

Israel – Jordan Tour (25th February to 15th March 2019) – 19 Days. (Exact dates may change slightly depending on airline schedules)

Leave Australia – Monday 25th February 2019 (Arrive in Jordan, Tuesday 26th February 2019)

Jordan/Israel Day 2 - Transfer to the Sheik Hussein northern border or to King Hussein (Allenby) Drive to **Kibbutz Jezre'el**. On the way introduction to modern Israel. Jezre'el was the town founded by Ahab and Jezebel. If there in time have lunch on the kibbutz – and meet an Australian member (Prof. Mittleman) and learn about their lifestyle. Today there are few communal kibbutzim still functioning as such, but kibbutzniks (members of a kibbutz) were a dominant factor amongst the generation that founded the state, and in the early days of the state. Overnight Tiberias or thereabout.

Israel Day 3 - The day starts with a visit to **Cana** (Renewal of Marriage Vows) Continue to **Nazareth** to see St. Joseph's church and the Church of Annunciation. On the way we drive past Mary's well where the Greeks believe the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to **Bet She'arim** to see the catacombs where the Jewish sages of the 2nd and 3rd century were buried. Visit **Zippori** (the metropolis of the Galilee in Jesus' day and later). See its magnificent mosaics and Roman streets. This would have been the town where the villagers from Nazareth bought their supplies and perhaps found work. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Israel Day 4 – Ascend to the Upper Galilee to visit the **Agmon Hulleh** to see the myriads of migrating birds in a guided tour in a camouflaged vehicle. Continue to the northern border of Israel to see **Tel Dan**, the Biblical Laish; visit the Tel and see the altars found from the Kings of Israel period (3000 years ago). Next stop is where Herod Philip built **Caesarea Philippi** at the Baniyas springs, one of the sources of the Jordan River and the site of Peter's confession. Walk the riverbed past the Druze selling Pita Bread and Tea (if he's there) and Herod Agrippa's palace. Return via **Bethsaida**, home to certainly 3 and probably 5 of the disciples. Dinner and overnight Tiberius.

Israel Day 5 - Start the day with a **boatride** on the Sea of Galilee. Continue to see the **Magdala** Centre Dig before visiting the **Mt of Beatitudes**, which has an excellent view of the Sea of Galilee with its shimmering blue lake. It was at this site that Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount "Blessed are the poor in spirit.... (Matt 5:1-9). Drive to **Tabgha** and see the mosaic in the church of the Multiplication of the loaves and fish followed by a visit to **Mensa Christi** (Primacy of Peter) After an enjoyable fish lunch at the Sea of Galilee visit **Kursi** on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. A mosaic floor was uncovered with a Greek inscription. It was at this site that Jesus healed a man possessed by demons (Mark 5:1-20). end the day at **Capernaum** where most of the ministries of Jesus took place. See the outstanding remains of the synagogue built by the Roman centurion who was the first heathen to accept our Lord and Saviour. Overnight and dinner Tiberius.

Israel Day 6 - Check out after breakfast, we will leave the hotel at 08:00. Visit the Bedouin village of **Suweid** and learn all about these now settled down Bedouin (the word means nomad) from the son of the Mukhtar (the village chief). Drive to the site where Elijah confronted the priests of Baal on **Mt. Carmel**. After lunch visit **Caesarea Maritime** on the shores of the Mediterranean, viewing the Roman aqueduct and port, Crusader's Moat and the famous Roman Theater. See the movie demonstrating the incredible feat of building the harbour. It was in Caesarea that Paul was imprisoned. – dinner and overnight Tel Aviv (only 1 night so pack accordingly).

Israel Day 7 - Start the day with a visit to **Jaffa** (include JaffaTales **9:00**) Visit the **Ayalon Institute 11:00**. Drive to Abu Ghosh to see the Crusader site of **Emmaus**, where Jesus met Leontidas and Cleopas after the resurrection. Perhaps Br. Oliver will tell us a little about the order and himself. In Jerusalem ascend to **Mt. Scopus** for a toast [Shehechyanu] to the city. Visit the Israel Museum to see the model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus before settling in at your Jerusalem hotel. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem

Israel Day 8 – Today we visit **Bethlehem**. We see how the olive wood is carved into Nativity sets and other artefacts and we hear from a Palestinian bishop. Afterwards we visit the Holy Sites including the **Shepherds Field**, Shepherds Church, **Church of the Nativity** with Birth cave. Before returning to our hotel stop at the **Haas Promenade** for some wonderful shots of Jerusalem from the south. Overnight Jerusalem

Israel Day 9 - We begin the day with a spectacular view of Jerusalem from the **Mt. of Olives** - Walk down the Palm Sunday Road, visit the Chapel of **Dominus Flevit** and the Church of all Nations at the **Garden of Gethsemane** – Continue through Lion's gate (also known as St. Stephen's Gate] to visit the **Church of St. Anne** and the **Pools of Bethesda**. We then walk the **Via Dolorosa** starting at the Lithostrotos in the **Sisters of Zion Convent** ending with the last five stations inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will stop for lunch on the way. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem

