



COUNTRY BRIEFING: Egypt & Jordan

Egypt and Jordan are home to world famous sights and also boast some lesser-known places that offer plenty for the inquisitive traveller. Here's a taste of some places you'll know, and some you might not.



- 1 Lake Nasser cruise boat at Abu Simbel
- 2 Wadi Rum, Jordan
- 3 The Great Pyramid, Giza
- 4 Abu Simbel, Egypt
- 5 Jerash, Jordan
- 6 The Treasury, Petra

Five Famous Places

The Pyramids of Giza

The last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, huge in scale and completely dominating the Giza skyline, the pyramid complex is one of those places that everyone should see in their lifetime.

Petra

Petra has that rare quality of never disappointing in real life, no matter how many times you've seen it on film and in photographs. The secretive location, the beautiful sandstone surrounds and the decorative monuments add up to a remarkable couple of days' sightseeing.

Valley of the Kings

Perhaps most famous for the tomb of Tutankhamun and the exploits of Howard Carter, there are many more tombs than just this one. Some are truly enormous, stretching back many metres into the cliffs, decorated with wonderfully preserved scenes to help the deceased pharaohs into the afterlife.

Abu Simbel

This is a grandiose statement built by Ramses II (the Great) to deify himself. The vast size of the temple, combined with the dramatic story of its block-by-block rescue from the rising waters of Lake Nasser, make this one of the most popular sights in Egypt.

Wadi Rum

Famous for the exploits of TE Lawrence, inscriptions in shaded canyons testify to far older excursions through the red desert sands and soaring cliffs.

Five Places to Discover

Jerash

One of the best-preserved Roman cities in the world, located in northern Jordan. In many people's opinion, as remarkable and impressive a place as Petra itself.

Dana Nature Reserve

Think of Jordan, and nature reserves do not immediately spring to mind. Come to Dana to enjoy spectacular arid mountain scenery and to learn something of the local Bedouin way of life.

Lake Nasser

The best place for cruising in Egypt. A vast area with less than 10 operating cruising vessels ensures solitude and the chance to appreciate the smaller temples, and the Saharan sands drifting across blackened rocks down to the lake. Best of all is the waterborne approach to Abu Simbel.

Siwa

Truly famous in the ancient world for its oracle – Alexander came here shortly before the exploits that made him 'the Great'. Nowadays a chance to visit contrasting desert scenery (salt flats, wind-carved stone and rolling dunes) and learn a bit about the unique culture that has developed over centuries of isolation.

Coptic Cairo

The Egyptian capital is famous enough, and the crowds at the Museum of Antiquities and the pyramids testify to this, but get away from the masses and visit the Coptic churches, hidden away in the older parts of town. As Coptic is the descendant of the ancient Egyptian language there is the possibility of hearing hieroglyphics out loud.

Rogier Westerhuis
Egypt & Jordan Specialist



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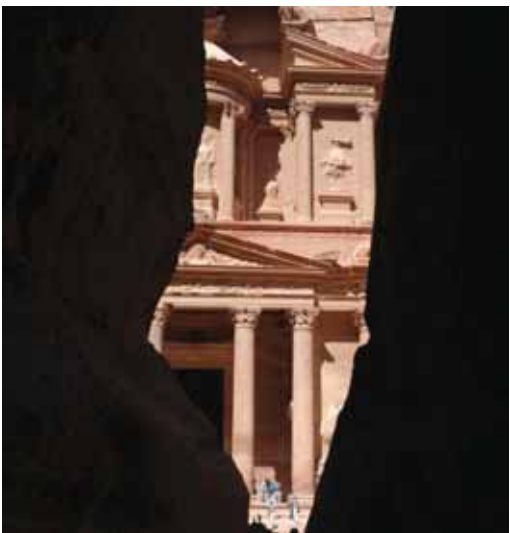
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Best of Egypt and Jordan

This is a suggested programme for seeing the best of Egypt and Jordan. It can of course be tailored to suit your individual preferences - for example to include a Lake Nasser cruise. This trip would cost from about £2,200 per person based on two people travelling, or under £2,000 without the Nile cruise. For further details please call Rogier on 01869 276 307.

- Day 1** Fly to Amman.
- Day 2** Tour of Amman and Jerash.
- Day 3** Take the Kings Highway to Petra.
- Day 4** Private tour of Petra.
- Day 5** Morning to continue exploration of Petra. Transfer to Wadi Rum and camp in the desert.
- Day 6** Transfer to Dana Nature Reserve and explore some of the trails.
- Day 7** Hike down through the reserve to Feynan Lodge, a wonderful eco-friendly hotel in a remote corner of the reserve.
- Day 8** Transfer to Amman airport for a flight to Sharm El Sheikh.
- Day 9** Drive to St Catherine's Monastery and overnight nearby.
- Day 10** Optional very early start to climb Mt Sinai. Morning tour of the monastery then transfer to Cairo.
- Day 11** Tour of Giza pyramids, Memphis and Saqqara.
- Day 12** Tour of the Egyptian Museum and Coptic Cairo.
- Day 13** Fly to Aswan or Luxor and board the Nile cruise.
- Days 14-16** Excursions from the boat.
- Day 17** Disembark and fly home via Cairo.



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