

elevateSM destinations

JORDAN

COUNTRY GUIDE

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PURPOSE OF THE COUNTRY GUIDE

In this document you will find a plethora of information that will be useful during your journey to Jordan. The information listed in this guide includes cultural guidelines, communication tips and tricks, health and safety recommendations, and so much more! Please note that all information specific to your trip, such as inclusions and exclusions, staff contact numbers, flight recommendations, etc. is listed in your Online Trip Portal. For any questions unanswered by either the country guide or the online portal, please don't hesitate to reach out to an Elevate Destinations staff member.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passport

Travelers to Jordan should ensure that the validity of their passports extends at least 6 months beyond the end of their intended stay, and should have at least 2 blank (unstamped) visa pages in their passport to enter the country. The last 2 amendment pages are unacceptable for visas and immigration stamps. Note that you will need to renew your passport if you are out of Visa pages, as the State Department no longer provides additional pages. If you need to renew your passport, please do so as soon as possible. We also recommend travelers scan a copy of your passport and email it to yourself. This way you always have a copy if something happens to it while traveling.

Visa

Elevate Destinations will work with our partners in Jordan to procure your visa in advance of travel to Jordan. In order to do this, we will need to have a high resolution color scan of your passport. Please email this passport copy to an Elevate Destinations staff member.

Visas are required for travel to Jordan. U.S. citizens are typically given visas that are valid for 30 days from when they are issued. Foreigners who wish to stay longer than the time given to them by Jordanian immigration upon entry into Jordan must register at a Jordanian police station before expiration of that time.

Certain nationalities (non-US) require an entry visa to be obtained prior to arrival in Jordan. For a complete list, see the [Jordan Tourism Board website](#).

Travel Insurance

Elevate Destinations requires travel insurance that covers medical expenses related to Covid. Proof of your medical coverage is required to participate in this program.

Elevate Destination strongly recommends that all travelers have travel insurance for any trip they wish to take with us. Please note that some insurance options require purchase within 24 hours of making payment for your trip. We encourage you to review your travel insurance options before making payment to Elevate Destinations.

Below are two insurance brokers that Elevate Destinations recommends:

1. **Yonder Insurance:** You can contact our partners at [Yonder Insurance](#) to find a policy that will best fit your needs; you can reach them by email at hello@insureyonder.com or over the phone at 855-358-6433 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM CT).
2. **Travel Insurance Center:** Dan Drennen is the representative who Elevate Destination works with at Travel Insurance Center. To inquire with Dan about insurance policies, you can email him at dan@travelinsurancecenter.com or over the phone at 1-866-979-6753 (extension 3621).

Guests may acquire travel insurance through the Travel Insurance Center, or any other travel insurance company of their choosing. Elevate Destinations recommends that travelers evaluate the insurance options available for their needs, and inquire with providers about insurance that will provide coverage if the trip needs to be cancelled.

Covid Protocols

Covid Vaccination: Elevate Destinations requires that all travelers are fully up to date on any dose of the the Covid-19 vaccine they are eligible for. This means many travelers will need a booster. You will need to submit a copy of your vaccination card to Elevate Destinations prior to departure.

Entry Requirements and Updates: As Covid is continually evolving, please check your Online Trip Portal for the most up to date information regarding entry requirements and health and safety precautions.

Immunizations

Prior to travel, Elevate Destinations strongly recommends that you look into recommended immunizations for your time in Jordan. Given that we are not a licensed Health Care provider, we cannot advise travelers on which immunizations they may or may not need. We recommend that all travelers do the following:

- a) Consult with a travel clinic or your personal physician regarding immunizations and other precautions you may need to take in order to participate in this journey. You will need to do this well in advance of your trip as some vaccinations require time to take effect, and you may need to allow time between a series of shots.
- b) Visit [the CDC Website for Jordan](#) to view recommended vaccines and medicines, travel health notices for the region, and other tips for staying healthy and safe.

