



# Ice Warrior Desert Expedition

Beyond the Bounds of Tourism – Worthwhile and Life Changing

## Rediscovering the Ancient Silk Road – Jordanian Desert

### Aim

Our expedition will uncover an ancient and forgotten part of the Silk Road trading route across Jordan. This route was abandoned around 300 years ago because so many of the trading camel trains were attacked and robbed; it was deemed too dangerous. We will explore and document this uncharted route cataloguing and photographing evidence of the stone markers and other archaeological finds in conjunction with Jordanian government archaeologists. We will also investigate and capture photographically the essence of desert wildlife and flora.



### Expectations

The expedition will take place in an extremely remote environment; this ancient trade route has not been travelled in its entirety by westerners before and we'll be uncovering it bit by bit, expedition by expedition. It stretches appropriately 800km through the eastern desert of Jordan and visits small unidentified oases on the way. These are havens for wildlife.



We will fly into the city of Amman and stay overnight in a hotel to prepare ourselves for the desert journey. The following day we travel by vehicle to the nearest road leading into the area. Here we meet with local Bedouin who will help us enter the area, carrying provisions and kit by camel. We then walk into the south eastern quarter of the Jordanian desert establishing camps on route as we explore the area thoroughly and immerse ourselves in the desert environment.

There is a need to adopt a flexible approach for the expedition as we will make our plans on a daily basis and according to our findings. We as your guides will keep you fully informed of our options and advise the team as to the best course of action. Travelling in such remote areas brings associated risks and these will be explained to you fully and a written risk assessment sent to you before we depart. But the risks are more than worth it!

**Expedition: ICE WARRIOR DESERT EXPEDITION – The Ancient Silk Road, Jordanian Desert**

**Location:** The South Eastern Quarter of the Jordanian Desert

**Purpose:** To uncover the ancient silk road documenting the antiquities and findings along the route; to map the whereabouts of the stone markers; to take photographic evidence of the markers and other archaeological finds; to immerse ourselves in the desert environment, Bedouin culture, flora and fauna.

**Description:** Exploring and route finding; moving by foot with camels taking our equipment and gear; making camp where we deem necessary. Uncovering the secret track from Palmyra through the eastern desert of Jordan and down to Wadi Rum -the main Nabatean trade station. This route was marked with stone cairns built at 5 - 6 km intervals, to ensure that caravans kept to this specific route.

We will also visit the amazing Petra on our return route.

**Number of Participants:** A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12

**Grade:** Easy – no experience necessary

**Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Duration:** 14 days

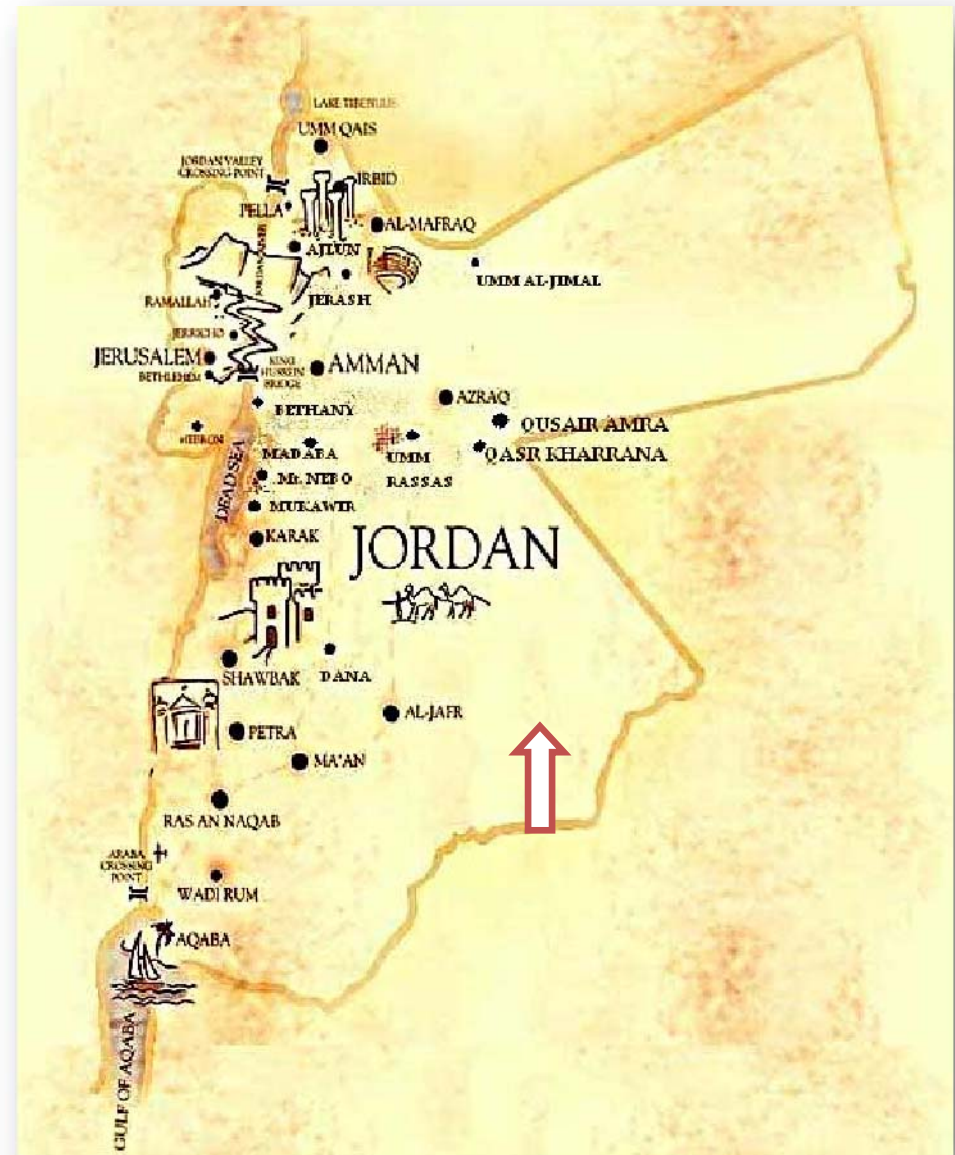
**Accommodation:** One night in a hotel in Amman all other nights camping in Bedouin tents

