



Creating Experiences | Empowering Communities

NORTHERN JORDAN: HIKING, CULTURE, COMMUNITY

Join Baraka Destinations for an immersive experience in Jordanian village life, exploring history, nature, art and culture through the eyes of local hosts in Umm Qais and Pella.



Dates: May 5 - 7, 2018

Note: You must arrive in Amman on Friday, May 4, 2018.

Pick-up time: Saturday 5th May, 2018 at 7:30 am at Amman hotel.

Arrive dressed and prepared with a daypack (water bottles filled, camera, sun protection, etc) to hike upon arrival in Umm Qais. We provide a light lunch, and walking sticks.

Drop off time: Monday 7th May, 2018 – 15:00 at your Dead Sea Hotel



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Wake to the sound of a rooster and watch as the village slowly comes to life. Located in the heart of Umm Qais, Beit Al Baraka offers an authentic experience that uncovers life in a northern Jordanian community. Beit Al Baraka is part of a larger community-based tourism project in Jordan. Baraka Destinations, the umbrella company, is a social venture that develops clusters of community owned tourism businesses, facilitates the growth of their businesses, and supports local entrepreneurs to build their villages into vibrant tourism destinations, and share their stories of the place with visiting guests.

- Argoub Rumi Hike & Hot Spring (Level 3 – Moderate)
- Short walk in Pella (Level 2 – Easy Active)
- Cooking class at a local home (Level 1 – Relaxed/Social)
- Beekeeping with a view (Level 1 –Relaxed/Social)
- Archaeological tour of Gadara (Level 2 – Easy active)



Beit Al Baraka Bed & Breakfast, our home for two nights, consists of five rooms and three bathrooms, a rooster for an alarm and a farm to table breakfast menu to start your day right.

[Our location on Google Maps.](#)



Itinerary:

Saturday 5th May

Upon arrival to Umm Qais, we check-in to Beit Al Baraka. It is here we meet our guide, who will take us on a hike over the hills of the Yarmouk Nature Reserve and into the Yarmouk Valley below. The hike begins soon upon arriving to Umm Qais.

Argoub Rumi is an 8 Km/5 mile hike into the last deciduous oak tree forest in Jordan. The hike meanders along the hilltops of what was once an ancient Greco-Roman trail and known burial spot for influential individuals. The trail is also known locally for its stunning views of Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee), the Golan Heights, the Hijazi Railway and Mount Hermon in Lebanon, which can all be seen on a clear day. The hike descends some 500 metres into the village of Al Himma, which is known for its hot water springs and views of the Golan Heights towering above. Guests will have the opportunity to relax in the hot water springs of Al Himma before returning to Umm Qais for a traditional meal in a local home.

Meals: Lunchbox on hike & Dinner at a local home in Umm Qais



Hiking (L-3)– 5 Hours - 8 Km/5 miles – 500 metre/1,640 feet elevation loss; Swimming/soaking (L-1) – Al Himma hot springs

Sunday 6th May

In order to beat the midday heat, the beekeeping experience will be arranged for 7:00 am. A bus will transport us to Yousef's beekeeping site, which looks out over the natural landmarks that surround his hilltop apiary. Yousef will share his 20 years of beekeeping knowledge and anecdotes with his budding apiarists (us!) before taking us to see his bees working closely within their hives.



After beekeeping, we return to Beit Al Baraka for a late breakfast and the opportunity to relax in the B&B. Beit Al Baraka has a number of great relaxing spots that can be found both inside outside. This will be a perfect opportunity to sit back, look out over the natural landscape, and read more about the area. At 14:00, Ahmad will meet you at Beit Al Baraka for the start of the Decapolis tour of Gadara. This Greco-Roman city was also an important town during the Ottoman Empire, and still holds a number of great stories that you'll uncover on your tour. Next we participate in cooking class, led by a local chef. Umm Qais is rich with vegetation and this has inspired a number of dishes that are only found in this region of Jordan. Learn how to cook these unique dishes and taste the fruits of your labour after the class.



