JORDAN

A Greentours Tour Report

March 23rd – April 5th 2012 Led by Oron Peri

Day 1 March 23rd

Group arrived to Amman Airport in the late evening and transferred to the Mariam Hotel in Madaba where we had late dinner.

Day 2 March 24th Madaba to Jerash through As-Salt

We started the day with a visit to the church at the center of Madaba in order to see the well-known Mosaic floor at the Orthodox St. George church. First botanical stop was just as we left the city on our way to Mt. Nebo. This area is basically terra-rossa with hard limestone, in between the rocks there was already a good selection of plants: the common *Bellevalia flexuosa*, *Asphodeline lutea* in its orange form, many tall spikes of *Asphodelus ramosus*, red form of *Anemone coronaria*, *Ranunculus asiaticus* and *Ranunculus millefolius*, *Gagea commutata* and others. Then a visit to Mt. Nebo situated a ten minute drive from the center of the city, with a fantastic view of The Great Rift Valley, Dead Sea and Judea Mountains, while inside the site we have found many *Hyoscyamus aurea* in bloom and deep purple *Roemeria hybrida*. After these visits we have started our journey, going down to the Jordan Valley, descending from 800m above sea level down to 280 under sea-level.

Habitat changes rapidly to become a dry, hot desert.

We have made another stop in a north facing rocky steppe few km under Mt. Nebo, where easily we have found a few desert tulips, *Tulipa systola*, *Leopoldia longipes*, *Gagea reticulata*, *Allium neapolitanum*, *Iris atrofusca* just opening, lovely *Ornithogalum trichophyllum*, *Adonis dentata*. We reached the Jordan Valley to take the road east through Wadi Shweb all the way up to As – Salt, a sister municipality to Amman the capital.

Next stop was as we entered Wadi Shuweb, home in its lower part to some representatives belonging to the 'dry tropical plants'. Originating in Sudan in Africa, these plants have climbed up along the Great Riff to thrive in the hottest parts of the deserts. Probably the most impressive plant belonging to this group is *Calotropis procera* known also as 'Sodom Apple' a tree with big rounded leaves and puffed, apple like fruits. Other trees growing around are *Accacia raddiana*, *Ziziphus spinacristi, Tamarix jordanis* and *Moringa peregrina*. Here we have also found the wild Watermelon, *Citrullus colocynthis* and *Commicarpus africanus* with its nice white flowers.

All along the water canals are many *Arundo donax* and the lovely *Mentha longifolia* in full bloom. The north facing slops were densely carpeted with seasonal flowers of all kinds and colors, a sight that occurs after receiving good rains, while on the streamside are many birds in particular many noisy White-spectacled bulbuls. Next stop was at a higher point where we found many dark purple

forms of *Iris haynei* growing together with the lovely *Glaucium arabicum*, *Papaver polytrichum* and *Ornithogalum narbonense*.

After a picnic lunch under the Olive trees we made another stop this time in a field carpeted with dark-blue *Lupinus pilosus*. In the afternoon we made another stop before reaching Jerash, in the eastern part where hills are very dry this year and are home to different plants, as we went out of the car we found the second Tortoise of the day, to see few more almost daily later on. Some Butterflies too, Sooty Orange Tip, Beautiful *Allancastria deyrollei* and a Greenish Black Tip.

We reached our comfortable and well situated hotel above the city of Jerash.

Day 3 March 25th Wadi Rajeb & Dibbin forest

After a good night rest at the hotel we headed west to visit Wadi Rajeb. This massive seasonal river [Wadi] begins under Jarash to end in the Jordan Valley. Interestingly Wadi Rajeb starts in the green Mediterranean area to finish in the Desert therefore home to a rich flora and fauna. We have noticed on the side of the road a large patch of *Orchis anatolica* and stopped for a photo, on the other side of the road a few, rare *Gagea villosa* grow on and under the stone walls. While soon after that a small colony of stunning *Iris bismarkiana* is growing under the Olive trees just by the road.

We reached the end of the road and went for a three hour walk in the wadi itself, in the serpentine above a large population of *Trichodesma boissieri* can be seen with its silvery leaves and beautiful pale-blue flowers while in the fields under carpets of dark purple *Salvia viridis* is growing in company of *Echium rauwolfii* and the vivid blue *Alkanna strigosa*. Farther up some very nice clumps of dark form of *Iris haynei* (named in the past *Iris giladensis*) growing side by side with the large flowered *Adonis palaestina*, lovely *Artedia squamata* and the purple *Salvia hierosolymitana*.

Many birds inhabit this valley including Southern Grey Shrike, Chukar, European Bee-eaters a couple of Blue Rock Thrushes. Oron's 'hobby' is to turn over the rocks and luckily he found a critically endangered species of legless, Latast's Snake Skink, few yellow Scorpions and a Roughtail Rock Agama.

We went for a picnic lunch in a shaded area nearby. In the afternoon after a coffee break on the way we arrived to the natural reserve of Dibbin where among large trees of the red trunked *Arbutus andrachne and Pinus halepensis we* have found a selection of orchids: Many *Orchis anatolica*, *Anacamptis papilonacaea*, *Ophrys sphegodes* subspecies *mammosa*, *Ophrys israelitica* and the rare *Orchis galilaea*, all in perfect condition, growing together with *Ornithogalum neurostegium* subspecies *eigii* and some *Cyclamen persicum*.

This day was particularly good for butterflies as we visited different habitats.