**Mode of Transport:** From Amman we will travel by vehicle to the nearest road leading into the area. From here we meet with local Bedouin who will help us enter the area, carrying provisions and kit by camel.

**Cost:** £2800.00

**Exclusions:** Travel to and from Amman (typical cost from London is £400.00) insurance and personal clothing and other items.

**Reference:** DWJ-0910



## Questions and Answers

### When?

5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011, flying into Amman to meet your Ice Warrior Guide - overnight stay in Amman. A full itinerary will be sent to you separately with suggested flights.

### Where?

We will assemble the team at our Hotel on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>. The following day we will check everybody's kit and clothing and prepare for the journey by vehicle to the south eastern quarter of the Jordanian Desert. Once we reach a suitable site we will set up camp. There will be a chance to meet our Bedouin hosts and get a feeling for what it is like to live in the desert.

### What should you expect?

**Weather** – Jordan's climate is mostly arid desert with the rainy season in the west from November to April. We will be in the desert area in the southeast so rainfall is unlikely, expect an average daytime temperature of 22 degrees and a night-time temperature of 16.

**Camp** – Working with the Bedouin we pride ourselves on the standard of camping arrangements, and are privileged to have special camping permits for spectacular wilderness areas. We provide all services and supplies, including large Bedouin tents, mattresses, sleeping bags, carpets, water tanks, generators and even flushing toilets. We also operate a light-footed approach to nature making as little impact as possible and shipping out all our refuse.

**Food** – On this expedition we will be fed fresh food that our Bedouin helpers will supply and prepare. PLEASE ADVISE US OF ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.

**Wildlife of Jordan** – The harsh conditions of the desert wilderness, which covers most of the country, allow only an assortment of nature's hardiest and most adaptable creatures to survive. As with most desert habitats, the majority of faunal life consists of insects, lizards, and small mammals. However, a number of larger mammals can be found in the desert region, including the Asiatic jackal, desert fox, striped hyena, camel, rabbit and sand rat. The white oryx, which was hunted almost to extinction, lives on the open plains, while the mountain ibex is at home among rocky, mountainous crags. Both of these two species are relatively rare. Other species include: arabian oryx, caracal (persian lynx), crested porcupine, gazelle (dorcas, goitered, mountain, and persian varieties), golden jackal, hyrax, jerboa, marbled polecat, mongoose, mountain hare, nubian ibex, persian onager, stone marten, , wild boar, wolf (arabian and indian varieties)

**Bird Species** - There are 412 species of birds in Jordan, of which 2 have been introduced by humans, 86 are rare or accidental and 12 are globally threatened.

### What is included in that cost?

All expedition costs from Amman including: camping equipment, safety equipment - satellite phone, EPIRB, hand-held radios, shelters, etc.

### What is not included?

Flights to and from Amman and personal expenses, clothing and equipment.

### **What clothing and personal kit will I need?**

We will send you a separate clothing and personal kit check list where you can also place an order for purchase or hire of items.

### **What about insurance?**

Due to the extremely remote nature of our expeditions Jim McNeill writes a specific proposal for underwriters.

For those living in the UK this is normally arranged through the British Mountaineering Council. The slight disadvantage with this is that you have to be a member of the BMC in order to qualify for the insurance which currently costs £14.97. Typical cost of the insurance is around £250.

If you live elsewhere you will have to get insurance from your own country. Please contact us if you have any problems.