Meals: Breakfast (Beit Al Baraka),
Lunchbox (Ruins), & Dinner (Local Home)
Beekeeping (L-1)-2 Hours; Site Tour (L-2)-2 Hours – 1Km/0.6 mile; Cooking Class (L-1)-4 Hours



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Monday 7th May

Our final morning begins at 7:00 am with breakfast. At 8:30 am, we depart from Umm Qais and head south along the Jordan Valley to Pella, another Decapolis city, and home to Baraka Destinations' second project in Jordan. We tour Beit Al Fannan (the House of the Artist) and the grounds that surround this stunning villa with a local guide. These buildings were once the artistic getaway for the influential artist and architect, Ammar Khammash. Keep your eyes open, as this villa rewards the curious!

The tour of the Decapolis city ends at the Pella restaurant with views out over the ruins of Pella, the oldest inhabited place in Jordan, and the Jordan Valley below. The restaurant offers a great selection of traditional dishes, appetizers, hot and cold drinks. It's the perfect place to end our relaxing trip in the north. We depart Pella for the Dead Sea at 13:30 pm. The drive to the Dead Sea will take roughly an hour and a half and we should arrive at ~15:00 pm.

Meals: Breakfast (Beit Al Baraka), Lunch (Pella Restaurant)
Short Tour (L-1) – 2 Hours

Important notes:

Beit Al Baraka is located in the heart of Umm Qais, which is still somewhat conservative. We ask that you be considerate and respectful to the traditions of the region. Here are some points to consider:

- Alcohol: We do not serve alcohol at Beit Al Baraka out of respect for the community. However, if you wish to bring your own alcohol you can do so but we ask that you be discreet.
- Dress modestly: It is important that you cover your knees and shoulders when visiting the homes of the local community.
- Photos: Please ask before taking any photos of individuals in the village.



What's included?

- **Twin occupancy** accommodation with shared bathroom facilities
- All food and drink (water, fresh juices, coffee, and tea)
- All activities and experiences
- Transportation
- Entrance fees to the Yarmouk Nature Reserve

What's not included?

- Any staff tips/gratuities
- Any products purchased from local experiences or our store.



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Weather:

May is the final month of spring in Umm Qais. The weather is starting to change during May but the remnants of spring are still present, as the land is still bursting with life. Guests can expect the weather in Umm Qais to reach the mid 20s°C during the day and drop to the mid teens during the night. Pella's weather is slightly warmer, as the village sits in the Jordan Valley. Temperatures in Pella can reach the high 20s°C and drop to the low 20s°C at night.

Packing List:

Luggage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Medium to large duffle or rolling soft sided luggage● Packing cubes/stuff sacks● Day pack (20L) – large enough to carry water, sun screen, lunchboxes, etc for the day Clothing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Casual clothing/shoes for travel and city wear (lightweight, easily washable)● Water/wind proof jacket (lightweight)● Fleece/softshell jacket (cool evenings)● T-shirts● Long sleeve shirt (sun protection)● Hiking pants or capris● Swimwear & coverup● Underwear/sports bra● Sleepwear● Sun hat● Buff – sun, sand protection	Footwear: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hiking shoes● Hiking socks, synthetic or wool● Light shoes (sneakers) Assorted Personal Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sunscreen (30 SPF) and lip balm with SPF● Sunglasses with UV filter● Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, etc)● Personal first aid kit, medications, blister kit● Bandana● Camera, memory cards, & battery● Charging devices for mobile phones and electrical devices● Insect repellent● Optional<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Earplugs and night-mask○ Binoculars○ E-book reader
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If you have any questions about this trip, [Baraka Destinations](https://www.barakadestinations.com) or the itinerary, then please visit our website www.barakadestinations.com or contact us by phone at +962 776667660, or email us at reservations@barakadestinations.com.



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Group size: Maximum 11

Price per person for *non-hosted* ANNE delegates:

Twin Occupancy: 180 JOD

Payment instructions:

Pre-pay online through PayPal. We will send a link to those that wish to participate with Baraka Destinations' event.

Cancellation fees:

Between 30 and 15 days from noon on arrival date:

No Penalty

Between 14 days and 8 days of arrival:

50% of total booking

Within 7 days of arrival/no show:

100% of total booking