Other Health Considerations

Because Jordan is a desert environment, there are a few extra things to keep in mind. The climate is very dry and you will be exposed to extreme heat and sun during hikes through Petra and Wadi Rum for extended periods of time. Please consider taking some preventative measures against heat and sun exposure such as wearing long, breathable protective clothing and hats, and actively hydrating throughout your time in Jordan.

Note About Medications

Always travel with medications in their original clearly labelled containers and in your carry-on luggage (not in checked baggage). A signed and dated letter from your physician describing your medical conditions and medications, including generic names, is also a good idea. If carrying syringes or needles, be sure to have a physician's letter documenting their medical necessity and keep these handy when entering or exiting any of Jordan's borders.

Communications

Wifi: In most places you will visit in Jordan, wifi will be available. Speed, bandwidth, and availability will likely be less reliable than you are used to. Oftentimes, connection is stronger in the lobby of hotels than in the rooms. Expect access to be particularly limited, if at all available, in Wadi Rum.

International Calls: If you are in Jordan and trying to reach a number *outside* of the country, dial 00 before dialing the country code and local number. To call numbers in Jordan *from* the U.S. dial 011 + 962 + [telephone number]. You'll find that most standard phone numbers in Jordan include the 1-digit area code for the capital, Amman, 6, before the remaining seven numbers.

Staying connected: Here are the most common methods for making local/international calls:

1. **Smart Phone apps:** Apps such as Skype, WhatsApp, and Viber (when Wifi is available).
2. **Getting an international calling package:** Setting up international coverage from your cell phone provider for the duration of your trip is often the simplest option and the best to avoid roaming charges.
3. **Use a local phone/ SIM card:** This is a good option for making calls within Jordan as international calls can get expensive. Local SIM cards are inexpensive, can be found at a variety of stores, and often have pay-as-you-go plans where you can "top up" your credit for use in the country. Please be aware of any requirements your phone has in order to accept the local SIM cards (i.e. size of SIM card, jailbroken, etc). This will change your phone number for the duration of time you have a foreign SIM card in your phone. Please also let us know in advance if you would like assistance purchasing a local phone.
4. **Call from hotel or internet café:** Please be advised that some hotels impose a surcharge that can be more than double the cost of international calls. Be sure to check the hotel policy before placing an international call from a hotel.

Safety Recommendations

Our staff will give you current briefings on safety while in-country, but here are some basic ground rules for safety while traveling:

- Avoid flashing money. Be mindful of your belongings at all time. Keep bags in front of you in crowds, and on your lap when at restaurants.
- Pay attention: avoid walking around with your smartphone in hand.
- Be vigilant when crossing roads - Pedestrians do not have the right of way.
- Stick with the group.

- Always make sure that others know of your whereabouts and movements.
- Avoid street protests or large gatherings.
- Do not wear expensive or sentimentally valuable jewelry while traveling.
- We encourage you to register with STEP (see below).

Smart Traveler Tip!

We recommend that all travelers from the U.S. signup for the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). This is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in case of an emergency.

Enrolling in this program has enormous benefits in case of an emergency while abroad:

- You will receive information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination
- Enrolling lets the U.S. Embassy in that country know that you are there and helps them contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family-related.

Documentation

In case of emergency, it is advisable to record all of your important information on one sheet of paper, photocopy it, and distribute a few copies in your luggage, your money belt, and amongst relatives or friends at home. Also email a scanned copy to yourself to have available online anywhere.

These are the documents you should have printed and with you during your travel:

- A photocopy of your passport
- Covid Vaccination Card; both the original copy and a photocopy
- QR code from the [Jordanian health declaration and passenger locator form](#)
- International flight itinerary or e-tickets
- Address and phone numbers of the hotels you are staying at
- Travel insurance policy details and 24-hour emergency number
- Details of relatives/friends and your primary care physician to be contacted in an emergency
- Bank and credit card details, camera serial numbers etc.

