Dana Biosphere Reserve

Spanning three climate zones ranging from the forested Mediterranean to the hottest Sudanian penetration, Dana Biosphere Reserve is home to hundreds of species living within diverse ecosystems and habitats. Yet animals are not the only ones to find Dana’s natural resources important. For centuries, foreign empires - especially the Roman and Byzantine - coveted the region for its expansive copper and other mineral deposits.

Established in 1993, Dana Biosphere Reserve is Jordan’s largest biosphere reserve, covering 291 km² of some of the most diverse landscape in Jordan. In 1994, The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) instituted the first protected area management plan in Jordan here at Dana, creating an internationally-recognized model for the integration of conservation with socio-economic development.

RSCN has made great strides in the Dana Biosphere Reserve, including the integrated conservation and socio-economic development program, building rehabilitation, and the creation of Jordan’s first heritage village.

Staying in Dana Biosphere Reserve

Visitors to Dana are offered three separate accommodations: Dana Guesthouse, Rummana Campsite and Feynan Ecolodge. The Guesthouse is perched on the edge of Wadi Dana, is a beautifully-styled building that offers breathtaking views of the Reserve, comfortable rooms, traditional Arabic food, and friendly service. It has nine bedrooms, most with private terraces. All of the rooms share external toilets and showers, except for one suite with a private bathroom. The Guesthouse is open year-round.

For details about other accommodations check the “Nearby Sites” section.

Dana Handicrafts from Nature

Make sure to visit the four handicraft workshops that are located in Dana Guesthouse.

Dana Jewelry-Making Workshop

Local women from Dana produce fine hand-crafted copper, silver, and bronze jewelry. All the designs have been inspired by the wildlife and landscapes of the area.

Feynan Candle-Making Workshop

Whether it’s a flower, a green vine, or an orange slice, the design elements come from Earth and the candles are produced in a nature-friendly manner.

Feynan Leather Workshop

The Bedouin women of Feynan make candle lanterns, nature boxes, and other attractive gifts out of goat leather. These naturally-cured goat skin products not only make great home accessories, they also help reduce the damage caused by grazing.

Dana Fruit-Drying Workshop

The sun-drenched terraces of Dana Village provide a perfect place for growing fruit. The women of the village harvest the fruits by hand and lay them out in the Jordanian sun to dry. Afterwards they are turned into delicious sun-dried fruit products that make perfect snacks for the whole family.

The Nature Shop

Browse through The Nature Shop and find truly original gifts and souvenirs. This shop contains nature crafts produced by the local people at the reserves.
Hiking Trails

All guided hikes will be led by one or more of the RSCN’s tour guides. These guides are from the local community and have a detailed knowledge of the area. Guided hikes cannot be undertaken without an official RSCN guide.

Dana Village Tour
(year-round)
Guided or self-guided
Grade: Easy
Distance: 2 km
Time: 1:30 hours
Starting time: 8:00 a.m.
Group size: 4-20 people

Starting point: Al-Barrah, ascending from the Rummana Campsite.

Description
This circular trail begins at Al-Barrah and takes you to beautiful mountain views, springs and ancient ruins in the Nawafet Area.

Wadi Dana Trail
(year-round, except during Ramadan)
Guided only
Grade: Moderate to Difficult
Distance: 12 km
Time: 4-5 hours
Starting time: 8:00 a.m.
Group size: 4-20 people

Requirements
Transportation provided to and from Al-Barrah area; no fear of heights.

Description
This circular trail traverses from Al-Barrah, through a breathtaking siq, and to Shaq al Reesh.

Wadi Ghweir Trail
(year-round, except during Ramadan)
Guided only
Grade: Difficult
Distance: 16 km
Time: 7-8 hours
Starting time: 6:30 a.m.
Group size: 10-20 people

Requirements
Transportation provided to the start point in Al Mansoura near Shoubak area and, if desired, for return trip; high level of fitness; no fear of heights.

Description
This circular trail traverses from Al-Barrah, through a breathtaking siq, and to Shaq al Reesh.

Wadi Dathneh Trail
(year-round, except during Ramadan)
Guided only
Grade: Extremely Difficult
Distance: 19 km
Time: 8-10 hours
Starting time: 6:30 a.m.
Group size: 10-20 people

Requirements
Transportation provided to the start point in Nawafet area and, if desired, for return trip; high level of fitness; no fear of heights.

