Dead Sea spa resort comparison: which of the nine major hotels actually deserves your booking

Nine resorts, one strip of beach, very different price points and very different experiences. Practical comparison of the major Dead Sea hotels for travellers choosing one for an overnight.

Anas Hu · May 5, 2026

The Jordanian Dead Sea has a single resort strip — a 5 km stretch of coastline at the northern end of the lake where nine major international hotels sit shoulder to shoulder. Each has its own beach, its own infinity pool overlooking the water, its own spa programme, and its own price point. The buildings are similar from the outside; the experiences differ. This is a practical comparison of which one to book if you're spending one or two nights at the Dead Sea.

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1Why a resort overnight matters

The Dead Sea experience is not just floating — it's also the spa, the pool, the sunset, and the night sky over the lake. A day-trip from Amman covers the float in 90 minutes; an overnight at one of the resorts gives you the full sequence: float in the late afternoon, spa session, sunset over Israel, dinner on the terrace, and the dark drive back along the Jordan Valley in the morning.

The spa programmes — mineral mud wraps, mineral baths, salt scrubs — are the differentiating service. Some resorts have small, efficient spas; others have full destination spas with multi-hour packages.

2Budget tier (~$120–180/night)

- **Holiday Inn Resort Dead Sea.** The reliable budget choice. Big pool, decent beach, basic spa. Best for solo travellers who want a clean room and beach access without paying for a full resort experience.
- **Ramada Resort Dead Sea.** Slightly older, smaller; good value if you find a discount. Pool overlooking the lake.
- **Dead Sea Spa Hotel.** The original of the strip; family-run feel. Modest rooms, friendly staff, the cheapest day-pass option for non-guests.

3Mid-range (~$200–280/night)

- **Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea.** The mid-range favourite. Excellent spa, four restaurants, large beach. Good for couples + families.
- **Crowne Plaza Resort Dead Sea.** Hilton's neighbour. Big pool complex, decent buffet dinner, the spa programme is more pragmatic than indulgent.
- **Hilton Dead Sea Resort.** Newer building (opened in late 2010s), bright modern rooms, the largest infinity pool on the strip.

> Nine resorts, one strip of beach. The differentiator is the spa.

4Premium (~$300–500/night)

- **Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea.** The flagship — Mesopotamian-themed architecture, sprawling gardens, eight pools, the most ambitious spa programme. The premium destination if budget is open.
- **Marriott Resort Dead Sea.** Long-established, with the best private beach on the strip. Anam Cara Spa is high-end. Quieter atmosphere than the Kempinski.

5How to choose

Solo + budget. Holiday Inn or Ramada. Pool, beach, basic spa, clean room. **Couples + comfort + spa.** Mövenpick (mid) or Kempinski (premium). Pick by budget. **Families with kids.** Crowne Plaza or Mövenpick. Both have kids' clubs and shallower family pools. **Day-pass only (no overnight).** Mövenpick or Hilton. Both have day-use pricing that includes pool, beach, gym, locker, and the cheaper dining options. **Premium spa destination.** Kempinski Ishtar. Book a 3-hour mineral mud + bath + massage programme.

> **For solo travellers**
>
> Holiday Inn or Ramada for budget; Mövenpick if you want the spa. Single supplements vary by season — check before booking.

6Practical tips

- **Book Friday-Saturday for premium prices.** Sunday-Thursday is significantly cheaper.
- **Day passes typically run 30–80 JD** depending on the resort and season.
- **The buffet dinner** is included at most resorts — quality varies; Kempinski is the best.
- **Bring small JD notes.** Tipping at the spa is customary (5–10 JD per service).
- **Combine with.** Mount Nebo + Madaba + Bethany for a day, then overnight at the resort, then Wadi Mujib in the morning.

References

1. Wikipedia — Dead Sea (resort context)

Verified by locals: TBD — this article will be reviewed by a Jordan Tourism Board representative or Dead Sea hotel-industry contact before final publication. Drafted from Wikipedia and traveller experience.