



JORDAN with excursion to ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY 11 DAYS - PILGRIMAGE

Day One: Arrival Amman

Upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport; Our Representative will meet & assist clients through immigration and customs. Transfer to Amman Hotel, dinner & overnight.

Day Two: Jerash - Umm Qais - Pella

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Depart to the ancient city of Jerash, which is one of the most intact Greek- Roman cities in the region. Visit St. George church, Propylaeum church, St. Genseiuse church and Church of Bishop Isaiah, the ruins of Jerash, the street of Columns, the Amphitheater, the Oval Plaza and the Temple of Zues & Artemis. Proceed to the Roman City of Umm Qeis, also known as Gedara which is situated on a hilltop overlooking the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan Valley. The Remains of its Theaters and Temple are the major attractions of this city.

Jerash and Umm Qais; which are in the northern part of the Kingdom; are biblical sites which Jesus visited: " then they sailed to the country of the Gadareans which is opposite of Galilee" Luke (8:28 – 34) Mark (5:1-20) also mentioned in John (4:1-3) and Mathew (8: 28-34). The Jabbok river, Pella is also a site which Jacob crossed (he arose that night and he took his two wives, his two maid servants, and his eleven sons and crossed over the ford of Jabbok).

Back to Amman hotel for dinner & overnight.

Day Three: Amman City Tour - Bethany beyond the Jordan- Dead Sea

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

Start off the city tour of (Rabba Ammon), known in the Bible as Ammon by visiting the Archaeological Museum, the Citadel and the Roman Amphitheater as well as a tour in the new and modern part of the city. Then Proceed to the John the Baptist : some 2000 years ago, John the Baptist lived and baptized in a settlement called "Bethany beyond the Jordan" (John 1:28). This important site of early Christianity, which Jesus also visited by reference of John 1:28 to "Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing "John 10:40 mentions an incident when Jesus escaped from hostile crowds in Jerusalem and "Went away again across the Jordan to the place where John at first baptized..". This Bethany area in Jordan, sometimes referred to in the Bible as Perea, is not to be confused with the village of Bethany near Jerusalem, the hometown of Lazarus. The Bible recounts that Elijah parted the waters of the Jordan River and walked across it with his successor the Prophet Elisha, then ascended to heaven in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire (2 Kings2:5-14). The small hill from which Elijah ascended to heaven has been known for centuries as Elijah's Hill, and forms the core of the settlement at Bethany in Jordan. The ongoing survey excavations at Bethany in Jordan have uncovered a 1st Century AD settlement with Plastered pools and water system that were used almost certainly for baptism, and a 5th-6thCentury AD late Byzantine settlement with churches, a monastery, and other structures probably catering to religious pilgrims.

Proceed drive to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth (400 " meters below sea level). Dead Sea Hotel for relaxation, dinner and & overnight.



Day Four : Madaba- Mt. Nebo – Mukawir – Um Al Rasas – Kerak – Petra

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Early departure to Petra through the King's highway. Madaba the fruit juice city which has the most wonderful mosaic map ever discovered in the area which it goes back the 6th century AD. From Madaba taking the king's high way following the footsteps of Moses and the Israelite to Mount Nebo.

We visit the Saint George's Greek - Orthodox Church, the Archaeological Museum of Madaba will also be visited, where numerous mosaics found in the area are situated. These fantastic mosaics are from the Byzantine era. At St. George's Cathedral, you will see the most famous of all--a clearly-labeled mosaic map of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas dated 560 AD, which has helped archaeologists to identify many other important sites in Jordan. Proceed to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah which is across from Jericho Deuteronomy (32:1- 12) the Memorial of Moses, where it is presumed his death and burial place. Besides a breathtaking view of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, a small square Byzantine church with mosaic floors is another main attraction in the area. Then to Mekawir where is the Herodian castle the place where John the Baptist was beheaded then proceeding to the best mosaic school in the east. Full day- in part of the Moabite kingdom starting early morning. Into Debon number (21:30) (32-3) (32-34) reaching Arnon valley the great border (numbers 21-14) Deuteronomy 38:16 passing Aroer (while Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages in Aroer and all the cities along the bank of Arnon Judges (11:26) taking off from Arnon going back to Castron Maipha one of the Amoinent iron age cities – then continue the king's highway going south to Kerak (Kir Heres) (Kir Moab) or Karho. The Moabit sight (Deuteronomy 2:10) then visiting. The Crusaders castle which was built on the top of an ancient ruins might go back to the iron age then joining back the king's highway crossing zairad Deuteronomy (3:18-16) Isaiah (16-2) the Edomite kingdom Genesis (19-37) going through the capital of the Edomite going to Petra where Aron Moses's brothers was buried at (Amos 1:12) (therefore I will wait for Moab I will cry out for all Moab I will mourn for the men of Kir heres) Jeremiah (18:31) Continue to the southern part of the kingdom. Arrive to Petra in the late afternoon. Check - In to the hotel in Petra, dinner and overnight.

