



*Umm Qais, Jordan



GOOD TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

GTA's: FIRST SELECTION OF AUTHENTIC AND
GENUINE EXPERIENCES

ASIA & AFRICA

alliance.greendestinations.org
www.goodtravel.guide



The Good Travel Alliance is a **collective of committed** destinations, tourism boards, tour operators, and experience providers working together to develop travel products, attractions, activities, and trails that maximize social benefits **while minimizing negative impacts on the climate, environment, nature and culture.**

FORCE FOR GOOD

With the support of Green Destinations experts, we help measure the impacts of those experiences, enabling the promotion of existing and new travel offers enabling **Good Travel Experiences.**

You are now reading the first edition of a guide that will be updated every month, with an ever increasing number of experiences.

Would you like to see your experience included?

Contact us at alliance@greendestinations.org.

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ASIA

**GOOD TRAVEL
EXPERIENCES**



MAMALLAPURAM HERITAGE WALK

A HERITAGE WALK THROUGH SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-CENTURY MONUMENTS

A heritage walk in the coastal town of Mamallapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site, will allow you to explore a variety of monuments, stone craft shops, and temples that date back to the 7th and 8th centuries.

CULTURE EXPERIENCE



TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Discover the architectural wonders of Mamallapuram on a four-hour walk through its World Heritage monument campuses. The route is self-guided or with a government-recognized guide and includes key sites like the Five Rathas, the Main monument campus, and the Shore Temple, ending at Mamallapuram Beach. As you walk, you'll see local stone craft making and curio shops, and can visit other attractions like the Maritime Heritage Museum. All monuments are administered by the Archaeological Survey of India.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 4.5 - 5 Hrs

Type of activity: Cultural Experiences:
Historical site tours

Is accessibility information available? Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **90%**



EAST COAST ROAD (ECR) CYCLING ROUTE

EXPLORE THE SCENIC COAST ON A DAY TOUR FROM MAMALLAPURAM

Discover the historical and natural beauty of India's coastal region on an enjoyable cycling tour along the scenic East Coast Road from Mamallapuram to Muttukkadu.

 NATURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Embark on a rewarding day trip along a picturesque 25-kilometer coastal route. Starting from the Mamallapuram bus terminal, this route guides you past significant landmarks, including the Sthalashayana Perumal Temple, the Tiger Cave monument, and several other historic temples. The journey culminates at Muttukkadu TTDC Boat House, offering stunning ocean and backwater views. You can rent a cycle for an hourly rate. For the best experience, it's recommended to ride in the early morning or evening to avoid the heat.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 4 Hrs max.

Type of activity: Sports Activities - Cycling Tours

Is accessibility information available? N/A



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **100%**




mamallapuram cycl

DUNGAN COOKING MASTERCLASS

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN TRADITIONAL DUNGAN CUISINE AND STORYTELLING

Step into the heart of Dungan culture with this immersive cooking experience in Karakol, Kyrgyzstan. Hosted in the cozy kitchen of a local, family-owned hotel, this hands-on masterclass invites you to learn the secrets of traditional Dungan cuisine.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOODTRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

KARAKOL, KYRGYZSTAN

Guided by local women who have inherited recipes for generations, you'll learn to make dishes like hand-pulled noodles and savory sauces. This is more than a cooking class; it's a joyful cultural exchange where you'll hear stories and learn about the customs and values of the Dungan people. The experience culminates with a shared meal of the dishes you've prepared. Perfect for food lovers and cultural explorers, this activity supports the local economy and empowers women.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 2 - 3 Hrs

Type of activity: Cultural Experience

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS



GTE SCAN: **90%**



Empowering local
people or communities



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TANDOOR BREAD BAKING EXPERIENCE

A HANDS-ON LESSON IN A TIMELESS KYRGYZ TRADITION

Discover the ancient tradition of baking bread in a clay tandoor oven, a cultural experience that awakens your senses and warms your heart. This hands-on activity takes place in the courtyard of a family-owned guesthouse in Karakol.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOODTRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

