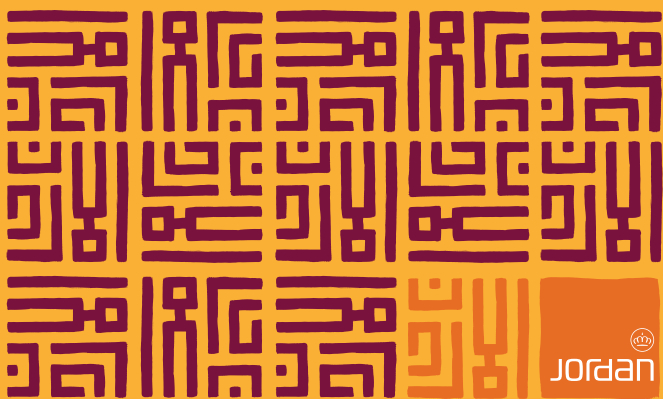
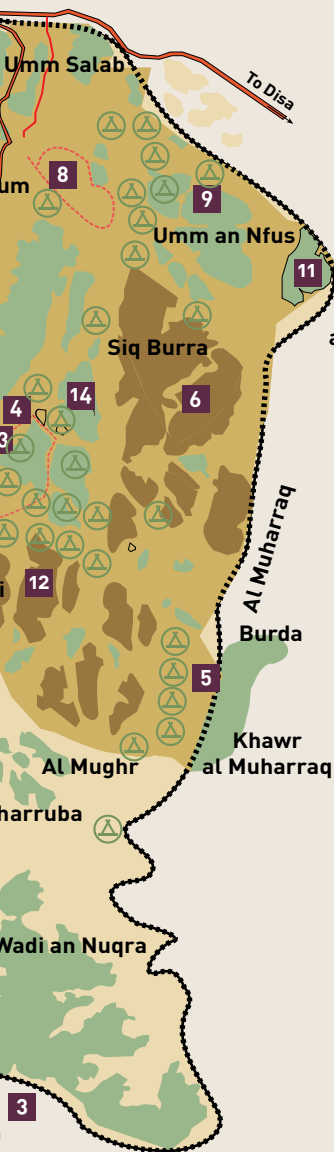


