



ADVENTUREWOMEN®, INC.

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300 Running Horse Trail Bozeman, Montana 59715

TOLL FREE 800 804-8686 OUTSIDE USA 406 587-3883 FAX 406 587-9449

trips@adventurewomen.com | www.adventurewomen.com

Egypt's Mysteries and Jordan's Petra – 2017

Wonders of the World

Trip Summary

Dates

October 13 - 27, 2017

Cost

\$6,395 (plus \$700 internal airfare) from Cairo, Egypt (\$800 deposit)

Rating

Moderate

Activities

- Archeology
- Architecture
- Natural History
- Cultural Exploration
- Sightseeing
- Boat Cruising
- Walking
- Photography
- Cooking Class

One of our all-time most popular AdventureWomen trips EVER, it's time to return in 2017 to the ancient temples, archeological sites, and cruise the River Nile on this "magical tour" of Egypt and Jordan.

Egypt is perhaps the most exotic vacation travel destination in the world. It is unequalled in its splendor, powerful temples and monuments, and prodigious contribution to world culture. Jordan's cultural treasures, although less well known, are also fascinating. Therefore, during this unique Middle-Eastern cultural odyssey, AdventureWomen combines famous sites in Egypt and a luxury cruise on the Nile, with another iconic experience, Petra, a NEW "Seven Wonders of the World" in Jordan.

A venerable land of ageless villages, Egypt is a vast museum, and testament to more than sixty centuries of human endeavor and achievement. Her architectural legacies bear eloquent testimony in stone to the enduring genius of ancestral builders. Visits to the Great Pyramids (the only surviving structures from the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World), Egypt's Sphinx, Cairo, Aswan, the Valley of the Kings, Temples of Karnak and Luxor, and a special excursion to Abu Simbel are all included in our Egypt adventure vacation. Our deluxe Nile cruise takes us along Egypt's "river of existence," on a comprehensive, far-reaching exploration of the history, art, and culture of this land — all revealed to us by our highly knowledgeable Egyptologist/guide.

Fabled Petra, Jordan, one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World," is the long-lost city of the ancient Nabatean tribe. Petra is a site straight out of an archeologist's wildest dreams: a rock-carved, rose-red city of massive architecture and an ingenious complex of dams and water channels. We'll also visit the archeological masterpiece and ancient Roman city of Jerash, the great Crusader castle at Kerak, and Lawrence of Arabia's adopted home of Wadi Rum. Another Jordan highlight is a relaxing day at a deluxe Dead Sea resort.

For thousands of years, Egypt and Jordan have cast a spell upon all those who visit. Travelers are inspired by their rich history, cultures, and their monuments to astonishing ancient civilizations. Join AdventureWomen for this remarkable journey to the middle east to experience two of the world's most amazing destinations.

Main Attractions

- Sail to Egypt's remarkable antiquities on a 5 day cruise aboard the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*, a 5-star luxury boat and elegant cruiser that has the feel of a sumptuous private yacht.
- Stay in elegant 5-star hotels in both Egypt and Jordan.
- Ride your own camel across the sands of Giza to the Sphinx.
- Fly roundtrip to Abu Simbel for a special excursion to the world-renowned site of the four famous colossal statues of Ramses II and two sun temples carved from limestone mountains.
- Learn about the mysteries of Egypt and Jordan from our expert and personable English-speaking guides.
- Spend an evening in the "Petra Kitchen," a special dining experience where we help prepare a Jordanian meal while working alongside local women and an experienced chef.

What's Included:

- 13 days/12 nights fully escorted and guided trip in Egypt and Jordan.
- All transfers in Egypt between airports and hotels in air-conditioned buses.
- Baggage handling throughout, plus portage at airports and hotels.
- 4 nights on the 5-star Nile cruise ship, *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*.
- 8 nights twin-bedded, double occupancy in 5-star hotel accommodations in Egypt (Oberoi Mena House and Fairmont Towers) and Jordan (Amman Grand Hyatt, Petra Movenpick Hotel, Dead Sea Kempinski Ishtar Hotel).
- All sightseeing and services of locally-based, English-speaking guides in both Egypt and Jordan.
- One AdventureWomen Trip Associate/Escort.
- Private one day excursion to Abu Simbel.
- Camel excursion to the Pyramids and Sphinx, short horse ride in Petra, 4X4 excursion at Wadi Rum.
- Transportation via private car, minibus, or motor coach throughout.
- All meals as specified in the daily itinerary.
- Special dinner at the Petra Kitchen in Jordan, and unique festive dinners on the Nile cruise in Egypt.
- All entry fees to sites listed in the itinerary.
- Group visa for Jordan on arrival.
- Bottled mineral water throughout the trip.

What's Not Included:

- International air from the U.S. to Cairo, Egypt, with return from Amman, Jordan, to the U.S.
- 4 airline flights (from Cairo to Luxor, and round trip to Abu Simbel in Egypt) plus the one international flight from Cairo, Egypt to Amman, Jordan. Combined total is \$700, subject to change.
- All international airline taxes and surcharges.
- Tips to your guides, drivers, boat crew, and tour coordinator, plus small tips at meals (see section in "Recommended Tipping").
- A few meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Egypt visa on arrival (approximately US \$28).
- Any airline departure taxes not included in your international air tickets.
- Alcoholic beverages with meals and items of a personal nature.

Passports and Visa

Citizens of the United States must possess a valid passport for travel to Egypt and Jordan. Americans, Europeans, and Australians can purchase a tourist visa on arrival at the airport for a \$28 fee in Egypt, payable in U.S. Dollars. Jordan's group visa is free on arrival. Each visa is good for one month. You will need one passport photo for each visa. Citizens of other countries should inquire about requirements for entry.

