

# Breathtaking views leave travellers in awe

JORDAN FROM G1

The next day, we're up before the sun to enter this popular attraction before everyone else. The narrow entry siq with its curvaceous red walls is empty and it's easy to imagine traders once riding through here on camels laden with spices from India, incense from Arabia and silk from China.

Carved into the sandstone rock, Petra's vast complex of tombs and temples are magnificently preserved, despite erosion from rain and windblown sand. Even the Nabataean water channels continue to divert water during flash floods.

After climbing 800 steps to the carved facade known as the Monastery — which is even more impressive than the famous Treasury — we leave Petra by the 'back door' on a path that connects to the Jordan Trail.

"It's a highway now," deplures one of our local guides, which makes me laugh because — despite the recent widening of the trail for tourists — we still encounter some narrow sections with steep drop-offs that have one woman in our group literally clinging to the rocky side. The views keep us in awe most of the way to Little Petra, where we sleep soundly that night in woven goat-hair tents at another Bedouin camp.

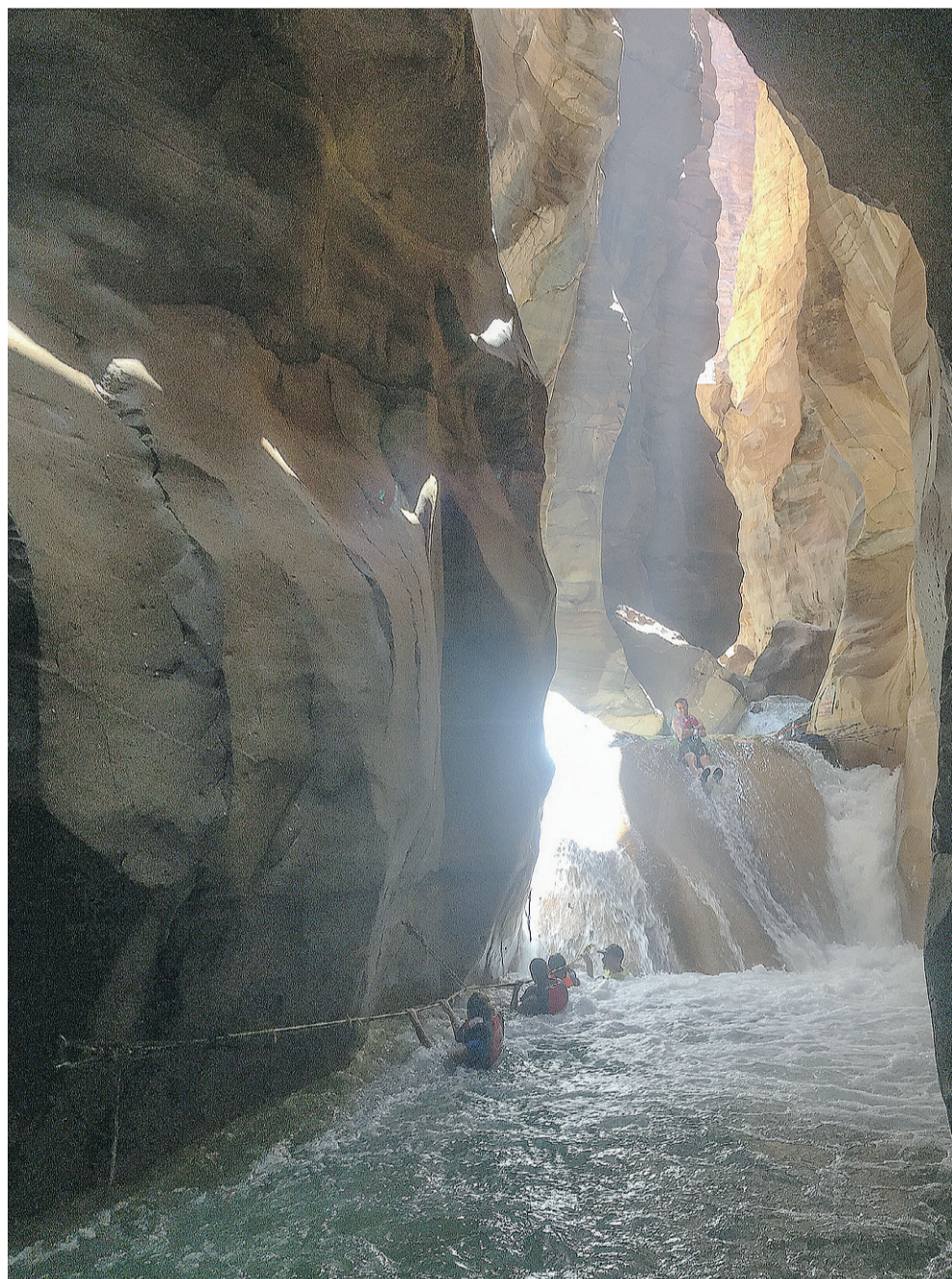
Our tour ends at the Dead Sea, just down the road from the waterfalls of Wadi Mujib. Wrapped in mud — a signature spa treatment here — I ponder all we've seen and done. *The writer was a guest of the Jordan Tourism Board. It did not review or approve this story.*