Day 4 March 26th Jerash to the Syrian border

First stop of this day was as we started to go North, above the village of Anjara where the impressive Castel of Ajloun can be seen just in front of us. In the nearby *Quercus ithaburensis* forest we found the small but showy *Malcolmia crenulata*, *Lecockia cretica*, tiny jewel *Veronica syriaca* and *Pseudomuscari inconstrictum*.

A short second stop was before the entrance to the northern city of Irbid where there were afew plants of *Hyoscyamus reticulatus*, *Glaucium corniculatum* and only one plant left of *Majorana syriaca*, the most important spice in the Arab kitchen known as Zaatar. From there we took the road east entering the Eastern desert, this winter was particularly dry in this part of the country and so not many plants on the way. We went to a site where *Iris bostrensis* grows, this is probably the only site of this species out of Syria. We stayed at the site for a couple of hours, fortunately all clumps where in full bloom. The habitat is a dry white, limey soil and the dark irises just pop out on this background. As we stopped a pair of Stone-curlew were difficult to notice as they camouflage well with their surroundings.

On the north facing part of the hill *Adonis dentata* and *Adonis aestivalis* grow together, *Ornithigalum neurostegium, Muscari neglectum*, many *Morea sisyrinchium* and one specimen of *Arum palaestinum* in flower.

Also found the cute, small sized Desert Agama. The day ended under Jerash where we found the very first, black, *Iris nigricans*, as they were late to flower this year, a good way to close the day.

Day 5 March 27th Ajloun and Jerash

Before breakfast as in the previous morning few members of the group went birdwatching around the hotel. Jays, Hoopoe, Syrian Woodpecker, Great Tit and Laughing dove are only few of the birds seen. We have started the day by a visit to Ajloun castle. This well preserved Castel is situated on top of the tallest hill above Ajlun at 1000m, with a fantastic view of the surroundings. Our first stop for flowers was further down in the Oak and *Pistacia* forests that surround Ajloun Natural Reserve. It was too early for flowers at this elevation except for little *Arabis verna* and *Veronica syriaca* but under the stones we found Turkish Gecko, Lebanon Lizard, Eurasian Worm Snake and miniature Juniper Skink.

As it was too early for flowers Oron decided to go down in elevation taking the road west. We reached Wadi el – Rayan which was not on our initial program but was revealed as a good site as we found a large population of *Iris bismarckiana* on both sides of the deep Wadi, this population is natural and wasn't reported in the past. There were many other plants in the area such as *Fumaria densiflora*, *Fumaria parvifolia* and its rare relative *Ceratocapnus turbinate* as well as *Arum hygrophyllum*.

While in the lovely old orchards we saw Palestine Sunbird and a pair of Graceful Prinia. From this location we headed for a late lunch at a restaurant in the town of Jerash where we had delicious local food served with pitta bread made in a special oven just at the entrance to the place. After a coffee which was really needed, we went to visit the nearby ancient Roman city of Jerash where we stayed until it started to get dark.

Day 6 March 28th Jarash to Dead Sea

We left the hotel earlier as we had a long day in front of us, leaving the green Mediterranean area behind and headed to the desert taking the main road that connects the capital Amman with the Dead Sea, going from 1000m down to 423m under sea level. Our first stop was where on a north facing slope hundreds of *Iris haynei* flowered together with *Ranunculus asiaticus*, *Adonis macrocarpa*, *Calendula arvensis*, *Erucaria boveana* and many others, definitely one of the most colorful sites we have seen during the trip. Next stop, as we reached the Jordan Valley, where next to a dry river beside the road trees like *Ziziphus spina-christi* and *Accacia raddiana* gave some

shade. *Calotropis procera* was almost in flower while some large shrubs of *Nerium oleander* where in full bloom, attracting a couple of Palestine sunbirds.

A few Rock Martins seemed to be interested to nest under the bridge nearby. We reached the 'Amman Beach' on Dead Sea at 1100, and had a couple of hours to take a bath, and to put some black mud on.

On the way to the restaurant a lovely Masked Shrike sat on a fence in front of us giving us the time to enjoy it from a short distance. Soon after leaving the beach we had a couple more stops, first to see a lovely population of *Epipactis veratrifolia*, an orchid growing on wet walls very close to the Dead Sea, second stop was in a greener area with some big trees home to many birds such as Little Green Bee-eater, Tristram's Starlings, Great Grey Shrike and others. We also saw *Populus euphratica* which curiously changes its leaf form and the very rare *Capparis decidua*, a large leafless shrub covered with small pink flowers. We took the road east to Karak, where in a flat area we noticed a pair of Cream-colored Courser, very difficult to see when standing still. Soon after another stop under Karak Castle where there is a large population of *Fritillaria persica* with various color forms, *Salvia dominica*, lovely bright yellow *Phlomis platystegia*, three different species of *Astragalus, Asteriscus graveolens* and the scented Desert Chamomile, *Matricaria aurea*.

Day 7 March 29th Petra

The whole day was programmed for this most interesting and well known site. We left the Hotel after breakfast and walked 200 hundred meters to the gate where we met our local guide. One should just see Petra as words fail of describe its immensity. Fig trees, *Juniperus phoenicia*, *Pistacia atlantica* are growing on the high walls while a nice variety of shrubs, some in flower are all over the area. Just to mention *Daphne mucronata* subsp *linearifolia*, *Retama raetam*, *Capparis aegyptia*, *Solanum siniacum* and the curious *Gomphocarpus sinaicus* with its green colored flowers and others. Particularly nice is the contrast made by some silvery or glaucous leaves such as *Drimia maritima* and *Marrubium vulgare* against the red colored walls.