If you do not have a passport, please **APPLY NOW!** Make sure that your passport is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond your travel dates (April 30, 2018), and that you have a minimum of 2 blank facing pages for each visa (4 blank pages total). When you have your passport photographs taken, you should get extra photos: even though you need just one passport-size photo when you apply for each visa, you should always carry 2-3 **EXTRA** photos, just in case an emergency arises (i.e. in case your passport/visa is stolen).

Health Requirements and Health Insurance

No special vaccinations are required for travel to Egypt or Jordan. However, please consult your personal physician, local health department, travel clinic, or immunization center about any vaccinations you may need to update, or others that may be personally recommended for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history. Hepatitis A and B are present everywhere in the world, so you should talk to your Doctor about this.

You MUST have your own health insurance and **be in very good physical condition to participate in this trip.** This is an active holiday, and we rate it as Moderate. Trips of this designation offer moderate physical challenges, and for this trip you should be able to walk/hike from 2-5 miles. Visits to temples, museums, and excavations involve a considerable amount of walking, some of which may be in hot weather.

How To Register

First, call (800-804-8686) or email (trips@adventurewomen.com) the AdventureWomen office to determine space availability. As a courtesy, we will hold your space for 5 days while you are completing the registration process, and making personal and travel arrangements.

Next, complete and sign the Trip Registration and International Passenger Information forms on our Web site by clicking "Sign Up for this Trip" on the trip page. We can also fax or email them to you. Include, with your forms, the required deposit that can be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover), personal check, money order, or cashier's check. You can also give us your credit card number over the phone. Once we receive **your deposit and BOTH forms**, we will mail you a trip confirmation/information packet verifying your registration.

Making Travel Arrangements to Egypt and Jordan

On this AdventureWomen **Egypt and Jordan** trip, international airfare is **NOT** included. You will need to get your international air to Cairo, Egypt, and from Amman, Jordan, back to the U.S.A. You are welcome to work with **Ciretta Green, at Travel Café** in Montana, who knows the best flights to get you to Cairo, Egypt, with return from Amman, Jordan.

You will need to arrive in Cairo, Egypt by 4 p.m. on October 14, 2017. Early morning departure is from Amman, Jordan on October 27, 2017. (Round trip prices are ranging from approximately \$1,055 to \$1,245 from JFK).

1-800-247-3538 OR FAX 1-406-586-1959
email: ciretta@travelcafeonline.com
CANADIAN RESIDENTS, please call 406-587-1188

When calling, please identify yourself as an AdventureWomen traveler. If you leave a message on Ciretta's voice mail, she will return your call promptly. She will be happy to discuss your travel plans and help you decide when to purchase your ticket for the best rate.

NOTE: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last minute registrants, we must often relinquish hotel space and air reservations up to 6 – 12 weeks prior to departure!

Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

Liability Form and Final Payment

Part of what AdventureWomen, Inc. hopes to foster is the taking of more self-responsibility for our own lives, health, and safety. Please read the LIABILITY FORM carefully, return it with the remainder of your balance due by **JULY 14, 2017**.

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and 50% of the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 60-89 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-59 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. A brochure will be sent to you in your registration packet.

Switching Trips

Before your final balance due date, you may change your deposit to another trip within the same calendar year by paying a \$75 fee to switch. You may not switch your deposit to a trip in another calendar year.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Trip Itinerary

DAY 1

Friday, October 13 U.S.A. to Cairo, Egypt

Depart the U.S.A. from your east coast gateway city on a late afternoon or early evening flight to Cairo.

Meals Aloft

DAY 2

Saturday, October 14 Arrive in Cairo

Arriving in Cairo by 4 p.m. you will be met and assisted through customs and to obtain your visas, then transfer to the luxurious Oberoi Mena House Hotel.

After settling into our hotel rooms, we relax and freshen up before being welcomed to Egypt with a special Welcome Dinner at the Mena House Hotel.

Dinner

Overnight **Oberoi Mena House Hotel, Garden Section, Premiere Pyramids View Rooms**

Mena House Hotel
Pyramids road, P.O. Box 12556
Giza, Cairo, Egypt
Telephone: +202 33 77 3222
www.menahousehotel.com

The Mena House is one of the most unique hotels in Cairo, with its own rich and colorful history. Surrounded by 40 acres of verdant green gardens, this palatial hotel is located in the shadows of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Cairo. The royal history of the hotel is reflected in luxurious interiors that are embellished with exquisite antiques, handcrafted furniture, original work of arts and magnificent antiques that are rarely found in luxury hotels. Mena House has played host to kings and emperors, Heads of State and celebrities. The Mena House, located 700 meters from these wonders of the ancient world, offers unmatched views of the pyramids. You can gaze upon the magnificence of the pyramids from your rooms at sunrise and sunset. After dinner at one of the many restaurants, you can return to see them lit up for your private viewing pleasure.

Regarded as one of the leading luxury hotels in Cairo, the hotel combines the magical charm of a bygone era with unrivalled service fit for royalty. Your interlude at the hotel promises to be a journey of discovery, exploring Cairo's ancient treasures and unraveling the many mysteries of Egypt's past.



DAY 3

Sunday, October 15

Cairo's Ancient Wonders

Our Egyptologist will meet us this morning for a full-day excursion that includes a visit to the monuments of the Ancient Kingdom, which spanned the period between 5,100 and 4,000 years ago.

We'll begin with the Great Pyramids of Giza. The only present day survivors of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World," they are among the world's greatest tourist attractions and never lose their ability to inspire and overwhelm visitors. Our visit will include an opportunity to be inside one of these fabulous monuments, to explore the mysteries of its ancient past for yourself.

Of course, no trip to Egypt is complete without a ride on a "ship of the desert," and so we'll mount camels to cross the sands of Giza to the Sphinx. Carved out of one huge rock, this ancient figure shrouded in legend and mystery depicts the pharaoh Chephren's head on the body of a lion. As we enter the temple of the mysterious Sphinx, our Egyptologist will enthrall us with tales about this fascinating figure.