The Dead Sea is receding by about one metre per year. PHOTOS: SUZANNE MORPHET

**IF YOU GO:**

- Royal Jordanian Airways offers twice-weekly direct flights from Montreal to Amman. [www.rj.com](http://www.rj.com)
- In2Jordan offers customized itineraries for groups or individuals.
- Snorkelling and diving in Aqaba-Sea Guard has three boats for day excursions. Owner Yazan Alsaad is a PADI open-water dive instructor as well as a charming host. Prices from \$75 including lunch. [www.yasmenaboat.com](http://www.yasmenaboat.com)
- Despite the political instability in the region since the Arab Spring in 2010, Canadian visits to Jordan have continued to grow, with a 21 per cent increase in the first quarter of this year compared to 2016.
- **Stay:** The Jordan Valley Marriott has one of the biggest spas in the country, and includes an indoor Dead Sea water pool. (Because the Dead Sea is receding, the beach is now a 10- to 15-minute walk from hotel rooms.)



The slot canyon of Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan's nine protected nature reserves.



## Dave's TRAVEL PICKS OF THE WEEK

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Co-President  
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<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>22 DAY BALI LONG STAY</b> Roundtrip Bali                 </div>  <p style="font-size: small;">Jan 12, 2018 <b>\$2,749</b> CAD, pp including taxes! <small>Exotik Tours</small></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>PACKAGE INCLUDES:</b> Roundtrip Vancouver air on Hong Kong Airlines, airport transfers, 20 nights accommodation at Sadara Boutique Resort, 20 buffet breakfast &amp; taxes.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>12 NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN MOSAIC</b> Roundtrip Rome                 </div>  <p style="font-size: small;">Apr 8, 2018 • Onboard <i>ms Koningsdam</i> <b>\$3,699</b> CAD, pp including taxes! <small>Holland America Line</small></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>PACKAGE INCLUDES:</b> Roundtrip Vancouver air, 2 nights hotel in Rome, 10 night cruise in a balcony stateroom, \$125pp onboard credit &amp; taxes.</p>
<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>11 NIGHT MEXICAN RIVIERA</b> Roundtrip San Francisco                 </div>  <p style="font-size: small;">Jan 11, 2018 • Onboard <i>Grand Princess</i> <b>\$2,299</b> CAD, pp including taxes! <small>Princess Cruises</small></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>PACKAGE INCLUDES:</b> Roundtrip Vancouver air, 1 night hotel in San Francisco, 10 night cruise in a balcony stateroom, \$50pp onboard credit &amp; taxes.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>19 NIGHT IMPERIAL AWAKENING</b> Bangkok to Shanghai                 </div>  <p style="font-size: small;">Feb 17, 2018 • Onboard <i>Nautica</i> <b>\$8,299</b> CAD, pp including taxes! <small>Oceania Cruises</small></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>PACKAGE INCLUDES:</b> Air from Vancouver to Bangkok and return from Shanghai, 2 nights hotel in Bangkok, transfers, 15 night cruise in a partially obstructed veranda, 2 nights hotel in Shanghai &amp; taxes. <b>PLUS</b> choose a house beverage package, \$800 USD onboard credit or 8 shore excursions per stateroom!</p>



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# ➤ Thailand Tour 50% off ➤

 <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">Bangkok - Kanchanaburi - Ayutthaya - Pattaya</p> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">Thailand Splendors</h2> <p style="color: #0070C0;">10 Days</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>Prices Includes:</b> Roundtrip International airfare and taxes; 8 Nights at 4 stars Hotels; Round trip transfer; 10 meals, and professional English guides.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$3999</p> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: x-small;">2017 Dates: Dec 2 2018 Dates: Jan 13, 27 Feb 24 Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 7, 21 May 12, 19</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: small;">Prices Starting From</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white; font-weight: bold;">\$1999</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: white;">Airfare &amp; Taxes All Included</p> </div> </div>	 <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">Bangkok - Kanchanaburi - Ayutthaya - Phuket</p> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">Thailand Allure</h2> <p style="color: #0070C0;">12 Days</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>Prices Includes:</b> Roundtrip International airfare and taxes; 8 Nights at 4 stars Hotels; Round trip transfer; 10 meals, and professional English guides.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4599</p> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: x-small;">2017 Dates: Dec 2 2018 Dates: Jan 13, 27 Feb 24 Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 Apr 7, 21 May 12, 19</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: small;">Prices Starting From</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white; font-weight: bold;">\$2299</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: white;">Airfare &amp; Taxes All Included</p> </div> </div>	 <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">Bangkok - Ayuthaya - Sukhothai - Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai Shanghai - Siem Reap (Optional)</p> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">Amazing Asia</h2> <p style="color: #0070C0;">14/16 Days</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>Prices Includes:</b> Roundtrip International airfare and taxes; 12 Nights at 4 stars Hotels; Round trip transfer; 16 meals, and professional English guides.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$5799</p> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-size: x-small;">2017 Dates: Nov 16 2018 Dates: Mar 15, 25 Apr 8, 12, 22 May 6, 10</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: small;">Prices Starting From</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white; font-weight: bold;">\$2899</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: white;">Airfare &amp; Taxes All Included</p> </div> </div>
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