Israel Day 10 – Free Day - Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

Israel Day 11 - Drive first to **Bethany** where we briefly visit the church and the tomb of Lazarus. We then continue to **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. At the **Qaser el-Yahud baptismal site** on the River Jordan, we renew our baptismal vows, followed by a visit to the desert oasis of Jericho where we visit **Ancient Jericho**, view the Mount of Temptation and take an orientation tour around the town. On our way back to Jerusalem we will stop to **view** the **Monastery of Saint George**. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

Israel Day 12- Start the day very early to visit the **Temple Mount** and the **Western Wall** prayer area. Continue to where Jerusalem started, more than 4000 years ago, at the **City of David**, including Hezekiah's tunnel. Walk through this 2, 700 year-old tunnel (550 m. long) in water up to your knees or through the 3,800 year old Canaanite tunnel(now dry) ending in the Pool of Siloam. Return to visit the ongoing digs on the western slopes (the Givati parking lot) and to descend into the drainage tunnel of the Herodian city. Follow it under today's Old City walls to emerge on the main street from the time of Jesus. Here in the **Davidson Centre** we will see the streets and steps that led into the Temple 2,00 years ago. Visit After lunch we visit the **Room of the Last Supper** and the Prison of Christ in **St. Peter et Gallicantu**. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

Israel Day 13 - We begin the day **[09:15]** at **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial** to the victims of the Holocaust, as well as recognizing and honouring a number of non-Jewish people that helped save Jews during this bleak period. In the village of **Ein Karem** we visit the birthplace of St. John the Baptist and the church commemorating Mary's meeting with Elizabeth. After lunch we return to the Old city and visit the Jewish Quarter. See the **Burnt House** and **Herodian Mansions**. Walk the Cardo, the main street in Roman and Byzantine times. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Israel Day 14 - Depart Jerusalem: The bus will take us and our luggage to the train station (there is a fast line being initiated this spring - 1/2 hour to Tel Aviv - in a tunnel under the mountains emerging just after Emmaus in the Ayalon valley - I do not yet know if they will scrap the old line as a consequence) where we will ride through the Vale of Rephaim to **Bet Shemesh** where the Ark of the Covenant returned after the Philistines put it on a wagon yoked to oxen and let it go (they had captured it in a battle at Afek). From there we will continue to **Beersheva** to see the Park of the Australian Soldier, Water Wells and the WW1 cemetery, Continue to **Tel Sheva**, Biblical **Arad** and our Dead Sea hotel.

Israel Day 15 - Visit **Massada**, **Ein Gedi** and the **Ahava** cosmetic factory. Return to enjoy the hotel facilities.

Israel Day 16 - Drive to **Avdat** in the high Negev mountains to see this spectacular Nabatean town. Celebrate Mass in the ancient Byzantine Church there. Continue to **Mitzpe Ramon** for fabulous view of

the Ramon Makhtesh. Drive down to the Arava valley to visit **Timna and the Tabernacle**. Cross into **Jordan** at the **Arava crossing**, and head for Petra for two nights (Petra Moon)

Day 17 –

Check out Breakfast in the hotel

Spend the day in the Rose red hidden Nabatean **city of Petra** - a short horse ride to the siq – walk through this narrow gorge over 1 km in length and see the amazing Treasury at the end of the siq.

Dinner and overnight: Petra - [Petra Moon](#)

Day 18

Checkout of the hotel after breakfast

Madaba - visit the **St. George Greek Orthodox Church** and observe an old map of the holy land, located on its floor, made out of mosaics. ([Possible Mass](#))

Mt. Nebo - the site's association with the last days of Moses is described in Deuteronomy (34:1-7). Enjoy the breathtaking view of the Jordan Valley, the River Jordan and the Dead Sea. **Amman** city tour (If we have time) - see the many different faces of this city-the capital of Jordan -the classical ruins to bustling markets and upscale shopping centers. Drive past the hilltop Citadel - dating back to the Roman and Byzantine period

Transfer to the airport

Day 19 – Arrive back in Australia (15th March)

Pilgrimage cost (Approx as airline costs not published at the moment) \$6695

Single Supplement (Approx \$1650)

Costs include

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy air fare Ex Capital cities
- 19 Days with at least 4 stars accommodation
- Daily breakfasts and dinners
- All sightseeing, transfers and entrance fees as per the itinerary with English speaking guide
- Bus and guide as per program in a luxury airconditioned coach with Wi Fi.
- Airport meet and assistance and round trip transfers
- Visa into Israel and Bethlehem
- Cable car at Masada
- Petra in Jordan (Jordan Visa cost not included)
- Boat ride on Sea of Galilee
- Airport & departure taxes
- All tips, portorage and gratuities

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Visa into Jordan, Border crossings and entry border costs (We will organize the visas for the group)
- Travel insurance
- Lunches • Jordan Visa
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls,
- Laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above