

DESERT VENTURE/SURVIVAL



Maximum Participants: 12

This Venture/Survival course will take you to the Arabian Deserts made famous by the movie Lawrence of Arabia. Sit in the south of Jordan, North of the Red Sea and to the East of the Jordan valley this is the only place in the world where the sand dune deserts collide with their sandstone cousin mountains.

Jordan itself is a country steeped in history and natural beauties. A list of what you can find in Jordan is a like a tick list of history and places you'd like to go one day. The most complete Roman city in the World, the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea, the place Moses pointed out the promised lands, where Jesus and John the Baptist were baptized, where the crusader built huge forts and where Salah Ad-Din (Saladin) defeated them. Jordan was the link between the trading blocs of northern Egypt and Damascus and where the Nabateans controlled this trade route and built amazing cities, none more famous than Petra. An amazing city carved into the rock and protected by extreme terrain and secret routes in/out which was lost to the world thousands of years ago and though the Bedu people knew where it was, the west did not find it again till 1812. Since then it has become a world famous site, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World and of course where Indiana Jones went in search of the Holy Grail!

Jordan is home to the Bedu people who live their lives wandering the vast deserts, "the ships of the desert", the camels that carry them places, (though many these days are seen being carried by people in the back seat of their cars (for real!)), and of course the majestic Arab horse, an animal more famous than any in Equine circles.

And we have not even mentioned the desert and the likes of Wadi Rum yet, a truly amazing country!



Initial training and acclimatisation will take place near the old city of Petra, where we'll ride Arab horses (no riding experience necessary at all) and see Old Petra from a way no tourist can these days. From Petra we move deep into the desert of Wadi Rum, start to learn how to drive 4x4 vehicles and trek, abseil and live in this beautiful, but harsh environment. The Bushmasters ex UK Special Forces Survival Instructor and local Bedu tribesman will take you through all you will need to know to survive.



Eventually the training is behind you and for several days in a small group you will be placed in a simulated survival and escape situation, though Bushmasters staff will be monitoring you throughout, purely for safety reasons. With just basic survival kit and little water you will have to navigate your way out of the desert to safety. We call this Long Drag (after the final walk on SAS Selection test week), where there is not only the practical problems of daily existence to cope with, but also the psychological difficulties of not having those modern luxuries, of being in a strange environment, of little water, of lack of sleep, of an arduous environment and hard walk.....can you cope?

JORDAN



DESERT SURVIVAL/VENTURE

Day	Event	Remarks
Sun	Arrival day. Please arrange for your flight to arrive in Aqaba in time to make a team meeting in the hotel about 5pm. It gives everyone a chance to get to know each other and we'll go through various briefs for the upcoming trip.	Accommodation is in local hotel, in shared rooms with en-suite bathroom.
Mon	After breakfast we head by vehicle to the ancient city of Petra, about 2-3 hours from Aqaba. We'll settle into the hotel and after lunch head out to spend an afternoon training on Arab horses.	Accommodation is in local hotel, in shared rooms with en-suite bathroom.
Tue	<p>When in Jordan no trip will ever be complete unless you have visited Old Petra, a city with many thousands of years of history, but that became abandoned and lost to the world until rediscovered by Westerners in 1812. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.</p> <p>We'll start our trip in a unique way, riding Arab horses at first light through the Syk and into Petra. We have all morning to check out Petra, which is a pretty big place. After lunch we leave the horses behind and head out of the old city on foot, with a short trek into the surrounding mountains, before meeting our transport back to the city.</p> <p>This is our last night in civilisation and last chance to sort gear and leave behind what you won't need when we get into the desert.</p>	Accommodation is in local hotel, in shared rooms with en-suite bathroom
Wed	<p>In a small convoy we leave Petra city today by 4x4 and take the back mountain and desert roads to Wadi Rum. The journey will take 3-4 hours and cover some pretty awesome terrain; though for this leg you won't be driving so you have no pressure!!</p> <p>Around lunchtime we'll cross the last tarmac road before going deeper into the desert where we'll take lunch.</p> <p>Our base camp for the next several days is many miles into the desert, near a well and surrounded in all directions by sand dunes and huge sandstone mountains. There are sand dunes in other parts of the World as there are amazing sandstone mountains, but here in the south of Jordan is the only place on the planet where you find both together and combined they are spectacular!</p>	From now on we'll be camping in the desert. You'll have individual tents and there will be a few group tents for stores/rations etc, but you'll be doing all the work of running the camp from keeping in clean and so on.