Wadi Rum

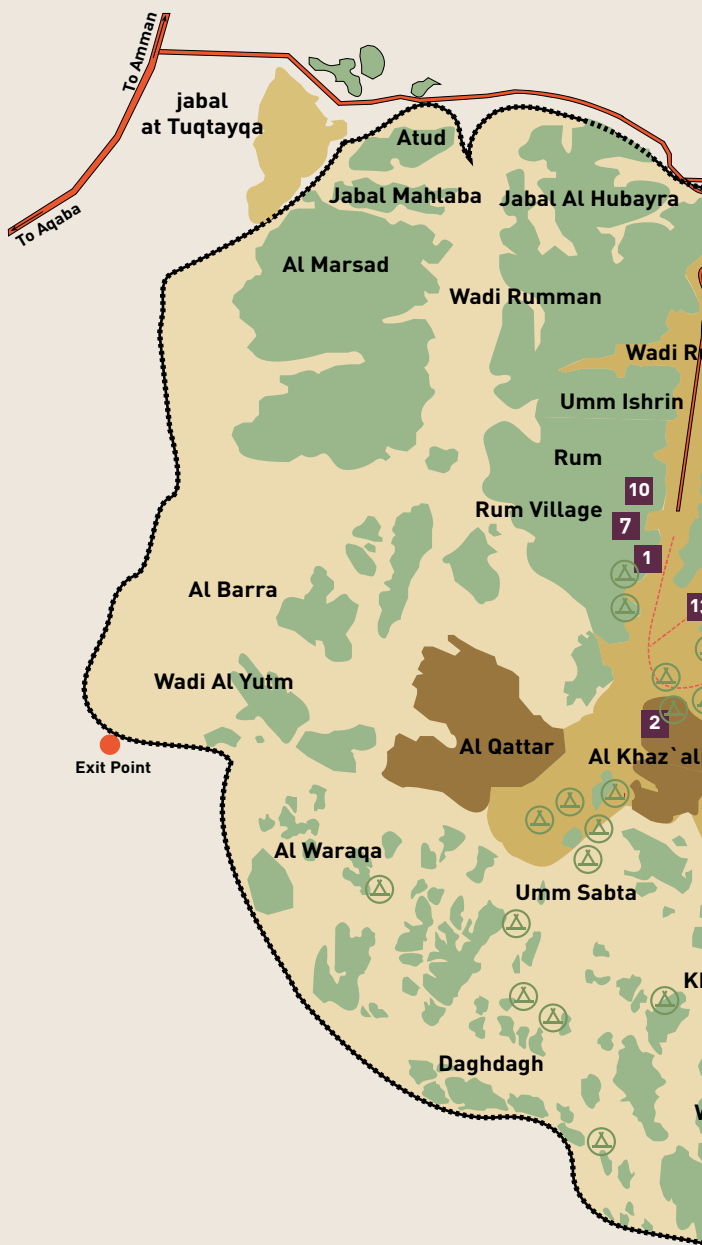




MAP LEGEND

- 1 Lawrences Springs
- 2 Al Khaz`ali Canyon
- 3 Umm Ad Dami
- 4 Sand Dunes
- 5 Burda Rock
- 6 Burra Canyon
- 7 Ash Shallala
- 8 Seven Pillars
- 9 Siq Umm At Tawaqi
- 10 Nabatian Temple
- 11 Su`ayfan
- 12 Little Bridge
- 13 The Map
- 14 Anfashieh

- Free Access
- Camp
- Wilderness Zone
- Hiking Tracks
- Main Road
- Climbing Area
- Protected Area



The highest mountainpeak in jordan



Wadi Rum



Arrange for an expedition

Explore the area to see numerous canyons or siqs. Bedouins know their locations, but very few people have ventured to explore them. Look out for Thamudic inscriptions and drawings, and Nabataean steps leading to hidden upper recesses.



Take an excursion to Dissi

Pass by Ain Qattar where there is a Nabataean well. Stop at the little oasis with palm trees and water. Make another stop at the natural bridge of Burdah, the highest and most striking in Rum. Climb Jabal Saluqi for a spectacular panoramic view, and more rock art at the summit. Visit the Roman fort of Khirbet al-Khaldy.

Stunning natural beauty

Wadi Rum is the epitome of desert romance, of nature at its best, a reminder of the need to preserve beauty and enjoy it. This vast and silent place is timeless, enchanting, captivating and starkly beautiful. It is full of mystery and surprises and a truly unique experience.





Arrange for a camping trip

Venture deep into the desert. Sip mint tea or cardamom coffee with the native Bedouins and enjoy their hospitality. Sleep in a

black Bedouin tent and stare at a canopy of stars.

Take a trek into the Wadi

Climb to the peak of a hill and look at the magnificent landscape, where caravans laden with the exotic products of the orient crossed on their way to the Mediterranean ports, or where T.E. Lawrence accompanied Arab armies on their way to attack Turkish Ottoman garrisons.

Climb a mountain

Rum is on the international map of rock climbing. Join Tony Howard and Di Taylor, who started this brilliant sport, and chart a new route towards the peaks of Jabal Rum, Jabal Um Ishreen and Jabal Um Adami, or climb and walk across the Um Fruth Rock Bridge.



Take a 4 x 4 ride

Cover wide areas in Wadi Rum and make stops at sites where you can drink from the Lawrence Spring. See Thamudic rock art and graffiti and watch the sandstone and granite cliffs turn into a range of spectacular colors with every sunset.





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Other interesting animals include the Arabia Sand Cat, Blandford's Fox and the Gray Wolf. A wide range of geckos and agamas can be spotted basking in the sun, including the Sinai Agama, whose males are light blue in color and turn yellowish-brown when inactive for camouflage.

What to do in Wadi Rum



The idea of a sandy desert may be discouraging for those who are not the outdoor type. However, Wadi Rum has a fascinating history and culture, and a wide range of activities and exotic trips are available to suit all tastes. The memories of your experiences here will remain with you for a very long time. This vast site is simply enchanting, and any activity carried out there, whether trekking in the footsteps of T. E. Lawrence or climbing Jabal Rum, holds the promise of pumping adrenalin through your veins or giving you a serene feeling of submission to the beauty of nature at its best.



Book a camel-ride

This can be done at the Wadi Rum Visitor Center to take a trip across the red sand dunes. Spend a few hours or a few days between sand and sky.



Desert Bedouins are proud people. They are friendly hospitable and open-minded towards cultures different from theirs. An evening under the stars in a Bedouin black tent made from camel and goat hair, sipping mint tea and cardamom coffee is an experience of a lifetime.

Flora and Fauna

Though an arid desert, Wadi Rum is rich with plant and animal life, rare species of which can be found with little effort. Shortly after a brief spell of rainfall, or a current of humid air flowing from the south, the desert blooms with small flowers, red, pink and yellow in color. Red anemones and poppies bloom in spring, and Black Iris, Jordan's national flower, adds to the plethora of desert colors. Medical herbs grow abundantly. Bedouins have used them for centuries to cure different ailments.

Wadi Rum is also a bird-watchers' destination and haven, with over 100 recorded species. Golden eagles, vultures, buzzards, doves and the Sinai Rosefinch, Jordan's national bird, are abundant in Wadi Rum.





During the first quarter of the twentieth century, Wadi Rum played a role in history when T. E. Lawrence assisted Arab armies of the Hashemites in fighting Turkish Ottoman armies during the Great Arab Revolt of World



War I. Lawrence became a legendary figure for his role in the revolt, establishing his headquarters in Wadi Rum. A fresh water spring close to the Rest House in Rum village is named after him. His book "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" is a rich reference to the events and geography of the area. Realizing the importance of Wadi Rum as a tourist destination and at the same time as a sensitive ecosystem that should be protected for future generations, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), in collaboration with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) declared Wadi Rum a protected area covering 720 square kilometers of dramatic desert wilderness. A Visitor Center regulates entry to the site and organizes desert treks and services in the area.

The People Of Rum

A number of Bedouin tribes live in Wadi Rum, and have led a nomadic life, tending to their livestock, with the increase of tourism. Many Bedouins now engage in activities related to tourist services. Some entrepreneurs amongst them have established operations to organize trekking, camping, rock climbing and desert safari trips.



As Rum village is located within the protected area, Bedouins from the village work closely with tourist services, operating a fleet of 4x4 vehicles, excursions and camel rides.



presence of prolific fresh water springs and vegetation on the fringes of Wadi Rum. Before the advent of Islam, Bedouin tribes inhabited the area, roaming in search of grazing pastures or attacking caravans.

There is also evidence of settlement from the Chalcolithic age, 4500 BC. A temple for Al Llat, a god of the Aad tribe was found at the foot of Jabal Rum. It was later renovated and used by the Nabataeans in the 1st



century BC. Thamudic inscriptions, a small Nabataean village, various other inscriptions and archaeological artifacts, all indicate that in spite of Wadi Rum's barren appearance, it has supported human settlement for the past 10,000 years.

1 Dissi

Another area of importance in close proximity to Wadi Rum is Dissi, a desert dry lake-bed where excavations revealed an early Nabataean site and Thamudic inscriptions of names of travelers from ancient times. This area is rich in underground fossil water and has recently witnessed extensive agricultural activity.





History

Geologists believe that Wadi Rum was formed following the massive crack in the earth's crust that resulted in the Great Rift Valley, which extends from southern Turkey, through Lebanon and the Nile Valley into Kenya. The resulting upheaval brought to the surface massive blocks of igneous rock, granite and sandstone. Some of the mountains formed are among the highest in Jordan, such as Jabal Rum (1734 meters above sea level),

Wadi Rum has hosted human settlement since prehistoric times, with evidence of Neolithic settlement in the 8th millennium BC. Records show it was known as Wadi Iram at the time.

Prior to the Nabataeans of Petra, who protected trade caravans crisscrossing trade routes in the area as they headed for Mediterranean ports carrying spices, frankincense, myrrh, and silk from India and Arabia, substantial evidence from Neolithic age flint tools, Iron age pottery shards and rock art and graffiti, indicate consecutive settlement, encouraged by the





WADI RUM

A trip to Wadi Rum is one to a different world, to a moonscape of stretches of sand, from which towering craggy mountains weathered by time emerge almost vertically. A trip here is a must for anyone living in Jordan or visiting this genuinely hospitable land.

Location

Wadi Rum lies about 320 kilometers (200 miles) southwest of Amman, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) off the desert highway that leads to the Red Sea port of Aqaba. Wadi Rum is easily accessible from Petra (120 kilometers, 75 miles) and Aqaba (70 kilometers, 44 miles). Visitors should enquire about bus and taxi service, or rent a 4x4 vehicle in Amman or Aqaba.

Wadi Rum is an important tourist destination in Jordan.



Its popularity has steadily increased, with more tourists visiting each year, and it has become an internationally known destination for trekking, rock climbing, desert safaris and horse or camel desert rides.