### **Do we have to be fit?**

Just normally fit for life. We will be walking each day with light to medium weight back packs and the camels will carry all other items. You will need to be happy with normal camp life.

### **Do we have to help the expedition; putting up tents, washing up, cooking, etc?**

No, there is no need to help with the chores as there will be plenty to do otherwise.

### **How is this different from normal adventure or wildlife holidays?**

We will access areas that are far more remote and wild than any “adventure holiday” would do and the journey is purposeful and worthwhile – a genuine expedition.

### **What happens about booking flights?**

So as to avoid any possible repayments and cancellations we accumulate the minimum number of expedition team members and then inform you of the best flight options. We will either have an Ice Warrior Guide on the same flight or meet your incoming flight and guide you through to our hotel in Amman.

### **What are the risks involved?**

There are inherent risks involved when really immersing yourself in a highly remote environment alongside wildlife. We have a continual briefing and practice system with comprehensive plans to evacuate individuals or the whole team if necessary. A full Safety Strategy will be sent to you before departure.

### **How do we communicate with civilisation?**

We have a special method and protocol for communications with home and a Communications Strategy will be sent to you before departure.

### **Background information on Jordan**

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes that extended across Asia. These routes originated in China and stretched across Central and South Asia, the Middle East, and into Mediterranean Europe, where they linked powerful civilizations such as Rome and China. Transcontinental caravans not only resulted in the trade of silk and spices, but also initiated cross-cultural exchange between these different regions, societies and religions.

There are two main trade routes across Jordan which formed part of the Silk Road. One from Yemen in the south, travelling through Saudi Arabia to Petra and the second from Parsha to Babylon, to Palmyra and then down to Petra (called the incense road). Petra was a busy trade junction where goods were then redirected to all over Europe via Gaza.

For safety reason the caravans used to select secret roads to avoid attacks and they used to pay taxes to Bedouin tribes for their support and protection. One of these secret tracks was from Palmyra through the eastern desert of Jordan and down to Wadi Rum -the main Nabatean trade station. This route was also marked with stone cairns built at 5 - 6 km intervals, to ensure that caravans kept to this specific route.

Jordan is divided into three different ecological zones; the Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian, and Saharo-Arabian, and the expedition passes through the latter two. Although Jordan is a small country of about 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> , it has a vast variety of wildlife. This is attributed by its geographical position being at the junction of three continents; Asia, Africa and Europe – and is why Jordan was a key part of the silk and spice trade routes.

Despite its rich biodiversity, Jordan's nature is facing many threats and many species have become classified as threatened, endangered, or even extinct on regional and global levels. This situation resulted from various anthropogenic activities, a lack of knowledge and awareness among communities and a diminishing water supply.

The most serious challenge is the scarcity of water which is illustrated most painfully by the declining levels of the River Jordan and the Dead Sea. Both Jordan and Israel are striving to find a way through Middle East political conflicts to inject a new lease of life to these dying water sources. Jordan is one of the ten poorest countries in the world in terms of water availability. The average Jordanian citizen has 160 cubic meters of water per year for consumption, where as the World Health Organisation scarcity guideline gives a value of 1,000 cubic meters.

### What to do right now.

1. Provisionally book your place on the expedition – the enrolment form is below.
2. We will acknowledge your provisional booking, once we have received your deposit.
3. We will then send you the Joining Pack – with information, kit list, clothing list and plan of action.
4. We will keep you informed of all matters regarding the expedition and will be available to answer any questions that arise.
5. We will issue your final invoice and upon receipt confirm your place on the expedition.

# ICE WARRIOR EXPEDITIONS LIMITED, hereinafter known as "The Company"

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing The Company's Enrolment Form you agree to comply with and be bound by the following Terms and Conditions. Once a completed Enrolment Form has been accepted by The Company the participants named on the Enrolment Form will have entered into a binding contract on the basis of the following Terms & Conditions. These Terms & conditions are subject to variation without prior consent in writing from The Company. Expeditions are known as activities.

### Pricing

Unless otherwise indicated, the cost of The Company's activities are inclusive of all accommodation, meals, some beverages, licenses (where applicable), taxes and necessary transportation (except flights – see later). Costs do not include flights, travel insurance, visa fees, vaccinations, passports, excess baggage charges, meals and drinks taken in place of those provided.

We reserve the right to alter costs in response to a variety of conditions beyond our control. We will absorb the first 2% of any increase but thereafter will pass further increases on to you. Extreme environment travel costs can fluctuate dramatically so please be aware of this. All such surcharges have to be paid before embarkation.

### Travel Delays

Travel in extreme environments is not easy and delays due to weather are frequently experienced. Extra costs incurred as a result of delays will be met by expedition members.

### Payment

Full payment is required 8 weeks prior to commencement of activities. A deposit of £1,500 per person is required to secure a place before this time.