Our lunch today will be back at our hotel, the Mena House Oberoi, at the “Khan El-Khalili Café.” With floor-to-ceiling windows, it has views of the lush gardens of the hotel and the Great Pyramids themselves.

This afternoon, we’ll visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities for a fascinating tour of 7,000 years of Egyptian history. The Museum houses the world’s greatest collection of Ancient Egyptian artifacts, including 12 rooms filled with golden treasures from the world-famous tomb of the boy-king Tutenkhamun.

Breakfast and Lunch

Overnight **Oberoi Mena House Hotel**, Cairo

DAY 4

Monday, October 16

Fly to Luxor, the Ancient city of Thebes, to Begin our Nile Cruise

After breakfast and check-out from our hotel, we transfer to the airport for the short flight from Cairo to Luxor. At noon we check in to our home for the next four nights, the 5-star deluxe Nile cruise boat, *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*, moored at its own private dock in Luxor. We are welcomed onboard by the reception staff.

About our boat, the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*

One of the very finest passenger vessels plying the waters of the River Nile, *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* is a sleek, elegant cruiser with the feel of a comfortable and intimate private yacht. It provides a relaxed ambiance from which to watch the ever-unfolding scenes along the legendary river. Fully air-conditioned and outside-facing staterooms feature large picture windows, private baths and amenities such as color TV and CD players. The five passenger decks offer an outdoor swimming pool, two sun decks, a library, two bars and a lounge, as well as laundry facilities, a game room, and a gift shop. The dining room features an international menu.

Entertainment schedules during our cruise are adjusted according to the exact sailing schedule of the boat. However, every cruise on the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* will include an authentic folkloric performance by a Nubian troupe and a “galabeya party” with an opportunity for everyone to dress up in traditional Egyptian costume and dance to Arabic music.

Most meals are served in the restaurant. However, at least one barbecue lunch (while sailing) will be served on deck (weather permitting). Afternoon tea includes a range of teas and herbal infusions, fresh coffee, and a selection of freshly baked, homemade cake, cookies, and finger food. Mineral water, tea, and coffee are included with every meal.

This afternoon we begin our sightseeing on the East Bank by visiting the Temple of Karnak, built over a period of more than a thousand years by generations of Pharaohs. The great “Hypostyle Hall” is an incredible forest of giant pillars, covering an area larger than the whole of Notre Dame Cathedral.

Our Egyptologist will guide us on a tour of the striking and graceful Temple of Luxor dedicated to the god Amun.

Spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing before our gourmet dinner on board.

Tonight we are greeted by our Boat Manager, who will introduce us to the boat staff and review on-board facilities and our cruise program for the next few days. Before dinner, complimentary Egyptian wine and local beer will be served, together with freshly prepared canapés.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Overnight on board the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* in Luxor

DAY 5

Tuesday, October 17

Sail to Esna

Today is a leisurely morning onboard the boat as we sail to Esna. Enjoy a breakfast buffet and then lunch on board as we cruise and watch the scenery along the Nile. Enjoy a swim in the pool, or catch up on your reading about what we will be exploring next.

We begin our day of sightseeing with an afternoon visit to the West Bank of Luxor to explore the Valley of the Kings, a vast City of the Dead where magnificent tombs were carved into the desert rocks, decorated richly, and filled with treasures for the afterlife by generations of Pharaohs. There will be a chance to visit at least one tomb in the Valley of the Queens.

Continuing on we visit:

Hatshepsut Temple: Rising out of the desert plain in a series of terraces, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut (Ancient Egypt's only female Pharaoh) merges with the sheer limestone cliffs that surround it, as if nature herself had built this extraordinary monument.

Colossi of Memnon: On the way back to the river Nile, the road passes by the famed Colossi of Memnon, known in Ancient Greek times for their haunting voices at dawn. This is a great photo stop.

A wonderful tradition, and so welcome after a long afternoon of walking, we return to the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* for afternoon tea on board in the lounge, while we cruise to Esna.

Tonight's dinner on board will be an "Egyptian Night" costume party for all guests, with a chance to dress up in traditional Egyptian "galabeyyas." Dinner will be a lavish buffet of Egyptian specialties, followed by traditional music and dancing for everyone.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Overnight onboard the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* in Esna

DAY 6

Wednesday, October 18

Esna, Edfu, and Kom Ombo

This morning our Egyptologist will guide us around the Greco-Roman Temple of Khnum at Esna. The beautifully preserved Great Hypostyle Hall was built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius. It was excavated from the silt that had accumulated through centuries of annual Nile floods and is about nine meters below present day street level.

After returning to our boat for lunch we set sail for Edfu. On arrival at Edfu we explore the largest and most completely preserved ancient temple in Egypt, the extraordinary Temple of Horus, the falcon god. It is the second largest temple in Egypt after Karnak, and was built between 305 and 30 B.C. Depictions of New Year's celebrations can still be seen on the walls along the staircases.

Returning to the boat, there will be an Egyptian cooking lesson presented onboard, followed by afternoon tea served while we cruise to Kom Ombo. Later in the afternoon, relax with a cool drink on the pool deck, experiencing the beauty of sunset on the Nile: the palm-fringed shore in silhouette against the resplendent colors.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Overnight onboard the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* in Kom Ombo

DAY 7**Thursday, October 19****Kom Ombo to the High Aswan Dam**

This morning begins with a visit to the Temple of Kom Ombo, a lovely Greco-Roman temple uniquely double-dedicated to Haroeris, the sun god, and Sobek, the crocodile god. Here the ancient pharaohs kept a chamber of mummified crocodiles. The temple stands at a bend in the Nile where in ancient times sacred crocodiles basked in the sun on the riverbank.

We return to the boat for lunch on board, while we cruise to Aswan.

This afternoon we visit the Aswan High Dam, Egypt's contemporary example of building on a monumental scale. The Dam is a masterpiece of modern engineering, which provides Egypt's electricity and has ended the disastrous Nile floods of times past.

