

Jordan & Syria Adventure - DWJS

15 days: Amman to Damascus

What's Included

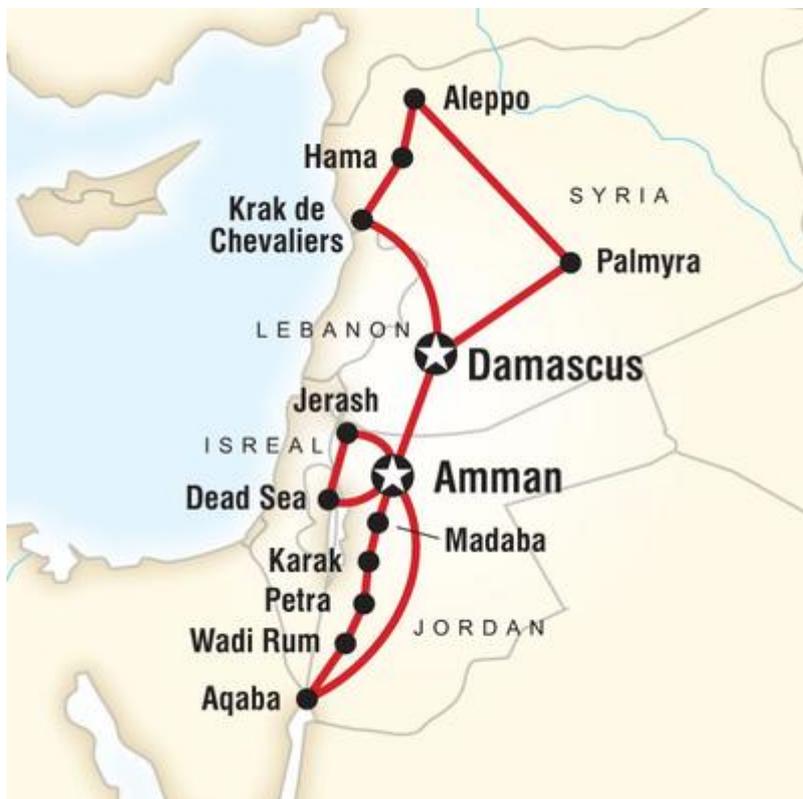
- Guided visit to Jerash, Day trip to Dead Sea, Madaba mosaics, Mount Nebo, Kerak Castle, Petra entrance and guided tour, Wadi Rum and 4x4 jeep excursion, Orientation walk in Damascus, Entrance and guided tour of Palmyra, Entrance and guided walk in Krak des Chevaliers, Orientation walk in Aleppo

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2012 - December 31st, 2012

Itinerary



What's Included

Guided visit to Jerash, Day trip to Dead Sea, Madaba mosaics, Mount Nebo, Kerak Castle, Petra entrance and guided tour, Wadi Rum and 4x4 jeep excursion, Orientation walk in Damascus, Entrance and guided tour of Palmyra, Entrance and guided walk in Krak des Chevaliers, Orientation walk in Aleppo.

Highlights

Relaxing at the Dead Sea, exploring Roman ruins, ancient cities and crusader castles, camping in the desert, shopping in bazaars.

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

Ramadan 2011: Depending on the lunar cycles, around July 20th for a month. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-muslims throughout the day.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 15, avg 10

Meals Included

14 breakfasts, 1 dinner

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your group leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Meal Budget

Allow USD290-350 for meals not included

Transport

Private van, 4x4 pick-up, local bus, walking

About our Transportation

On this trip we will travel by air-conditioned private mini van for most of the journeys. We may use local transport while crossing borders from Jordan to Syria. En route to Wadi Rum and our desert camp we will travel in 4x4 vehicles.

Solo Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels (13 nts), desert camp (1 nt)

My Own Room Exceptions

Night 5, Wadi Rum

About Accommodation

On this trip you can expect to stay in small local hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights.

Joining Hotel

Golden Sands Hotel
Queen Rania street, opposite to Jordan university
PO box 3705 Amman
Tel : +96265340932

Joining Instructions

Upon arrival at Amman International Airport, please make your way to the joining hotel. Official airport taxis cost around 20 JOD. The drive can take between 20 minutes and 1 hour depending on the time of day and traffic conditions. You should fix a price with your driver before you get into the car and set off.

If you have a pre-booked transfer, please look for the G Adventures representative, who will be holding a G Adventures sign. Your name will not be on the G Adventures sign, so please ask the driver whom they are there to meet. If the G Adventures representative is not there at first, please wait up to 30 minutes, and then proceed to take a taxi, or call our local staff at (TBA), who will assist you in getting to the joining hotel.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your group leader (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Joining Hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Emergency Contact Details:

G Adventure Local office

Emergency Cell Phone : +20 (0)12 2211699 - Mohammed El Fayed, Middle East Regional Manager, Cairo, Egypt

G Adventures Local Operator, Amman, Jordan

+962 (6) 4642034 - office hours (9am-5pm, Sunday - Thursday)

+962 79 5535879 - after hours

If you are experiencing complications with your Amman AIRPORT TRANSFER that was booked through G Adventures please call:

+962 79 5535879

G Adventures Syria:

Open 5 days a week, 9am to 5pm local time (GMT +2) from Sunday to Thursday.

