

# Footprint Adventures

the way to go.....



Travel Itinerary



## Middle Eastern Nomad

From the Pyramids of Giza to the majestic city of Petra, the Dead Sea and desert camping at Wadi Rum, you will experience the highlights of travel to the Middle East in our popular and action-packed 20 day overland adventure.

Most travellers arrive a day earlier and are met at Cairo Airport and transferred to our Hotel.

**Day 1** Our travel to the Middle East begins! The tour departs at 9am for the Egypt section of our Middle East tour. With an **Egyptologist Guide** we visit the world-famous **Pyramids** and **Sphinx of Giza** and here we also include a camel ride. In the afternoon our guide takes us to the **Egyptian History Museum** before we catch an overnight train to Aswan.

**Days 2-3** Arguably the most attractive city on the Nile, **Aswan** is imbued with the relaxed attitude of the Nubian

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people who live here. During the two days we are in Aswan we stay in a two star, locally-owned hotel. You will have the opportunity to visit **Abu Simbel**, the great stone monuments built by **Ramses II**, as well as a number of temples and tombs on the **West Bank of the Nile**, across the river from Aswan, accessible by **ferry or felucca**. **Elephantine Island** is also well worth visiting, with small ferries crossing to and fro' all the time.

**Days 4-5** From Aswan we take a traditional Egyptian sailboat or '**felucca**' on the Nile River – a “must-do” experience during any travel to the Middle East. We spend the next two days aboard watching Egypt glide by and sleeping under the stars. As well as the felucca captain, we also have a cook who will be preparing three meals a day for us while on board. We have the option of stopping off at **Kom Ombo and visiting the Temple of Horus at Edfu**, before continuing on to **Luxor**.

**Days 6 & 7** Luxor is where we join our **overland truck** and we camp here for three nights. We visit the **Valley of the Kings on donkeys and your local guide** will explain the 3000 year old history of the Pharaohs and their mummification and journey through the underworld. There is also the option to go to the **Valley of the Queens and the Valley of the Workers, Queen Hatshepsuts Temple, Karnak Temple with its sound and light show, and Luxor Temple**.

**Day 8** From **Luxor** we camp overnight in the desert and then crossing the **Suez Canal** we may catch sight of the huge ships that seemingly pass through the desert sands, before continuing on to **St Catherine's Monastery** where it is possible to **climb Mount Sinai**. This is an amazing place to watch the sun rise over the **Sinai Desert**.

**Days 9-12** **Dahab on the Red Sea coast** is our base for the next three days. Here, you can **snorkel or scuba dive** to some of the best coral reefs in the world, **go desert quad biking or just lie on the beach**. You can also take a **one-day camel safari** and trek off-road down the desert coastline.

**Days 13-14** This morning we leave Egypt by **ferry across the Red Sea to Aquaba in Jordan**. From here it is a short drive into the **Wadi Rum desert** where we camp overnight. The silent nights are unforgettable with their stunning blanket of stars. Wadi Rum has some of the most spectacular desert scenery anywhere in the world and it was here that **Lawrence of Arabia** and his Arab forces had their secret base. Here you have the option of taking a 4WD jeep safari with Bedouin guides.

**Days 15-16** Climbing into the **mountains** we spend the next two nights in a locally-owned hotel at **Petra**. Situated in a deep ravine with towering sandstone cliffs and hills, the ancient City of Petra is carved out of the rock. The sheer size and architecture of the **rock hewn buildings** is quite breath-taking. The Nabataeans who built Petra over 2000 years ago grew to immense wealth by first plundering and then extorting 'safe passage' tolls from the spice and slave caravans that had to pass through their territory. Eventually the Romans took Petra, and some of their influence can also be seen.

**Day 17** A visit to the lowest point on Earth! **The Dead Sea** is over 1000ft below sea level, very hot throughout the year, and is claimed to have many therapeutic qualities. Situated in the northern-most point of the **Great Rift Valley of Africa** it is formed by the River Jordan which flows into it. Here you can indulge in relaxing mud baths and an unusual swimming - or rather floating - experience in this highly buoyant salt sea. This is another one of the 'must do' activities of any travel to the Middle East. In the late afternoon we have a short drive to **Mt Nebo** with its stunning views over Israel - it is also the final resting place for Moses.