From Aswan we take a short motorboat ride to visit the romantic and majestic Philae Temple on the Island of Agilka. Philae Temple was dismantled and reassembled (on Agilika Island about 550 meters from its original home on Philae Island) in the wake of the High Dam. The temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis, is in a beautiful setting which has been landscaped to match its original site.

We then continue on to the granite quarries where the pink-colored granite used in building pyramids and temples in ancient Egypt came from. The quarries still hold a huge unfinished obelisk that our guides can use to give us a lesson in the methods used by ancient engineers to create the monuments we've viewed.

With the construction of the Aswan High Dam, 100,000 Nubians were displaced, many settling in Aswan. We'll take a ferry to Elephantine Island to visit friendly Nubian villages and learn about their culture. Here we'll find brightly painted homes, often adorned with drawings proudly declaring the owner's pilgrimage to Mecca.

We return to the *Nile Adventurer* for afternoon tea and tonight's Farewell Dinner, a formal gala dinner, with white-gloved waiters serving gourmet cuisine.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Overnight onboard the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* in Aswan

DAY 8

Friday, October 20

Excursion to Abu Simbel

After breakfast on board we say goodbye to the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* and its crew and transfer to the Aswan airport for our short flight south along the Nile to the magnificent temples of Abu Simbel. Carved directly into the face of a cliff, Ramses II Temple is guarded by four enormous 65-foot figures of the pharaoh and depicts his most celebrated triumphs in battle. Nearby is the graceful Temple of Hathor, dedicated to the cow-headed goddess of love and built in honor of Ramses' favorite wife, Queen Nefertari. A three-year international rescue effort, from 1966-68, saved the temples from the rising waters of the Nile caused by the building of the great Aswan Dam. A campaign to save them was organized by UNESCO, with the temples being cut into blocks, raised piece-by-piece, and reassembled in a new position higher up the hillside.

But interestingly enough, with all the modern technology of the day, the engineers were unable to duplicate the efforts of the ancient Egyptians. The temple was originally built so the sun's rays would penetrate deep into the temple to illuminate the Holy of Holies on the morning of Ramses II name day. In repositioning the temple, the modern day engineers missed this event by 1 day.

After our escorted visit to the famed temples, we return to the airport and fly back to Aswan Airport where we board our short flight for Cairo.

After check in at our hotel, we have an evening visit to the Khan El-Khalili Bazaar, reputed to be the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Originally founded as a watering stop for caravans in the 14th century, the bazaar has now grown to vast proportions. We wander through the labyrinth of narrow streets, stopping to look in workshops and stalls that sell everything from woodwork, glassware, and leather goods to perfumes, fabrics, and Pharaonic curiosities. Remember to bargain hard!

Breakfast

We spend this evening at the beautiful **Fairmont Towers Hotel**

Fairmont Towers Hotel, Heliopolis

Uruba Street

Cairo, Egypt 2466

Tel +20 22 267 7730

Fax +20 22 267 7600

E-mail heliopolis@fairmont.com

www.fairmont.com/heliopolis

The Fairmont Towers Hotel offers a convenient location close to the Cairo International Airport. Heliopolis is a tree lined suburb of Cairo that is home to Egypt's Diplomatic and Presidential offices.

The hotel is 3 miles from Tree of the Virgin and the Roxy shopping district. It is also 6 miles from Saint Marco's Cathedral and 12 miles from Egyptian Museum, the Pharaonic Village, Khan El Khalily (Old and Oriental Market), the Citadel, and the Nile.

DAY 9

Saturday, October 21

Fly from Cairo, Egypt to Amman, Jordan

After breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning, we check out and transfer the short distance to Cairo International Airport for our flight to Amman, Jordan, and the continuation of our adventures into antiquity.

Arriving mid-afternoon at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman, we are met inside the airport and assisted through immigration. Our free visas on entry into Jordan will be obtained by our guides.

We are transferred directly to the 5-star Amman Grand Hyatt Hotel, located in the beautiful Shmeisani area, where we stay for the next two nights.

Breakfast

Overnight **Grand Hyatt Amman**

Grand Hyatt Amman
Hussein Bin Ali St., Jabal Amman,
PO Box 831159
Amman, Jordan, 11183
Tel: +962 6 465 1234
Fax: +962 6 465 1634
www.amman.grand.hyatt.com
Email: amman.grand@hyatt.com

Conveniently located in the heart of the business and diplomatic district of Jabal Amman, this 5-star hotel offers luxurious rooms as well as restaurants, bars, clubs, swimming pools and even a shopping mall. The Grand Hyatt is truly a class act. The majority of the hotel is constructed from polished Jerusalem sandstone, an elegant touch that tones down the sheer extravagance of it all!

DAY 10

Sunday, October 22

Exploring Amman and Jerash

We begin today with a city tour of Amman that includes the Citadel, the Archeological Museum, the Roman Theater, the Folklore Museum, and then a walk downtown through the bazaars and the Gold Market.

The capital, Amman, is known in history as Rabbath-Ammon, and in Greco-Roman times as Philadelphia. High above the city, at the ancient Citadel, we study the traces of Amman's many lives: the regal columns of a roman temple in silhouette against the sky; the elegant capitals of a Byzantine church; endlessly inventive carvings in the Umayyad Palace; fascinating displays in the Archaeological Museum; and digs and ruins everywhere you step. At the foot of the Citadel is the Roman Theater, a deep-sided bowl carved into the hill and still used for cultural events.

We continue with a one-hour drive to Jerash, where we have lunch at the Green Valley Restaurant.

Second only to Petra in tourist appeal, the ancient Roman city of Jerash is an archeological masterpiece, and remarkable for its long chain of human occupation. Here at a well-watered site framed by the hills of Gilead, remains from Neolithic times have been found, as well as ruins from other civilizations: Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad. Jerash's golden age, however, arrived with Roman rule. Today it is acknowledged as one of the best-preserved province cities of the Roman Empire. Jerash was a member of the Decapolis, a dynamic commercial league of ten Greco-Roman Cities.