KARAKOL, KYRGYZSTAN

Led by local women, the experience is both educational and emotional. You'll learn the entire process, from kneading the dough to baking it in the hot tandoor. Your hosts will share stories about the cultural significance of bread—a symbol of family and hospitality in Central Asia. After the class, you can enjoy your fresh-baked bread with local honey, jams, and traditional tea. This is a rare opportunity to connect with the local community and participate in a disappearing tradition.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 2 - 2.5 Hrs

Type of activity: Cultural Experience

Is accessibility information available?: Yes

RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: **85%**



Empowering local
people or communities



DUNGAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN TRADITIONAL DUNGAN CUISINE AND STORYTELLING

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 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOODTRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

KARAKOL, KYRGYZSTAN

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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 2 - 3 Hrs

Type of activity: Cultural Experience

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: **95%**



Empowering local people or communities



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FROM ROMAN RUINS TO LIVING ROOTS

COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION LINKING HERITAGE, CUISINE, AND BIODIVERSITY

Wild Za'atar (*Origanum syriacum*), native to Jordan, is endangered by habitat loss and overharvesting. In the historic town of Umm Qais, visitors can join a hands-on activity making seed bombs with local Za'atar seeds, a simple yet impactful way to support restoration.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

UM QAIS, JORDAN

Led by local hosts, the program blends ecological knowledge, cultural heritage, and traditional uses of Za'atar. Participants help restore habitats while learning its medicinal and culinary value. Hosted at Beit Al Baraka, the initiative follows responsible practices, adapts for accessibility, and fosters genuine connections between travelers and the land. Bookable through Baraka Destinations, it protects biodiversity while creating sustainable livelihoods.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 1 - 1.5 Hrs

Type of activity: Nature Excursion

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: **94%**



Empowering local
people or communities



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A STITCH IN THE FOREST AT DIBEEN

COMMUNITY-LED CRAFT CONNECTING HERITAGE, CONSERVATION, AND LOCAL LIVELIHOODS

Dibeen Forest Reserve, managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, is home to rare species and over 500 plants. Beyond its trails, visitors can engage with local women artisans, preserving traditional embroidery while connecting with Jordan's natural heritage.

CULTURE EXPERIENCE



DIBEEN, JORDAN

As visitors explore the forest, they join a workshop to learn embroidery and create a keepsake. Every stitch supports women's livelihoods and community conservation. The workshop provides materials, accommodates mobility needs, and highlights Dibeen Forest's cultural and ecological significance. By participating, travelers help preserve nature, empower women, and sustain Jordan's heritage.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 1 Hrs

Type of activity: Educational

Is accessibility information available?: No

RECOGNITIONS GTE SCAN: 88%



Empowering local people or communities

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WHERE EVERY DETAIL TELLS A STORY

DAR NE'MEH: TASTE, CRAFT, AND CULTURE IN NORTHERN JORDAN

Tucked between Ajloun's green hills and Jerash's ancient ruins, Dar Ne'meh invites visitors into an authentic experience celebrating heritage, resilience, and community. Created to empower underserved communities, it blends culture, craft, and purposeful engagement.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

DAR NE'MEH, JORDAN

Located near Jerash and Ajloun Castle, Dar Ne'meh offers cultural connection, natural beauty, and handcrafted excellence. Locally sourced ingredients and traditional crafts, especially by women, preserve heritage while supporting fair livelihoods. Guests engage in sustainable practices like composting and water conservation, enjoying inclusive spaces. Every detail—from meals to artisan creations—reflects care, connection, and community.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 1 Hrs