The noisy Fan-tailed Ravens and Tristram's Starlings with their typical call are very common here but we have seen also Blackstart, Desert Wheatear, Mourning Wheatear, a pair of Blue Rock Thrush nesting inside a hole up on a wall, lovely Semi-collared Flycatcher and quite a few Sinai Rosefinch with some striking rose-colored males. After an excellent lunch at the restaurant, people were free to choose either to walk up the mountain to see the Monastery, to join the group for further 'nature hunt' or just going back on their own timing.

In the evening we met for the lists at the 'conference room' of the hotel.

Day 8 March 30th Petra to Danna Reserve via Shoubak

After breakfast we left the hotel in direction north. As we passed Shoubak we stopped at a site where bluish *Iris aucheri* blooms usually in late February, luckily we still managed to find few in flower growing together with *Bongardia chrysogonum* and *Leonotice leontopetalum*. We reached Dana Natural Reserve known also for some rare plants that can be seen there. First, a view stop from above, where one can see the mighty sandstone mountains dotted with *Juniperus phoenicea* trees, some many hundreds of years old. Nearby we could notice many leaves of *Iris petrana*, the last Oncocyclus Iris to bloom, usually in mid to late April.

We went down for a walk inside the reserve where curiously on the north facing side some *Arabis caucasica* were in flower while next to it were a few *Salvia multicaulis* still in bud. Many *Scrophularia xylorrhiza* where in flower in the rock crevices and some larger shrubs such as *Glubularia arabica* with deep blue flowers and *Euphorbia hierosolymitana*. We even found some very late, red *Anemone coronaria* in bloom. Rock Doves, Cuckoo, Chukar and Spanish Sparrow are only some of the birds that were seen here.

After the picnic we headed east on the road from Shoubak to Ma'an with a stop only in a small location where we noticed green spots, where we found *Salvia lanigera*, *Allium rothii*, *Zilla spinosa* and lovely *Astragalus spinosus* with it swollen fruits. Still winds where difficult to deal with and so we decided to go to Ras A Naqeb, the highest location in the area where one can see the lower desert and Wadi Rum not before having a coffee on the way.

Then back to Petra taking the Kings Road with a couple of stops for the view.

Day 9 April 1st Little Petra to Wadi Araba

We have started the day with a visit to the nearby, less known site of Little Petra. Not before making another short stop for taking pictures of the amazing view of Petra from another angle. In the cool site, as walls are very high and shade most of the area, we have seen *Bellevalia stepporum*, *Fibigia clypeata*, *Launaea mucranata*, *Astragalus kahiricus* and the blue *Brunnera orientalis* usually a plant of high snowy altitudes. As we left Little Petra we stopped in an area with irrigated fields and many trees in between them, a perfect site for birds. One of the fields had a puddle just under a *Tamarix* tree, where many birds came to drink and make a morning bath, definitely the highlight of the morning were a few Syrian Serins including some beautiful males, but also Linnet, Ortolan Bunting, Cretzschmar's Bunting and others. We have stayed in the area for more than an hour before taking the road east going down to Wadi Araba.

This road crosses the dry mountains with some beautiful views of the desert and again different plants such as *Caralluma siniaca*, a succulent plant that is hard to notice in between the rocks, *Lavandula coronopifolia*, *Pulicaria desertorum*, yellow flowered *Heliotropium arbainense* and others. On the way back we took another road in a more open habitat where we have seen quite a few migrating birds of prey, some from a short distance: Black Kite, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Long-Legged Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk and an Egyptian Vulture.

We turned back to the hotel in the early evening.

Day 10 April 2nd Shoubak

We have spent the morning all together except this time we were in two separate, smaller cars. First stop to look at two ancient trees of *Pistacia atlantica* believed to be 900 years old, a reminder of the Mediterranean climate that used to be there in the past. Then the area of Shoubak Castle and the villages under it with a short walk inside a deep wadi, in few spots where the late rains arrived we found some nice bulbous plants in bloom: *Ornithogalum neurostegium*, *Gagea chlorantha* and *commutata*, *Asphdeline lutea* in both yellow and orange forms, *Tulipa systola*, *Geranium tuberosum*, as well as the gigantic *Verbascum siniacum*, *Alkanna tinctoria*, *Hypecoum imberbe* and others.

Last stop was for lunch at the highest location above Shoubak overlooking the Araba Valley, an excellent location to look at birds particularly birds of prey on their migration north. After lunch it

was time for goodbyes, one car left north back to Madaba, while the other car headed south to Aqaba. As it was still early afternoon when we reached the city of Aqaba we decided to go north inside the Araba Valley to a green area we know off. It was very windy as often happens in the desert in the afternoon, still we managed to see a few birds. Finely we arrived to our hotel in center of Aqaba.

Day 11 April 3rd Aqaba

Day started very early as we were supposed to meet our local guide at the Aqaba Bird Reserve at 7am. The reserve was busy with birds and only the three of us to watch them, the list of birds we have seen is long, just to mention few; Glossy Ibis, Teal, Garganey, Egyptian Geese, Slender-billed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Ring-necked Parakeet, Pied Kingfisher, Bluethroat, quite a few warblers and Arabian Babbler.

We went back for breakfast in our hotel to leave again after an hour, this time to do some snorkeling in the Red Sea. At lunch time we left Aqaba and turned back northeast to Wadi Rum which is a 50 minute drive, to reach our camp for a late lunch and time for a siesta as we got up early. In the afternoon we looked at some more irrigated fields near the village of Rum, as these are considered by the birds an oasis. In Olive and Citrus groves we found a pair of Namaqua Doves and many migrating European Bee-eaters with back shining in golden color as they sat on a dry tree. Some interesting plants too like the wild watermelon, *Citrullus colocynthis*, *Cleome arabica*, *Hyoscyamus desertorum*, annual *Asphodelus tenuifolius* and others.

