

Jordan/Petra Extension Itinerary Highlights, January 2023

Pilgrimage post-tour 22Jan to 26JAN

Indicates included meal B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

22Jan ~ Sunday ~ Jerusalem

Tour members on the Annual Pilgrimage will return to the **Jerusalem** hotel at end of day ~ Dinner & overnight Jerusalem. D

23Jan ~ Monday ~ Allenby Bridge/ Tall el Hammam-Sodom/Madaba/ Mt Nebo/ Petra

We breakfast early, check out of the hotel & board our coach for the transfer to the border. ~ Upon arrival at the **Allenby Bridge**, we begin the process of leaving Israel & entering Jordan. (NOTE: If you have purchases from Israel that provided you with VAT refund forms, you process them at this time, before entering Jordan, or you will forfeit your refund option.) As we begin the entry into **Jordan**, we meet our Jordanian guide. Our hosts, the Jordanians, are wonderfully gracious & welcoming, most with excellent English language skills. Our luggage is moved to the Jordanian coach. ~ Just a few miles down the road we stop at the archaeological site of **Tall el Hammam**, which is the biblical city of **Sodom**. Emily has done extensive research on this site and will give an explanation of its fate from the panoramic viewing point. Next, we travel along the 5,000 years old **King's Highway**, passing through a string of ancient sites. ~ We visit **Mount Nebo**, the memorial of Moses & the presumed site of the prophet's death & burial place. It is from **Mount Nebo** that Moses viewed the *Promised Land*. Depending on the visibility, we see much of the **Jordan Valley** area we traveled through on the Israel portion of our tour. We celebrate mass in the church at the summit. ~ A short distance east is the city of **Madaba**. Also known as the "*The City of Mosaics*," Madaba has been intermittently inhabited for nearly 3,500 years. The chief attraction in this city is a wonderfully vivid, six-century Byzantine mosaic map showing Jerusalem & other holy sites, protected in the Greek Orthodox **Basilica of St. George**. There are literally hundreds of other mosaics scattered throughout **Madaba** in churches & homes. ~ Finally, we drive about 2 1/2 hours to our beautiful 5* **Petra** hotel for the night. Dinner & overnight Petra, Jordan. B L D

24Jan ~ Tuesday ~ Petra

After breakfast we cross the street to enter the ancient site of **Petra** to visit one of Jordan's national treasures. The soul stirring, rose - red city of **Petra**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the 7 world wonders &, without a doubt, Jordan's most valuable treasure & greatest tourist attraction. **Petra** is the legacy of the Nabatean's, an industrious Arab people who settled in south Jordan more than 2000 years ago. Biblically, this is thought to be the area where the Edomites lived (the descendants of Esau, Genesis 36), the people who would not let Moses & the Israelites pass through (Numbers 20). This is where Moses & Aaron struck the stone & water poured out but they did not give God the credit so Moses would only see the Promised Land from Mt. Nebo (Exodus 20). The Nabataean's history begins about the 6th century B.C. They are credited with the stone carved city. It became a very important stop on the Nabataean incense route. It is the most visited site in **Jordan** & considered one of the top places to visit in a lifetime. ~ Much of **Petra's** appeal comes from its spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge. Although much has been written about **Petra**, nothing really prepares us for the unique site- it really does need to be seen to be believed. It is a vast city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabatean's. From the main entrance, we travel on foot through the awesome "*siq*", an immense crack in the sandstone that winds for one kilometer between overhanging cliffs. (There is the option to ride a horse to the beginning of the *siq*. There are carts that can take one further into the site at an extra cost.) **Petra's** most famous monument, the *Treasury*, appears dramatically at the end of the *siq*. Various walks & climbs reveal literally hundreds of buildings, facades, tombs, baths, funerary halls, temples & a 3000 seat theater from the 1st Century AD. Our guide provides explanation & orientation as we walk to the *Treasury*. As we stay in **Petra** tonight, we are then free to explore as much of the site as we want until it closes. ~ The modern city of **Petra** offers souvenirs, books, etc. within walking distance from the entrance & our hotel. NOTE: The included lunch is in the city of **Petra**, outside the site. Some may choose to skip lunch in order to remain in **Ancient Petra** longer at their own discretion. Mass will be at the hotel, time to be advised. Dinner & overnight **Petra**, Jordan. B L D

25Jan ~ Wednesday ~ Return to Israel via Allenby Bridge/ Departure

After an early breakfast, we check out of our hotel & depart for the border. We return to the **Allenby Bridge**, to meet our Israeli guide & transfer. ~ As time permits, we may visit additional Israeli sites. ~ Our return to Tel Aviv will end at the airport for those departing for home.

26Jan ~ Thursday ~ Arrive Home

*Pricing can be found on the registration link as it varies from departure city. \$1150 and up.