## **TRAVEL & ADVENTURE** NOMAD'S ROAD: Overlanders for Life



## Episode 4: **Travelling** through history in Jordan

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**We** arrived in Jordan nearly a month ago, but unfortunately our first week was spent waiting around thanks to some logistical problems. On the positive side, we were welcomed by a local couple who helped us to discover how Jordanians live. After getting back our vehicle and spending two days making final preparations, we were at last able to hit the road again.

We started our trip in the eastern part of the country, discovering the desert and a few monuments, such as Qasr Amra, a desert castle which was built in the 8th century. After stopping to take in this UNESCO World Heritage Site with its wonderful frescoes, we slowly drove to the Northern part of the country, visiting a few other desert

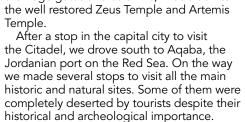




Others, however, were invaded by the local population, especially during weekends. Syrian border, the landscape became hilly It was really interesting to see the differand we began to climb in altitude and see ence between the days of the week and the hills covered with olive groves. We went to weekend at the same tourist site, as it added archeological site of Umm Qays, north of another dimension to the place, gifting you with either serenity or the tumult of the Irbid, where you can see (when the weather permits) the Sea of Galilee and the Golan

crowd. One of the places we couldn't miss in this area was the fabulous Dead Sea, which at 400 meters below sea level and with really salty water means that you are able to float without any difficulties and even lay in the water to read a book. It's really impressive! Then after this experience we drove up to Karak at 1000 meters to see thefort, which was built during the Bronze Age. The weather was not ideal, with strong rains that forced us to stop for a few hours because of land slides.

We then stopped at Madaba, the key place to visit for churches and to see old mosaics, but also to discover the weaving project which provides a resource to large parts of the population in this area. Next, Dana Valley, a biosphere reserve, was a nice place to stay for a few days to have a rest or



castleswhich had been well preseved.

Arriving in northern Jordan, near the

Heights of the Levant; a breathtaking land-

scape. The site of Decapolis, which has been

the center of Greek culture in this region, was

also interesting to visit. We made a stop to

visit the 12th century well-preserved Ajloun

Fort, located at the top of the hill with 360°

views of the green region. The most inter-

esting site in North Jordan was the ancient

Greco-Roman city of Gerasa in the middle of

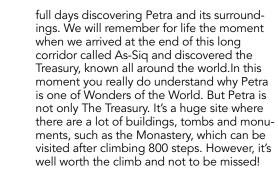
the current city of Jerash. A lot buildings and

theaters, hippodrome, the oval forum and all

the huge gates and columns, in addition to

monuments are still standing, such as the





The Jordan Pass is highly recommended, as it includes the Entry Visa fee and access to 43 monuments and sites including Petra. There are three options available, but it really does depend on how many days you want spend in Petra. We recommend a minimum stay of at least three days. The Jordan Pass will really help your budget, particularly if you are keen to visit as many sites as possible.

We are currently in Wadi Rum, one of the best wadis we have been lucky enough to visit on the Arabian Peninsula. It's a peaceful place with a dramatic landscape where you can spend a lot of time climbing, trekking or simply visiting by car, camel or horse. Local Bedouin guides know all the main points of

interest in this region.

Our adventure in Jordan is nearly finished. In a few days we will take the ferry to Nuweiba in Sinai from Aqaba, the unique port of Jordan, before we head over to Egypt and then Sudan.

The Trastours is a family that has been overlanding the planet for as long as they can remember! Made up of Greg and Magali as well as their daughters Natasha and Anastasia, The Trastours is a family filled to the brim with an unstoppable sense of adventure for the ultimate goal - to explore the world. You can check out their next stop at www.nomadsroad.com or look for Nomads Road on Facebook and Twitter.





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