

The Sanctuaries of the Holy Land

DAY 1 LONDON TO AMMAN

Fly to Amman. Jordan is part of the Holy Land that gave birth to three of the world's greatest monotheistic religions. Our pilgrimage tour through Jordan follows in the footsteps of Abraham, Moses, Lot, Aaron, Elijah, Joshua, Jesus, John the Baptist, Mohammad and others.

DAY 2 AMMAN - BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN - DEAD SEA - AMMAN

This morning we will take a guided tour of Amman, known in Greco-Roman times as Philadelphia. Our tour of the Citadel uncovers traces of the city's past: excavations and ruins everywhere you step. We then drive to Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John lived and baptised. We visit the original site of Baptism and the place from where Elijah was taken up to heaven with a chariot and horses of fire. We continue to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth.

DAY 3 AMMAN - YABOK VALLEY - GERASA - AJLOUN - GADARA - PELLA - AMMAN

We drive through the Yabok Valley, where Jacob wrestled at Penuel the whole night with the Lord who took the form of a man. Gerasa is today one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. The gospels according to Mark and Luke refer to Gerasa as the place where Jesus healed the Gadarene man with demons. Our journey continues to Ajloun, the biblical site of Tishbe where Elijah, obeying the Lord, stayed by the Cherityh brook. Then we visit Gadara overlooking Lake Tiberius, where Jesus, according to Matthew, healed the two men with demons. We proceed to Pella, which has been a theatre to so many civilisations.

DAY 4 HISBAN - MADABA - MOUNT NEBO - MUKAWER - KERAK - PETRA

We drive along the 'King's Highway', the ancient Silk Road, one of the most memorable journeys in the Holy Land, passing through a string of ancient sites. The first is the ruins of ancient Heshbon. Mount Nebo affords a fantastic view of the Holy Land and the Dead Sea and is the most revered site in Jordan, the presumed location of Moses' death and burial place. The first city we encounter is Madaba, home of the famous sixth-century Byzantine mosaic map; two million pieces of coloured stones showing Jerusalem and other holy sites. Nearby is Machaerus, the hilltop stronghold of Herod. Matthew, while narrating the Death of John the Baptist at this same site, tells how Salome asked for the head of the Baptist after her fateful dance. Our last visit is to the imposing Kerak Castle, an impressive example of the Crusaders' architectural military genius. We then proceed to Petra, the "rose-red" city for an unforgettable entrance through a narrow desert gorge. From the main entrance you walk into the chasm that ripped through the rock in a prehistoric quake.

DAY 5 PETRA

We spend a full day exploring this unique soul-stirring city. Petra became known as the 8th Wonder of the World for its refined culture, massive architecture and ingenious complex of dams and water channels. By the 16th century, Petra was completely lost to the West for almost 300 years until rediscovered by a Swiss traveller.

DAY 6 PETRA - WADI RUM - AMMAN

After breakfast we journey through the most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes to Wadi Rum, where sandstone hills rise sheer out of the valley floor. We will explore this area.

DAY 7 AMMAN TO LONDON

Drive to the airport for your return flight to London.