When Emperor Hadrian visited Jerash in 129 A.D., it was already thriving. To honor its guest, the city raised a Triumphal Arch, just one part of a massive building program. Today you can walk beneath the imposing south gate and then make your way up the 'Street of Columns' — the Roman Cardo — which extends 600 meters north from the Oval Plaza. Stepping over the tracks of chariot wheels that are still visible in the paving stones, just imagine prosperous citizens in the ancient city window-shopping beneath a covered sidewalk.

Breakfast and Lunch

Overnight at the **Grand Hyatt Amman**

DAY 11

Monday, October 23

To Mount Nebo, Madaba, and Kerak Castle

After a buffet breakfast at our hotel, we check out and depart for a visit to Mount Nebo, the mountain where Moses was allowed to see the Holy Land, but not allowed to enter. Today the mountain is a memorial site. Here is the "Church of Moses," built by the first Christians. Since the first days of Christianity, this mountain has been a holy place and a pilgrimage destination. Like Moses, we have a great view over Jordan, the Dead Sea, and Israel. When the weather is clear, we might even be able to see Jerusalem, which is about 37 miles away.

Next we travel to Madaba, the "City of Mosaics," perched on an archaeological site with more than 4,000 years of history buried beneath it. The quality and quantity of mosaic flooring has made Madaba one of the most renowned cities in the world for mosaics. St. George's Church houses the world-famous mosaic floor depicting a large mosaic map of Palestine. Centrally located on this mosaic floor is a detailed map of Jerusalem as it was during the 6th century AD. At the Church of the Apostles, that sits at the southern entrance of the city, is a mosaic floor attributed to the craftsman Salamanios. It depicts the Sea with the central figure of a woman encircled by a selection of creatures, vegetation, and an inscription.

Lunch is at the Haret Jdoudna Restaurant at Madaba, and then we continue on via the King's Highway to Kerak. Famous for its crusader fortress, the Crusader's Castle of Kerak and its thick defensive walls are pierced by narrow arrow slits where crusader archers held out against their enemies bravely, but in vain, for more than 100 years.

We continue to Petra via the Desert Highway, arrive in Petra, and check into our hotel where we have dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

For the next two nights we stay at the 5-star **Mövenpick Resort Petra**

Mövenpick Resort Petra
Tourism Street P.O.Box 214
Petra 71810, Jordan
+962 3 215 71 11
resort.petra@moevenpick.com

The Mövenpick Resort Petra is located directly at the entrance to the historic Jordanian city of Petra. This resort with an oriental flair features an exciting combination of natural stone, handcrafted wood and Middle Eastern fabrics and textures. With 183 newly renovated rooms and suites and a wide variety of restaurants for your culinary cravings, the Mövenpick Resort Petra will certainly provide long lasting memories of our time spent in one of the world's most extraordinary destinations.

DAY 12

Tuesday, October 24

Full Day of Exploring the Fabled City of Petra

Our morning begins with a short horse ride (or walk) from the main gate of Petra to the entrance of the old city (an 800-meter ride). Then we'll walk along a narrow canyon called the "Siq" to visit the rose-red city of Petra.

The ancient city of Petra was carved from solid red sandstone in the 3rd century BC. In this era Petra was a fortress, carved out of craggy rocks, in an area that was virtually inaccessible. It was the capital of the Nabataens, a nomadic Arabian tribe who ruled the Trans-Jordan area in pre-Roman times and derived their great wealth and power from the passing trade caravans. With the rise of the coastal trading center at Palmyra and the opening of sea trade routes, Petra was re-discovered in 1812 by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, a young convert to Islam traveling the Middle East's deserts in Bedouin disguise. He heard local Bedouins tell of fantastic ruins hidden in the mountains of Wadi Musa, and persuaded one of them to lead him there. His journal and sketches of Petra eventually made their way to London, where they inspired many to seek this lost city.

The archeological site of Petra covers an area of about 100 square km (38 sq. miles). More than 800 monuments have been excavated. Petra is spectacularly set on the edge of the Wadi Araba, where sheer sandstone hills form a deep canyon that protects the city in all directions. The sandstone is a deep rust color banded with gray and yellow and shades in between. The modern town outside of Petra is called Wadi Musa (Valley of Moses). This is the spot where Moses is thought to have struck the rock, bringing water flowing forth as it does today.

Today Petra, known as the "rose-red city half as old as time," is Jordan's number one tourist attraction. Petra's famous Khazneh (the "Treasury"), starred in the film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Enjoy lunch inside Petra at the Basin Restaurant, and continue our visit in the afternoon.

Tonight we have a very special dinner at the Petra Kitchen. The Petra Kitchen is a delightful way to round out our travel experiences in Jordan. Like any home kitchen, The Petra Kitchen is a relaxed,

informal atmosphere where we gather to prepare an evening meal, working alongside local women under the supervision of an experienced chef.

Our evening meal includes soup, cold and hot mezza and salads, and a main course—all typical Jordanian dishes. We'll get an inside glimpse of the secrets behind the famous regional cuisine of the Levant.

Having dinner here offers an evening of learning, fun, and a very special dining experience. Great care has been taken to make the Kitchen a truly Jordanian experience—right down to the furnishings, all crafted in Jordan, the tableware, all produced by the Iraq al Amir Women's Co-operative, and the aprons and table linens, all hand-embroidered by the Jordan River Foundation.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Overnight at the **Mövenpick Resort Petra**

DAY 13

Wednesday, October 25

From Petra to the Dead Sea

Today we check out of our hotel and drive to Wadi Rum, where we pick up 4X4 vehicles driven by local Bedouins, to visit the desert of Lawrence of Arabia. T.E. Lawrence described the extraordinary canyon of Wadi Rum as “vast, echoing, and god-like.” In our sturdy vehicles, we'll explore deep into this magnificent canyon with its rock spires, colors, shapes, and almost supernatural atmosphere.

