredible 400 metres below sea level! This is the lowest point on Earth and it's a truly unique experience to climb back up to sea level and beyond. On a mix of tarmac and jeep trails we then traverse one of the longest canyons in Jordan, arriving at the high mountain plateau of Dana, where the magnificent panorama includes the Wadi Araba desert, far below.

Following a chain of impressive Crusader fortresses, including the magnificent Karak Castle, we enjoy exhilarating biking as we descend through the Valley of Moses to Petra, where we have a welcome rest and exploration day at the ancient and unforgettable 'rose-red city'. Moving on from Petra, we discover the majestic grandeur of the desert landscapes at Wadi Rum, once home to Lawrence of Arabia. After a night under the stars with our Bedouin hosts, it's a short ride to the Red Sea, where we will be ready for a well-earned drink and a swim to celebrate the conclusion of this action-packed week of adventure biking.

View our full range of [adventure holidays in Jordan](#).

## Is this holiday for you?

ADVENTURE CYCLING. This is a holiday for regular bikers with good endurance levels. Most of the riding on this trip is straightforward on quiet tarmac roads or dirt roads used by 4WD vehicles. A little less than a third of the route is on dirt roads or more basic off-road tracks. There are short sections of village footpaths and pockets of soft sand when crossing the desert on days 7 and 8, but very little that could be described as technical. There are, however, some longish days involving a considerable amount of ascent, most notably on days 3, 4 and 5. Factor in the likely hot and dry conditions and this bike ride is not to be underestimated. By fitting this biking holiday into a one-week break we have created a fairly challenging route that provides perfect winter and early season training. Having said that, the support vehicle is available pretty much throughout. This allows for groups of mixed ability and also provides the

option (for those who are finding the going tough) to skip the most testing of the uphill grinds. BIKE HIRE AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

# Itinerary

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Version:

# Extensions

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When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



## Aqaba (Red Sea) Extension

Aqaba on the Red Sea, with its warm temperatures, is the perfect place for some relaxation after your adventure holiday. It is said that some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world can be found in here. The lack of strong currents, together with the warm sea temperature, creates perfect conditions for coral growth and this has resulted in fabulous underwater life. You can also swim with sea turtles and dolphins amongst schools of multi-coloured fish or take a glass-bottomed boat ride over the reefs. There is also, of course, the option to simply relax in the sun on the sandy beaches.

Depending on your preferred airline, it may be possible to fly from Aqaba at the end of this extension. Please ask for further details.



## Guided tour of Jerash

Enjoy a full day exploring and learning about the main sites of the ancient city with a private guide. Jerash is one of the best preserved Roman cities in all of the Middle East and only an hour north of Amman. Within the remaining city walls archaeologists have found ruins of settlements dating back to the Neolithic age, indicating human occupation for more than 6500 years. Jerash is most famous for its Triumphal Arch, the Hippodrome, baths, and the wide street of columns leading to the Temple of Artemis.

2 days from  
**US\$350** per person

# Holiday Information

## What's Included

- A locally based English speaking bike guide
- A single group transfer from Amman Airport on Day 1 and back to the airport on Day 9
- One or more support vehicles and drivers
- Guided tour of Petra
- Entrance fees to Karak Castle / Petra / Wadi Rum / Aqaba beach / Dead Sea beach / Mukawir
- All accommodation as detailed in the trip dossier
- All meals

## What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tips for the guide and local support crew
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc
- Bike Carriage on the flights - please check with your carrier for charges



## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Madaba.

A group transfer from Amman Airport is provided on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary. A group transfer back from Madaba to Amman Airport is also provided on the final day of the holiday.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

## Meal Plan

All meals are included from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 9.

## Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Breakfasts can vary a little with the accommodation, but typically consist of labaneh (thick sour creamy yoghurt), hummus, cheese, beans, eggs, olives, za'atar (a mixture of thyme, sesame seeds, sumac and salt), tea and coffee. Lunch on days 2, 3, 5 and 6 will be a packed lunch (sandwiches, fresh vegetables, fruit and juice and tea). Lunch on days 4 and 7 will be a picnic lunch, with a simple hot meal such as Jordanian fresh tomato cooked with garlic, onion and olive oil. Lunch on day 8 will be at our favourite hummus / falafel cafeteria in Aqaba town. Dinner will again vary with the location, but we will aim to sample a variety of traditional Jordanian meals. Salad, rice, chicken, vegetables and yoghurt are usual dinner ingredients. In Wadi Rum, we'll get to try the Bedouin 'zarb', a meal of meat and vegetables cooked under hot sand. Complimentary water, biscuits, cakes and fruits will be offered during the rides.

## Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 6 nights in hotels, 1 night in a basic homestay and 1 night in a Bedouin camp. Most of the accommodation is arranged on a twin-share basis and if you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. At the homestay, the 4 available rooms will be shared appropriately by the group and the bathroom facilities are shared. The Bedouin camp is also, necessarily, quite basic, but there are showers.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The trip will be led by an experienced, English-speaking local bike guide. There will also be one or more support vehicles and drivers.

## Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

## Spending Money

Approximately £100-£125 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses and the cost of your visa. You should carry your travel money in the form of currency rather than travellers cheques, since you will exchange the majority of this on the day of your arrival at the airport in Amman. Sterling, US dollars and euros can easily be exchanged. The unit of currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You should also allow a total of approximately £50 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) for driver, guide and trek crew tips. The cost of the Petra visit is included in the trip price. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Also, if you expect to buy considerable quantities of drinks or other refreshments, you should allow for this.

## Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guide, drivers and other support staff. They do not form part of their wages. KE pays its local crews at the best rates of pay. We advise our local staff that tips are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that they provide. We recommend that you pay tips only where you receive good service. As a rough guide we suggest you allow a total of £50 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) for tipping your crew.

## Your Bike

If you are taking your own bike, we suggest that a 'hardtail' mountain bike with front suspension is appropriate for this holiday. It should have a good range of gears and we recommend you fit fast-rolling all-rounder or semi-slick tyres which work well on the surfaced roads and non-technical trails typically found on our **Adventure Cycling** holidays.

Since you are depending on your bike to transport you throughout your holiday, it's important to ensure it is in good working order. If you are not mechanically minded, get your local bicycle dealer to service it for you.

Please contact us if you are unsure about the suitability of your bike.

## Bike Hire

Bike hire is available locally for this holiday. Our local agent has 2023 model Orbea Onna 30 hardtail mountain bikes. These bikes have 29 inch wheels (small sizes have 27.5 inch wheels), 100mm forks, Shimano components and disc brakes. The cost of hiring a bike for the duration of the trip, including insurance against accidental damage is US\$120 (Sep 2023 - subject to change). This must be paid directly to our agent on arrival in Madaba in US dollars cash. We must stress that your hire contract will be with our local agent and KE cannot be held responsible for any issues arising from your bike hire. Please note that the hire bikes have flat pedals. If you usually ride clipped-in, you will need to take your own SPD (or similar) shoes and pedals. You might also want to take your own saddle, which will go a long way towards making the hire bike feel like your own bike. You will also need to take your own helmet, which must be worn at all times when riding. E-Bikes are not an option for this holiday.



## Travelling With Your Bike

Airlines require that you pack your bike properly for travel and for this holiday we recommend that you use either soft bike bag or a purpose-made bike box or case. Whether you are using a bag or a case, you will need to partially dismantle your bike to pack it. Please note that bike bags or boxes will be placed in secure storage and will not travel with us during the course of the trip.

Please contact us if you have any questions about travelling with your bike.

## Vehicle Support

Throughout this trip (with the exception of one very short section) we have the back up of one or more support vehicles. Each morning our main baggage will be loaded onto the support vehicle which will follow the group on the day's ride. The local biking leader and the support vehicle driver will watch over the group and will carry mobile phones, allowing you to contact them in the case of a breakdown or other incident. We want everyone to enjoy their cycling experience on this trip and we recognise the importance of group members being allowed to cycle at their own pace. This means that there can be a fair distance between the front and rear cyclists in the group and there may be times when you are out of sight of other group members, vehicle support and the biking leader. However, our regular stops mean that it is never long before the group reforms. The support vehicle can pick up anyone who chooses to take a break from cycling at any time.

## Baggage Allowance

Apart from your bike in its bag or box (if you are taking your own bike), you should travel with one main item of luggage, such as a KE Trek Bag or similar holdall, as well as a small day pack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack. The day pack can be used to carry valuable items such as cameras and GPS devices whilst travelling and will also carry your day-ride essentials during the rides.

Your baggage allowance on the flights will depend on your airline. When choosing your flights, whether booking them directly or through KE, you will need to consider the cost of carrying your bike. These costs are your responsibility.

## Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

### Visa Jordan

If you are a UK, Canada, USA or Australia passport holder, travelling on a KE organised itinerary (inc pre or post tour extensions), you may now be eligible to receive a free visa upon entering Jordan. Please look for a representative with a KE sign between the arrival gate and before the immigration desks and they will accompany you to arrange the free visa and passport stamp. The free visa is reliant on us receiving your passport and flight details prior to travel and to you meeting with the KE representative before heading to immigration to join the single timed transfer. If you have not given us these details or if you do not meet with the representative for the single timed transfer you will have to purchase an individual visa for 40JD. Please ask for further details.

If you are arranging your own pre or post trip accommodation/excursions or transfers we will be unable to arrange a free visa for you and you will need to purchase an individual visa on arrival for 40JD

Other nationalities are included in the free visa scheme, please check with your individual embassy.

## Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

## VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you specific require any vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella), along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A certificate of yellow fever vaccination is required if travelling from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transitted for more than 12 hrs through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

## Currency

The unit of currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar.

## Preparing for your Holiday

The better conditioned you are the more you will enjoy your holiday. We suggest that you adopt a sensible weekly exercise regime and fit in a number of long cycle rides in hilly country to ensure you are physically capable of taking part in this trip - this will also provide you with an opportunity to make sure all your riding kit is tried and tested before you travel. Cycling is obviously the best activity to prepare for this trip, however, running, squash and swimming are also good for developing aerobic fitness and stamina.

## Climate

The best period for biking in Jordan is in the late autumn through to early spring season, from October through to mid May. Outside of this period it can be very hot, with temperatures, rising to 40 degrees centigrade in July and August. In October and in April, the maximum daytime temperatures are likely to range between 25 and 33 degrees Centigrade, falling as low as 10 degrees centigrade at night. Heading into November the temperatures begin to cool and by December/January, typical daytime maximum temperatures are around 12 to 15 degrees centigrade, falling as low as 5 degrees centigrade at night. In December and January it can even snow in Amman.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- Jordan. Lonely Planet
- Treks and Climbs in Wadi Rum. Tony Howard. Cicerone Press
- Jordan - Walks, Treks, Caves, Climbs and Canyons. Taylor and Howard. Cicerone Press
- Walks and Scrambles in Wadi Rum. Jordan Publishers

## Maps

### Jordan - Reise Know-How Verlag 1:400,000

Double-sided and detailed map, dividing the country horizontally just underneath al-Karak. Combines clear road and tourist detail with general relief indicated by contours, altitude tinting, mountain passes and peak heights.

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

## Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

For this holiday you will need your usual cycling clothing, including shoes, cycling gloves and helmet (which must be worn at all times when cycling).

Whether you are hiring a bike or taking your own, we recommend that you take the usual day-ride

essentials of: mobile phone, multi-tool, mini-pump, tyre levers, spare tubes and puncture repair kit.

## Bike Wear

- Cycling helmet
- Cycling shoes
- Daypack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack (e.g. Camelbak)
  - Water bladder - min. 2 litres water capacity (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Padded (baggy) cycling shorts
- Long leg cycling trousers or leg warmers
- Base-layer - short sleeve cycling tops
- Mid-layer - long sleeved cycling tops
- Fleece jacket or jumper
- Lightweight windproof top
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Regular biking gloves
- Long-fingered biking gloves
- Warm hat that fits under your helmet
- Buff
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream (inc. total bloc for lips/nose)
- Camera

## Other Stuff

- Travel and off-the-bike clothing and footwear
- Lightweight, loose-fitting trousers to cover up on village visits
- Sheet sleeping bag (bedding is provided at the homestay and at the fixed camp)
- Wash bag, towel, toiletries, including anti-bacterial handwash
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Swimwear
- Basic First Aid kit and personal medication
- Chamois cream (e.g. Assos/Ozone)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

## Spares

If you are hiring a bike you do not need to bring any spares. The hire bikes are provided in good condition and a supply of spares is carried. You may be asked to pay directly for any spares used, especially in the case of crash damage or damage by mis-use. If you are taking your own bike, you should consider taking a minimum of spares, including a couple of spare spokes (for each wheel if they are different), spare brake blocks (or brake disc pads), chain links/chain connector, rear derailleur hanger and any non-standard parts specific to your bike.

## Repairs

Whilst not essential, it is a good idea that you familiarise yourself with how to carry out at least some basic repairs to your bike e.g. changing an inner tube and fixing a puncture. Your bike guide will be happy to help with repairs and general maintenance, but being able to carry out a simple repair yourself could save the inconvenience of having to wait for assistance.

## Hydration and Energy Snacks

You should take suitable water bottle(s) or a hydration pack and you should also consider taking a small supply of the gels, power bars or sports drink mix that you would normally use on a ride at home.

Please contact us if you have any questions about your equipment.

## Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting at the hotel in Madaba. A group transfer from Amman Airport is included on Day 1 of the itinerary. A group transfer back from Madaba to Amman Airport is also provided on the final day of the holiday.

## Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Amman. Outbound flights will usually depart from the UK in the afternoon, arriving at around midnight. Return flights will depart from Amman usually at around midday on the final day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the afternoon.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE

Classic Cycling Journey Ticking off many of Jordan's highlights, this is a superb cycling holiday and completes a logical and quite continuous north to south journey. Unlike our competitors, and in true KE style, we've included some reasonably long and challenging days which should appeal to keen cyclists.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change