

EXPERIENCES AT YARMOUK LODGE

Group Daily Experiences

Welcome to Yarmouk lodge. Each day offers a new opportunity to immerse yourself in nature and adventure or explore the area's rich culture and history. Discover a wide range of experiences in and around the Yarmouk Forest Biosphere Reserve - whether you seek adventure in the wild, cultural and historical exploration, or quiet moments of relaxation surrounded by nature.

Join a guided hike along scenic trails, cycle through the landscapes around to Umm Qais, explore the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Gadara, enjoy a hands-on culinary experience, or learn traditional skills from local artisans.

We operate a daily schedule of guided group activities available to lodge guests, offering a diverse mix of nature, culinary, historical, adventure and cultural experiences. Sign up for activities you would like to join with one of our hosts at the front desk.

There is a minimum charge of 4 adults per experience.

Should you wish to arrange an experience at a different time than the daily schedule, or on a private basis, please check with your host regarding guide availability and applicable costs.

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HIKING ADVENTURES

Discover the beauty and biodiversity of the Yarmouk Forest Biosphere Reserve. Choose from easy scenic walks to challenging full-day treks with breathtaking views of Lake Tiberias and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Sunset Hike (Iris Trail)

Only available to lodge overnight guests

This enchanting sunset hike takes you through a beautifully contrasting landscape, with a natural oak forest on one side and cultivated pine woods on the other. As you walk, your guide will introduce you to the rich plant life of the area, including hawthorn, rhamnus, calicotome, horse chestnut, wild almond, the feijoa, the capparispinosa and the chiliadenus, all thriving in this unique ecosystem.

The trail gently leads to a spectacular viewpoint rising 308 meters above sea level, where sweeping panoramas unfold over Palestine, Lake Tiberias, the Tur Mount, Jabal Al-Sheikh and the Syrian Golan Heights. Here, as the sun begins to set, your guide prepares a warm cup of tea - an ideal moment to pause, relax, and take in the scenery. Along the way, the path reveals layers of history, from Roman-era water channels and ancient caves carved into sedimentary rock, to military trenches and an artillery point dating back to the 1960s, offering a journey through both nature and time.

 Difficulty Easy	 Distance 2 km	 Duration Up to 2 hours	 Group Capacity Open	 Transport Not needed
 Price Free				



Wadi Al Muntamra Trail

This scenic trail begins near the Princess Basma Center in Al-Mansoura, starting with an easy and comfortable walk that gently leads you through the heart of the valley toward the natural springs of Muntamra. Along the way, you'll be surrounded by the beauty of deciduous trees and carob groves, with chances to spot local wildlife and observe their natural habitats, adding a sense of discovery to every step.

The trail is also rich in history, inviting you to explore ancient caves adorned with archaic frescoes from different eras, as well as the ruins of old dwellings once used by humans across multiple historical periods. As you near the end of the trail, breathtaking views open up over the Syrian Golan Heights, Lake Tiberias, and the Yarmouk River. The journey concludes in the village of Mukhaiba, leaving you with a memorable blend of nature, culture, and panoramic landscapes.



Difficulty
Moderate



Distance
6 km



Duration
3-4 hours



Group Capacity
20 people



Transport
Included



Price

Adult: 12 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 6 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): free



Al Shreif Mountain Trail

Al Shreif Mountain Trail begins in the historic town of Umm Qais and winds its way to the village of Al Mukhaiba Al Tahta, offering a rewarding journey through more than half of the Yarmouk Forest Biosphere Reserve. The trail starts with an easy, semi-level walk across gentle mountain terrain, featuring smooth ramps and gradual slopes that make it enjoyable for a wide range of hikers.

As you progress, you'll encounter a rich diversity of flora and fauna, from delicate iris flowers to hawthorn, rhamnus, and deciduous oak trees. Keep an eye out for wildlife such as geckos, the Greek tortoise, and the elusive stone marten, which thrives in deciduous oak forests. The trail then leads to a stunning panoramic viewpoint at 352 meters above sea level - an ideal spot to pause and take in the surroundings. Here, ancient caves, striking rock formations, and old wells add a sense of timelessness to sweeping views that stretch across Palestine, Lake Tiberias, the Tur Mount, the Syrian Golan Heights, Safed, and Jabal Al Sheikh in Lebanon and Syria.

The journey continues downhill toward the lush Muntamra Valley, descending to 85 meters above sea level, where a comforting cup of tea is prepared over firewood - an inviting moment to rest and reconnect with nature. From there, a final one-kilometer walk leads you to your destination, the village of Al Mukhaiba Al Tahta, resting just 18 meters above sea level, marking the end of a trail rich in landscapes, wildlife, and unforgettable vistas.