We went back to our camp in the late afternoon where we had comfortable tents and an excellent Bedouin meal following by Arab dancing with the local staff.

Day 12 April 4th Wadi Rum

Wadi Rum is probably the second well known site in Jordan after Petra. One should visit this area in order to realize its immensity, colors and shapes as photos certainly diminish it. We have met our driver with his 4x4 car near the tourist center at the entrance to the site for our four hours trip during the morning visiting Lawrence's Spring and the various Nabatian scripts and drawings sites. Despite the severe drought we found quite a few interesting plants that manage to survive these conditions: the stunning inflorescence of *Cistanche salsa*, *Retama raetam*, *Stachys aegyptica*, *Alkanna orientalis*, *Fagonia mollis*, *Ferula siniaca* and many more.

Near the sites there are many Bedouin tents that sell some souvenirs and serve tea, but they also leave out bread and water for the Sinai Rosefinches that come in large numbers.

On the rocks and walls we met *Ladakia stellio* subsp. *brachidactyla* [Rock Agama] and on the send many Small-spotted Lizards are very active during day time. We headed back to the camp for lunch and two hours break as it is too hot, then in the afternoon we went out again for another 3 hours in the northern part of the Wadi, till sun started to go down. In the afternoon hundreds if not thousands of Common Buzzard flew above us on their way north while on ground *Morea sisyrinchium* opened its small purple flowers.

Mountains and the different dunes change their color according to the sun.

Day 13 April 5th Wadi Rum to Madaba

We have started our journey back to Madaba. About four hours drive to reach Wadi Rajeb area where near the village of Al – Lajjun we stopped to see the well-known, black, *Iris nigricans* growing together with stunning blue-violet colored *Gladiolus atroviolaceus*, orange colored *Lathyrus pseudocicera*, *Hyoscyamnus reticulatus* and *Achilea santolina*. We arrived by noon time to Wadi Mujib, another immense deep valley that begins in the mountains to end in the Dead Sea. This dry area is home to many semi desert plants, such as the rare white flowered *Alcea rufescens* and many *Allium qasyunense* in full bloom, red flowered *Rumex cyprium*, white flowering *Heliotropium maris-mortui*, *Adonis dentata* and many others.

We had a picnic under the olive trees on the north facing side of the wadi with views of the large dam under us. In the afternoon we visited another area SW of Madaba for more birds and plants, to reach our hotel in the early evening.

Day 14 April 6th Departure

A very early wakeup and a quick breakfast at the hotel, to follow a 25 minute drive to Amman International Airport.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

ACANTACEAE

Acanthus mollis Wadi Shueb, Ajloun Blepharis ciliaris Dead Sea, Wadi Rum

ADIANTACEAE

Adiantum capillus – veneris Petra

AIZOACEAE

Aizoon hispanicum SE of Madaba Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum Dead Sea

AMARYLLIADACEAE

Allium ascersonianum south of Madaba

Allium qasyunense Creamy-Yellow flowers, Wadi Mujib

Allium neapolitanum white flowers, triangular stem, widespread.

Allium israeliticum widespread Allium rothii west of Maa'n

Pancratium sickenergeri Curly galaucus leaves, Wadi Rum

*ANACARDIACEA*E

Pistacia atlantica Soubak, Jarash

Pistacia lentiscus Ajloun Pistacia palaestina Ajloun

Rhus Coriaria A-salt, Ajloun

APIACEAE [UMBELLIFERACEAE]

Artedia squamata lovely white umbel with dark button in the middle,

widespread

Ferula communisWadi RajebFerula siniacaWadi RumFoeniculum vulgarecommon.Lecokia creticaAjloun

Piturtanthus turtuosus Desert like fennel

Smyrnium olusatrum

Tordylium aegyptiacum Zosima abisinthiifolia

APOCYNACEAE

Calotropis proceraWadi ShuebCaralluma siniacaUnder PetraNerium Oleanderwidespread

ARACEAE

Arisarum vulgare A- Salt Arum hygrophillum Wadi Rajeb Arum palaestinum Ajloun **ASPARAGACEAE**

Asparagus aphyllus widespread Bellevalia eigii Syrian border

Bellevalia flexuosa dark stem, white flowers, common in the Med. areas

Bellevalia stepporum Little Petra

Dipcadi erythraeum dark brown flowers, rare, sand dunes, Wadi Rum – in buds

Leopoldia longipes SW of Madaba, Under Mt. Nebo

Muscari neglectum A-Salt, Ajloun, Jarash

Ornithogalum narbonense common, often in cultivated fields

Ornithogalum neurostegium galucus leaves often hairy, semi desert, Wadi Shuyeb,

Wadi Mujib

Ornithogalum neurostegium subsp eigii Dibbin

Ornithogalum tricophyllum Beautiful desert species, thin leaves, large white silvery

flowers, under Mt. Nebo

Pseudomuscari inconstrictum Ajloun

BERBERIDACEAE

Bongardia chrysodonum Shubak Leonotis leonotopetalum Shubak

BORAGINACEAE

Alkanna strigosa showy flowers, Wadi Shueb, Irbid.

