

**Section 5** **Al Forn - Gbour Al Whaidat (Al Whaidat Trail)**  
Guided only

**Distance:** 18 km  
**Time:** 7 - 8 hrs  
**Altitude:** From 1,210 above sea level to 1,240 above sea level (ascent 100 m, descent 100 m).  
**Grade:** Moderate

**Starting from Al Forn:**  
Waking up to panoramic views, you will see mushroom shaped rock formations and juniper trees cover the landscape. For two hours the trail snakes up to the peak of Al Saffaha - the perfect spot for a tea break or picnic. Finishing the trail in Gbour Al Whaidat, you will meet again with your Bedouin hosts.

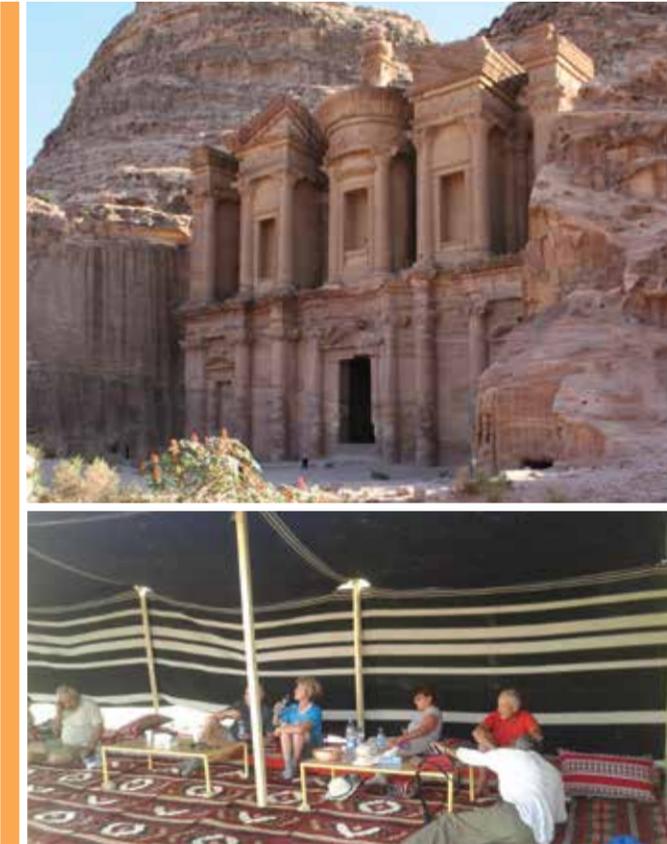


**Section 6** **Gbour Al Whaidat - Little Petra by Al Faresh (Al Baidah Trail)**  
Guided only

**Distance:** 15 km  
**Time:** 5 - 6 hrs  
**Altitude:** From 1,240 m above sea level to 1,047 m above sea level  
**Grade:** Moderate

**Starting from Al Whaidat:**  
Several hours of moderate hiking will take you to your next destination of Petra, via Al Farsh (the flat region), which lies west of this area. Be prepared to be astounded by splendid views of Wadi Araba, particularly the flat desert in the heart of the Rift Valley. Wonderment and surprise are the usual reactions upon seeing for the first time the extraordinary colors

of the Nabataean capital, Petra; the ancient city of carved and decorated facades. The unique tombs and treasures encloses its visitors into an ancient world, providing a silent narration of the story of its powerful Nabataean past. This story then takes us to Little Petra, the agricultural center famous throughout history as a trading suburb. At the end of this unforgettable day, you will spend the night in a Bedouin camp or hotel.



**Shuttle Bus Excursions:**

**Distance:** 40 Kms  
**Guided only**  
The proposed "Visit Shobak" tour starts from Shobak visitor center, crossing Al Jaya, Abu Makhtoub and other stone houses villages. In Al Mansourah, visitors can take a light refreshment at the spectacular open-view Shobak Tourist Restaurant. From here visitors can enjoy the magnificent views of the south eastern part of Dana Biosphere Reserve and the amazing valley of Tartar, which is part of the Rift Valley Mountain Trek. The bus then heads to Aljhair, Shammakh and Beir Dabaghat before returning to the visitor center. The shuttle bus can also pick up tourists from hotels in Petra and drop them back off after the excursion.

