

interesting site is Jerash, the ruins of a Roman-era city some 75 minutes north of the capital of Amman. When driving the old, winding Kings' Highway connecting



Amman and Petra, tourists can stop off en route at Madaba, Mt. Nebo and Kerak. The oldest map of Palestine is drawn in mosaic on the floor of a church at Madaba. The Biblical site of Mt. Nebo features a mosaic museum and an overlook of the Dead Sea, while Kerak sports a well-preserved Crusader-era castle.

TURKEY: The best months for Turkey are April-May and September-October. Istanbul is simply overflowing with the remnants of the grand capital of the Ottoman Empire. In addition, there are wonderful Classical ruins both north and south of Izmir on the Turkish Aegean coast. Ephesus is of course the most famous. But Bergama, 90 minutes



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north of Izmir, and Priene, Miletus and Didyma, all south of Izmir, provide wonderful day trips from a base in Izmir or from the much smaller, nearby port of Kusadasi. Cappadocia, situated on the Anatolian plateau and with its multi-layered underground cities and unique fairy chimneys, is accessible by car from Ankara or from the smaller, closer airport at Kayseri.

FIVE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN:

BOTSWANA: The dry season for viewing game stretches from April to October, with September being the very best month. Botswana's gem is the game-rich Okavango Delta, one of the world's largest inland oases. This country is often combined with visits to Zambia to see Victoria Falls and/or to South Africa to visit Cape Town.

ETHIOPIA: Prime time for a trip to Ethiopia is from September to February. Although not on most travelers' radar screens, this mountainous country boasts some fascinating sites. Aside from Africa's largest outdoor market and a couple of interesting museums in the capital of Addis Ababa, the so-called Historic Route in the north forms the usual tourist circuit. The most fantastic sight is Lalibela with its large rock-cut churches. But there are also stone obelisks at Axum, well-built castles at Gondar, and of course Tisat Falls on the Blue Nile near Bahar Dar.

MOROCCO: The prime months for visiting Morocco are April and September-October. Although scenic and exotic Marrakesh is the best-known tourist destination, the ancient city of Fes is equally enticing. Meknes and Volubilis, both near Fes, offer Islamic architecture and Roman-era ruins, respectively.

REUNION ISLAND: The best season for a visit to this remote but beautiful island lying to the east of Madagascar is between May and November. Volcanic in origin, Reunion is nearly devoid of sandy beaches. Tourists can explore the island's volcanic craters and even drive into cirques, large craters whose walls have eroded, leaving a path to the sea.

TUNISIA: The best months for visiting this small North African nation are October and November and also February and March. The well-known Bardo Museum in Tunis contains one of

the world's best collections of Roman-era mosaics. The skimpy ruins of ancient Carthage are also located near the capital. The well-preserved coliseum at El Djem is definitely worth a visit. The pilgrimage center of Kairouan and the picturesque desert oases of Nefta and Tozeur round out the list of tourist destinations in Tunisia's interior. Mediterranean beach resorts at Monastir and elsewhere are popular with European visitors.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND:

AUSTRALIA: The two best seasons for visiting Australia are March to May



and September to November. Sydney is at its best from September to May whereas Melbourne is best from November to March. With so much to offer tourists, Australia's highlights include the very urban Sydney and Melbourne plus Ayers Rock in the interior and the Great Barrier Reef in the northeastern state of Queensland.

NEW ZEALAND: While the period from December to February is the best time to visit this two-island nation lying to the east of Australia, one will encounter fewer tourists in October and November and also in March and April. Auckland, the largest city, and



Wellington, the capital, are both located on North Island. Volcanic wonders abound around Rotorua in the center of North Island. The much less-developed South Island, home to many natural wonders, is also well worth a visit. Magnificent Milford Sound and snow-capped Mt. Cook are the most outstanding of these. Queenstown has developed into an adventure travel center, offering everything from a ride in a microlight aircraft to a ride down a river in a jet boat. Bungee jumping originated in Queenstown too!