Money

The currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD) – known as the jay-dee (JD). [Click here to see the current exchange rate](#). The dinar is also circulated on Israel's West Bank. Coins exist in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 fils. One dinar is equal to 10 dirhams, 100 qirsh and 1,000 fils. You will sometimes hear piastre or girsh, which are both 10 fils (10 qirsh equals 100 fils). Bills are issued in denominations of 1/2, 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 dinars.

For your extra personal costs and shopping, \$30-\$50 USD per day is a good rule of thumb.

The small amount of local currency you may need during your stay in Jordan can be obtained at authorized facilities (such as ATMS, hotels, banks and foreign exchange bureaus) in Amman (not likely in small towns). In general, we suggest that you limit the amount of money you convert into

local currencies and exchange only what you think you will spend before leaving any foreign country. It is suggested that you save all receipts from your currency exchange transactions. Be aware that only paper currency will normally be accepted for exchange, and bills must be crisp, clean, and new.

Cash: Jordan is primarily a cash economy, so we recommend bringing the funds you will need for personal spending in cash or withdrawing cash out of ATMs in country. If you bring USD, your bills should be:

- **New** (printed in the last 5 years)
- **In pristine condition** (no rips, tears, smudges, markings, creases, etc)
- **Larger denominations** (the \$50 and \$100 bills attract the best exchange rate).

Your guide can generally help with currency exchange throughout your trip. Note that travelers checks are no longer commonly used.

Change: Ask for smaller bills when you change money, or use your large bills at large shops to receive more change. In many cases, people (local vendors especially) don't have change.

Credit Cards: Credit cards (Visa preferred) are acceptable in larger establishments, while cash is more appropriate everywhere else. Most merchants will charge an additional 3-5% of the bill for a credit card transaction.

ATM/Debit Cards: You can use your debit card to withdraw money from ATMs. ***Note: ATMs in developing regions of the world are often finicky, and may not work on a given hour or day. We recommend traveling with 1-3 crisp \$100 bills stored safely in your carry-on luggage to be exchanged in the case that ATMs are not working for you.***

Smart Traveler Tip!

Be sure to notify your bank and credit card companies of your travel plans, in case they view your activity as fraudulent and put a block on your card.

IN-COUNTRY INFO

Time

Jordan is 3 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) during Daylight Savings Time and GMT+2 for the remainder of the year. Check out the time difference between your home and Jordan now so you know what times might be best for communicating with those staying home.

Smart Traveler Tip!

Consider downloading a conversion app for things like currency, temperature, time, and distance while traveling. Here are some that we like: Units - Free Unit Converter, Convert Units for Free, Converter+, GlobeConvert

Electricity

Jordan uses a standard voltage of 230V, and the frequency of 50Hz, and plug Type C, D, F, G and J. Because of the variety, we certainly recommend bringing an adaptor. You can use your electric appliances in Jordan, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). If this is not the case it should be used alongside a voltage transformer or converter to allow the appliance to work safely and properly.

Converters and transformers perform a similar function, but their applications differ. Converters are typically used with appliances that operate for a short duration (1-2 hours), while most transformers can be used alongside appliances that operate continuously.

Type C



Type D



Type F



Type G



Type J



Water

While the tap water in Jordan is drunk by many locals and can be used for bathing and brushing teeth, it is advised to drink **bottled water only** on this trip if you have a sensitive stomach. At many hotels, they have installed water purification systems ensuring that tap water is clean and safe for guests to refill your reusable water bottles with. Drinkable water - bottled or purified - and non-alcoholic beverages will be supplied at all meals.

Toilet Paper

We recommend carrying toilet paper or tissues with you as many bathrooms, especially in more remote areas or restaurants, likely will not have any. Please also remember that in Jordan you are required to throw the toilet paper into the bin provided and **not into the toilet** itself, as this can cause problems with the delicate sewage system which was not designed for paper.

