



## Highlights for the Israel and Jordan Adventure – 15 days

### **DAY 1 JERUSALEM**

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer included.

We highly recommend booking a pre-night in Jerusalem to recover from jetlag and relax as this is a fast-paced trip with little free time.

Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting 1h18:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your guide will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

Private Vehicle pickup

Ben Gurion Airport – Jerusalem

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Accommodation

Legacy Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

### **DAY 2 JERUSALEM**

Take a specially designed walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem with both Israeli and Palestinian guides an experience exclusively designed by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah. This unique dual-narrative tour allows travelers a deeper understanding of the diverse cultural, religious, and political aspects of Israel. Visit key sites including the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and the Al Aqsa Mosque. Continue to the Western Wall, then walk through the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This afternoon, visit the Mount of Olives for stunning views of Jerusalem, then enjoy free time to wander on your own or opt to visit the Garden of Gethsemane. Later, enjoy a discussion with a local scholar on conflict resolution and local interfaith issues.

#### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Old Jerusalem Walking Tour**

Take a specially designed walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem with two guides: one Israeli and one Palestinian, an experience exclusively designed by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah. This unique dual-narrative tour allows travelers a deeper understanding of the diverse cultural, religious and political aspects of Israel. Visit key sites including the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and the Al Aqsa Mosque. Mount of Olives Viewpoint Jerusalem, named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes, the Mount of Olives is a mountain ridge just east of Jerusalem's Old City, separating it from the Judean Desert. Enjoy sweeping views of Jerusalem and enjoy this prominent site which is referenced in Holy Scriptures.

#### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Lecture with Local Expert**

Discuss the present-day situation with a local who specializes in conflict resolution. Sit down with this leading scholar to talk about the current state of affairs here, local interfaith issues and gain insight into both Israel and the Middle East.

#### **Jerusalem**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Accommodation**

Legacy Hotel (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

### **DAY 3 JERUSALEM**

Take a sobering visit to Yad Vashem Memorial to learn about the Holocaust and its ramifications today. In the afternoon, visit the famed Israel Museum. View the Dead Sea Scrolls, housed in the Shrine of the Book and observe one of the greatest

archaeological finds of the past century. After, opt to walk through the museum's state of the art archeological exhibition on your own.

Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum) Visit Jerusalem, The Holocaust History Museum is home to state-of-the-art exhibits on this horrific tragedy. It also showcases original artifacts and survivor testimonies.

Visit the famed Israel Museum and view the Dead Sea Scrolls, housed in the Shrine of the Book. Considered one of the greatest archaeological finds of the past century, these ancient manuscripts (dated at over 2000 years old) were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves near Khirbet Qumran, on the shores of the Dead Sea. After, enjoy free time to walk through the museum's state of the art archeological exhibition which showcases some of the most significant finds in the region.

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Bethlehem Afternoon - Enjoy some time on your own.

Accommodation

Meals included: Breakfast

#### **DAY 4 JERUSALEM**

Enjoy a second exclusively designed dual-narrative tour of Bethlehem with Israeli and Palestinian guides. Visit Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity. Walk through a nearby Palestinian refugee camp and then head to a local Palestinian family's home for a cooking class and lunch.

##### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Bethlehem Walking Tour**

Enjoy a dual-narrative tour of Bethlehem with two guides: one Israeli and one Palestinian. This experience was exclusively designed by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah. Hearing personal stories and cross-cultural learning, visit Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, known as the birthplace of Jesus, and learn about the city's shrinking Christian population. Also walk through a nearby Palestinian refugee camp, and learn how murals and graffiti have been used to depict the refugees' struggles.

##### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Palestinian Family Meal**

Enjoy a midday break with a visit to a local Palestinian family's home. Experience a cultural immersion, learning about daily life. Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Accommodation

Legacy Hotel (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

#### **DAY 5 JERUSALEM/TIBERIAS**

Start the day with a guided visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Masada with stops at Herod's Palace, the Bathhouse, and the Synagogue. After that, it's off for a visit to the Dead Sea, continuing along the Jordan Valley north to the Sea of Galilee, where we'll stay in a kibbutz hotel for the next two nights and enjoy a lecture on the Kibbutz movement.

Staying at a Kibbutz hotel is a unique experience, but please remember that the accommodation & facilities are simple.