 Difficulty Moderate	 Distance 5 km	 Duration 3-4 hours	 Group Capacity 20 people	 Transport Included
 Price Adult: 12 JOD Child (6 to 12 years): 6 JOD Child (0 to 5 years): free				



Arqoub Rumi Mountain Trail

Renowned for its rich biological, geological, and scenic diversity, the Arqoub Rumi Mountain Trail unfolds from Dar Al-Basha to Mansoura, offering an engaging journey through the heart of the Yarmouk Forest Biosphere Reserve. The hike begins easily at the foothills of Mount Arqoub Rumi, gradually leading you across rugged, rocky terrain that spans more than 50% of the reserve's landscape.

Along the way, you'll discover a diverse mix of native plants and trees, including hawthorn, while keeping an eye out for wildlife such as geckos, the Greek tortoise, and the stone marten - an elusive resident of deciduous oak forests. The trail then rewards you with a panoramic viewpoint at 308 meters above sea level, an ideal spot to pause and soak in sweeping views of Palestine, Lake Tiberias, the Tur Mount, and the Syrian Golan Heights.

From here, the path descends towards the archaeological landmark of Arqoub Rumi at 142 meters above sea level, before climbing again toward Ain Nini. The final stretch leads uphill past 50-year-old constructions that hint at the area's more recent history, culminating at the tranquil Al Arayes Lake - an inspiring finale to a trail that seamlessly blends nature, history, and breathtaking scenery.

 Difficulty Moderate	 Distance 12 km	 Duration 5-7 hours	 Group Capacity 20 people	 Transport Included
 Price Adult: 15JOD Child (6 to 12 years): 7.5 JOD Child (0 to 5 years): free				



Archaeological site and surrounding area hike

Step into history at Umm Qais and explore the ancient Decapolis city of Gadara with our knowledgeable local community guide. Walk along Roman cobblestone streets, surrounded by acropolises, baths, and fountains, with breathtaking views of Lake Tiberias and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Visit Beit al Rousan, now the Umm Qais Antiquities Museum, and continue through the Upper Village (Hara al Fouqa), where traditional courtyard houses, old wells, caves, the village mosque, and school reveal stories of daily life, community traditions, and layered civilizations. The journey also reveals the village's more recent story of displacement, negotiation, and activism, offering a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between heritage, identity, and tourism. This immersive experience offers a powerful blend of archaeology, architecture, and cultural heritage - bringing the history of Umm Qais vividly to life.