Thur	<p>Over the next several days we'll be exploring the unique desert of Southern Jordan. On our first day we'll start with some 4x4 driver training (with you being the driver of course). How to handle the vehicles in everything from deep sand to hard boulders, inclines and declines and of course keeping the vehicle going in a very harsh environment and getting it unstuck, when you bog it in.</p>	<p>From now on we'll be camping in the desert. You'll have individual tents and there will be a few group tents for stores/rations etc, but you'll be doing all the work of running the camp from keeping in clean and so on.</p>
Fri Sat Sun	<p>We'll head out each day by 4x4 to explore the desert, trek through the dunes and mountains, abseil off some of the awesome faces and maybe the odd rock arch. We'll learn to navigate in this amazing place where everything is pretty much yellow and looks the same, whether by map, compass and pacing, GPS or the traditional way by the stars. You'll also have to learn how to survive in one of the harshest environments on earth. How do you get water in a place where it almost never rains, what to eat when nothing seems to grow, how to you find shelter in weather that goes from +40c by day and then down to freezing at night, and how to make fire to keep warm when there is nothing to burn?</p> <p>The desert is a harsh environment and learning how to survive in it is not easy!</p>	<p>From now on we'll be camping in the desert. You'll have individual tents and there will be a few group tents for stores/rations etc, but you'll be doing all the work of running the camp from keeping in clean and so on.</p>
Mon	<p>Our last day as a whole group in the desert. You'll have the safety brief for the upcoming challenge and we'll have time to sort out some last minute kit items, check over what you've learnt and get ready to being cast out without the staff into the desert.</p> <p>We'll kick it off in style though by making a traditional meal of goat, roasted in the sand of the desert and as usual you'll be doing all the work from slaughter to washing up!</p>	<p>From now on we'll be camping in the desert. You'll have individual tents and there will be a few group tents for stores/rations etc, but you'll be doing all the work of running the camp from keeping in clean and so on.</p>
Tue	<p>To get even further into the desert and where we're going to leave you we need to use the "ships of the desert," camels. These amazing animals can go weeks without water and in extreme of temperatures and so for centuries have been the best way to travel. They are also pretty big, can smell a lot, seem to like to spit and are certainly an acquired ride!</p> <p>They are simply awesome and by far the best way to get you to the start of Long Drag!</p>	<p>Accommodation and food is what you have in your meagre survival packs and what you find over the next several days.</p>
Wed Thur	<p>Long Drag is a small team survival and escape exercise. Using the skills and knowledge you've acquired in the last week and in small groups you have to get yourself out of the desert!</p>	<p>Accommodation and food is what you have in your meagre survival packs and what you find over the next several days.</p>

	<p>A rescue team is out there, but they are bogged in by the desert and can't get to you quickly. You don't have enough water to wait for them to reach you. If you are to survive, you have to get to them.</p> <p>You will have to cover many, many miles of desert, navigating as you go and using the conditions and environment in the desert to help you get out! It's hot, it's freezing, you're dehydrated and hungry and the miles of trekking through the desert will take its toll – but it's the only way to be rescued and survive....Can you cope?!</p>	
Fri	<p>Tired, hungry, thirsty and elated you'll eventually meet the rescue team who can take you the last few miles to civilisation. You will have escaped the desert and now you can relax with a massive meal, Turkish bath and Argeelah in the beautiful sea resort of Aqaba.</p>	<p>Accommodation is in local hotel, in shared rooms with en-suite bathroom.</p>
Sat	<p>Departure day: Please plan your departure from Aqaba today. The airport is approximately 30 minutes away from the hotel.</p>	