##### **Jerusalem – Tiberias 4h-5h**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Masada Guided Tour

Masada

Take a tour of Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage site and stunning rock fortress that was the last stronghold of the Jewish in their war against the Romans. The story of the site reveals the courage of the defenders of Masada and their battle against the conquering Romans. Visit Herod's palace, the mikveh, storerooms, watchtowers, and the synagogue.

##### **Dead Sea Visit (Israel)**

The Dead Sea is actually a lake, without any form of life whatsoever in its waters, hence its name. The water is so dense that it is practically impossible to sink and its five to ten times as salty as regular sea water. While swimming, cover yourself with the sea's mud, which is reputed to have special healing powers, and don't forget to take a photo of yourself reading a book while floating! You will notice that the salt penetrates any cuts on your body and has an unusual smell, but there are showers to wash off under after swimming.

### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Kibbutz tour**

Enjoy an introduction to the Kibbutz movement history which started about 100 years ago around the Sea Of Galilee. With our local expert, we'll discuss the difference between the "Original" Kibbutz to the Kibbutz of today and in the future. On the tour we will see the Kibbutz structure visiting shared public buildings and areas including dining room, children's houses, laundry station, as well as the agricultural areas.

Accommodation  
Ma'agan Kibbutz (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

### **DAY 6 TIBERIAS**

Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes, for gorgeous views of the Sea of Galilee and visit the church that was built atop this hill, where Jesus is believed to have delivered his "Sermon on the Mount" speech. Continue to the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus lived and preached, and where many apostles, including Peter, made their home. Learn about the lives of Israeli Arabs on the way to Nazareth, where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, one of the largest churches in the Middle East.

#### **Tiberias**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.  
Nazareth Guided Tour

#### **Nazareth**

Visit some of the highlights of Nazareth, a city of religious importance and spirituality. Delve into its rich historic and biblical significance, but also admire its modern culture and Middle Eastern charm. Sea of Galilee area tour.

#### **Tiberias**

Enjoy stunning sights this morning with a drive to the Mt. of Beatitudes with sweeping views of the Sea of Galilee. Visit the church that was built atop this hill, where Jesus is believed to have delivered his "Sermon on the Mount" speech. Next, tour the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus lived and preached, and where many apostles, including Peter, made their home.

Accommodation  
Ma'agan Kibbutz (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

### **DAY 7 TIBERIAS/TEL AVIV**

Continue to the Mediterranean, visiting the coastal city of Haifa and then south to Caesarea Marittima to see the ruins of Herod's harbour city. After, continue toward Jaffa, an ancient port city dating back to the Bronze Age. Continue on to the bustling city of Tel Aviv for our last evening. After a very busy trip, should you wish to enjoy some relaxation and leisure time, we do recommend booking post nights in Tel Aviv, Caesarea Guided Tour

#### **Qesarya**

Visit the majestic Roman ruins of Caesarea. It was built as part of Herod the Great's ambitious plan to "Hellenise" the Holy Land in the 1st century BC. He chose the site of a small Phoenician port and built a classical Greek city. Herod also constructed an artificial harbour by making use of concrete piling underwater - the first ever such use of concrete.

Tiberias – Tel Aviv 7h-8h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Accommodation  
Cinema Hotel (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

### **DAY 8 TEL AVIV/AMMAN**

Transfer to the border and cross over into Jordan. Transfer to Amman and meet your new guide.

You will have one guide in Israel and one in Jordan. In this case you will be transferred to the border and cross over unescorted to Jordan – either on your own or with any other travelers who are continuing on for the Jordan portion of the tour. You will be met on the Jordanian side of the border and transferred to Amman, where there is free time to relax until the welcome meeting with your new guide in the evening. See the "Detailed Trip Notes" section of the Tour Details page for helpful instructions on crossing the Israeli-Jordanian border.

Please remember that Israel and Jordan are very different Countries, in terms of culture, daily way of life and infrastructure. The best part of travel is gaining insight into these differences and keeping an open mind. Its important to note that transport vehicles in Israel are usually much more modern than in Jordan.

#### **Tel Aviv – Beit She'an2h**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Border Crossing (Israel - Jordan)

Beit She'an – Sheikh Hussein1h-3h

The border crossing process takes about an hour on average. Please note that depending on security check process and traffic, the border crossing time can take anywhere from 1 to 3 hours.