Alkanna tinctoria stunning blue flowers, Wadi Rum

Anchusa aegyptiaca annual, white flowers, Jordan Valley

Anchusa azurea

Anchusa italica dark purple flowers
Anchusa strigosa. Tall, blue flowers

Brunera orientalis 'Forget me not' blue flowers, Little Petra, Wadi Rum

Buglossioides tenuifloraTiny sky blue flowersEchium angstifoliumred and purple flowers

Echium rauwolfii annual, similar to A. judeum, semi desert Heliotropium arbinense Yellow flowering species, under Little Petra

Heliotropium maris-mortui silvery leaves, white flowers, around Dead Sea and Wadi

Mujib

Trichodesma boissieri Silvery leaves, sky blue flowers, Wadi Rajeb

CAESALPINACEAE

Ceratonia siliqua Carob Tree, widespread

CAPPARACEAE

Capparis aegyptiaca glaucus leaves, cascading habit, walls in Desert

Capparis decidua Rare, pink flowers, Dead Sea Capparis Zoharyi similar to C. spinosa, Ajloun

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lomelosia prolifera syn Scabiosa prolifera common, Wadi Rajib

CARYOPHILLACEAE

Minuartia picta Wadi Shuyeb, SE of Jerash

Paronychia argentea common, low creeping, white papery flowers.

Silene aegyptica showy carpets in Olive groves.

Silene damascena A - Salt.

Silene villosa White, night flowering species, sticky plant, Wadi Rum

Spergularia diandra Ajloun

CHENOPODIACEAE

Atriplex halimus Silvery, salty leaves Shoubak

Atriplex spongiosa Dead- Sea area, glaucus leaves, puffed green fruits.

CLEOMACEAE

Cleome Arabica Very small yellow/brown flowers, Rum

COLCHICACEAE

Colchicum ritchii Leaves only in sands, Wadi Rum, Petra

COMPOSITAE

Aaronsohnia factorovskyi yellow chamomile like flowers, no petals, Dead Sea

Acillea fragrantissima Desert steppes
Achilea santolina Wadi Mujib

Anthemis maris –mortuii elongated flowering stems around Dead- Sea

Anthemis pseudocotula common, create carpets
Artemisia a sieberi Widespread in the desert

Asteriscus graveolens Wadi Rum

Calendula arvensis Widespread through all habitats

Centaurea pallescensJerashDoellia boveiDead SeaChrysanthemum coronariumJordan – Valley

Gundelia tournefortiicommonLaunaeae mucronataLittle PetraLaunaea nudiculariswidespread

Matricaria aureaCamomila, semi desert and desertsNotobasis syriacaWadi Shueb, A- Salt, JarashPicris damascenaYellow flowers, semi desert

Pulicaria incisa syn P. desertorun Under Little Petra

Scenecio glaucus common

Scorsonera judaica silvery undulate leaves, yellow flower

Scorzonera schwinfurthiiDanaSilybum marianumwidespreadTragopogon collinusWadi Shuyeb

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus althaeoides Pink flowers, prostrate, Dana

Convolvulus humilis small pink flowers, white and yellow center.

Convolvulus pentapetaloides small sky-blue flowers, widespread

CRASSULACEAE

Rosularia libanotica crevices and walls, Ajloun Umbelicus intermedius Crevices, Widespread **CRUCIFERAE**

Arabis alpina Very Rare, Dana Arabis verna annual, pink, Ajloun

Brasica nigra common

Diplotaxis acris large pink flowers, deserts

Fibigia clypeata Little Petra Malcolmia crenulata Ajloun

Matthiola livida Common in the deserts

Sinapis arvensis widespread

Zilla spinosa thorny shrub pink flowers, Negev

CUCURBITACEAE

Bryonia cretica common in the Med. Areas

Bryonia syriaca A- Salt, Ajloun

Citrullus colocynthis Wild watermelon, Wadi Rum

CUPRESSACEAE

Juniperus phoenicea Locally common, Petra, Danna

CYNOMORIACEAE

Cynomorium coccineum A curious rare parasitic plant

CYPERACEAE

Carex pachystylis Small, desert species, Dana

ERICACEAE

Arbutus andrachne Jarash, Ajloun

EUPHORBIACEAE

Euphorbia chamaepeplus Dana

Euphorbia hierosolymitana Shrub, rocky areas, A- Salt, Jarash, Ajloun

FAGACEAE

Quercus coccifera common in the Med. Region

Quercus ithaburensis Jarash, Ajloun

FUMARIACEAE

Ceratocapnos turbinata Fumaria like, Irbid, Ajlun

Fumaria densiflora A- Salt, Ajlun Fumaria parvifolia Under Ajlun

GERANIACEAE

Erodium acaule rosettes of fine cut leaves, widespread

Erodium arborescens Wadi Shueb

Erodium gruinum common annual, red veins Geranium lucidum Shiny leaves, Jarash

Geranium tuberosum Widespread

GLOBULARIACEAE

Globularia arabica Rare, shrub with dark blue flowers, rock crevices, Dana

GRAMINACEAE

Arundo donax Wadi Shueb

IRIDACEAE

Gladiolus atropurpureus S. of Madaba

Iris atrofusca Under Mt. Nebo, in Buds

Iris aucheri Shoubak Iris bostrensis Syrian border

Iris bismarckianaIris hayneiWadi Rajeb, W of AjlunWadis leading to Jordan Valley

Iris nigricans Jerash, S. of Madaba Iris petrana Leaves only, Danna

Moraea sisyrincium widespread through the region

JUNCUCEAE

Juncus rigidus Jordan Valley, Dead Sea

LABIATAE

Ajuga chamaepitys subsp chia prostrate, yellow flowers, Upper Galilee Eremostachys laciniata prostrate, yellow rusty flowers, Mafraq