Waste Disposal

Keep in mind that much of the developing world waste disposal systems are not as advanced as you might be used to. Oftentimes, landfills are adjacent to conservation land or trash is burned. Recycling is often unavailable. To minimize your impact on the country you are visiting, please consider the following guidelines:

- Leave no Trace — everything that you bring with you should go home with you.
- If you plan on shopping, make sure that you have extra room in your luggage or an extra bag to check on your way home (don't dump items to make room!)
- Avoid packing with plastic baggies and instead purchase reusable packing cubes, cloth bags, and reusable toiletry bags
- Bring a reusable water bottle that you can refill
- Remove packaging or tags of any newly purchased items before you go

Local Cuisine & Drink

Jordanian cuisine is central to their landmark hospitality. Since the country was at the crossing point of trade routes, its food is influenced by cultures as distant as India as well as those in the same region. Known for its healthiness, its main ingredients are vegetables, legumes, fruits, yogurt, dried fruit and meat such as lamb and chicken. Most meals are preceded by a *mezze*, which is more or less a selection of small dishes, dips, and salads including *hummus*, *baba ganoush*, and *tabbouleh*. Mezze dishes also include *fatayer*, pasties stuffed with minced meat, and *kibbeh*, fried bulgur wheat meatballs. Often for breakfast, you will be served *manageesh*, a flatbread with various toppings (such as cheese and the spice, *zaatar*). For special occasions, *mansaf* is a Bedouin Speciality of lamb stew with *jameed* (a kind of dry yogurt) and aromatic herbs slowly cooked over many hours. Once mansaf is ready, it is served over a bed of rice and pine nuts with more yogurt added. This traditional dish is eaten communally and typically with your hands. While in Jordan, you can expect to see plentiful almonds, dates, falafel, and *schwarma*. As a rule, desserts are usually served with a good tea - typically mint, one of the most popular drinks in Jordan.

Weather Conditions

Jordan is a relatively small country with a total land area of 34,495 square miles. Although mostly desert, within its compact area, there are 3 distinct climatic zones; the Jordan valley, Mountain Heights Plateau and the Desert or Badia region, which constitutes 75% of the total land area of Jordan.

Jordan's weather truly consists of 4 seasons: Autumn, winter, spring, and summer.

Spring (March through May): Spring in Jordan starts in March and valleys are green and temperatures stay in the 60s. This is the perfect time to visit Jordan - with warm days and cooler nights. Beautiful wildflowers – including the striking Jordanian black iris – turn the countryside lush and colorful. Rains typically end in late April.

Summer (June through August): Summer is typically rainless in Jordan and daily temperatures can reach 104°F (40°C) and above, especially when the Sirocco (a hot, dry southerly wind) blows. At times, these winds can be very strong and can cause sandstorms. Jordan experiences over 13 hours of sunshine per day and can be intensely hot in the Jordan Valley, the area around Aqaba and the Eastern Desert.

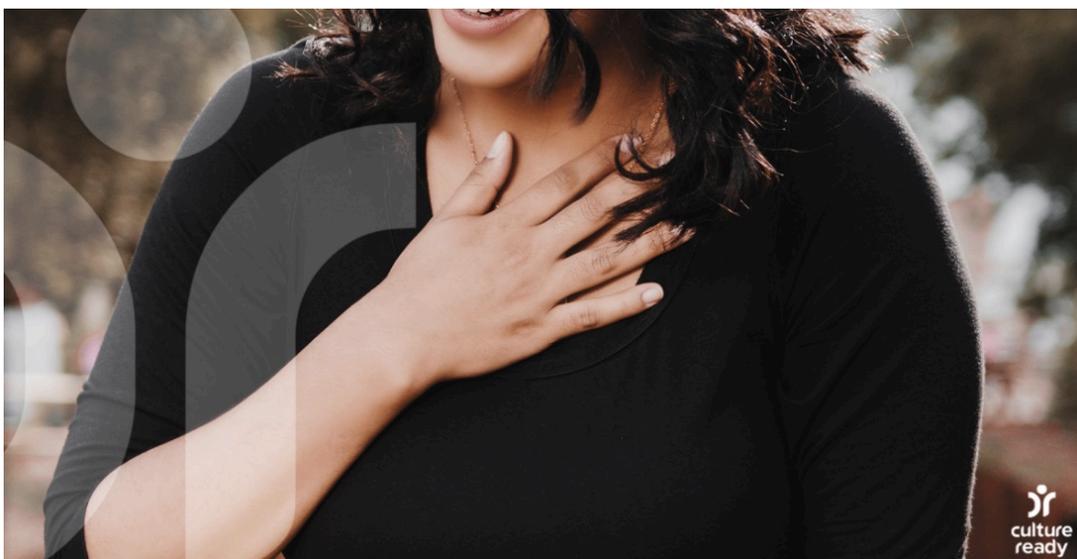
Autumn (September through November): Autumn is a wonderful time to visit Jordan because of the relief from the heat. This is typically a dry period with scarce rain. Temperatures typically range from the 50s-70s°F and some wildflowers will return before the winter cold sets in.