Type of activity: Culinary Tour

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions
to the local economy



Empowering local
people or communities





WHERE CULTURE, CRAFT, & CREATIVITY MEET

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY MARKET CELEBRATING JORDANIAN ARTISANS AND LOCAL TRADITIONS

Souk Jara is a lively open-air market on Amman's Rainbow Street, open every Friday from mid-May to mid-September. Visitors enjoy free entry and a chance to explore handmade crafts, local foods, and live performances in a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE



DAR NE'MEH, JORDAN

Organized by the Jabal Amman Residents Association (JARA), the market showcases jewelry, pottery, textiles, books, and authentic Jordanian foods, highlighting local creativity. Souk Jara revitalizes the neighborhood, creates economic opportunities, and fosters community engagement, while live music and performances make it enjoyable for all, celebrating culture and creativity in historic Amman.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: Flexible

Type of activity: Events & Festivals

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: **100%**



Empowering local people or communities



JORDAN TRAIL

THE NATIONAL HIKING PATH CONNECTING LANDSCAPES AND CULTURE

Stretching from the green hills of Umm Qais in the north to the Red Sea in the south, the Jordan Trail crosses 75 towns and villages, weaving together history, culture, and breathtaking landscapes. Hikers journey through olive groves, pine forests, and desert mountains, discovering the Kingdom of Time with every step.

 NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE



UMM QAIS, JORDAN

Along the way, encounters with local communities bring Jordan’s heritage to life—through traditional dishes like Makmoura or Mansaf, warm hospitality, and shared stories. Supported by guides, guesthouses, and family-run services, the trail not only offers safe and unforgettable adventures but also sustains rural economies and promotes responsible tourism. Managed by the Jordan Trail Association, this national route is as much about the people you meet as the places you traverse.

GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 1 - 40 Days
Type of activity: Hiking Trail
Is accessibility information available?: No



RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: **79%**



Empowering local people or communities



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THE OLD CAOLING TUNNEL CYCLE ROUTE

AN ACCESSIBLE CYCLING PATH THROUGH TAIWAN'S COASTAL BEAUTY

Set within the Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area, this 10-kilometer cycling route links lush mountains with the sea. Starting in Fulong, the path winds north to Yanliao and south to Shicheng, offering an easy and scenic ride for cyclists of all levels.

 NATURE EXPERIENCE



NEYC, TAIWAN

Along the way, riders enjoy breathtaking views of Guishan Island, the San Diego Cape Lighthouse, the unique “Devil’s Washing Board” rock formations, and the historic “Stone House” in Mao’ao fishing village. With ocean vistas, cultural stops, and even a famous Fulong lunchbox to refuel, the route captures the natural and cultural treasures of Taiwan’s northeast coast.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 90 - 120 Mins
Type of activity: Cycling
Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS  GTE SCAN: 100%



Making contributions to the local economy



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FOREST TABLE

DINING EXPERIENCE CONNECTING CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Forest-to-Table experience transforms dining into a celebration of local heritage and mindful living. By using seasonal, low-carbon ingredients, it highlights the forest's hidden values—biodiversity, water, and carbon storage—while promoting sustainability in everyday life.

 NATURE EXPERIENCE



NEYC, TAIWAN

More than a meal, Forest Table creates shared moments where visitors engage with nature and community. Each dish blends cultural aesthetics with food design, turning taste into memory and meaning. The experience fosters local identity, elevates awareness of conservation, and shows how gastronomy can inspire deeper connections with the environment.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 3 Hrs
Type of activity: Sustainable Education
Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: 100%



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GROUP CULTURE TOUR

GUIDED CULTURAL EXPLORATION AND HANDS-ON INDIGO DYEING IN YILAN

At the National Center for Traditional Arts, guided tours bring history and heritage to life. Visitors explore Wenchang Temple, known for blessings of peace, and learn about the architecture and cultural stories behind landmarks like Huang Juren's Residence and Guangxiao Hall.

