



School: **Southend High School for Boys**
 Main Contact: **Jane Halsall**
 Trip Name: **Jordan, Jericho and Jerusalem**
 Country: **Jordan, Israel**
 Venture Provider: **STC**
 Departure Date: **23/10/2020**
 Physical: **Grade 2**
 Culture Shock: **Grade 3**

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Below is a summary of the trip and services we are confirming. Please note we have had to make slight changes to the order of certain elements of the trip due to availability of accommodation and the Sabbath in Israel.

Planned Itinerary

As per our quote, below is an outline of the itinerary that has been agreed. Please note that due to the changing nature of many of the destinations we travel to, it is not uncommon for the planned itinerary to be subject to some small changes between now and your departure. We usually confirm any minor amendments nearer the time of your departure. Anything more major such as change in the planned activities or structural changes to order or day to day schedule, we will keep you informed as we become aware.

Whilst travelling, it is important to realise that the itinerary needs to be flexible. Whilst every effort will be made to follow the schedule below, in the event of political problems, airline schedule changes or environmental factors, we will do our best to make your trip as enjoyable and hassle-free as possible, but it is important to EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED and be prepared to accept some slight changes. Relax and have faith in your guides – he or she will want you to see their country in a good light.

Day / Date	Description	Meals
Day 1	Fly UK to Jordan on an overnight flight with Turkish Airlines Depart UK and fly overnight to Amman in Jordan, arriving early on day 2.	
Day 2	Arrive Amman. Transfer to Aqaba. Morning Boat Trip, snorkelling, PM transfer to Wadi Rum Meet our STC Leader on arrival at Amman airport, before driving south to Aqaba. Once arrived in Aqaba, we head out on a boat trip into the Red Sea for some snorkelling and a BBQ lunch on board. Later, we drive to Wadi Rum and time allowing, have a chance for a short walk to explore the stunning desert environment of this world famous UNESCO World Heritage site. In true desert fashion, we sleep in a traditional Bedouin tent or under the stars. As the sun sets on the rocky outcrops, an astonishing transformation takes place - the sandstone changes hue, passing through a spectrum of yellow, gold, orange, red and finally purple, as the shadows lengthen and the stars come out - the skies will hopefully be clear and the Milky Way, satellites and shooting stars fill the heavens - the perfect opportunity for star-gazing. Dinner and overnight at our Bedouin-style camp.	BLD
Day 3	Wadi Rum 4x4, Shobak Crusader Castle Visit Wadi Rum on a jeep tour. Lunch at a Bedouin Camp. Visit Shobak Crusader Castle before returning to Aqaba. Dinner and overnight in hotel at Aqaba.	BLD
Day 4	Full day at Petra Depart Aqaba early morning and transfer to Petra for a full day exploration in this amazing UNESCO Site. Today we make our way to the fabled and well-concealed city of Petra where a full day allows us to explore the Treasury, Monastery and the many other amphitheatres for which this amazing site is famed. This is an active day and we should be prepared for a lot of walking, but the huge tombs - all hand carved out of the towering cliff faces - are simply incredible, and are well worth the effort. The 800 steps which lead to the Monastery are a small price to pay for a view of the vast structure rivalling even the Treasury and boasting fantastic views stretching out over the valley below. If we have some energy left, we climb to one of the High Places, the mountain-top altars where ritual sacrifices were made; from here there are spectacular views of the mountains, valleys and canyons below. Dinner and overnight in hotel at Aqaba.	BLD
Day 5	Dana Nature Reserve, Madaba and Mt. Nebo Today we head north to visit Dana Nature Reserve. Here we undertake a two hour hike on the Rummana Trail and enjoy a packed lunch surrounded by amazing scenery. Next, it's off to Madaba and the Basilica of St. George. In the floor of the church is the remarkable 6th century mosaic map – two million pieces of coloured stone depicting the hills, valleys and towns of the Holy Land. We travel on to Mt Nebo, where we can stand on the site where Moses looked out over the "Promised Land". From Madaba and Mt Nebo, we head further north and finish our day in Amman.	BLD

Day 6	Amman, Jerash, Swim in Dead Sea This morning we have a quick look around Jordan's capital, Amman, after which we head an hour north to the amazing Roman ruins of Jerash. After lunch in a local restaurant, we head south again to the Dead Sea. We spend the afternoon swimming (or more correctly floating) in the Dead Sea and enjoying this unique place. We head back to Amman for the evening.	BLD
Day 7	Cross into Israel (early), Jerusalem, Dome of the Rock, Yad Vashem We make an early morning transfer to the Israeli border and cross over from Jordan via Allenby Bridge. We drive to Jerusalem and head straight to the Dome of the Rock before it closes in preparation for the Sabbath. After lunch we have a poignant afternoon visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. Later we drive to Bethlehem to visit Banksy's Walled Off-Hotel and walk a section of the Separation Wall.	BLD
Day 8	Masada, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Old City Drive south to visit Masada - an ancient palace and fort set on a 400m high desert plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. From the top it's possible to see the remains of the siege wall and eleven war camps built by the Romans when the castle was under siege during the Jewish revolt. Discover the poignant and heavily debated legacy of the defenders who defied the Romans to the last by committing mass suicide rather than surrendering. Debate still rages as to whether this was a noble act of resistance or a dangerous example of extremism. On our way to Jerusalem, we stop briefly at the ancient town of Jericho and visit the Mount of Temptation before spending the afternoon in the Holiest city in the world. This afternoon we enjoy a walking tour of the Old City, Via Dolorosa and ends at the Jewish Quarter.	BLD
Day 9	Bethlehem and home This morning we visit Bethlehem, The Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Field, before transferring back to Tel Aviv in time to check in for our return flight back to the UK, again with Turkish Airlines flying via Istanbul.	BL

Accommodation currently planned for your itinerary includes the following.

- Hotel / Guest House
- Fixed Camp with Facilities
- Hostel

Please note that, due to the changing nature of many of the destinations we visit, the type of accommodation used in certain locations can change between the time of booking and the time of your departure. Your final accommodation, including names, contact details etc will be confirmed in your Final Travel Pack.

Activities on this itinerary are:

- Boat excursions
- Day Walks
- Walking tours/Sightseeing
- Diving/Snorkelling

Transport on this trip will be by:

- 4x4
- Bus / Coach

Included:

- All accommodation, activities, entrance fees and transportation as per itinerary, unless marked 'optional'.
- International airfares and pre-paying taxes
- Tips for guides, drivers and support staff
- Meals as described in the day to day itinerary
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC Tour/Expedition Leader whilst in Jordan, Israel with further local guides at sites as required
- Parent and student trip launch information evening
- Pre-expedition training programme as detailed on the following page
- 1-day offsite safety management course (inset day for school staff. Contact us for details)
- ATOL financial protection

- Medical Emergency and Repatriation Travel Insurance (see below)
- Group First Aid Kit & Medications Pack
- Comprehensive safety management, risk assessments, 24-hour emergency response
- Carbon Offsetting of flights for the whole group

Excluded:

- Transport to airport in UK — *Paid for in total sum. No extra money needed.*
- Drinking water & soft drinks (we discourage the use of single-use plastic water bottles and will be giving advice on filter bottles and the purification of water)
- Any activities marked as 'optional'
- Visas or tourist cards if required (see country information for more details) *Jordan visa covered by STC*
- Any required inoculations *not needed.*
- Personal spending money
- Airport departure taxes to be paid locally (if required) *not needed.*

*\$15 to be paid
by trip members
on departure from
Jordan to Palestine*