**Day 18** We arrive in **Amman, the capital of Jordan** the following morning. Steeped in history - it is mentioned in the **Old Testament** and the **Bible** - it is now a modern, cosmopolitan Arab city with an extremely friendly and well-educated population, many of whom speak English and is a very interesting and bustling city to wander around for a few hours.

**Days 19-20** It is a four hour drive to **Damascus**, the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the world. We spend two days in this fascinating, friendly and safe city, which still contains much of the mystery of the orient with its busy **bazaars**, decaying charm, polite people and some of the **Islamic world's oldest monuments**.

From Damascus it is also possible to join a one-day excursion into **Lebanon** which includes a guided visit to **Baalbek Roman Temple**, an 'all you can eat' Lebanese lunch, **city tour of Beirut** as well as free time in this quickly regenerating city, fast recovering from the civil war of the 80's and 90's.

## Included

- Egyptian History Museum entrance + guide
- 2 Day Felucca sailing on Nile (inc all meals)
- Entry to Pyramids & Sphinx + Egyptologist Guide
- Camel Ride at Pyramids
- Mount Nebo
- Mount Sinai
- Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea
- Train and Passenger Ferry in Egypt
- All accommodation during trip (approx 80% / 20% camping & simple hotels / hostels)
- Meals prepared by group (approx 70%)
- Transport on Overland Truck
- Camping and Cooking gear
- Service of Oasis Crew

## Not Included

- Visas (approx £40 - £80, most nationalities can be obtained en route)
- Optional excursions as listed
- Airport Taxes and Transfers
- Meals other than specified
- Travel Insurance
- Flights
- Drinks
- Tips

## Optional Excursions

Optional Excursions are paid for on the day and organised during your trip, so you can decide whilst travelling which activity you might want to do.

### Egypt

	Price	Payment Type
Dashur & Saqqara Tour, from	£15.00 to £26.00	Cash
Cairo Tower	£7.00	Cash
Giza Pyramids Sound & Light Show	£11.00	Cash
Coptic Museum / Islamic Art Museum, each	£7.00	Cash
National Museum of Egyptian Modern Art	£3.50	Cash
Cairo Antiquities Museum	£8.50	Cash
Entrance to Mummy Room in Egyptian Museum	£14.00	Cash
Entrance to one of the Pyramids at Giza	£4.00 to £14.00	Cash
Solar Boat Museum at Giza Pyramids Plateau	£7.00	Cash
4 Star Nile Dinner Cruise - incl. Transport, Food & Entertainment	£25.00	Cash