Tel + 963 11 2317597/6/4(during office hours)

Emergency Cell Phone: + 963 933 211441 or + 963 944 269987(after office hours)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, we have a toll-free line for North America, which will connect you directly with our Toronto office. In the event that you cannot get through, you can reach a member of our Operations department at the mobile number below.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 465 5600.

Calls from UK: 0844 272 0000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Outside North America, Australia and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Finishing Point Instructions

We are able to organise extra accommodation post-trip should you require it. Please enquire at the time of booking.

What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We highly recommend using a backpack, soft compact suitcase or light sports bag, whichever you find easiest to carry, plus a small daypack. Luggage space on transport is limited. You must be prepared to carry your own bags as porters are not often available.

Checklist

Suggested Items:

- Sleep sheet/sleeping bag liner (for Wadi Rum desert camp)
- Light fleece top
- Light windproof/waterproof jacket
- Small towel and swimwear
- Sun hat
- Personal clothing for mild to hot weather (See also "What to Take" and "Local Dress" sections of this dossier)
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Sleep sheet (for Wadi Rum)
- Flashlight/torch (with extra batteries and bulbs)
- Sport sandals
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries (biodegradable)
- Watch or alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Purification tablets or filter
- Pocketknife
- Money belt

- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, Aspirin, bandaids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, insect repellent, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

Optional Items:

- Camera and film
- Reading/writing material
- Binoculars
- Cover for backpacks

Documents:

- Passport (with photocopies)
- Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- EUR/USD cash
- Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)
- G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier
- Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

JORDAN:

Jordan visa can be obtained on arrival at land and airport borders for most nationalities for a fee of 20 JOD. While most travellers are not required to obtain their visa in advance, there are exceptions and you must check the requirements of your particular passport. While we provide this information in good faith, your visa is your responsibility. A departure tax of 8 JOD is required to depart Jordan by land.

SYRIA

All travellers require a visa to enter Syria.

Please contact your nearest Syrian embassy in order to obtain more information on the fees and process involved in processing visas for your nationality.

Please note that it is often only possible to obtain a Syrian visa within your country of residence.

Here are some things you will need to know in order to complete the application:

Accompanied By: list any family travelling with you. If none, then don't put anything here.

Have you visited Occupied Palestine (this is referring to Israel): if you have an Israeli stamp or entry/exit stamps from a neighbouring country which makes it clear you have entered Syria in your passport you will not be able to get a visa.

Travel Destination: Damascus, Palmyra, Hama, Aleppo

Address in Syria: Jasmin Tours

F1, 17 Fat'hi Al Atassi Str. (P O Box 12353) Damascus, Syria

References in Syria: Mr. Zakwan Al Halabi

Point of Entry: Dara'a Border with Jordan.

Please note- for tours from 1st of April until all political protests have settled, we will be using the Nassib border crossing between

Jordan and Syria. It is NOT a problem if you have put Dara'a on your application.

Point of Exit: Damascus

For each and every travellers it is vital that there are no Israeli stamps of any kind in your passports, nor any entrance or exit stamps from neighbouring border checkpoints which would indicate a visit to Israel. This will be thoroughly checked by the Syrian border police and you will be denied entry. Your passports must be valid for at least 6 months prior to the departure date.

Please note: While we provide the following information in good faith, Visa requirements can always be subject to change, if circumstances beyond our control warrant them.

Detailed Trip Notes

REGIONAL INFORMATION

Official Languages: Arabic, English (secondary to Arabic)

Time Zone: GMT +2 | US EST +7

Electricity: 220 Volts, 50 AC

Currency Jordan: Jordanian Dinar (JOD)

currency Syria : Syrian pound (SYP)

International Dialing Code Jordan : 00962

international Dialing Code Syria : 00963

Climate: The climate depends on which part of the country you are in. June to September are the hottest months of the year where temperature rises to about 32C (89.6F). The period between December and March is the coolest. Snowfall often occurs and temperatures stay around 15C (59F) during the day.

Ramadan 2011: Depending on the lunar cycles, around August 1st for a month. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-muslims throughout the day.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

ATMs are found widely in principal cities in Jordan and Syria will generally accept cards on the Visa and Mastercard networks. A credit card is the safest way to carry money and most larger restaurants and stores accept them. While ATMs are widely available in major cities, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in the Middle East. Check with your bank before travelling. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. Cash advances can also be made with some banks. Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible, but carrying only cash is a high safety risk. A combination of cash and cards is best. Euros, British Pounds and US Dollars are all easy to exchange to local currency. Travellers cheques can be tricky to exchange and we do not recommend that you bring them as your primary source of funds, although in large cities you can exchange them in some 5-star hotels and banks but this takes time and incurs a fee. Thomas Cook or American Express travellers cheques in US currency are the easiest to exchange. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Note that almost all local purchases (meals, souvenirs, most optional activities, etc) will be paid for in local currencies.