Lamium amplexicaule widespread in Med. areas

Lamium moscahatum Ajloun

Lavandula coronopifolia Slender species, Under Little Petra Majorana syriaca known as Zaatar, A- Salt, Irbid

Parsium majus Shrub, semi climber, white flowers, Wadi -Suweb, Ajloun

Micromeria siniaca Scented plant, Tiny pink flowers, Wadi -Rum

Phlomis brachyodon Wadi Shuweb, large yellow flowers

Phlomis platystegia Under Karak

Salvia dominica Semi desert, Sivery scented leaves, creamy flowers

Salvia lanigera silvery leaves, blue-purple flowers, Shoubak Salvia multicaulis Rare, green form of this species, Dana

Salvia verbenacea Amman, Shaat Salvia viridis widespread

Stachys aegyptiaca Silvery leaves, pink flowers, Wadi Rum

Stachys neurocalycina Jarash

LEGUMINOSAE

Anagyris foetida large shrub, cascading yellow-green flowers, A- Salt

Astragalus caprinus Shoubak

Astragalus callichorus prostrate habit, curly fruits, pink flowers, Syrian Border
Astragalus Kahiricus Low habit, coins like leaves, yellow flowers, Wadi Rum
Astragalus sanctus Prostrate habit, linear, dissected silvery leaves, large

cerise flowers, Petra

Astragalus spinosus Large spiny shrub, pink flowers, Danna

Calicotome villosa common, scented yellow flowers on thorny shrub

Colutea istria shrub, yellow flowers, big puffed fruits, dry rocky habitat,

Dana

Crotalaria aegyptiaca Narrowly stemmed shrub, yellow flowers, Wadi Rum Lathyrus pseudocicera annual, orange colored pea like flowers, widespread.

Lupinus pilosus stunning blue flowers, Wadi Shueb

Ononis natrix Madaba

Retama raetam common shrub, white scented flowers

Pisum fulvum Ajloun

Trifolium clypeatum white flowers with pink tubes, common in the Med. region

Trigonella Arabica Small plant white flowers

Vicia hybrida annual climber, white and yellow bicolor flowers, Jarash

Vicia narbonensis dark purple flowers, widespread

LILIACEAE

Fritillaria persica Karak, Petra, Wadi Rum

Gagea chlorantha Slender species, round petals, Shubak

Gagea comutata large star - shaped yellow flowers, Mediterranean areas

Gagea fibrosa similar to the above, Jordan Valley

Gagea reticulata Filiforme leaves, Syrian Border, under Mt. Nebo

Gagea villosa Rare, Wadi Rajeb

Tulipa systola Under Mt. Nebo, Shubak

LINACEAE

Linum pubescens Pink flowers, purple - Blue center

LORANTACEA

Plicosepalus acaciae Red flowered parasitic on Acacia trees, Jordan Valley,

Wadi Araba

Viscum cruciatum Dana, parasitic on Almond trees

MALVACEAE

Abutilon fruticosum Near Wadi Rum, woody shrub with yellow flowers

Alcea rufescens White flowering hollyhock, Wadi Mujib

MIMOSACEAE

Acacia tortilis umbrella like trees, extremely dry areas in

Accacia tortilis subsp raddiana curly fruits, Jordan Valley

MORINGACEAE

Moringa peregrine cascading tree, like a gigantic Retama, hot Wadi around

Dead Sea

OLEACEAE

Olea europea widespread in Med. areas

ORBANCHACEAE

Cistanche salsa Very showy colorful parasitic plant, Wadi Rum

Cistanche tubolosa very showy, yellow flowers, parasitic plant, Dead Sea

ORCHIDACEAE

Anacamptis papilonaceae A- Salt, Ajloun, Dibbin

Epipactis veratrifoliaDead SeaOphrys omegifera subsp. fleischmanniiDibbinOphrys sphegodes subsp mammosaDibbinOphrys umbilicataDibbin

Orchis anatolica Ajloun, Dibbin

Orchis galilaea Dibbin

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis pes-carpae invasive, not native.

PALMAE

Hyphaene thebaica Aqaba

PAPAVERACEAE

Glaucium arabicum large red flowers, under Mt. Nebo

Glaucium corniculatum Red – orange flowers, Wadi Rum, before Irbid

Hypecoum dimidiatum syn. H. imberbe, Yellow flowers

Papaver hybridumMadabaPapaver polytrichumMadaba

Rohemeria hybrida Purple flowers, Mt. Nebo

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago ciliata small, lanceolate leaves, Wadi Rum.

POLYGONACEAE

Rheum palaestinum Wadi Rum Rumex cyprius Wadi Mujib

PRIMULACEAE

Anagalis arvensis Blue – Flowers, Widespread

Cyclamen persicum widespread

RHAMNACEAE

Ziziphus lotus large thorny shrub, Jordan Valley Ziziphus spina-christi Widespread, large tree, edible fruits

RANUNCULACEAE

Adonis aestivalis Orange flower, semi desert areas

Adonis dentata yellow flowering species, Judea and Negev Deserts.

Adonis microcarpaSmall red flowers, widespreadAdonis palaestinaLarge Red Flower, Wadi Rajib

Anemone coronaria widespread, multi colors in the north, red in deserts.