Mohammed Ali Mosque + Citadel Entrances	£7.00	Cash
Accomm in Cairo - Twin / Double room (before/after trip) p/p, from	£18.00	Cash
Balloon Flight over the Nile & Luxor	£45.00	Cash
Valley of the Kings & Queens Tour - Entry & Guide	£20.00	Cash
Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show	£13.00	Cash
Tomb of King Tutankhamen (when open)	£12.50	Cash
Luxor Museum	£10.00	Cash
Entrance to Karnak Temple	£6.50	Cash
Entrance to Luxor Temple	£6.50	Cash
Entrance to Edfu Temple	£6.50	Cash
Mummification Museum - Luxor	£6.50	Cash
Temple of Queen Hatshepsut - Entrance	£4.00	Cash
Temple of King Ramses III - Entrance	£4.00	Cash
Day Trip to Abu Simbel by Air	£70.00 to £140.00	Cash
Day Trip to Abu Simbel by Road	£14.00	Cash
Entrance to Abu Simbel	£11.50	Cash
Nubian Village Dinner	£4.50	Cash
Philae Temple - Entry, Taxi & Boat to Island	£6.00 to £10.00	Cash
Tombs of the Nobles - Aswan	£2.50	Cash
Kitchener Island / Elephantine Island	£6.50	Cash
Nubian Museum	£3.00	Cash
Aswan High Dam plus Transport	£16.00	Cash
PADI Open Water Dive Course - average 3-4 days to complete	£190.00	Cash
PADI Advanced Open Water Course - 2 days	£150.00	Cash
Open Water Referral (classwork & confined water sessions must be completed in Advance)	£140.00	Cash
Introductory SCUBA Dive	£30.00	Cash
Hire of Snorkelling Equipment	£2.00	Cash
Refresher Dive (Qualified Divers who have not dived in the last 6 months)	£30.00	Cash
Guided Dive - Qualified Divers only	£22.00	Cash
Extra Fun Dives - Qualified Divers only	£22.00	Cash
Thistlegorm Wreck + Ras Mohammed Trip - incl. transport, lunch, drinks, 3 dives	£120.00	Cash
PADI Dive Manual	£30.00	Cash
1 Day Boat Diving Excursion - incl. 2 dives in National Park + lunch, from	£80.00	Cash
Desert Quad Biking	£19.00	Cash
Wind Surf Hire + Instructor , per hour	£40.00	Cash
Wake Boarding	£10.00	Cash
Sunset Camel Safari	£8.00	Cash
Snorkelling Blue Hole - incl. transport & equipment	£6.50	Cash
1 Day Camel Safari into Sinai Desert	£17.00	Cash
St Catherines Monastery entrance	£4.00	Cash

Prices listed are only a guide as exchange rates can change.

## Jordan

	Price	Payment Type
Petra - Entrance & Guide	£23.00	Cash
Wadi Rum - 4WD Jeep Safari	£20.00	Cash
Jordan Departure Tax - payable at airport or Aqaba ferry port on departing Jordan	£5.00	Cash

Prices listed are only a guide as exchange rates can change.

**Lebanon**

	<b>Price</b>	<b>Payment Type</b>
1 Day Lebanon Excursion - (if avail) incl. guide, visa's, lunch, transport, dep. taxes, from	\$125.00 to \$175.00	Cash

**Middle East Adventure Tours - Essential Information**

## Starting and Finishing your Trip

On all our Middle East overland tours that depart from Cairo, we organise free airport transfers and reservations at the hotel from where we depart. Your tour leader will reserve accommodation for you at the end of the tour, if required. Accommodation that we reserve for you is a free service to our clients. You pay the hotels direct, on arrival. We have obtained group rates, and prices are from as little as £5 per night in Cairo.

## Passports and Visas

Most nationalities require visas for most Middle Eastern countries visited on our Middle East overland tours. However we can currently obtain these en-route so you are not required to obtain any visas before you travel. Please ensure that you bring US Dollars to pay for your visas. You will need at least one blank page in your passport for each country you enter, which must be valid for at least 9 months. Passports or vaccination cards with an Israeli stamp, or any indication of travel to Israel, must be replaced if you are on a Oasis Nomad or Caravan Middle East adventure tour. If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport.

**Turkey** - Visas are issued upon arrival in Turkey. For British they cost US\$20 and for Australians US\$30. NZ and South Africans are free at present.

**Syria & Jordan** - All nationalities need a visa. We pre-book these and collect them on the border as a group visa so you do not require a visa before you join the tour. Syria costs US\$15 and Jordan US\$18 both to be paid in US\$ cash only at the border. This price includes entry and departure taxes and reduces our time at the borders considerably.

**Egypt** - The visa costs US\$15 for most nationalities (excl. Sth Africa) and is obtainable on entry into Egypt. South African passport holders must obtain visas before travelling.

**Lebanon** - Visas are included in the price of the excursion and are obtained at the border

## Personal Spending Money and Local Payment

At the beginning of all our Middle East overland tours, our crew will collect the Local Payment in Cash, Sterling or US Dollars. For personal spending we suggest an average of £80 to £120 per week. Personal spending habits vary hugely depending on individuals. We cannot specify every cost, however you need to allow for visas, drinks, occasional meals out, curios and local crafts, telephone calls and emails etc. Budget on optional side trips separately. Credit cards are virtually useless outside main cities so you need to bring at least a third of your spending money in Cash US Dollars and the rest in Dollar Travellers Cheques. Please note that most historical sites give 50% reductions with a valid International Student Card or Youth Card.