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Departure Tax

8 JOD departure tax for all nationalities upon departure from Jordan to be paid in cash when crossing the border.

Tipping

Tipping (Baksheesh)

Tipping (also widely referred to by its Arabic term as "baksheesh") is a way of life in the Middle East. Locals themselves will usually tip anyone who provides them with services. In many cases, people depend on the tips they receive to supplement the incredibly low salary and wages of the Middle East region.

While on tour in the Middle East, it is customary and even expected to tip small service providers such as restaurant and bar waiters, hotel staff, reception, cleaning personnel, bell boys, taxis and van drivers. Tips are regarded as an essential means of supplementing income for those working in the tourism industry.

In order to make things as easy as possible, and avoid embarrassing situations, G Adventures has developed a tipping Kitty system where your tour leader will collect a contribution from everybody on tour and use this kitty to tip anybody who has provided services to the group as a whole. The tour Leader will keep an accurate account of what was spent and any money left over, will be handed back to the group.

If at any time, you felt that any service provider failed in maintaining or delivering good service, please bring it immediately to the attention of your tour leader, so a deduction of tips can take place.

A guideline for tipping is about 3-5 USD per day, depending on the quality of the service (this does not include your G Adventures Tour Leader).

On Day 1 of each individual section of your tour (Jordan/Syria), your tour leader will be able to advise on the amount required from everybody to form the tipping kitty for your trip.

This should be paid to the tour Leader in day 1 of each individual section of the tour. You can pay in USD or the equivalent local currency (preferably local currency). The tour leader will be able to advise you on the exchange rate and the total required in either currency.

Also at the end of your trip if you felt that your G Adventures Tour Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is also expected and appreciated. The precise amount is entirely a personal preference, however 20-25 USD per person per week can be used as a general guideline.

Optional Activities

Jordan

Prices are quoted in Jordanian Dinar (JOD) & U.S. Dollar (USD)

Amman:

Citadel/National Archaeological Museum - 2JOD/3USD

Roman Theatre - 1JOD/1.5USD

Jerash:

Gladiator Show - 12JOD/17USD

Petra:

Petra By Night Every Monday / Wednesday & Thursday - 12JOD/17USD

Turkish Bath - 20JOD/28USD per person

Little Petra - 8JOD/10USD (including transportation and guide)

Lunch in Little Petra - approx. 6JOD/8USD

Dinner in caves - 15JOD/20USD

Wadi Rum:

Camel ride (approx. 1 hour) - 14JOD/20USD

4x4 jeep tour (2hours) - 50JOD/70USD per jeep

Balloon Trip - 130JOD/185USD per person

Dead Sea:

Buffet lunch at the Dead sea - 8JOD/10USD

Mud bath - 5JOD/8USD

Jesus's Baptism Site - 18JOD/25USD (including entrance fee, transportation and local guide)

Syria

All prices are quoted per person in Syrian Pound

Damascus

Excursion to Bosra including private transport and local guide - 150 SYP

Umayyad Mosque - 50 SYP

Azem Palace - 150 SYP

The National Museum -150 SYP

* Please note that while in Damascus , we can arrange a full day excursion to Baalbak in Lebanon. The excursion includes Guide, return transport , Lebanese & Syrian Visa - 150 USD

The Baalbak entry fees not included - 12 USD

Syria exit tax not included - 12 USD

Palmyra

Funery towers - 75SYP

Arab castle - 75SYP

Palmyra Museum – 150SYP

Hama

Roman ruins of Apamea - 700 SYP

Aleppo

Serjilla Dead City - 700 SYP

St. Simion Monastery - 700 SYP

The Citadel - 700 SYP

National Museum - 300 SYP

All prices are per person (unless stated otherwise), and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

DRINKING WATER: It is advisable to drink bottled water in Jordan and Syria.

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit, hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities for some time during this trip, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with

options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Trip Specific Safety

Like anywhere in the world, major cities have areas safer than others, use common sense, be aware of your surroundings and mind your personal belongings.

Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

Please note that all passengers traveling to Antarctica are required to fill out this questionnaire.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

Through our commitment to responsible tourism we have developed the Planeterra Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of people and communities around the world through support of international charities, local organizations and community projects in the places that we visit on our tours. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit www.planeterra.org

Planeterra Dollar-A-Day Program

Our Dollar-A-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to help us give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar per day for the duration of their tour. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to support our Planeterra projects.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking)

Local Dress

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts. Outside of capital cities and the more touristic centres, local dress is often more conservative and as a matter of respect we ask that both men and women are aware of this and recommend loose-fitting clothes with your shoulders covered. Ask your Tour Leader for more specific advice.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that you'll receive a special discount code for free online prints and we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Please visit <http://www.gadventures.com/evaluations>

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

Be sure to stop by [The Watering Hole](#), our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the [Departure Lounge](#) section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at wateringhole.gadventures.com.