#### **Sheikh Hussein – Amman90km**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Accommodation

Amman Cham Palace (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

#### **DAY 9 AMMAN**

Take an orientation drive through Amman and visit the National Museum and archaeological site of the Citadel. Continue on to visit Jerash, one of the largest and most well-preserved Roman ruins outside of Italy.

#### **Amman – Jerash Governorate1h-1h30m**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Jerash Guided Visit, Jerash Governorate3h-4h

Take a step back in time visiting Jerash, one of the most well-preserved Roman sites outside of Italy. Wander amid its paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains, and city walls pierced by towers and gates – all in exceptional condition.

#### **Jerash Governorate – Amman2h-2h30m**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

National Archaeological Museum & Citadel

#### **Amman 2h**

Visit the museum for an overview on Jordan's history and ancient sites. Continue on to the Citadel archaeological site, best known for the Roman Temple of Hercules, but used by numerous civilizations dating back to the Bronze Age.

Accommodations

Amman Cham Palace (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

#### **DAY 10 AMMAN/WĀDĪ MŪSĀ**

Visit the ancient town of Madaba, famous for its mosaics and churches. Continue to Mt Nebo where we are rewarded with stunning views from the summit. In the evening, enjoy a lecture with a local archaeologist to discuss the importance of Petra, and ongoing excavations at this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Depart early today for the long but very interesting drive by way of the King's Highway to Petra. The first stop is Mount Nebo, which is believed by many to be the site of Moses' death and has thus been a centre for pilgrimage since the earliest Christian times.

Visit the town of Madaba, which has some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in the world. Arrive in the early evening at Wadi Musa, our base for exploring Petra.

#### **Amman – Wādī Mūsá3h-4h240km**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Mt Nebo Visit

Jabal Nabā

Visit Mount Nebo, a historic site believed by many to be the location of Moses' death and has thus been a centre for pilgrimage since the earliest Christian times. Trek to the summit (817m or 2,680 ft), and be rewarded with views of the stunning surrounding countryside and Israel in the distance.

### **Mādabā**

#### Madaba Mosaics Guided Tour

Explore Madaba's long history on this guided tour, including its role as the centre of early Christianity. See some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in the world, including the famous sixth-century mosaic map of the Middle East. Tour churches, the Archaeological Park, and the local museum that's housed in several old Madaba residences.

### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Petra Archaeologist Talk**

Join an archaeologist for a talk about the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra, the ancient city that was half-built and half-carved into a sandstone landscape. Learn about the ongoing excavation taking place here, and get a better understanding of the site for when you explore it yourself.

#### Accommodation

Hotel Petra Moon (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

### **DAY 11 WĀDĪ MŪSĀ**

Rise early to visit iconic Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a guided walking tour with your expert CEO, after opt to hike up for magnificent views from the top of the treasury or enjoy free time to explore the site on your own. In the evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner of local specialties.

Wind your way through the Siq, a narrow, 1km-long (.6 mi) gorge flanked by soaring 80m-high (262 ft) sandstone walls. Take in the astounding colors and patterns of the rock, and, at the end of this passage, catch your first glimpse of Al-Khazneh, the famed treasury of Petra. Spend the morning exploring this famed site with your guide. The guide will give a brief history of the city, which the Nabateans carved from the living rock of the surrounding mountains. The site is large so please be prepared for a lot of walking over sand and rocks. Pace yourself, stay hydrated and be sure to have proper walking/hiking shoes.

### **Petra**

#### Petra Guided Tour

Journey to Petra to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site. Each tour will be different depending on the interests of the group, but everyone arrives through the dramatic Siq, rounding a corner and setting eyes on the famous treasury building. With time, hike approx. 25km (15 mi) to cover the entire site. Climb (steps) to two sacred hilltops. Depending on the weather and the interests of the group, opt to hike an additional 2km (1.2 mi) to see the magnificent views from the top of the treasury. This makes for a unique and unforgettable experience.

Get a brief history of the city, one of the greatest tourist attractions in the Middle East. The Nabateans carved this capital from the living rock of the surrounding mountains in Petra. Visit monuments that include the Pharaoh's Castle, the triumphal arch, the amphitheater, and the monastery.

#### Free Time

#### Wādī Mūsā Afternoon

Continue to explore Petra on your own.

### **Wādī Mūsā**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### Hands-On: Cooking Demonstration with Dinner

Head to a restaurant for a cooking demonstration of some popular local dishes. Under a local chef's guidance, cook a full Jordanian dinner including soup, hot and cold mezza dishes (appetizers), and a main course. Enjoy eating the creations as a delicious dinner.

