



First Class 13 Day Package

Jordan & Israel Return Visitor

Day 1: Departure

Our life-changing journey begins this evening as we board our overnight flight to Jordan.

Day 2: Arrival Jordan

We arrive in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and transfer to our lodging for the next two evenings in Amman.

Day 3: Jabbok, Um Qays, As Salt, Amman

Our first stop today is Um Qays, the old Decapolis city of Gadara, with its spectacular panoramic views overlooking the Sea of Galilee, is the proposed site of Jesus' miracle of the Gadarene

swine. A rare five-aisled basilica from the 4th century was recently discovered and excavated at Umm Qays. Everything about this distinctive arrangement of a church above a tomb at this particular place, strongly indicates that it was designed and built to commemorate the very spot where the early church believed that Jesus performed his miracle. Nearby we find Jabbok, the place that is said to be where Jacob wrestled with God who was in the form of an angel (Genesis 32:24-30). We pass through As Salt, the city that houses the tomb & shrine of Job and tomb of Jethro before returning to Amman. Free time will be allowed for shopping and an optional visit to the Archeological Museum.



Day 4: Machaerus, Bethany on the Jordan, Dead Sea

Traveling southward we stop at a Dead Sea resort for a relaxing float or optional spa treatment. The infamous Sodom and Gomorrah are believed, although not confirmed to be the burned remains of two cities in the nearby southeastern Dead Sea plain. We will view from a distance a hillside cave near to the small town of Zoar (modern-day Safi). The Bible says Lot's daughters gave birth to sons whose descendants would become the Ammonite and Moabite people, whose kingdoms were in what is now central Jordan. It is here that Byzantine Christians built a church and monastery dedicated to Lot. Our next stop today will be at the hilltop palace/fortress of Machaerus, where John the Baptist was beheaded. Next we visit the fascinating site of Bethany on the Jordan, the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, where Elijah and Elisha crossed the Jordan as well as the area where the children of Israel led by Joshua entered the Promised Land.

Day 5: Jerash, Petra

This morning we travel to Jerash, one of the best preserved and most complete provincial Roman cities. Jerash, Gerasa of Roman Times, was one of the cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Graeco-Roman cities dating from the 1st century BC situated in Jordan, Syria and Israel. Known as the Pompeii of the East for its extraordinary state of preservation, the ruins indicate human occupations at this location for more than 2,500 years. From here, we continue on to our lodging for the evening in Petra.

Day 6: Petra

This morning we visit the amazing mountain fortress of Petra, known to be inhabited by the Edomites - the descendants of Esau. Begin the tour with a walk through the "Siq," an immense crack in the Nabatean sandstone, to the city of Petra carved out of the rose red rock. The Treasury, El Khazneh, is one of the most elegant re-

mains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh we are surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures. Departing Petra, we travel northward on the King's Highway where to the west we view the hills bordering the Dead Sea. This is the area of the hilltop palace/fortress of Machaerus, where John the Baptist was beheaded. We overnight in Amman for this evening.

Day 7: Mt Nebo, Madaba, Jerusalem

Our morning tour begins in the town of Madaba, the biblical Medeba, 30 kilometers south of Amman. Madaba is best known for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics and at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George we view the earliest surviving mosaic map of the Holy Land. Mt. Nebo, believed to be the site of the tomb of Moses, commands a spectacular view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Study the panorama as we read the scripture of God showing Moses the "Promised Land" before He brought him home to heaven. As we travel west toward the Allenby Bridge, we view to the north the Plains of Moab, the area where the tribes of Israel camped before crossing the Jordan and picture the place where Jesus was baptized. Crossing into Israel, we drive to Jerusalem with the remainder of the afternoon free.