Winter (December through February): Winters in Jordan are typically short and cool. January is the coolest month, with temperatures of 41-50°F (5-10°C). 70 percent of the average rainfall in the country falls during this period. Amman can be especially cold in January and February and snow is not uncommon. During these months the Jordan Valley and the area around Aqaba are reasonably warm during the day, with cooler evenings. Winter in the Eastern Desert, however, can be bitterly cold and dry. The central spine of hills can receive snowfall during winter months.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Experiencing different cultures is one of the joys of traveling. Please take note of the information below to better understand and respect these cultural differences in Jordan.

Greetings: Shaking hands is even more common in casual interactions than it is in the west. It is acceptable and polite to shake hands when meeting and being introduced to someone. Do note; however, that some conservative individuals (especially women in veils) may not wish to shake hands with the opposite sex. It is therefore best to withhold until your counterpart initiates a handshake. One can place their hand on their heart in lieu of a handshake (see photo below).



Ladies; especially those who know each other well, mutually greet one another by several pecks on the cheek (up to 5). The first kiss is typically on the left. It is not typically expected by foreign visitors, however, it is a sign of warmth, and best not to be caught off guard if greeted with a small kiss on both cheeks (try to let the person greeting you “lead”!).

Signs of Respect: When meeting people for the first time, a sign of respect is to stand up to say hello. This can be done for both men and women and shows respect and goodwill. Whenever someone enters the room, particularly someone older, you are expected to stand. Similarly, do stand when you are being introduced.

Avoid eating with your left hand, as it is considered rude.

Coffee Culture: When drinking Arabic coffee, to signify to the host that more coffee is requested, shaking the cup from side to side indicates this. It is polite and appropriate to then hold the cup out to the person who is serving the coffee. This is specific to Bedouin culture. However, in most homes in Jordan when coffee is offered by a host, it is polite and respectful to accept.

Religion: Jordan is a tolerant, Islamic state that welcomes all religions. A majority of Jordanians are Muslim, about 92% are Sunni Muslim, and 1% are Shia or Sufi. Cities in the south of Jordan, have the highest percentage of Muslims. Christians, living mostly in Amman or the Jordan Valley, make up 6% of the total, with 1% representing other religions. Jordan is home to many historical religious sites and some of the world’s earliest know churches.

Note: Muslims in Jordan are called to prayer 5 times each day, starting at 5:00 AM. Be mindful of those praying outside in public spaces. It is common for Muslims to pray outside, and they should not be interrupted or passed in front of. Additionally, please avoid staring at individuals while they are praying. During religious holidays such as Ramadan, it is best to be respectful by not eating, drinking, or smoking in public areas.

Public Displays of Affection: Couples traveling together should be aware of Jordanian social norms. Public displays of affection between men and women are not considered acceptable. Even if you’re married, walking arm-around-waist or arm-over-shoulder, touching each other’s face or body or kissing each other are likely to be viewed as distasteful. It is possible occasionally to see husbands and wives walking hand-in-hand, but it is rare.