Description
Continue along the gravel river bed of the Wadi, alongside a flowing stream, to the entrance to Wadi Ghweir.

Attraction Points
Nearby Sites

Feynan Ecolodge
(12 km) This solar-powered lodge is exclusively candle lit all through the calm nights of Wadi Araba and located at the Western end of Dana Biosphere Reserve. Owned by RSCN and operated by Eco-Hotels, the Ecolodge integrates conservation and socio-economic development while promoting the importance of the natural environment.

Visit www.feynan.com

Petra
(60 km) is one of Jordan’s greatest tourist attractions. Built by the ancient Nabataeans, this rose-red city is carved directly into the rock faces. Best known for the ‘Treasure’, Petra is filled with wonders you’ll have to see to believe.

Rummana Campsite
(12 km) offers visitors a refreshing way to experience Dana Biosphere Reserve. Situated on a small plateau overlooking the dramatic escarpments of the Jordan Rift Valley the campsite has twenty large tents, two Bedouin tents, an outdoor dining area, a kitchen, and communal showers and toilets. Each tent comes fully equipped with mattresses, pillows, and blankets. The campsite welcomes visitors from March 15th to October 31st.

Wadi Rum
(145 km) is one of the world’s most outstanding desert landscapes. Covering 720 km² of dramatic desert wilderness in the south of Jordan, its huge mountains and broad sandy wadis are home to several Bedouin tribes and a surprising range of desert wildlife, including the rare Arabian Oryx.

* All of the distances are by car
**Activities Highlights**

**Dana Village Tour**
Wind your way through the terraced gardens and local craft workshops of the Ottoman-era Dana Village.

**White Dome Trail**
Get the chance to see the Nubian ibex by walking on the cliff that lead to the core area.

**Nawatef Trail**
Stroll along the picturesque Dana Mountains and the Nabatean tombs.

**Shaq al Reesh Trail**
Traverse through a breathtaking siq, passing Nabatean tombs along the way.

**Wadi Dana Trail**
If you are an adventure lover, this trail is for you!

**Wadi Ghweir Trail**
Hike through the flowing streams, palm trees, Khubet Feynan and the Byzantine ruins.

**Wadi Dathneh Trail**
Calling all adventure lovers! Experience Wadi Dathneh, Wadi Al Hamra, and the Palms Oasis like never before!

The gathering point for all of the trails is Dana Guesthouse or Rummana Campsite.

Please note that trails depend on weather conditions, therefore some trails might not be available.
Weather
The weather in Dana Biosphere Reserve varies depending on season and what part of the Reserve you are in. Summer temperatures can range from 17°C to over 40°C while in the winter temperatures can dip well below 12°C.

Hiking Tips
Hit trails early for the best chance of seeing wildlife and to avoid being exposed to the sun during the hottest part of the day.

What to Bring
Cap, sunscreen, comfortable shoes and clothes, drinking water, snacks, backpack, flashlight, extra clothes, binoculars, ID, wildlife guides, first aid kit.

If you are going to stay at the Rummana Campsite, please make sure to get extra warm clothes, towels and flashlight as electricity is limited to some places only.

Wildlife
Because of its diverse climate and landscapes, the Dana Biosphere Reserve is home to one-third of the Kingdom’s plant species and half of both its bird and animals species. These species include the Grey Wolf, Blanford’s Fox, Caracal and Syrian Serin, which finds its largest breeding colony in the world right here in Dana Biosphere Reserve. The Nubian Ixax, once on the brink of extinction in Jordan, also calls the Reserve home.

Rules and Regulations
• Stay on the trails with the guide and do not wander alone in the Reserve; camp and climb only in official sites.
• Protect all nature; no hunting or collecting of plants, animals, rocks, artifacts, or firewood. Leave things as you find them.
• Avoid damaging trees and shrubs; do not add graffiti anywhere within the reserve.
• Respect nature; keep noise to a minimum, be kind to living creatures.
• Respect the lifestyle of the local people and ask before taking pictures.
• Keep the area clean and deposit your litter in the appropriate place.
• Leave your vehicles in the parking area.