### **Optional Activities - Day 11**

#### Accommodation

Hotel Petra Moon (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

## **DAY 12 PETRA/WADI RUM**

Continue to Wadi Rum in the heart of Jordan's desert scape. Enjoy lunch at our camp and an exciting 4x4 desert excursion into the desert where we pick the perfect spot to watch the sunset. Return to camp for a traditional Bedouin feast and after take a walk in the desert admiring the night sky with a local Bedouin guide.

After breakfast, drive to Wadi Rum, a vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds and the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes. Spend the night in a simple, but comfortable desert camp; The authentic goat-wool tent provides a glimpse into traditional Bedouin living. Each tent has ensuite and is outfitted with sheets, pillows, a raised bed, towels, electricity and thick covers against the desert cold. While the accommodation is simple, it is quite comfortable and offers a truly unique experience.

**November – February:** The desert can get very cold after the sun sets and it can be cool during the days. If you are visiting during the winter months you should pack warm comfortable clothing for daytime and especially the evenings (a jacket, hat, gloves and warm pajamas).

**September/October & March/April:** evenings can still get chilly so you should bring something warm to wear. Daytime is usually warm and comfortable but you can bring a sweater or jacket just in case.

**May – August:** the weather is very hot during the day and the evenings are usually comfortable and warm.

### **Petra – Wadi Rum2h**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

4x4 Desert Trip 4h

Head deep into the desert by 4x4 and enjoy the amazing natural beauty and unique landscape on this unforgettable drive. Along the way we drive up red sand dunes, view stunning rock formations and visit ancient sites to view rock art and inscriptions.

### **National Geographic Journeys Exclusives: Wadi Rum Night Walk**

There's nothing quite like counting stars in the night sky from the desert below, away from the noise and light pollution of our modern world. Enjoy this experience while walking with a Bedouin guide who's lived in this remote region his entire life.

Accommodation

Rahayeb Camp (or similar)-Campground

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## **DAY 13 WADI RUM/DEAD SEA**

Opt to take an early morning camel trek or hot air balloon ride over the desert. Later, continue to the famed Dead Sea. Upon arrival opt to swim and use the natural sea salts and mud as your own personal spa.

At 423m (1,388 ft) below sea level, the shores of the Dead Sea are at the lowest land elevation on Earth. The sea is named because its salinity is so high (up to nine times that of the world's oceans) that only a few microorganisms can live in its waters.

### **Wadi Rum – Dead Sea3h30m**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Dead Sea Visit

#### **Dead Sea**

Discover the legendary healing qualities of the Dead Sea, famous for its unique mineral makeup and salinity. Spot salt chunks drifting by like icebergs on the water's surface. Take a dip yourself and float like a buoy or cover yourself in the mud along the shore, believed to have medicinal and therapeutic benefits. There are showers nearby to wash off after.

Free Time

#### **Dead Sea**

Relax under an umbrella next to one of the freshwater swimming pools or enjoy the other facilities at the resort hotel. Why not indulge in an optional massage or one of the other health and beauty therapies available?

**Optional Activities - Day 13**

Accommodation

Ramada Resort Dead Sea (or similar)

Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

**DAY 14 DEAD SEA/AMMAN**

Enjoy a visit to the archaeological site of Bethany, thought to be the site where Jesus was baptized. Continue back to Amman and opt to join the CEO for a farewell dinner.

**Bethany Beyond the Jordan**

Dead Sea Afternoon

Visit the archaeological site of Bethany, thought to be the site of John the Baptist's settlement and where Jesus was baptized. Fairly recently rediscovered, the site is an important archaeological find, numerous sites are being uncovered including Roman and Byzantine Baptismal pools, ancient churches, and caves.

**Dead Sea – Amman 4h**

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Accommodation

Amman Cham Palace (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast

**DAY 15 AMMAN**

Depart at any time.

Check-out time from the hotel is normally mid-morning, but luggage storage facilities are available. We also encourage you to book a few additional nights if you want more time to explore the city.

Speak to your guide about arranging your transfer to the airport (additional cost).

Departure Day

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*Ready to plan your adventure? Contact Marlene Sibley at 1.650.504.5494 or email [marlene@sibleytravels.com](mailto:marlene@sibleytravels.com) to find out more information or reserve your place on this fantastic tour.*

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