CULTURE EXPERIENCE



NEYC, TAIWAN

The experience also includes a hands-on indigo dyeing workshop, where participants use natural indigo plants to create textiles. This sustainable craft reduces reliance on chemical dyes, fosters environmental awareness, and connects guests with Taiwan's cultural traditions in a meaningful way.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 3 Hrs

Type of activity: Culture Guided Tour

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **100%**



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INCREASING BIODIVERSITY IN SRI LANKA

BIRDWATCHING, TRADITIONAL FARMING, AND LOCAL CUISINE

At Mannankulam Estate, visitors enjoy an immersive day that blends nature, culture, and food. A guided tour with a research scientist reveals the estate's biodiversity restoration efforts, followed by a visit to a villa collection of local art and artifacts.

NATURE EXPERIENCE



MANNANKULAM ESTATE

The experience continues with a traditional Batticaloa meal prepared with organic estate-grown produce, offering a taste of Sri Lanka's culinary heritage. The day ends by the lagoon with a tranquil birdwatching session, where guests may spot some of the 59 bird species thriving in this restored ecosystem.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 2 Hrs

Type of activity: Education & Walking

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **95%**



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EASTERN SRI LANKA CONTEMPORARY ART

EXPLORE CONTEMPORARY ART WITH AUTHENTIC LOCAL CUISINE.

At Mannankulam Villa, visitors discover a unique blend of contemporary art, culture, and nature. The visit begins with an introduction to the estate's mission and a guided walk with a research scientist to observe the results of local biodiversity restoration.

 CULTURE EXPERIENCE

GOOD TRAVEL
ALLIANCE 

MANNANKULAM ESTATE

After exploring the estate, guests can admire a collection of contemporary art and cultural artifacts inside the villa before enjoying a formal Batticaloa meal prepared with organic, estate-grown produce. The experience concludes by the lagoon with peaceful birdwatching, where more than 50 species can be spotted. Together, art, food, and nature create a cohesive experience that connects visitors with Sri Lanka's biodiversity, traditions, and contemporary creativity.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 1 Hr

Type of activity: Art Tour

Is accessibility information available?: Yes



RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **100%**



COFFEE HERITAGE TRAIL

TASTE SRI LANKAN COFFEE WITH HISTORY AND NATURE

The Coffee Heritage Trail in Kandy offers a guided exploration of Sri Lanka's growing coffee culture. Visitors stroll through a scenic estate, learning how coffee travels from bean to cup amid lush greenery and tranquil surroundings.

  **NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE**

GOOD TRAVEL ALLIANCE 

HOTEL TREE OF LIFE

Beyond tasting, the experience connects guests with the estate's colonial heritage, blending culture, history, and local coffee traditions. Through storytelling and hands-on encounters, travelers gain insight into sustainable coffee production while enjoying the serene landscapes of central Sri Lanka.



GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 2 Hrs

Type of activity: Walking Trail

Is accessibility information available?: No



RECOGNITIONS  **GTE SCAN: 81%**



Making contributions to the local economy



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AFRICA

**GOOD TRAVEL
EXPERIENCES**

PHILANTHROPIC EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CAPE TOWN

Discover the Cape Flats through an authentic excursion that **links tourism with grassroots development**. Guided by Uthando, you'll meet inspiring micro-farmers—senior women, young men, and families—who grow food for children, elders, and people with disabilities while creating safe spaces of care, learning, and resilience.

  **NATURE & CULTURE EXPERIENCE**



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

These urban gardens are more than farms; they are sustainable oases that foster biodiversity, food security, and social inclusion. By joining, you support over 60 community projects across Cape Town and contribute to the creation of a recycled Packshed and Agrihub that will expand local livelihoods. This is tourism with purpose—authentic, impactful, and deeply human.



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GOOD TO KNOW

Duration: 4.5 Hrs

Type of activity: Community-based

Philanthropic Educational Excursion

Is accessibility information available?: Yes

RECOGNITIONS

 GTE SCAN: **100%**



Making contributions
to the local economy



Empowering local
people or communities



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