Clematis cirrhosa common in Med. areas

Ficaria verna Ailoun

Ranunculus asiaticus red flowers, widespread

Ranunculus damascenus SE of Jerash

Ranunculus millefolius Jarash, Ajloun, Madaba

RESEDACEAE

Reseda lutea yellow flowering sub shrub, Wadi Rajeb

ROSACEAE

Amygdalus communis A-Salt

Amygdalus korschinskii Big Shrub, Dana

Sarcopoterium spinosum thorny cushion, Mediterranean region

SALICACEAE

Populus euphratica Dead Sea

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Kickxia aegyptica Irbid

Linaria haelava annual, yellow and purple forms, sandy areas in the

deserts, common

Misopates orontium annual, pink flowers, like small a snapdragon

Scrophularia rubricaulis Tall, robust species, under Ajlun Scrophularia xylorrhiza growing in rock crevices, Dana

Verbascum fruticolosum undulate leaves, yellow flowers, common

Veronica anagalis-aquatica Petra

Veronica syriaca miniature showy annual, Ajloun

SOLANACEAE

Hyoscyamus aureus Yellow flowers, Dark center, Jarash

Hayoscyamus pusillus Annual, yellow, black center, sands in deserts, Wadi

Rum

Hyoscyamus reticulates dark netted flowers, cultivated fields, E. of Maa'n

Mandragora autumnalis Ajloun, Dibbin

Solanum sinaicum White flowers, Wadi Rum

STIRACACEAE

Styrax officinalis Ajloun.

THYMELAEACEAE

Thymelaea hirsute Shrub, tiny yellow flowers, Little Petra

URTICACEAE

Forsskaolea tenacissima Dead Sea Urtica pilulifera Common

XANTHORRHOEACEAE

Asphodeline lutea Orange and Yellow forms form, widespread

Asphodelus ramosus Widespread including the deserts Asphodelus tenuifolius Annual, semi desert & deserts

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Fagonia Arabica Dead Sea

Fagonia glutinosa Prostrate habit, pink flowers, sticky leaves, Sands in the

Fagonia mollis Zygophyllum dumosum

deserts. long thorns, Dead Sea shrub, small glaucus leaves, many white flowers, common, Deserts

Systematic List Number 2 Reptiles & Amphibians

Ablepharus ruepelli	Juniper Skink	Dibbin, Ajlun
Acanthodactylus scutellatus		Wadi Rum
Hemidactylus turcicus	Turkish Gecko	Ajlun
Lacerta laevis	Lebanon Lizard	Ajlun
Laudakia stellio	Roughtail Rock Agama	Jerash, Ajloun
Laudakia stellio subsp brachydactyla		Wadi Rum
Mabuya vittata	Bridled Mabuya	Wadi Rajib
Mesalina guttulata	Small-spotted Lizard	Wadiu Rum
Ophiomorus latastei [Spotted skink?]		Wadi Rajib
Ophisops elegans	Snake-eyed Lizard	Widespread
Testudo graeca	Mediterranean Spur-thighed Torto	oise Common
Trapelus pallidus	Desert Agama	Syrian border
Tropiocolotes nattereri	Sand Gecko	Wadi Rum
Typhlops vermicularis	Eurasian Worm Snake	Ajloun
Rana Levantina	Hadera Frog	Wadi Mujib

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

Allancastria deyrollei		Jerash
Amicta quadrangularis		Wadi -Rum
Anthocharis cardamines	Orange Tip	Jerash
Archon apollinus	False Apollo	Jerash
Artogeia rapae	Small White	Jerash
Euchloe belemia	Green-striped White	Widespread
Euchloe charlonia	Greenish Black -tip	Deserts
Gonepteryx cleopatra	Cleopatra	Dibbin
Melitaea phoebe	Knapweed Fritillary	Ajlun
Papilo machon		Jerash
Polyommatus icarus	Common Blue	Shubak
Dendrolimus bufo		Ajloun

Systematic List Number 4 Mammals

Psammomys obesus Fat Sand Rat Ras - A - Naqab

Systematic List Number 5 Insects

Adesmia abbreviata Embedded Darkling Beetle very common in sandy deserts Empusa fasciata Praying Mantis Ailun West of Ma'an Julodis distincta Leiurus quinquestriatus Widespread White widow Latrodectus Alba Petra Black widow Latrodectus tredecimguttatus Prionoteca coronata Wadi – Rum Poekilocerus bufonius Petra, Wadi Rum Usher-Hopper Potamon potamios Med. Fresh Water Crab Ajlun

Systematic List Number 6 Birds

Accipiter brevipes Levant Sparrowhak Widespread Accipiter nisus Sparrowhawk Wadi Rajib Alectoris chukar Chukar Widespread Alopochen aegyptiacus Egyptian gees Aqaba Anas clypeata Shoveler Aqaba Teal Anas crecca Aqaba Anas platyrhynchos Mallard Aqaba Anthus spinoletta Water Pipit Aqaba Apus Apus Common Swift Widespread Apus pallidus Pallid swift Rocky Desert Steppe Eagle Aquila nipalensis under Little Petra Aquila pomarina Lesser Spotted Eagle above Aqaba Ammomanes deserti Desert Lark Common Anas querquedula Garganey Aqaba Athene noctua Little Owl Wadi Rajib Stone Curlew Burhinus oedicnemus Syrian border Buteo Buteo Common Buzzard Widespread Long-legged Buzzard Buteo rufinus Widespread Calandrella brachydactyla Greater Short-toed Lark Bareige, Irbid Calidris minuta

Calidris minutaLittle StintAraba Valley, AqabaCarduelis cannabinaLinnetAjlun, Little Petra

Carduelis carduelis Goldfinch Widesprea, accept deserts
Carduelis chloris Greenfinch Widespread in Med. areas

Carpodacus synoicus Sinai Rosefinch Petra, Wadi Rum

Cercolmela melanura Blackstart Common in hot deserts

Ceryle rudisPied KingfisherAqabaCettia cettiCetti's WarblerAjlunCharadrius hiaticulaRinged PloverAqabaCircaetus gallicusShort-toad EagleWadi Rajeb

Columba livia Rock Pigeon Petra, Wadi Rum

Corvus corax Raven Wadi Rum
Corvus (corone) cornix Hooded Crow Widespread

Corvus rhipidurus Fan-tailed Raven Petra, Dead sea, Wadi Araba Corvus ruficollis Brown-necked Raven Dead Sea, Aqaba, Mujib

Corvus splendens House Crow Aqaba

Coturnix coturnix Quail Wadi Rajib

Cuculus canorus Cuckoo Jerash, Dana

Cursorius cursorCream-colored CourserKarakDelichon MartinHouse MartinAqabaDendrocopos syriacusSyrian WoodpeckerAjlunEgreta albaGreat White EgretAqaba

Egreta cinerea Grey Heron Aqaba

Embriza caesia Cretschmar's Bunting Jerash, Little Petra

Embriza hortolanaOrtolan BuntingLittle PetraErittacus rubeculaEuropean RobinDibbinFalco naumanniLesser KestrelWidespreadFalco tinnuculusCommon KestrelWidespread

Ficedula semitorquata Semi-collared Flycatcher Petra, Little Petra

Fringilla coelebs Chaffinch Ajlun
Fulica atra Coot Aqaba
Galerida cristata Crested Lark Widespread
Gllinago gallinago Common Snipe Aqaba
Gallinula chloropus Moorhen Aqaba

Garrulus glandarius Eurasian Jay Common in Mediterranean

areas

Halycyon smayrensis White Breasted Kingfisher Jordan Valley

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt Aqaba

Hirundo dauricaRed-rumped SwallowJordan ValleyHirundo rusticaBarn SwallowJordan Valley

Hoplopterus spinosus Spur-winged Plover Aqaba Lanius excubitor Great Grey Shrike Widespread Lanius meridionalis Southern Grey Shrike Shoubak Lanius nubicus Masked Shrike Widespread Woodchat Shrike Shubak, Dana Lanius senator Little Petra Jynx torquilla Wryneck

Larus fuscusLesser Black-headed GullAqabaLarus geneiSlender-billed GullAqabaLarus ridibubundusBlack-headed GullAqabaLuscinia svecicaBluethroatAqabaMerops apiasterEuropean Bee-eaterWadi Rum

Merops orientalisLittle Green Bee-eaterAqaba, Dead SeaMiliaria calandraCorn BuntingJerash, Ajlun, Rajib

Milvus migransBlack kiteCommonMotacilla albaWhite wagtailWidespreadMonticola solitariusBlue Rock TrushWidespreadNectarinia oseaPalestine SunbirdWidespreadOena capensisNamaqua DoveWadi Rum

Oenanthe deserti Desert Wheatear Eastern Desert, Shubak
Oenanthe hispanica Black-eared Wheatear Petra, Araba Valley

Oenanthe leucopyga White-crowned Black Wheatear Araba Valley, Aqaba

Oenanthe lugensMourning WheatearWidespreadOenanthe moestaRed-rumped WheatearWidespread

Oenanthe monaca Hooded Wheatear Dead Sea, Wadi Shu'ayeb

Oenanthe oenanthe Northern Wheatear Petra, Aqaba

Tristram's Grackle Onychoganthus tristramii Widespread accept in Med. areas

Parus major Great Tit. Common in Mediterranean areas Passer domesticus House Sparrow Widespread

Passer hispaniolensis Spanish Sparrow Shubak, Danna, Aqaba, Mujib

Petronia petronia Rock Sparrow Shubak

Phylloscopus collybita Chiffchaff Wadi Araba, Dana

Phylloscopus sibilatrix Wood Warbler Aqaba Ruff Philomachus pugnax Aqaba Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros Widespread Phoenicurus phoenicurus Wadi Mujib Common Redstart

Plegadis falcinellus Glossy Ibis Aqaba

Prinia gracilis Graceful Warbler Ajlun, Shubak Psittacula krameri Ring-necked Parakeet

Aqaba

Common in the desert Rock Martin Ptyonoprogne fuligula

Pycnonotus xanthopygos Spectacled Bulbul Widespread

Scotocerca inquieta Scrub Warbler Aqaba, Wadi Rajib

Serin Serinus serinus Jerash Syrian Serin Little Petra Serinus syriacus Eurasian collared dove Streptopelia decaocto Jordan Valley Streptopelia senegalensis Laughing Dove Widespread Sterna caspia Caspian Tern Aqaba

Sylvia atricapilla Widespread Blackcap Sylvia communis Common Whitethroat Wadi Rajib Sylvia curruca Lesser Whitethroat Very common

Sylvia leucomelaena Arabian Warbler Aqaba

Sylvia Melanocephala Sardinian Warbler Widespread Ruppell's Warbeler Sylvia rueppelli Aqaba

Tadorna tadorna Shelduck Aqaba Tringa glareola Wood Sandpiper Aqaba

Araba Valley, Aqaba Tringa ochropus Green Sandpiper

Tringa tetanus Common Redshank Aqaba Wren Ailun Troglodytes troglodytes Arabian Babbler Turdoides squamiceps Aqaba

Turdus merula Blackbird Widespread Upupa epops Hoopoe Widespread

Vanellus spinosus Spur-winged Lapwing Aqaba