**Cycling Tours:**

**Cycling Tours 1:**  
Guided only

**Distance:** 35 Kms  
**Time:** 5-7 hrs  
**Altitude:** Between 1360 m above sea level, 1600 m above sea level, ascent 240 m and descent 300 m.  
**Grade:** Moderate

Guests can start at the visitor center, taking the old path through Sihan which leads to the Rift Valley viewpoint. From there cyclists continue on to Al Jhair, Shammakh and Jnaineh, before crossing the main road linking Shobak with Petra to Al Zobairyah village. Finally, going full circle, cyclists return to the visitor center by passing through Najel village. During the cycling tour visitors can enjoy a nice meal at the Shobak Tourist Restaurant, before returning back to the visitor center.

**Cycling Tour 2:**  
Guided only

**Distance:** 5 kms  
**Time:** 2 hrs  
**Grate:** Easy

Visitors who would like to take a more leisurely tour of Shobak by bike can join this shorter and easier route. Lunch is included: either a local meal or lunch box will be provided. The tour starts at Shobak visitor center, heading to the eastern area by the main road then turning left at the cross roads in Sihan. Then follow the road that leads to the center of Al Jayah village near the mosque before continuing down the road to reach the visitor center once again. This tour may appeal particularly to local tourists interested in a short ride.



**RVMT** **Rift Valley Mountain Trek**

**Stand On The Edge of History**  
**Hiking from Dana to Petra**



## The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

Created in 1966 under the patronage of his Majesty the late King Hussein, RSCN is an independent, non-governmental organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural resources, and has been given responsibility by the government to establish and manage protected areas.

### Nature-Driven Rural Development in Southern Jordan Project:

The RSCN plays a leading role in regional and rural development. In order to maintain its biodiversity and include it as part of its ecotourism plan, the RSCN proposed to identify a protected area in Shobak. This proposed protected area is located between Dana Biosphere Reserve and Petra, which are officially two protected zones, therefore making its strategic location an asset.

This project aims to develop one arterial route between Dana and Petra; priority is given to the construction of the Shobak plateau trail due to its biodiversity, location halfway between two very attractive touristic sites, and its multi-purpose tourism options.

The trail offers several options such as trekking, biking and shuttle bus excursions to appeal to a wider range of visitors.

### What is RVMT?

The Rift Valley Mountain Trek is the first long-distance discovery hiking route in Jordan, linking Dana Biosphere Reserve and Fyenan lodge with Petra through the Shobak heights.

Extending approximately 100km from Dana old village to little Petra, the altitude varies from one section to another, starting from 1,300m to 320m above sea level and reaching again to 1665 m above sea level at the half way point.

While crossing mountains and plateaus, visitors can explore the magnificent landscape with its breath-taking geological forms and enjoying the awe-inspiring Rift Valley viewpoints. Interacting with the local population during this spectacular crossing, visitors have the phenomenal experience of camping in real goat hair Bedouin tents.



\* The full trail takes 6 days to complete, but can be rearranged according to guest's schedule.



### Section 1 Dana - Feynan (Wadi Dana Trail)

**Distance:** 14km

**Time:** 5 -7 hrs

**Altitude:**

From 1,300m above sea level to 320m above sea level

**Grade:** Moderate

Starting from the luscious highlands before winding through the rocky slopes and plains, the serenity is interrupted only by the sound of birdsong, as the scents of flowers permeate the crisp, cool air of the valley. After your 14km hike through this unique landscape, you will relax and spend the night at the dreamy, candle-lit Eco-lodge.



### Section 2 Feynan - Wadi Ghweer - Al Bustan (Wadi Al Nakheel Trail) Guided only

**Distance:** 18 km

**Time:** 7 - 8 hrs

**Altitude:**

From 320m above sea level to 820m above sea level

**Grade:** Difficult

This trail offers an aquatic hike through small pools of water, especially refreshing during spring time. With different stone formations, this trail is reminiscent of the famous Siq of Petra "Petra canyon". After 3 - 4 hours, you will take a relaxing tea break, whilst learning more about the spectacular surroundings from your local guide. Upon reaching the green valleys of Albustaan, you will meet your Bedouin hosts and sleep in a Bedouin tent.