Begging: As in many developing countries and countries with large refugee populations, begging is common in Jordan. We advise strongly against giving money to children, since it just perpetuates the cycle: if kids receive money, they may be forced to continue to beg rather than go to school. Some beggar children work for thieves or in situations where the money never benefits them directly. See our Responsible Travel Tips section below for more information.

Dress: Dress is one facet of interaction between locals and western tourists that is most open to misunderstandings on both sides and has a great propensity to widen the cultural divide. Clothes that are unremarkable at home can come across in Jordan as being embarrassing, disrespectful or offensive. Generally, it is best to show as little skin as possible. Long pants and sleeves that are not too tight or form-fitting are ideal for men and women. Generally, Jordanian place an emphasis on personal grooming and it isn’t common to see individuals dressed in torn or scruffy clothes. There is no need to wear headscarves anywhere. In touristic places, you should wear comfortable clothing and shoes as you may be spending a lot time walking while exploring the sites.

Note for females: To garner mutual respect in Jordan, you may have to go to greater lengths than men to adjust your normal style of dress, although it is possible to do so without compromising your freedom and individuality too much. Loose-fitting, opaque clothing that covers your legs, arms, and chest are ideal. On women, shorts and Lycra leggings may appear provocative and inappropriate. Additionally, traveling with a thin cotton scarf can be a helpful tool when trying to cover up the nape of your neck.

Bargaining: Gentle bargaining is generally acceptable in souqs (markets) in Jordan. Vendors sometimes will open with a high price they don't actually expect you to pay. Counter their offer with a lower number, and reach an agreement somewhere in between. You can usually negotiate the price down by about 15% to 25%. Throughout your interaction, keep a light-hearted attitude. Remember that this should be fun! It can be a great way to connect with locals.

Smart Traveler Tip!

Dressing modestly is a sign of respect and part of the regular decorum in Jordan. Especially when visiting religious areas, rural communities, or public spaces, wearing conservative clothes is encouraged.

Language

Modern Standard (Levantine) Arabic is the official language of Jordan, but in most tourist places people understand and speak some English. There are many Jordanian Arabic colloquial dialects that are used more frequently in daily, casual conversation. Hospitality is a very important part of Jordanian culture, because of this people will be helpful when you need assistance. Practice these phrases and ask your guide or driver to help you use these and other phrases appropriately.

English Phrase	Arabic
Hello	Salam - Marhaba
How are you?	Keef halak? (m) Keef halek? (f)
Please	Min fadlak
Good morning	Sabah El-Khair
Good evening	Masaa El-Khair
Thank you	Shukran
You're welcome	Afwan
Yes	Na'am - Aaywa
No	La'a

English Phrase	Arabic
Excuse me (I'm sorry)	Aasif
What is your name?	Sho Ismak? (m) Sho Ismek? (f)
My name is ____.	Ismi ...
Nice to meet you.	Tasharraft bi muqabalatik
Where is the Toilet?	Ayn Al Hammam
Bless your hands (use when being served)	Yislimoo
God willing (hopefully)	Inshallah
Goodbye	Ma'assalama
Beautiful	Jameel

Photography

Jordan is a beautiful country, and you will want to take lots of pictures. When photographing people, always ask permission first - this is a sign of respect. You can do this with gestures or ask your guide to translate. The only exception to this is when you are photographing a public scene with a lot of people in it, aiming at no one in particular. Because so many local people are asked for permission to be photographed, many will expect a tip or an outright fee for this. (In fact, some "professional posers" make a living this way.) Always be considerate of anyone's desire not to be photographed. There are some places where photography is prohibited, and these areas are usually marked. If you are uncertain about whether or not photography is permitted, your guide will be there to advise you.

If you are interested in learning how to engage in ethical photography during your travels, check out our blog post, ["Nine questions to help decolonize your photography"](#).