Known also as the Valley of the Moon, it was the setting for the film *Lawrence of Arabia*, and the actual location where T.E. Lawrence set up his camp. Lawrence's book, “The Seven Pillars of Wisdom” was named after the seven natural columns varying in height, and located en-route to Wadi Rum. Bedouin camps are evident in the Wadi, which is still home to a number of Bedouin families who welcome visitors with the hospitality and generosity for which the Bedouins are so famous.

We'll enjoy a festive lunch served to us in special Bedouin-style tents in Wadi Rum. After lunch we continue on to the Dead Sea via the Desert Highway.

Arriving at the Dead Sea we check into our 5-star hotel, the Dead Sea Kempinski Ishtar Hotel, rated #2 by Trip Advisor for hotels in Jordan on the Dead Sea.

Breakfast and Lunch

Overnight **Dead Sea Kempinski Ishtar Hotel**

www.kempinski.com/Ishtar

Welcome to the lowest point on Earth, which is on the Dead Sea! Embrace the magic of Jordan's most enchanting setting, where nature and history have so wonderfully conspired. This 5 star luxury hotel is situated on the edge of the famous salt lake (the Dead Sea), and provides uninterrupted views across the vast sea towards the West Bank and access to some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, including religious sites and majestic countryside. It also has the largest spa in the Middle East, and you may want to spend part, or all of your free day there! Enter a world of natural and architectural brilliance, where you will be swept into an oasis of comfort and serenity with a

Babylonian-inspired theme. Carved in natural stones and offering enchanting sea-view balconies, all of the rooms are delicately styled with contemporary fittings and luxurious amenities

DAY 14

Thursday, October 26

A Free Day at the Dead Sea

Since the days of Herod the Great, people have flocked to the Dead Sea (400 meters below sea level) in search of its curative secrets. Due to high annual temperatures, low humidity, and high atmospheric pressure, the air is extremely oxygenated. The high content of oxygen and magnesium in the air make breathing a lot easier. With the highest content of minerals and salts in the world, the Dead Sea water possesses anti-inflammatory properties, and the dark mud found on its shores has been used for therapeutic purposes for more than 2,000 years.

Today we enjoy a full day of relaxation at the hotel and its surroundings. Check out is at 9 p.m. and lunch and dinner are on our own today.

At about 9:15 p.m. we depart the hotel and transfer to Queen Alia International Airport for check in. Many flights depart early morning of October 27 If yours does not, Ciretta can look into an overnight stay at a hotel in Amman.

Breakfast

DAY 15

Friday, October 27

Depart Amman for the U.S.

Early morning departure flight from Amman, Jordan with same day arrival into your gateway airport in the U.S.A.

Money

Egypt's unit of currency is the Pound. As of **April 2016, 1 USD = 8.8 Egyptian Pounds.**

Jordan's unit of currency is the Dinar. As of **April 2016, 1 USD = 0.71 Jordan Dinars.**

You can find the current rate of exchange at the following website: <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Bring U.S. cash, credit cards, and maybe some travelers checks (American Express), which can be exchanged at banks. Most of the large hotels have ATM's. Major credit cards can be used for cash advances in banks and exchanges and for purchases in many large tourist hotels, stores, and restaurants. In Egypt, you will get a better exchange rate for cash in US Dollars from hotel staff and small shops. The unofficial market exchange rate is usually 15% higher than the official central bank rate. In Jordan, U.S. Dollars are generally accepted all over the country.

Bring smaller bills (not larger than \$50) and make sure that they are in very good condition (no tears or wrinkles).

Generally most goods and services in Egypt and Jordan seem to be very good value, but there is a system of bargaining for everything you need. Some of the larger tourist shops have fixed prices, but in the local markets, bargaining is a way of life - so leave plenty of time for shopping.

***Important information about credit cards! Please note:** You should bring **at least one smart card, usually referred to as a chip card, or chip-and-PIN credit card** for travel to Europe and to other overseas destinations. These new cards are more secure and you are more protected from credit card fraud.

These so-called smart cards have embedded microchips in them. You will see the silver or gold microchip on the front of your card. They also have the traditional magnetic stripe, so can be used the same as your regular credit/debit card. You'll either sign for purchases, or enter a 4 digit PIN into a terminal. (Confirm with your bank that your PIN, or 4 digit number, will be the number that you use the FIRST time that a PIN is required for use with your new card. So just make sure you remember it for all future transactions!)

It is best to have your chip card as a VISA or MasterCard, since American Express is often not accepted in many places. In Europe and in parts of Asia, they simply don't acknowledge magnetic-strip cards anymore unless they are chip-and-PIN enabled. In addition, in any automated transactions such as train stations and gas stations, **ONLY** chip-and-PIN cards are accepted.

Chip-and-PIN cards have become standard in many European countries because of their superior fraud-prevention abilities. Now countries in Asia, North America and South America, and Canada are doing the same.

Recommended Tipping

Tipping is, of course, optional and based on your satisfaction with the guides, drivers, wait staff, etc. The following, however, is the recommended amount of tips that are suggested on the trip. You can tip in US Dollars:

Egypt

Tipping in Egypt is a way of life. Tips are called “baksheesh” and it is an integral part of life in this country—probably more important and emphasized here than in most of the countries that AdventureWomen travels to.

The following is a guideline for the people we will tip, and the suggested amounts:

- \$15-\$20 per person per day to our specialist-Egyptologist-guide (6 days: \$90 - \$120);
- \$8 per person per day to drivers (drivers will vary and should be tipped each day unless you know they will stay with you for a few days);
- \$12-\$15 per person per day to the cruise crew on the *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer* (4 days: \$48 - \$60);
- \$10 per person per day for the Tour Coordinator. This is the trip facilitator who meets clients at the airport, escorts them to the hotel, and assists clients requirements while in Egypt. (Approximately 5 days: \$50);
- \$5-\$6 per restaurant meal (any meal that is not included).

Jordan

The following guideline is for tipping our staff in Jordan:

- \$50-\$60 per person for the main guide;
- \$30-\$35 per person for the driver;
- \$5 per person for the horse boy at Petra;

- \$2 per person for the 4X4 drivers at Wadi Rum;
- \$2 per meal at restaurants (any meal that is not included).

Food and Water

In both Egypt and Jordan, there are wonderful varieties of dining experiences available, with a very pronounced Middle Eastern accent! You will want to try everything, from the locally-grown fruits and vegetables, to the delicious lamb, beef and veal served in shish kebabs and casseroles and, of course, the incomparable freshly baked breads. You will enjoy such appetizers as smokey, subtle baba ghonooj (seasoned eggplant and sesame) and rich, creamy hummus bi tahini (chick pea and sesame paste) to such sumptuous desserts as flaky om ali (chock full of raisins and nuts.) For a change of fare, you may wish to sample the Continental cuisine that is readily available in our hotels.

By observing reasonable precautions, you should be able to enjoy a healthy, trouble-free stay. ALWAYS drink bottled water (never tap water), and do not eat raw food, undercooked meats and fish, unpasteurized milk and dairy products, and any fruit that you have not peeled yourself. Eating yogurt helps with the introduction of new foods!

What to Bring

Situated in the northeastern corner of Africa, Egypt enjoys a uniformly dry climate year round, as does Jordan. Temperatures, however, fluctuate considerably from month to month, and your wardrobe will need to be planned accordingly. In general, the coolest months are November through March, when daytime temperatures range from the lower to middle 70s and overnight lows average around 50 degrees. The hottest time of the year runs from May through September, when high temperatures may reach 95 degrees in Cairo and 105 degrees in Aswan. In October, daytime temperatures usually run in the mid-80s, cooling off to the middle 60s at night, so spring-like and summer clothing is in order.

Loose fitting, comfortable clothing is advisable, and a comfortable, well broken in pair of walking shoes is a necessity. A hat and sunscreen is also necessary, as we will spend many hours in the sun as we explore the mysteries of Egypt and Jordan. In the evening aboard ship, although attire is casual, you may want to wear a nice pair of pants, a skirt, or a dress for special occasion dinners on board. In Cairo, Egyptians tend to dress up more in the evenings (skirt or dress).

Remember that we will be in Muslim countries. Women should be careful to keep their shoulders and knees covered when visiting mosques. Also, short shorts, backless dresses, and halter tops may be offensive to Muslims, and should not be worn. Shorts are acceptable during shore excursions, unless we are visiting a mosque or church.

Luggage, Clothing and Travel Accessories

Three words of packing advice: LIGHT, LIGHT, LIGHT! It is best to condense your luggage into one manageable suitcase with wheels and one daypack or backpack (carry-on size). Also, a spare, very light duffel bag or day pack rolled or folded into your wheeled suitcase is useful to have to transport souvenir items home.

We suggest you use your daypack as your carry-on bag during your flights. In it you should have all valuables and essentials: medications, passports and all important documents, cameras, a day's change of clothing, lightweight sleepwear, and toiletries.

Put luggage ID tags on the outside AND inside your baggage. If your bag is lost and the outside ID tag and baggage stickers are dislodged, the airlines may open the bag to search for an ID inside your bag. (We will send you 3 tags for the outside of your bags.)

You should also be aware of the airline regulations (www.tsa.gov/travelerinformation) about what you can and cannot bring in your carry-on bag, and what you must put in your checked luggage.

Pre-Departure Tasks

- Obtain or renew passport.
- Evaluate and obtain trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance.
- Consult with your physician for physical examination, immunization, and prescription medicine recommendations.

Clothing

- Clothing should be lightweight, quick drying, and breathable. Pay special attention to sun protection needs. Long sleeves and wide brim hats are recommended.
- Underwear. Synthetics are easier to wash and dry.
- Sleepwear.
- Shirts: Long-sleeve, synthetic or cotton shirts because they are featherweight, durable, wrinkle-resistant, and dry quickly. Those with multiple, closed (velcro or zipper) pockets are excellent.
- Short-sleeve synthetic or cotton T-Shirts. Those with multiple, closed (velcro or zipper) pockets are excellent.
- Sweater/Jacket: Medium-weight sweater or jacket made of synthetic fabric (fleece) for cool evenings.
- Vest: A lightweight, multi-pocket, photo journalist-type vest is excellent for day use (use it to store cameras, binoculars, etc.).
- Pants: Full-length pants, preferably of quick-drying synthetic fabric with many zippered pockets. Convertible pants that convert from long pants to shorts save room and are very convenient for use during a long day.
- Walking shorts, preferably of a synthetic fabric and to the knee (modesty is respectful here).
- Bathing Suit.
- Sun hat with a wide brim, preferably with a chin strap to keep it from blowing off.
- Gore-Tex rain/wind parka and/or sturdy poncho to protect day pack and camera gear from rain or water spray. (This can be your jacket, as listed above, as long as it is waterproof).
- Athletic socks (synthetic for easy washing and drying) that are suitable for your lightweight walking shoes.
- Sturdy, properly fitting footwear can make your trip much more comfortable and enjoyable. Very comfortable, lightweight walking shoes are a good option. We will be doing a lot of walking on this trip, so bring shoes that you will be comfortable in for all day wear.
- Sandals for boats, water, and for walking around resorts (Teva-type sandals or similar: Merrell's, Keens, etc., or any thing that can get wet and dry fast).
- 3-4 cotton bandanas (it's an AdventureWomen tradition!).
- One or two sets of nice, casual city clothes that are dressier for evening restaurants and gourmet dinners on the boat (maybe a lightweight skirt/dress to be included).