Difficulty
Easy



Duration
1.5 - 2 hours



Group Capacity
20 people

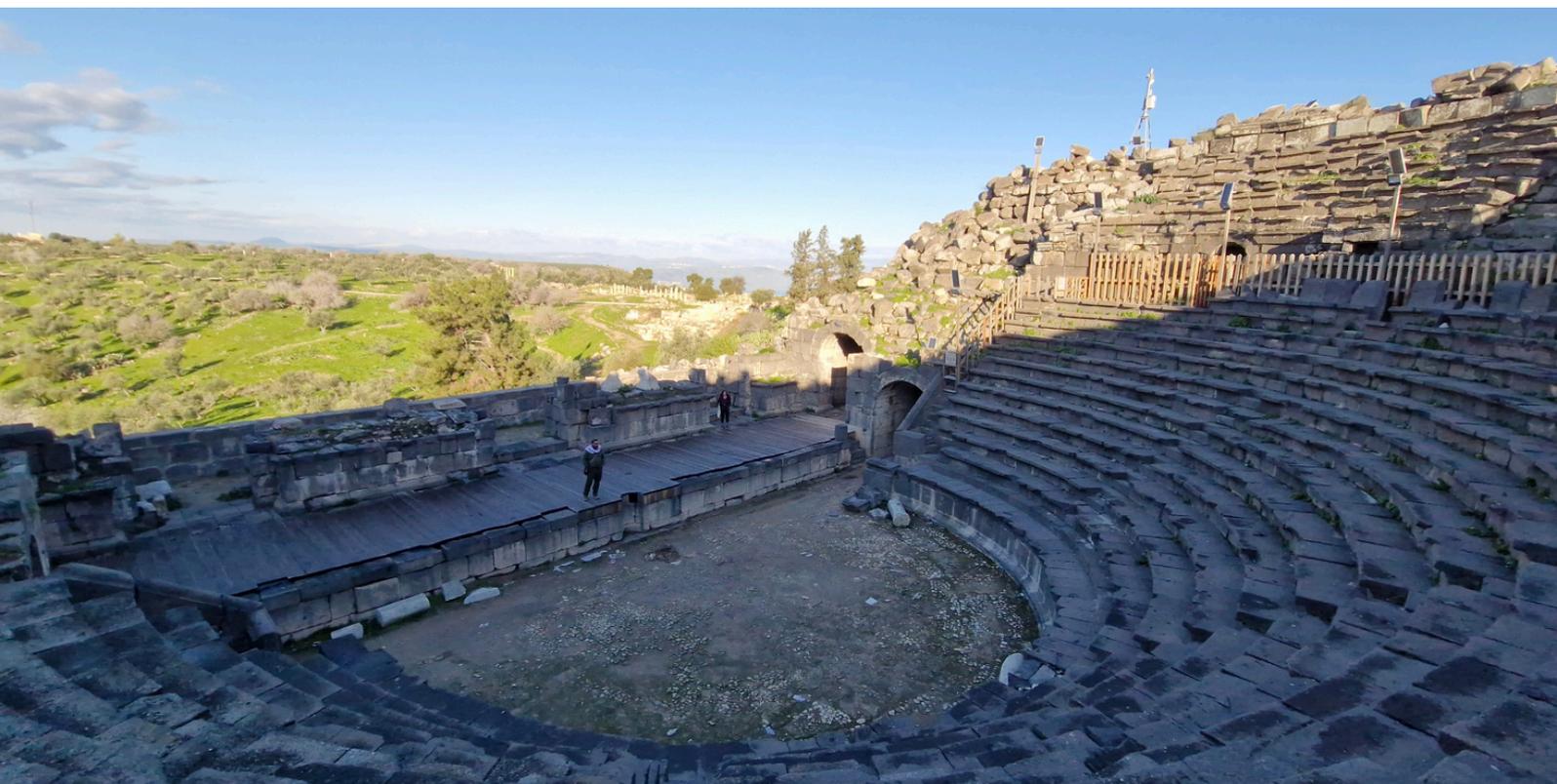


Transport
not included



Price

Adult: 10 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 5 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): Free



LOCAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Discover the rich heritage of Umm Qais while supporting local community members who warmly welcome visitors into their homes and traditions.

To enrich your stay, selected experiences at Yarmouk Lodge are operated in partnership with Baraka Destinations, a distinguished provider of sustainable tourism experiences in Jordan. Baraka Destinations collaborates with local communities to offer activities that highlight the cultural heritage, natural beauty, and traditional practices of the region. Their commitment to responsible travel ensures that each experience benefits both travellers and the local environment and economy.

The following experiences and activities are available through our partnership with Baraka Destinations:



Taster Package (basket weaving, hadab making and stone masonry)

This immersive taster package brings together three authentic, hands-on experiences that celebrate local craftsmanship and cultural heritage. Guided by skilled artisans and community members, guests will explore the ancient art of basket weaving using natural materials such as palm leaves and straw, creating a handmade coaster to take home. The experience continues with Hadab Making, where you will learn the traditional Tahdeeb technique used to tassel the edges of the Jordanian Keffiyeh. Taught by local women who continue to preserve this fading craft, you will practice Hadab on a sample bookmark to take home as a meaningful keepsake. The journey concludes with stone masonry, an ancient Roman art, where you will shape your own piece of stone using traditional tools while learning about this precise and timeless craft.



Difficulty

Easy



Duration

1.5 hours



Group Capacity

30 people



Transport

not included



Price

Adult: 17 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 8.5 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): Free



Cooking Class

This hands-on cooking experience invites guests to delve into the traditional cuisine of Umm Qais, using fresh produce grown in the surrounding areas known for their rich agricultural soil and abundant rainfall. Led by experienced local women from the village, the class offers an authentic introduction to regional flavors, techniques, and recipes passed down through generations. Guests will share the kitchen, learn new dishes, and enjoy meaningful interaction with the local community while preparing a full traditional meal with meat or chicken, with flexibility for dietary preferences and restrictions. Please inform us of any dietary requirements when booking this experience.



Difficulty
Easy



Duration
2.5 hours



Transport
not included



Group Capacity
20 people



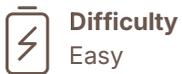
Price
Adult: 30 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 15 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): Free



Beekeeping

In Umm Qais, honey harvesting is a seasonal craft celebrated several times a year, with each harvest producing honey of a distinct flavor shaped by the flowers in bloom at that time. Join Yousef, a local beekeeper, for an immersive beekeeping experience that offers a rare behind-the-scenes look into this age-old tradition.

Your journey begins alongside Yousef at the hives, where he shares his knowledge and passion for bees and their vital role in the ecosystem. The experience continues at his workshop, where you'll witness the honey extraction process firsthand, with a full demonstration covering every stage of production - from honeycombs to the final golden drop. Harvesting typically takes place once in winter, once in spring, and twice in summer, although the exact timing and number of harvests vary depending on rainfall and weather conditions. Each visit promises a unique taste, story, and connection to the land.



Difficulty
Easy



Duration
1.5 hours



Group Capacity
20 people



Transport
not included



Price

Adult: 15 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 7.5 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): 5 JOD



SUNSET CYCLING TOUR

Join us for a sunset cycle tour through Umm Qais's farmlands and rolling hills. The circular route includes stops at various points with spectacular views over Palestine, Lake Tiberias, the Syrian Golan Heights and, weather permitting, Jabal Al Sheikh. This cycling tour is suitable for all ages.



Difficulty
Easy



Duration
1.5 - 2 hours



Group Capacity
4-20 people



Transport
not included



Price

Adult: 15 JOD | Child (6 to 12 years): 7.5 JOD | Child (0 to 5 years): Free