Day Five: Petra Visit

Buffet breakfast at the hotel and depart to the Visitor's Center of Petra; where the guide arranges tickets for the famous horse back ride in to the Red-Rose City (AN UNESCO World Heritage Site).

The jewel in Jordan's tourism crown, the capital of the ancient Nabateans is a world treasure. Petra is a marriage of natural and manmade wonders on an awesome scale. An entire city was carved out of the highly colored mountains some 2,000 years ago by a Semitic people from northern Arabia. The Nabateans created an empire based on trading precious incense and perfumes, an empire so rich it inspired the envy of mighty Rome, which ultimately conquered it.

Petra's mysteries unfold gradually, with the unforgettable approach through the Siq, a long, narrow and winding fissure between two overhanging cliffs. Bas-relief carvings of small gods and shrines adorn the rock walls, until at last, the gorge delivers you to the spectacular Treasury and the rest of Petra's secrets. Royal Tombs, houses, burial chambers, "high place" sacrificial altars and shrines are found at every level, from the canyon floor to the highest peak. Other major monuments reflect the synthesis of Greco-Roman and Nabatean style: a nymphaeum, theater, agora, temples and the colonnaded "main street" of shops. There are Byzantine churches, an Islamic mosque/tomb for Nabi Haroon (Aaron), and Crusader forts interspersed among peaks, valleys and the Roman-Nabatean remains. A day-visitor can cover just the major sites along the lower basin, with a climb to one of the farther monuments; but there is so much more to see. Long before the Nabateans, the Petra area was inhabited by Stone Age people at nearby Beidha, and once was the capital of the biblical kingdom of Edom. The name of the nearby village, Wadi Mousa (Moses' Valley), comes from the legend that its spring of water was created by Moses when he struck a rock.

The entire day will be dedicated to visit Petra, the famous Treasury, the Monastery, tombs, temples, buildings, facades and much more. In the late afternoon depart back to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day Six: Petra - Wadi Rum - Aqaba

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

Depart to the Wadi Rum; a desert characterized by colorful hills and canyons, attracting adventurers, hikers and truckers as mountain height reaches up to 1,750 meters. For those who are less adventurous, a tour in a four by four jeep in the rosy desert of southern Jordan. Tour the desert The "Valley of the Moon" is a truly magical place, near the southernmost tip of Jordan. Desert terrain washed with softly colored sands and wind-sculpted mountains offer both deep relaxation and high adventure. (Remember the classic film, "Lawrence of Arabia?" Many memorable scenes were filmed here.) Lie back against the cushions and linger over fragrant mint tea or cardamom-flavored coffee under the "house of hair" (black Bedouin tent). Go rock-climbing and look for ancient "rock art" inscriptions. Join a Bedouin guide for a jeep tour or take a camel for a more traditional view of the deserts - then proceed To Aqaba for a visit to the oldest Byzantine Church in the world (Newly discovered)
Relaxing and swimming, dinner and overnight at Aqaba Hotel.

Day Seven: THE RED SEA MONASTERIES

After an early breakfast we leave Aqab by boat on the Red Sea, to Nwebia the drive to visit two of the oldest monasteries in the world, St. Paul's and St. Anthony's. On our return dinner will be awaiting. Overnight stay in Za'faranah.

Day Eight : INTO THE SINAI DESERT

An early start after breakfast as we drive north to cross the Suez Canal and then turn south into the Sinai Desert. We plan to arrive by Mount Sinai and our desert hotel mid-afternoon in time to enjoy the spectacular sunset over Sinai. Dinner and overnight stay by Mount Sinai.

Day Nine : ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY - MT SINAI - THE RED SEA

For the very fit there will be an opportunity to climb to the summit of Mount Sinai and witness a breathtaking sunrise over Sinai and to visit the Chapel of Moses. After breakfast we shall visit the St. Catherine's Monastery, which is situated at the foot of Mount Sinai. This beautiful monastery was built on the site where Moses witnessed the burning bush before receiving the Ten Commandments. If permitted we will have an opportunity of viewing it's priceless collection of icons. Late morning we leave Mount Sinai and the group returning to London drive west back across the Sinai Desert towards Cairo to spend their final night in Cairo.

We say goodbye to our friends and continue to the Red Sea resort of Nuweiba to spend the evening by the Red Sea. Dinner and overnight in Nuweiba

Day Ten : THE RED SEA – PETRA

Morning free to relax by the Red Sea. In the afternoon drive to the nearby ferry terminal to board a fast-ferry to cross the Red Sea to Aqaba in Jordan. On completion of border formalities.

Aqaba dinner and overnight

Departure

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Check-out and depart via the Desert Highway, to Airport, or Arava Border our staff will assist clients through departure formalities