

# **PETRA DESERT MARATHON & HALF MARATHON PETRA, JORDAN**

August 30 – September 4, 2023  
(Optional extensions September 4-7)

## **Monday or Tuesday, August 28 - 29:**

Depart hometown on prearranged international flight to Amman, Jordan.

## **Wednesday, August 30:**

Arrive at the Queen Alia International Airport (AMM). There is no set arrival time so book the flight that most suits you from your departing airport. Note that a visa is required for all visitors to Jordan.

The tour offers a selection of two different hotel levels: Standard and Deluxe. The program for the two options is identical. Upon arrival, representatives from the race will meet you in the arrival hall after you have cleared immigration and customs and guide to the driver that will take your hotel at the Dead Sea.

Transfer to the Dead Sea is included in the package cost and will be arranged according to your arrival. Note, that other Petra Desert Marathon participants may arrive at the same time as you in which case you will share the bus with them. After check-in enjoy the rest of the day/evening relaxing by the pool or the beach.

Please note that many flights arrive to Amman at night and hotel check in is normally at 3:00 PM if you are arriving in the middle of the night before check in time you might want to book a pre-night. The airport representative is also available for pre-night arrivals will also have transfers to the Dead Sea.

*Meal: Not included*

## **Thursday, August 31:**

Waking up at the Dead Sea – the lowest point on the Earth, start your day with breakfast at your hotel, a swim in the Dead Sea or relax by the pool.

The Dead Sea is truly unique, a landlocked lake bordering Jordan to the east and Israel to the west known for being one of the saltiest bodies of water in the world. In fact, it is almost 10 times saltier than regular seawater, making it one of the most fascinating natural phenomena on the Earth.

The extreme saltiness makes it impossible for plants and animals to thrive hence it's name. That being said the Dead Sea is sometimes considered the largest spa in the world due to its healing properties. According to the legend, Cleopatra would visit the Dead Sea and use its products as part of her beauty regimen.

*Meals: Breakfast*

### **Friday, Sept. 1:**

After breakfast at our hotel we will check out at 9:00 am and drive by bus to Wadi Musa (Petra). Our trip will take approximately 6 hours. Upon arrival we will have lunch at a local restaurant, where we will eat all sort of local delicacies while we wait for our rooms to be ready for check-in at 3:00 pm.

After check-in we will get a few hours to settle in and go out to explore the illustrious "Red Rose City of Petra". The hotel is located at the gate of Petra which means you are only steps away from the ancient rock-carved Nabataean city. You will also have time to explore tomorrow and Sunday. As the sun sets all runners will meet at the races finish area, where the race officials and medical team will give the race briefing. This evening we will carb-load with a pasta dinner served at our hotel restaurants.

*Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*

### **Saturday, Sept. 2: Race Day**

Today is the day we all have been waiting for!

After an early wakeup call and a light continental breakfast all participants will meet outside the Petra Visitor Center at 5:15 am. All participants will walk together through the Siq to the start line at the Street of Facades, as Petra is not open to the public at this time-of-day runners will get a unique experience of seeing Petra without the crowds.

The race starts at 6:30 am for both full and half marathon runners. Although Petra Desert Marathon is regarded as an official race and following international competition rules time taking, it is important to remember that it is first and foremost an adventure marathon in which the experience, scenery, and the satisfaction in completing is more important than winning or setting a personal record.

In the evening there is two optional local experiences – Petra Kitchen and Petra by Night – that can be booked in addition to the tour package. Please see below in optional activities for descriptions.

*Meals included: Continental breakfast and packed lunch*

### **Sunday, Sept. 3:**

After breakfast we will walk to Petra Visitor's Center where we will start our guided walking tour and learn about the impressive historical and archeological city of Petra. The Siq is the main entrance to ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan and it's a natural geological fault split by tectonic forces, only later was it worn smooth by water. Also known as Siqit, the walls that enclose it stand between 91-182 meters (299-597 ft.) it is a dim narrow gorge and winds its way

approximately 1.2 kilometers and ends at Petra's most elaborate ruin, Al Khazneh (the Treasury). We'll walk through the Siq again and continue past the marvelous tombs and caves carved out of red sandstone cliff while our guide tells us about the old Nabateans who created the city. We'll spend some time exploring the area and then head back to the hotel.

Depending how much time you want to spend in Petra you can also relax and recover from yesterday's run in one of the area's Turkish baths and spas or treat yourself to lunch at a local restaurant with amazing, tasty Jordanian cuisine.

