

Jordan, 8 days

Photographer Catherine Hyland travelled in December along the The Jordan Trail, namely from South Little Petra to Titin Village, hiking for about a hundred miles over 8 days, guided by The Jordan Trail Association, sleeping mostly in serviced wild camps with meals prepared by the local community.

The Jordan Trail is a continuous hiking route crossing the entire country of Jordan, offering 650 kilometres of trail, divided into 8 regions and 35 sections. From the Fertile Crescent in the north to the edge of the Arabian Desert and the Red Sea in the south.

Itinerary: Aqaba, Petra, Gaa' Mriebed, Wadi Gseib, Wadi Aheimar, Al Abbasiya, Wadi Rum, Al Qidr, Titin Village, Aqaba

Distance: 109km

Programme:

Day 1: Arrival in Aqaba and transfer to Little Petra.

Day 2: Hiking from Little Petra to Petra (Distance: 15km).

Highlights: Wadi Ghurab, sandstone mountains, Nabataean route, natural rock terrace, cliff face, "The Monastery", ancient Petra, "The Treasury", "Petra Siq" (Wadi Musa).

Day 3: Hiking from Petra to Gaa' Mriebed (Distance: 22km).

Highlights: Wadi Farasa, Lion Fountain and Garden Tomb, "Stuah Nebi Haroun" (memorial of prophet Aaron), cultivated fields, old Roman road, Wadi Sabra, Sabra amphitheatre, crumbling ruins of a fortress, rock walls, wadi bed, plants, Gaa' Mriebed, scattered Bedouin camps.

Day 4: Off-road by 4WD to Wadi Gseib, then hiking from Wadi Gseib to Wadi Aheimar (Distance: 16km). Highlights: coloured sandstone wadi, cliffs, sandy area, wide valley of Wadi Al-Seeq, dunes, Wadi Rakiya, Wadi Aheimir.

Day 5: Hiking from Wadi Aheimar to Al Abbasiya (Distance: 22km).

Highlights: deep wadis, darker granite, sandstone, sandstone Siq, red and white sandstone, white chalky sandstone, plateau, Bedouin village of Abbasiya.

Day 6: Hiking from Wadi Rum to Al Qidr (Distance: 17km).

Highlights: Bedouin tents, Lawrence Spring, Qattar spring, sandstone mountains, small sandy area, sandy valley, al-Qidr mountains.

Day 7: Hiking from Al Qidr to Titin Village (Distance: 17km).

Highlights: Wadi Waraqa west, dry cisterns, sandstone mountains of Rum, dark granite and pink quartz rock, downhill to Titen Village, granite/quartz rocks.

Day 8: Transfer to Aqaba Airport for departure. End of programme.

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.jordantrail.org

EXTRA FAVOURITES:

Amman City;

The Dead Sea;

Feynan Ecolodge, Dana Biosphere Reserve: authentic Bedouin hospitality and natural beauty deep in the heart of the mountainous Dana, at the end of a rugged track, an idyllic candle-lit lodge lies in the magnificent Wadi Feynan. www.ecohotels.me/Feynan

Wadi Rum Bedouin camp, Wadi Rum village: owned and operated by a local Bedouin family. Members of the Al Zalabieh tribe, these people have inhabited the land for generations. All guides are experts in traditional medicine, animal husbandry, and tracking wildlife. www.wadirumbedouincamp.com

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