### Section 3 Al Bustan - Shaubak Castle (Al Qala'a Trail) Guided only

**Distance:** 15km

**Time:** 5 - 7 hrs

**Altitude:** From 800m to 1,360m above sea level

**Grade:** Moderate

#### Starting from Al Bustan:

Leaving Al Bustaan behind you will see more of the stunning geology of this region. The trail will lead you from out of the mountain wilderness and into the countryside, where you will be welcomed into old but still inhabited villages dotted around the foot of the mountain range. In this beautiful green space of terraced orchards, you will see a variety of trees native to Jordan, including pistachio, fig and "Roman" olive trees. The narrow gorge leads the way to Shobak castle, the historical path lined with ancient caves once used as tombs.



### Section 4 Shaubak Castle - Ras Al Faid (Al Matal Trail) Guided only

**Distance:** 14 km

**Time:** 5 - 6 hrs

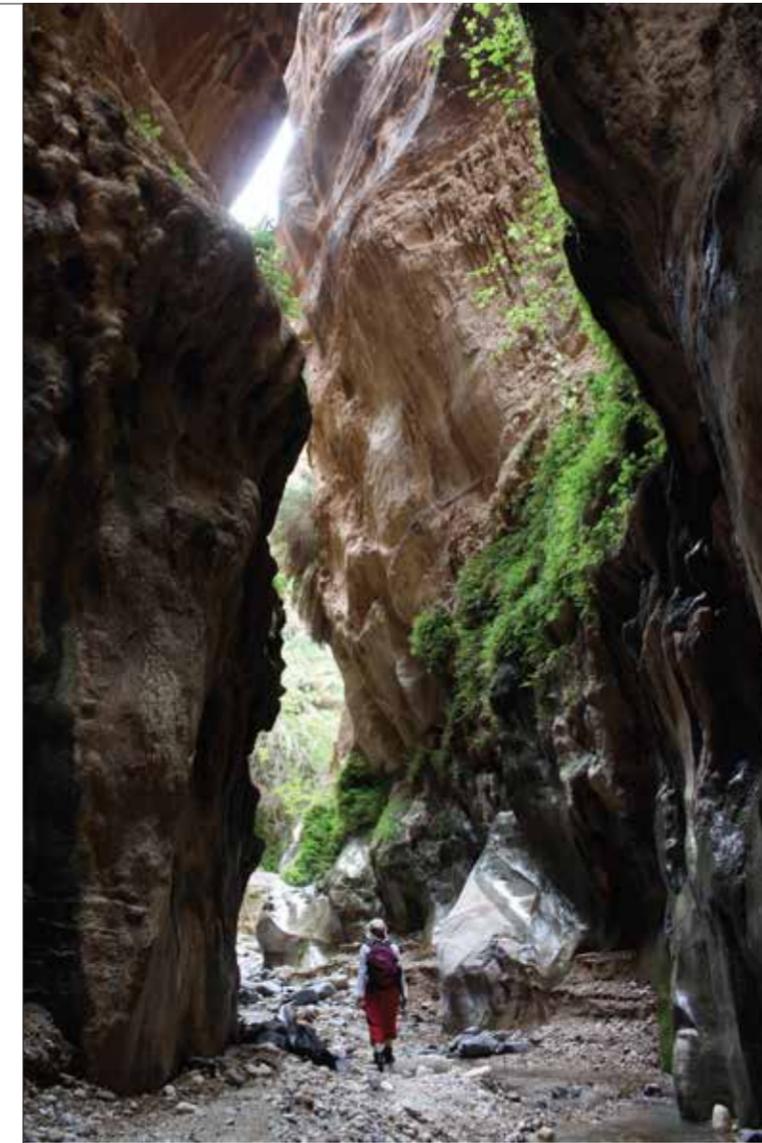
**Altitude:**

From 1,360m above sea level to 1,210 m above sea level

**Grade:** Easy

#### From Shobak Castle:

This easier hike starts from the old village of Sihan, which was inhabited by Shobaki locals up until the nineteenth century. Only ruins of the old stone houses now stand witness to a once lively community in Sihan. A high viewpoint is easily reached, rewarding you with magnificent views of Shobak's proposed protected area. Following the Al Hazeem road you reach the Ras Al Faid area, where you spend your last night in Shobak before heading towards little Petra.



**To arrange your RVMT trip, please contact:**

Wild Jordan:

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Email: [tourism@rscn.org.jo](mailto:tourism@rscn.org.jo)

**RSCN membership:**

Becoming an RSCN Membership is great for both you and nature!

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