In the evening we all head to the desert, where we celebrate the completion of the Petra Desert Marathon with a festive celebration dinner, drink, and dance under the stars.

*Meals included: Breakfast and dinner*

## **Monday, Sept. 4:**

### **Farewell to Jordan or Hello Extension**

Sadly, our adventure in Jordan ends today and it is time to bid farewell to this extraordinary country. Checkout from the hotel must be completed before 12:00 pm (noon). All participants are transferred to the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman. Four transfers will be available to depart from the hotel as follows: 5:00 am, 8:00 am, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. It is possible to book a different transfer time to the airport if the above schedule group transfers do not meet with your scheduled departure flight (extra charge).

Participants who book one of the extensions will start their adventure after breakfast today.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

### **Included:**

- 5-night accommodations in chosen hotel
- Arrival transfers from Amman Airport to Dead Sea
- Scheduled departures transfers to Amman airport
- Transportation as per itinerary
- English speaking tour leader
- 3 days entry to Petra
- Meal according to itinerary
- Celebrations dinner

### **Excluded:**

- International flights to and from Jordan
- Entry Visa to Jordan
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Beverages
- Personal expenses

- Tip of local guides and drivers (\$5.00 per person per day is recommended)
- Cancellation insurance due to illness, injury and/or missed flights
- Travel and health insurance (we highly recommend purchasing insurance)
- Anything not mentioned under included

### **Race Entry Package:**

#### **Marathon or Half-marathon entry - \$250**

Race entry includes:

- English speaking race officials
- Bib
- Finishers medal
- Danish and Jordanian medical team
- Timers
- Supplies on route
- Exclusive Petra Desert Marathon running T-shirt

### **Optional Activities for Saturday September 2:**

**Petra Kitchen** – In this cooking class, a chef will teach us how to cook a traditional Jordanian meal, using fresh ingredients and local spices we will chop, cut and mix to create a tasty array of soup, salads, appetizers and a main course. At the end of the class we will all sit down and enjoy our cooking while the chef hands out the full recipes, so we can impress our friends and family at home. Class starts at 5:30 pm, max number of participants is 80.

**Petra by Night** – Starting from the Petra Visitors Center after dark we walk 2 km through the Siq to the Treasury on a path lit up by candles. The candles flickering shadows create a very special atmosphere on the rock walls, the Treasury stands mythical and awe-inspiring as we exit the Siq. A local musician will be playing the pipe and a storyteller will share a magical tale of Petra and the Nabateans.

Tour starts at 8:00 pm with a minimum of 150 participants, this tour is exclusive to our group.

### **Optional Extension:**

#### **Monday, Sept. 4: Adventure Extension**

**Day 1 Wadi Rum Desert** – After breakfast we leave Petra and drive to the magnificent Wadi Rum Desert, also known as the Valley of the Moon. It was here the British Army Officer T.E. Lawrence gathered the Arab tribes to revolt against the Ottoman Turkish rule during World War I, a story that became famous in the movie “Lawrence of Arabia.”

From the Wadi Rum Visitors Center, we change from bus to jeeps and go on a tour through the desert, past sand dunes and incredible rock formations. After a cup of tea made by Bedouins the tour ends with dinner and an overnight in the Bedouin Camp with the choice of a Bedouin Tent or a Star Tent (extra charge for star tent).

*Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*

## **Tuesday, Sept. 5**

**Day 2 Dana Valley and White Dome Trail** – We enjoy a Bedouin style breakfast before we depart in jeeps back to the Visitor Center where our bus will take us to the village of Tafilah. From here we set out on an 8 km hike through the Dana Valley, one of Jordan's premier nature reserves. The trail contours the huge escarpments of Wadi Dana and offers breathtaking views of the canyon like valley while passing through terraced gardens. After the 4hour hike we will reach Rummana Camp and from here we drive to our hotel at the Dead Sea for the night.

*Meals included: Breakfast and lunch*

## **Wednesday, Sept. 6**

**Day 3 Wadi Mujib and Amman** – After breakfast at our hotel enjoy a free morning at the Dead Sea. We will drive to Wadi Mujib gorge and hike for 2 hours on the Siq Trail, this trail starts at the visitor center and then heads up into the canyon. We'll follow the path of the river, wading through the water up to the base of a large waterfall, along the way we'll climb several smaller waterfalls with the help of fixed ropes, ladders, and our guide. Once we reach the waterfall we can swim around in the pool at the base of the waterfall and go behind the falls too! Now that the hard work is done, we will float peacefully back of the canyon on the river and really soak in the surroundings. Please note that while this hike is rate easy – moderate the depth of the pools can vary depending on seasonal conditions, thus the nature reserve authorities require anyone going on this trail to be 18 years old and capable of swimming. After leaving Wadi Mujib we will head to Amman where we check in to our hotel for the night.

*Meals included: Breakfast and lunch*

## **Thursday, Sept. 7**

### **Farewell to Jordan**

Our adventure in Jordan comes to an end today and it's time to bid farewell to this extraordinary country! Check out must be completed by 12:00 pm and all participants are to transfer to the Queen Alia International Airport. Three transfers will be available for departures: 5:00 am, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. It is possible to book a different transfer to the airport at your cost.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

### **Included:**

- 1 Night in Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- 1 Night in Standard hotel Dead Sea
- 1 Night in a 3-star hotel in Amman
- Transportation as per itinerary
- Local English-speaking guide
- Entrance fee to Wadi Rum Wadi Mujib
- Meals according to itinerary

### **Excluded:**

- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages
- Personal expenses
- Cancellation insurance or Travel and health insurance (strongly recommended)

## **Optional Extension**

### **Monday, Sept. 4 Culture Extension**

**Day 1 Madaba, Mount Nebo, Baptism Site & Amman** – After breakfast we will start our day with a visit to the historic city of Madaba, famous for the ancient “Mosaic of Jerusalem” one of the oldest pictured testimonies of the Holy City. A church has now been built up around the mosaic for protection of this historical site.

We’ll continue to Mount Nebo, the mountain where Moses saw the Holy Land before finding his final resting place on the mountain. Enjoy amazing views all the way to Israel and down the Jordan Valley. We continue down the Jordan Valley to Bethany Beyond the Jordan or better known as the Baptism Site, this place has been identified as the likely site where John the Baptist preached and where he subsequently baptized Jesus. Our day finishes in Amman where we will check into our hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast and lunch*

### **Tuesday, Sept. 5**

**Day 2 As-Salt and Amman** – Today we visit the small town of As-Salt, a living museum. As-Salt features old lanes and beautiful houses from the late Ottoman period, walking through this inviting community showcases some of Jordan’s most charming building and bazaars. Many traditional businesses and skilled artisans enrich the city’s cultural life and as you walk down the streets you will see a variety of different trades and shops including blacksmiths, shoemakers, barbershops and sweet Arabic stores and herbalists. Drive back to Amman and do a sightseeing tour of the capital’s most prominent places and buildings. End the day back in our hotel.

*Meals included: Breakfast and lunch*

### **Wednesday, Sept. 6**

**Day 3 Ajloun and Jerash** – After breakfast we head to the Castle of Ajloun a 12<sup>th</sup> century Muslim castle and another highlight of Northwestern Jordan. The nearby Ajlun Mountains are famous for their lush vegetation and thick green forest.

We will then drive north through the Jordan Valley to the excavated city of Jerash, located 48 kilometers north of the capital city of Amman. Jerash flourished during the Greco-Roman periods until the mid-eighth century when the 749 Galilee earthquake destroyed large parts of it and smaller earthquakes contributed to additional destruction and slowly the city was abandoned. As the years went by, sand buried the columns and buildings which is why everything was so well preserved, a Russian expedition discovered and started excavating the city in 1878. A modern city has been built next to the ancient city of ruins so visitors can see both sides.

After lunch in Jerash we drive back to Amman and in the evening, we’ll head out to a local restaurant in Amman for our farewell dinner.

*Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner*

## **Thursday, Sept. 7**

### **Day 4 Farewell to Jordan**

Our adventure in Jordan comes to an end and it is time to bid farewell to this amazing country. Checkout from the hotel must be completed before 12:00 pm, all participants transfer to Queen Alia International Airport, three transfers are available from hotel to airport: 5:00 am, 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. If none of these times meet with your scheduled flight a different transfer can be arranged at your own cost.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

### **Includes:**

3 Nights in 3-star Hotel in Amman

Transportation per itinerary

Local English-speaking guide

Entrance fee to Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Baptism Site and Jerash

Meals according to itinerary

### **Excluded:**

Meals not mentioned in itinerary

Beverages

Personal expenses

Cancellation insurance and/or Travel & Health insurance (strongly recommend)

Anything not mentioned under "included"