## Climate

Our Middle East overland tours cover fairly large distances and so we find that the topography affects the climate as much as seasons. As a general guide, Turkey is best visited from around April to October. From November to March most of Turkey experiences cold winters. Cappadocia has cold nights year round so you will need warm clothes and sleeping bag. Syria and Jordan have hot days year round but nights are cold in the desert and more so from November to March. Egypt is hot all year round and has very high temperatures in the south at Aswan and Luxor in the summer months of June to August. Of the countries we visit, only Turkey has a high rainfall.

## Climate / Rainfall

Temp °C High-Low	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TURKEY (Istanbul)	08-03 <b>109</b>	09-04 <b>92</b>	11-04 <b>72</b>	16-07 <b>46</b>	20-12 <b>38</b>	25-16 <b>34</b>	32-18 <b>34</b>	27-19 <b>30</b>	25-16 <b>58</b>	19-12 <b>81</b>	15-09 <b>103</b>	11-05 <b>109</b>
SYRIA (Damascus)	13-01 <b>89</b>	14-04 <b>64</b>	18-06 <b>38</b>	24-09 <b>28</b>	29-13 <b>8</b>	33-16 <b>3</b>	36-17 <b>0</b>	37-18 <b>0</b>	33-16 <b>0</b>	27-12 <b>25</b>	19-08 <b>56</b>	13-04 <b>84</b>
JORDAN (Amman)	11-01 <b>69</b>	11-07 <b>74</b>	15-08 <b>31</b>	21-09 <b>15</b>	28-12 <b>5</b>	32-18 <b>0</b>	33-18 <b>0</b>	34-18 <b>0</b>	30-16 <b>0</b>	26-12 <b>5</b>	21-10 <b>33</b>	15-06 <b>46</b>
EGYPT (Cairo)	18-08 <b>46</b>	21-09 <b>5</b>	24-11 <b>5</b>	28-14 <b>5</b>	33-17 <b>3</b>	35-20 <b>3</b>	36-21 <b>0</b>	35-22 <b>0</b>	32-20 <b>0</b>	30-18 <b>0</b>	26-14 <b>3</b>	20-10 <b>5</b>

## KEY FEATURES OF OVERLAND EXPEDITION VEHICLES

When you travel overland with us, you will travel in our sturdy purpose-built trucks. Vehicles are built in the UK, with practicality and comfort in mind.

### All trucks are equipped with:

- Inward-facing coach seats with head rests, providing more storage space for your souvenirs and luggage as well as more leg room to stretch out on the longer journeys as we travel overland. It means we can't pack as many people in as with 'bus' type forward-facing layouts with narrow aisles, but the extra space is always appreciated!
- The Beach - a unique feature which enables several people at a time to be up and out in the open with panoramic views on our Africa and Middle East tours.
- Under-seat storage for your backpack so you have easy access even when driving.
- Side and rear roll-up windows, providing extensive views.
- Large water, fuel and food carrying capacities.
- Onboard truck safe and library, overhead lockers, cassette stereo and a professionally-compiled medical kit.
- Comprehensive range of spare truck parts and tools.
- Spacious two-person tents with in-built ground sheets and mosquito netting, gas cookers, cooking gear and cutlery, cooler boxes, tables, campstools and all-weather awnings (for cooking and shade).
- All overland expedition trucks for our Africa and Middle East tours are equipped with sand mats and, where necessary, tyre chains and tirror winches.

Our crew has gained a considerable knowledge and experience of travelling even before they join us. They have a passion and enthusiasm for their work and for the countries and places we visit. All overland expedition vehicles have two crew - except in exceptional circumstances. Their experience and knowledge will enable you to get the most out of your trip and to have an unforgettable experience as you travel overland.

The diagram below provides a general idea of the layout of an expedition vehicle.