### Insurance

All participants must ensure that they have taken out full and appropriate insurance for their particular activity and we require that copies of such insurance be sent to us as soon as possible after enrolment. We are able to advise on insurance for those who wish. All participants must be insured for search & rescue, medical costs and repatriation in an emergency. Baggage and personal effects are at the risk of the participant at all times.

### Participant Conduct

Participants are expected to comply with the reasonable instructions and leadership of The Company's staff and conduct themselves in a reasonable manner at all times. The Company reserves the right to remove any participant from the activity at the staff's discretion and will not be liable to any losses as a result and is also entitled to any reasonable costs arising, payable upon demand.

### Medical conditions and fitness

Participants must complete and sign a consent form prior to commencement. Medical information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence. The Company cannot be held responsible for illness occurring as a result of an ongoing medical condition or poor fitness level. If you have a medical condition The Company advises you to seek your own doctor's advice.

### Complaints

Complaints will only be accepted during the activity period and should be brought to the attention of a member of staff who will endeavour to rectify any situation causing dissatisfaction. Should the cause of a complaint persist please notify us in writing within 28 days and we will endeavour to deal with the matter fairly and swiftly.

### Cancellation of your Expedition – by you

If for any reason you wish to cancel your participation we must be notified in writing, on receipt of which, we will acknowledge your cancellation. The charges made by us, based on the date we received your written confirmation of cancellation are as follows: More than 56 days notice – deposit only  
52-28 days notice – 60% of total cost  
27-14 days notice – 80% of total cost  
Less than 14 days notice – 100% of total cost

Proven exceptional circumstances will be considered, however, we advise you to have cancellation insurance.

### Cancellation or Alterations – by us

The Company will not be responsible for any delays or alternations to the intended plan caused by illness, weather, strikes, war or threat of war, natural disaster, refusal of visas, riots, terrorism, political events or civil action affecting air or ground transport, or other events amounting to force majeure. We will send you details of alterations as soon as we are aware of them. Should we have to cancel the activities for reasons beyond our control (as above) then we will inform you without delay and shall offer a prompt refund of monies paid. We accept no liability for compensation beyond this refund. No refund will be made for any costs incurred by The Company up to this point. However, we will endeavour to obtain a refund ourselves for those costs and should we be successful then we will pass this on to you, less any administrative charges. Whilst safety will always be The Company's first concern, it is understood and acknowledged by the participants that The Company's activities are potentially hazardous as they may involve adventurous travel in remote and extreme environments. The Company reserves the right to cancel all and any activities without reason or notice. In this unlikely event The Company agrees to refund all monies in full.

### Liability

The Company's activities are by nature never completely free from hazard. Whilst all reasonable precautions are taken to minimise the risks, participants accept that accidents, including serious injury and death can occur without The Company being at fault. Participants also recognise that The Company is not responsible for any loss or damage to the personal property of the participant, including money, clothing or equipment. The Company will only accept liability for physical injury to a client that is shown to result from negligence on the part of The Company and takes no responsibility for any loss or injury occurring as a result of the participant's failure to follow instruction and also takes no responsibility for any mishap during an activity from any instruction or information not given by The Company's staff. The participant also recognises that attendance on The Company's activities in no way qualifies him or her to teach the course content. The Company therefore accepts no responsibility for any mishap occurring to third parties taught by attendees of any Company course.

### Equipment

Where clients are entrusted with the use and care of specialist equipment they may be made liable for payment arising from any loss or damage made as a result of misuse or negligence.

### Miscellaneous

Participants must accept and abide by the decisions of The Company's staff and by signing the Enrolment Form agree to do so. All participants should be fit and in sufficiently good health to enjoy their chosen activities. If you have doubts about your health, please discuss this with us and we can advise. It is your responsibility to ensure that your passports and visas are valid and that you carry with you any vaccination certificates required for your journey. All contracts and matters arising from them shall be subject to English Law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts. Participants are required to sign the Enrolment Form acknowledging that they have read and fully understand and accept The Company's Terms & Conditions.



# Enrolment Form

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS throughout

## Contact Details

Title		Contact Tel.	
First Name		Date of Birth	
Surname		Nationality	
Address			
Postcode		Passport No.	
Country		Expiry Date	
Email Address			

## Payment

	Desert Expedition – Jordan 5-19 November 2011	DWJ-0910	Please select
	I enclose a deposit of	£500.00	
	Or I enclose full payment of	£2800.00	
	Please make cheques payable to Ice Warrior Expeditions Ltd.		
	Contact us to pay by PayPal, Google Checkout, Bank Transfer and for IBAN & BIC codes for overseas payments		

## Declaration

I have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions. I will be arranging adequate insurance and will forward copies to Ice Warrior Expeditions Ltd prior to commencement of activities.

Signed:

Date: