



Enjoy this special place and help us to protect it

WADI RUM

DESERT OF MOUNTAINS

- Thing to see and do
- Orientation map
- Accommodation guide
- Contact numbers
- Rules and regulation

**YOUR FREE
INTRODUCTORY
GUIDE**

One of the World's great deserts

Described by Lawrence of Arabia as "Vast and Echoing", Wadi Rum is an outstanding desert landscape. Sheer sided mountains of sandstone and granite emerge from open valleys to reach heights over 1700 meters; and narrow canyons cut deep into the mountains, often concealing ancient rock drawings. This remarkable landscape is now a protected area covering 720 square kilometers and available for everyone to explore and enjoy.

Land of the Bedouin

The mountains of Rum are home to several Bedouin tribes and their goat hair tents are a feature of the landscape. Today, many Bedouin earn their living from tourism but they still retain their goatherds and other traditional ways of life.

A precious ecosystem

Wadi Rum still supports a surprising variety of desert loving wildlife, including small populations of the Syrian wolf, striped hyena and Nubian ibex. Small mammals, insects and reptiles are more common and there are many birds of prey to be seen during migration seasons.

Help us to protect Wadi Rum

Wadi Rum is facing many environmental problems. As one of the most popular tourist sites in the Kingdom, the growing pressure from visitors, and especially from off road vehicles, has damaged the fragile desert ecology. There is also a problem of littering and the loss of wildlife through over hunting.

A major conservation programme is underway to tackle these problems, including zoning schemes, organized vehicle routes, better tourist information and the creation of a team of conservation rangers to patrol the area.



We need the help of all visitors to make our efforts to protect Wadi Rum successful. Please do all you can to respect the site and its people.

-  Drive your vehicle only on the designated tracks
-  Protect all nature: no hunting or collecting of plants, animal, rocks, artifacts or firewood
-  Camp and climb only in the official sites.
-  Avoid damaging trees and shrubs and do not add graffiti.
-  Take your litter away: keep the area clean.
-  Respect the lifestyle of local people and ask before taking pictures.



Exploring the desert

There are several ways in which you can experience the highlights of Wadi Rum

Go by camel: this is the traditional and most eco-friendly form of transport for the desert – and quite an experience in itself. Camel treks last from 1 hour to several days. The most popular, treks are shown on the map. Prices and tickets are available from the Visitor Centre reception. A hat, sun block and water are advisable to avoid dehydration and sunburn.



Go by horse: horseback tours are available from independent tour operators, but these should be booked in advance. See the information panels at the Visitor Centre or ask reception staff for details.



Hike a trail: there are several hiking trails in Wadi Rum of widely different lengths and "toughness". See the published guides or ask at the visitor centre for details. Two short to medium length trails are shown on the map. Rum can get very hot and trails are not always easy to find, so it is better to choose the cooler parts of the day and take a Bedouin guide. Always carry lots of water and use a hat and sun block.



Climb up high: if you are fit and healthy, it is possible to climb to the top of Jebel Rum, one of the highest mountains in the protected area, offering stunning views. You must, however, book in advance, as numbers are strictly limited, and be accompanied by an experienced Bedouin guide. Details from the Visitor Centre reception. There are many other world-class opportunities for experienced climbers but sites are restricted and there is a strict code of conduct.



Emergency services are also limited. You climb at your own risk. **Take a jeep tour:** this is the quickest and easiest way to explore the desert. The main tour routes, are shown on the map, and they take from 2 to 8 hours to complete. Customized tours can be arranged on request. Jeeps are run by Bedouin cooperatives and can be booked from the Visitor Centre reception. Prices per tour are fixed and displayed at the reception points. As most jeeps are open-topped, hats, sun block, water and sunglasses are advisable to avoid sunburn and dehydration.



Rest and relax-Bedouin style: enjoy the cafés and restaurants at the Visitor Centre or in Rum Village, which offer traditional Arabic food as well as international cuisine. Or visit a Bedouin tent and take a nap during the noonday sun – or share a campfire meal with them in the evening, accompanied by Arabic music. Ask at the Visitor Centre reception for details.



Nights of a thousand stars (where to stay overnight)

There are two ways to stay overnight in Wadi Rum, camping and bed-and-breakfast. Camping in this mountainous desert, under a panoply of stars, is an experience not to be missed. You can choose from "wild campsites" without facilities, where you must take your own tent, to luxury Bedouin-style campsites with all facilities and entertainments. Most of these "deluxe" sites are outside the protected area, near the village of Disi. There is also a permanent campsite in Rum Village, with showers, toilets and restaurants nearby and it is possible to stay in a Bedouin tent in the open desert. Locations of campsites are shown on the map and full options and prices are available at the Visitor Centre. Bed and breakfast is possible in Rum Village – ask at the Visitor Centre.

Helping nature, helping people

The Wadi Rum Protected Area was set up, not just to conserve landscape and wildlife, but also to give the local Bedouin tribes new opportunities to the benefit from the protection of nature. This is being done in three main ways:

- By sharing entrance fees (some of the entrance charge you pay goes directly to local community).
- By supporting and encouraging local tourism services.
- By creating alternative source of income for Bedouin women through crafts and souvenirs.

The rest of your entrance fee goes towards covering the costs of running the protected area, so the money you pay during your visit, including buying crafts, is helping to safeguard the beauty of Rum and support local people.

RUM ARTS

Many of the ancient rock inscriptions have been given a new lease of life as decorations for locally produced crafts. They are being reproduced as artwork on a variety of local materials including recycled drink cans. Bedouin women create the artwork using modern techniques of sandblasting and burnishing. Examples of these unique items, and other innovative local crafts, can be purchased in the Nature Shop in the Visitor Centre.



Return of the Oryx

Early in 2002, a small herd of captive-bred Arabian Oryx were transported to a special enclosure in Wadi Rum, as part of a long-term plan to release them into the wild. Oryx are known, within living memory, to have roamed throughout the area and they are depicted in ancient rock drawings. This release programme is the first attempt to re-introduce them to their native habitat in Jordan, after they became extinct in the region as a result of excessive hunting. If the programme is successful, visitors may be lucky enough to see wild Oryx back among the wide sandy valleys of Wadi Rum



For more information

Wadi Rum is managed by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) with the support of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). If you would like more information about the overall management of Wadi Rum, you can contact the Area Management at the following address:

P.O. Box 2565 Aqaba 77110
Tel: 009623 2090600
Fax: 009623 2032586

More general enquiries about things to do and see and the rules and regulations can be answered by the staff at the Visitor Centre on site.

Or visit our website: www.wadirum.jo

Don't forget to visit the Handicrafts shop (RUM ARTS)

In an emergency, Please Call:

For any emergency first contact the tourism police at the Visitor Centre. Try the reception staff or rangers if you cannot reach the police.

- Police: 191
- Civil Defense: 199



Wadi Rum Highlights

The best-known sites of interest in Wadi Rum are illustrated here and located on the map. They can all be seen on the regular tour routes.

-  **1 Lawrence's spring:** where Lawrence of Arabia reputedly washed during the Arab Revolt. Has attractive rock inscriptions on nearby rocks.
-  **2 Khazali canyon:** deep, narrow fissure in the mountain side containing many rock inscriptions.
-  **3 Sunset sites:** winter and summer sites, where you get the most dramatic views of Wadi Rum as the sun sinks below the horizon.
-  **4 Sand dunes:** large area of sand dunes piled up against the mountains. Fun to climb to the top. Have desert-adapted plants.
-  **5 Burdah and Um Frouth rock bridges:** spectacular natural rock arches, with great views.
-  **6 Burrah canyon:** long, deep canyon between dramatic mountains. Lots of sand in places. Very beautiful in early morning or late evening, when the sun turns the rock deep orange.
-  **7 Alameleh inscriptions:** good example of ancient rock drawings, showing camels and wildlife.
-  **8 Seven Pillars of Wisdom:** famous landmark, named after the book by T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).
-  **9 Siq Um Tawaqi:** short canyon containing a carving of the head of T.E. Lawrence.
-  **10 Sunset sites (Al Ghuroub):** winter and summer sites, Visitors can enjoy a spectacular sunset and they can leave the stresses of work behind them and live out of time and place.
-  **14 Anfashieh inscriptions:** this mountain is famous for its formations and inscription. Anfashieh has numerous Thamudic and Nabataen inscriptions, next to it drawings of animals, humans, and camel caravans.
-  **15 Nabataen Temple – Aretas (IV):** Used by Nabataen to worship ALLAT (Goddess) This temple was built on the ruins of Allat temple of AAD TRIBE.