Day 8: Jerusalem: City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Jewish Quarter

This morning, our guide will take us to an overview of the city from the hillside overlooking Jerusalem and the Gehenna Valley. This meaningful teaching time will bring together the many things that you have seen to date. We continue our sightseeing just outside the Dung Gate on the southeastern hill below the Temple Mount in the City of David. It was during the time of Solomon that the city limits extended past this part of Jerusalem. We visit Gihon Springs, the original water source for Jerusalem, view new excavations including a typical Israelite four-room house, and the lower city wall. A highlight today will be a water walk through the in-

credible Hezekiah's Tunnel to the pool of Siloam, the place of Jesus' miracle in John 9. Ascending up to the Jewish Quarter we see the gold Menorah built for the next Temple, the Temple Institute, the Burnt House, a wall built by King Hezekiah, and the Roman Cardo. The rest of our day is at Mt. Zion to see David's Tomb, and the first Church Grotto. We then walk to visit David's Citadel and go inside to climb the tower for a view of Old Jerusalem and to see the remains of Herod's palace and possible place of Pilate's trial of Jesus.

Day 9: Judah, Beersheba, Elah Valley, Philistia, Joppa

Today we travel west through beautiful mountains and the Sorek Valley to Beth Shemesh where the Ark of the Covenant was carried from the Philistines by two cows pulling a cart. The next stop is Tel Azekah and the Valley of Elah, where David defeated Goliath. We then drive to where battles were fought at Mareshah and Lachish, then thru the land of the Philistines, passing the city of Gath and stopping at the river bed in search of smooth stones for our sling. We continue on to Beersheba and see Abraham's well. As we turn back toward Jerusalem, the drive thru the Negev is contrasted with Bedouin tents and herds of camels, donkeys, sheep, and stories of the Exodus and Israel wandering in the Wilderness of Zin. We go past Lydda where Peter healed a paralyzed man and arrive at the ancient port of Joppa where Jonah

and Peter spent time and from where Jonah sailed to meet the fishes.

Day 10: Herodium, Jericho, Wadi Qelt, Emmaus, Ramah, West Jerusalem, Bible Lands Museum

We start the day with a tour of the palace fortress of Herodium, just south of the city of Jerusalem. We enter ancient Tel Jericho to see remains of fallen walls, and view the Mount of Temptation where Satan tempted Jesus. We drive thru the West Bank and Judean Wilderness to stop for a scenic view of the Wadi Qelt and St. George's Monastery. Continuing our afternoon sightseeing we view the possible location of Emmaus where Jesus appeared to two disciples. We will visit The Bible Lands Museum, an archaeological museum that explores the culture of the peoples mentioned in the Bible, among them the ancient Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, Arameans, Hittites, Elamites, Phoenicians and Persians. The aim of the museum is to put these peoples into historical context. We conclude our day in West Jerusalem to visit the tomb of the prophet Samuel and a view of his hometown Ramah.

Day 11: Schechem, Shiloh, Mt. Gerizim, Tabernacle

The Old Testament city of Shiloh was home for the Tabernacle with the Ark of the Covenant and you may walk to the likely plateau where it was pitched and picture the cloud pillar of God's



presence rising up above the valley walls. This would also be the spot where Hannah came to pray for a son. Later, she dedicated that son, Samuel, to serve in the Tabernacle. It was from Shiloh that the Ark was taken into battle and temporarily lost to the Philistines. We then drive north through the Biblical heartland to Nablus (Schechem), we visit the mound of the ancient city where Joshua renewed the covenant. We will view Jacob's well from the top of Mt. Gerzim. Here we learn of the local Samaritans still practicing their faith today. Continuing on through the lovely valley of Bidan and down Wadi Fariah, we see the pass through which Jacob, and probably his grandfather before him, entered the Promised Land. Our guide will introduce us to the Biblical prophecies and examples of Christ in the teachings of the Tabernacle reproduction here in Ariel.

Day 12: Nazareth, Harod Springs, Sepphoris, Mt. Tabor

We travel toward the Galilee and stop at Harod Springs where Gideon downsized his army to 300. Our next stop is at Tel Jezreel, the city of Ahab and Jezebel. We drive thru the Jezreel Valley passing by Shunem where Elisha raised a boy from the dead. We take in a view of Nazareth, and Mt. Tabor where Deborah defeated the Canaanites. We drive by the Church of the Annunciation en route to visit the nearby ancient city of Sepphoris where likely Joseph and Jesus worked as builders. Leaving the area, we drive thru Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine.

Day 13: Home

A very early morning departure for the Tel Aviv Airport for our flight homeward will allow for arrival home by early afternoon.

PRICE PER PERSON:
BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

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Madaba



Jerash



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