Please keep in mind, photographing women, especially Bedouin women, is considered an extreme invasion of privacy. Please be sensitive to these special considerations.

Note: Do not take photographs of military installations, borders, or airports. If you are uncertain about whether or not photography is permitted, ask. Taking photographs when permission is not granted is inconsiderate at best and may result in the confiscation of your camera.

Human Trafficking in Travel

Elevate Destinations has signed *the Code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism* and expects all of its partners to refuse involvement, both direct and indirect, in the

commercial sexual exploitation of children. A “child” is defined as a person younger than 18 years of age, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We encourage our travelers and suppliers to report the sexual exploitation of children. Information, even the smallest amount, can represent the missing piece of an ongoing investigation by law enforcement. If you are uncomfortable with leaving your name and contact information, you can report anonymously to law enforcement or NGOs. Report a concern [using this form](#); alternatively, you can email protect@ecpat.net to report sexual exploitation of children.

Read about Elevate’s values & vision, our [sustainability commitment](#), our programs that give back, and more on our website at www.elevatedestinations.com. Our team members are always excited to share more on this topic. We acknowledge that to maintain truly sustainable travel products takes ongoing commitment. We continue to monitor our programs on the ground in order to improve them, and welcome your thoughts, feedback, and encouragement!

Responsible Travel Tips

Elevate Destinations takes pride in its leadership in the field of responsible travel. We take care in selecting our local partners that share our environmental and social values and are avid supporters of locals working in the tourism industry as they are both the most impacted and impactful players at the local level. All of your ground costs on this trip are carbon offset using [Native Energy's Carbon Calculator](#) and we encourage you to offset your international flights as well.

Here are a few tips that can help enrich your experience as a responsible traveler:

- **Keep an open mind:** Try to observe local customs and respect traditional cultures and people.
- **Language:** Learn a few basic greetings and “thank you” in the local language.
- **Local economy:** Support locally owned businesses, restaurants, and other services. Shop from local artisans to promote traditional crafts and encourage contemporary arts.
- **Pay a fair price:** Bargaining is acceptable on this trip and a great way to engage with locals. Try to have fun and not be overly aggressive in bargaining for souvenirs.
- **Respect:** It is important to acknowledge the privacy and dignity of others and ask before photographing or filming people. Ask permission before entering sacred places, homes or private land, and take heed of local customs (i.e. remove shoes, hats, cover hair with shawl, etc). Please ask your guide if you are unsure; they are there to support your introduction to the culture!
- **Community and environment:** Contribute to organizations that support traditional cultures and protect the natural environment. Keep to designated trails, and do not disturb plants and animals or their natural habitats.
- **Animal products:** Avoid purchasing crafts, clothing, furniture or other products that are derived from members of protected or endangered animal species.
- **Properly dispose of trash:** Avoid using plastic bags and try to minimize the use of other disposables. When traveling in areas away from cities, make sure to take out what you take in. Try using a reusable water bottle and treating your own drinking water when possible – check out what our friends at [Travelers Against Plastic](#) are doing!

- **Don't feel pressured to give away money or material items:** You will likely encounter instances of poverty and people asking for donations. We try to discourage giving away money or items as it can actually accentuate an unequal relationship between visitors and locals. Additionally, children that receive money, gifts, and sweets from you are encouraged to stick around for more, rather than to be in school. As difficult as it can be to turn down direct requests, sometimes giving your friendship and respect to locals can be the best gift of all. If you want to help, consider giving to a trustworthy charity, non-profit, or local school.
- **Tip your housekeeping staff:** Many of the the staff cleaning hotel rooms are on the bottom of the economic pyramid. Please consider leaving a tip before you checkout. The equivalent of \$2 dollars a day is appropriate. This is an easy way to ensure some of your money reaches the hands that need it the most.

Smart Traveler Tip!

In travel, especially in the developing world, things happen. Expect the unexpected! Keep an open mind, be flexible, and enjoy the moment. Sometimes the best memories come out of the unplanned.