Legend

- Zones:**
- Free Access
 - Wilderness Zone
 - Hiking Tracks
 - Main Road
 - Tourist Road
 - Closed Area
 - Climbing Area
 - Protected Area Boundary

Campsites

- For Hiking
- Permanent
- Temporary

Main sites of interest:

- 1** Lawrence's Spring
- 2** Khaz'ali Canyon
- 3** Sunset sites
- 4** Sand Dunes Area
- 5** Burdah Rock Bridge
- 6** Burrah Canyon
- 7** Alameleh Inscriptions
- 8** Seven Pillars of Wisdom
- 9** Siq Um Al Tawaqi
- 10** Sunset site "Al Ghuroub"
- 11** Su'eifan
- 12** Little Bridge
- 13** The Map
- 14** Anfashieh Inscriptions
- 15** Nabataen Temple
- 16** Al Shallaleh
- 17** Um Ad Dami
- 18** Um Frouth Rock Bridge
- 19** Lawrence's House

Operator one : Vehicles tours from the Visitor Center

Site No's. on Map	No.	Destination	Km	Max Time
1,15	1	Lawrence Spring (via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village)	14	1hrs
2,15,1	2	Khazali Canyon (via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence spring)	30	2hrs
3,15,1,2	3	Sunset Sites (winter and Summer- via Rum Village Nabataen Temple, Lawrence spring, Khazali Canyon).	35	2.5hrs
4,15,1,2,19	4	Sand Dunes (via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence spring, Khazali Canyon, Lawrence's House).	40	3.5hrs
12,15,1,2	5	Little Bridge (via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence spring, Khazali Canyon).	35	3hrs
19,15,1,2, 14, 4	6	Lawrence's House (via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence's Spring, Khazali Canyon ,Anfashieh inscriptions, Sand Dunes).	45	3.5hrs
18,15,1,2, 12,14,4	7	Um Frouth Rock Bridge(via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence's Spring, Khazali Canyon , Little Bridge, Anfashieh inscriptions, Sand Dunes).	50	4hrs
5,15,1,2,12,1 8,5,14,13,3	8	Burdah Rock Bridge(via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence's Spring, Khazali Canyon, Little Bridge, Um Frouth Rock Bridge ,Burdah, Anfashieh inscriptions, Sand Dunes, The map, Sunset Sites).	60	5hrs
6,15,1,2,12,1 8,5,3	9	Burrah Canyon(via Nabataen Temple, Rum Village, Lawrence's Spring, Khazali Canyon , little Bridge, Um Frouth Rock Bridge ,Burdah Bridge , Sunset Sites).	65	8hrs
	*	Day hire for customized tour	Open	-
	*	Day hire for customized luggage	Open	-

Operator one : Camel tours

Site No's. on Map	No.	Destination	Km	Max Time
15	1	Nabataen Temple	1	1/2 hrs
1	2	Lawrence's Spring	6	2hrs
2,1	3	Khazali Canyon (via Lawrence's spring)	28	Full day
3,1,2	4	Sunset Sites(via Lawrence's spring, Khazali Canyon)	22	overnight
4	5	Sand Dunes.	25	5hrs
5,1,2	6	Burdah Rock Bridge(via Lawrence's spring, Khazali Canyon)	40	Over night
	*	Day hire for customized tour	Open	-
	*	Day hire for customized luggage	Open	-

Operator two : Vehicles tours from the Visitor Center

Site No's. on Map	No.	Destination	Km	Max Time
7	1	Alameleh inscriptions	15	1hr
9,7	2	Siq Um Tawaqi (via Alameleh inscriptions, Lawrence Picture).	18	2hrs
10,7,9	3	Sunset Sites "Winter and Summer" (via Alameleh inscriptions, Siq Um Tawaqi ,Al Hsany Sand Dune).	20	2.5hrs
6,7,19,9	4	Burrah Canyon (via Alameleh, khor Um Ishrin, Lawrence's House , Siq Um Tawaqi).	40	3hrs
5,7,19,18	5	Burdah Rock Bridge (via Al Hsany Sand Dune ,Alameleh, Um Ishrin, Lawrence House, Um Frouth Rock Bridge).	50	4hrs
5,7,19,18,5, 9,10	6	Burdah Rock Bridge (via Al Hsany Sand Dune, Alameleh, Um Ishrin, Lawrence House, Um Frouth Rock Bridge, Burdah, , Siq Um Tawaqi Sunset Sites).	60	8hrs
	*	Day hire for customized tour	Open	-
	*	Day hire for customized luggage	Open	-

Operator two : Camel tours

Site No's. on Map	No.	Destination	Km	Max Time
7	1	Alameleh inscriptions (via Rjod Matalakah)	6	1hrs
10,7,9	2	Sunset Sites(via Alameleh inscriptions, Siq Um Tawaqi)	8	1.5 hrs
10,9	3	Sunrise(via Siq Um Tawaqi)	9	1.5 hrs
7,9	4	Um salab (via Alameleh inscriptions, Siq Um Tawaqi)	14	4hrs
6,7	5	Burrah (via Al Hsany Sand Dunes ,Alameleh inscriptions)	25	8hrs
5,7	6	Burdah(via Al Hsany Sand Dunes ,Alameleh inscriptions)	40	Over night
	*	Day hire for customized tour	Open	-
	*	Day hire for customized luggage	Open	-