Personal Items

- Passport.
- 2 passport photos for getting visas on arrival in both Egypt and Jordan, plus 2-3 spare passport photos to bring on the trip (in case of lost passport/visa).
- Battery operated travel alarm clock.
- Extra batteries for cameras, alarm clock, etc.
- Small flashlight with extra batteries and bulb.
- Sunglasses, case, strap (90% - 100% ultraviolet and some infrared protection).
- Contact lenses, cleaner, saline solution, extra eyeglasses with safety band.
- Money belt.
- Bring U.S. cash, credit cards in denominations no larger than \$50 US Dollars, and make sure that you have lots of small bills (\$1 - \$20). Credit cards are widely accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and department stores. ATMs are in larger cities, and infrequent in smaller ones.
- Address book, writing paper or journal, pen/pencil.
- Daypack (also serves as an airline carry-on bag).
- Although you are supplied bottled mineral water, you might also want to bring an extra plastic water bottle. Nalgene plastic is recommended as there is no plastic taste in the heat.
- Locks for your suitcase and duffel bag (when left in rooms).
- Ziploc-type bags for packing shampoo or other liquids, or wet, dirty clothing.
- 1-2 heavyweight plastic garbage bags for anything wet from the Dead Sea or sandy from Wadi Rum.
- Earplugs. We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs, which you can buy at most drug stores, or at www.earplugstore.com. Good to 22 decibels!
- Washcloth (not supplied in many hotels).
- Personal toiletries in small leak-proof bottles.
- Tampons or sanitary napkin supply (not always widely available).
- Thread, needles, safety pins for minor repairs.
- Insect repellent with the percentage of DEET recommended by your travel medicine physician. It's important that you bring an ample supply of good quality repellent. If you use DEET, try to wipe it off your hands before touching plastic surfaces such as your binoculars or cameras (DEET damages some plastics).
- Wash & Dries (or other antiseptic wipes) for hand washing and emergency toilet paper.
- Lonely Planet/or Eyewitness Travel Guide/or other book on Egypt and Jordan.

Personal First Aid Kit (bring in small amounts in small containers)

- Foot powder for moisture absorption; cloth, not plastic Band-aids; about 10 individually wrapped alcohol pads; and a small tube of Neosporin or other antibiotic cream.
- Benadryl cream for itchy bites.
- Aspirin/ibuprofen, etc.
- Cold-symptom relief tablets, antihistamine, cough drops.
- Adequate quantity of sweat-resistant sun screen with at least an SPF 15 rating or higher, and lip balm with sunscreen.
- Tweezers.
- Ace bandage.
- Antibiotics (Cipro, or another systemic antibiotic).
- Prescription medicines in their original bottles.
- Acidophilus enzyme (available in capsules in health-food stores). This often helps your digestive system get in shape for "new" flora.

- Immodium, Lomotil, or similar anti-diarrhea medicine.
- Pepto-Bismol tablets and/or liquid (in leak-proof bottle).
- Emergen-C or similar. Some people swear they get fewer colds on airplanes if they take this during flights.
- Laxative tablets.
- Visine or similar eye drops.

Camera Equipment

For many women, photography is a large part of this trip. We suggest you bring the following:

- Digital camera, more memory cards and batteries than you think you will possibly need, battery charger, and adapter. You can charge your digital batteries in hotels and onboard the boat.

Optional

- Small, lightweight binoculars.
- Pictures of your house, pets, and family (local people love to see this!).
- Reading material.
- Extra, lightweight duffel bag (empty, and packed inside your suitcase).

Last Minute Reminders

- Make photocopies of your airline tickets and the first two pages of your passport, and put them in different locations (suitcase, carry-on bag, etc.).
- Bring 2-3 extra passport size photos to use in emergencies.
- Your valuables should be insured for the duration of the trip, but better yet, leave them at home.
- Remove extra credit cards, driver's license, and personal items from wallet or purse.
- Make sure passport and airline tickets are valid and in the correct name.
- Check with airline to reconfirm reservations and departure time (most airlines want to hear directly from the client for confirmations).

Some Extra Items to Add to your "What to Pack" List

We think these items help make your long airline flights much more comfortable and even more bearable:

- Neck pillow - Inflatable neck pillow for blissful support and deep sleep. For packing, it folds into itself. Self-sealing valve means nothing to close. Soft microfleece cover removes for washing.
- Sleep mask /Comfort eye shade - Ultra lightweight and comfortable, the Comfort Eye Shade screens out light and distractions for a cozier flight. Ultra-soft micro fleece for comfort. Adjustable elastic strap for a perfect fit. Made of Molded Polyester Micro Fleece.
- Travel compression socks - Reduce ankle and leg swelling and reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis. These doctor-designed socks stimulate circulation through gradual compression that stops swelling and guards against (DVT). Made of coolmax®-lycra®-nylon. The TravelSox® cushion Walk Socks have extra-padded soles and are made of moisture wicking SoftPrim®.
- Noise canceling headphones - Block out unwanted sounds of children crying and airplane engine drone, and/or enjoy great audio sound. Reduce distortion and increase perceived

loudness so you can enjoy sound at a lower volume. Get the around the ear design, which is very comfortable.

About Adventure Travel Today - Please Read Carefully!

At AdventureWomen, we would like to ensure that all participants understand that our excursions are *adventure travel vacations*, and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one *actively participates*, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an *active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends*. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a *good-natured realist* and have a *sense of humor!* *Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist*, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. *Being on time is important*, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well being of both individuals and the group!

Thank you for choosing to travel with AdventureWomen! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write or email us.

AdventureWomen, Inc.
300 Running Horse Trail
Bozeman, MT 59715
800-804-8686
406-587-3883 (outside the U.S.)
trips@adventurewomen.com