

OPTIONAL PRE OR POST PILGRIMAGE EXTENSION TO JORDAN

In the Footsteps of Moses and the Early Christians

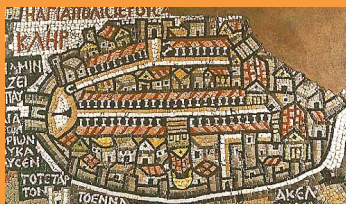
28-31 March 2019

\$1,145 All Inclusive*

Madaba
Mount Nebo



Petra



Um ar Rassas

Wadi Rum



Come with Cris Tallent, Escort & Fr. Stephen Ellis, LC, Chaplain

PROPOSED ITINERARY¹

Day 1 – Mount Nebo Thursday March 28, 2019 (USA Departure March 27)

Once the group from Pilgrimage 1 (already in Jerusalem) and Pilgrimage 2 (arriving from the US) are joined in Jerusalem, we depart for Jordan, crossing the land border at the Allenby King Hussain Bridge.

Our first destination will be Mount Nebo, where Moses stood and viewed the Promised Land. Since the 3rd century the early Christians made this a site of pilgrimage, building a large basilica by the 6th century. Although little remains of the original buildings, you can still see today the magnificent Byzantine mosaics from that basilica. The shrine today is under the auspices of the Franciscan Friars and was renovated in 2016. Schedule permitting, we will have Mass in the restored ancient shrine of "St. Moses."

We continue on to **Madaba**, which is an ancient (Medba in Scripture) town in Jordan, southwest of the capital Amman, situated on the ancient King's Highway trade route. The height of Madaba's splendor coincides with the early centuries of the Christian era, when under Byzantine dominion it became the center of a school of mosaics, an industry that still flourishes today. Madaba had its own bishop, with at least 10 churches, all with impressive Byzantine mosaics. Today Madaba is best known for its 6th-century mosaic map of the Holy Land in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, which we will visit. Madaba was destroyed around 746AD by an earthquake, remaining abandoned until 1880 when a group of Christians from Karak fleeing Muslim conflicts, took refuge in the ruins of the ancient town. They made the amazing discovery in 1884, while removing debris from the ruins of an ancient church where they were trying to build a new one! *Dinner and overnight in Madaba at the Mosaic City Hotel.*

Day 2 – Madaba, Umm ar Rasas, Petra Friday March 29, 2019 Continuing in the footsteps of the early Christians, after we conclude our visit to Madaba with Mass at the Shrine of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, we set out to visit **Umm ar Rasas**, which in ancient times was a Moabite town called Kastron Mefaa. The prophet Jeremiah mentioned the city (as "Mephaath") in his condemnation of Moab (Jeremiah 48:21). In the 4th century, after starting as a Roman garrison town, Umm ar Rasas was converted and became an important ecclesial center. During the 4-7th centuries Christian pilgrimage activities intensified, with many traversing the desert in search of sites with scriptural significance, many choosing to settle and establish monastic communities in these desert outposts.

Umm ar Rasas was one of these communities, boasting at least 16 Byzantine churches. With the Muslim conquest, many of these outposts were abandoned, incurring tremendous destruction, these towns were lost in time. Excavations began in 1986 and still ongoing. In 2004, the site was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, valued by archaeologists for its extensive ruins dating to the Roman, Byzantine, and early Muslim periods. Among the notable finds unearthed at Umm-ar Rasas is the Church of Saint Stephen, which features elaborate and sophisticated mosaics dating from 785AD. *Dinner and overnight in Petra at the Guest House Hotel.*

Day 3 – Petra, Wadi Rum Saturday March 30, 2019 In the morning, after a hearty breakfast, we begin our tour of the **Rose City of Petra**. Although inhabited since ancient biblical times, it is said that Arab nomadic Bedouin tribes of these lands were descendants of the first born of Ishmael. Their Arabic dialect was written in Arameic! Petra and the Nabatean civilization flourished from about 6BC to 106AD, they were successful tradesmen, experts in water management and in the carving of magnificent buildings in the red sandstone of the region. Herod Antipas was married to the daughter of the Nabatean king Aretas IV, Phasaelis, whom he divorced in order to marry Herodias!

The Nabateans were conquered by the Romans in 106AD and eventually becoming the capital of the Byzantine province of Palestina Tertia. Many of the ornate carved tombs were converted into churches as well as the building of several Christian churches, the remnants of 3 which still exist today with their exquisite mosaic floors. We will visit the 'Petra Church' and will try to have Mass there. Petra went into decline after suffering earthquakes, the shifting of trade routes and by the Muslim conquest. It was eventually abandoned in the 7th century and re-discovered in 1812. It was declared one of the 'New 7 Wonders of the World and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985.

To enter the city of Petra, we will have the option of walking or riding a horse* to the entrance of the famous Siq, the passageway that cuts through the winding fissure in the canyon that leads to the Rose City. We will explore this amazing wonder throughout the day, learning the importance of the city in the desert, trade, history of the region, (Christians were martyred here during the Diocletian persecution in the 4th century), and the fascinating architectural technologies deployed in the city considered avant-garde for the time.

In the late afternoon, we will head to the **Wadi Rum**, to begin our adventures in the red desert, where we will spend the night 'under the stars! A special aspect of visiting the Wadi Rum is the ability to see a clear sky of stars at night, it's beauty which can only be fully seen or appreciated by staying overnight in the desert to take in the beauty of the night sky.

As the sun goes down, we need to be on the lookout for the very first star to appear, as the sky darkens the myriad of stars appear – we will be there during a waning moon – which makes for optimal viewing while we listen to Father Stephen preach "Abraham's Holy Hour" under the stars! *Dinner and overnight at the Wadi Rum Night Luxury Camp.*

Day 4 – Wadi Rum and Return to Jerusalem Sunday March 31, 2019

Wadi Rum is one of Jordan's main tourist attractions being the most stunning desert scape in the world, lying 320 km southwest of Amman 120 km south of Petra and 68 km north of Aqaba. It's uniquely shaped massive mountains rise out of the pink desert sand, which separate one dark mass from another in a magnificent desert scenery of strange breathtaking beauty, with towering cliffs of weathered stone. After breakfast, we will enjoy an unforgettable jeep tour through the desert as we begin our journey back to Jerusalem, once again crossing into Israel at the Allenby King Hussain Bridge border crossing.

After returning to Jerusalem, Pilgrims from Pilgrimage 1 will be taken to the airport [2] in Tel-Aviv at a designated time transfer for USA departures while the Pilgrims from Pilgrimage 2 will remain to begin their Holy Land Pilgrimage.

[1] Please note that this program is subject to changes without prior notice to adapt to climate conditions, time limitations, availability or other circumstances. This program is physically demanding. **The visit to Petra requires walking minimum 5-8 miles. You may ride a horse* to the entrance of the park, ride a donkey* while in the Park, but all visitors must be able to walk through the canyon to enter and exit the Park. A distance of 2 kilometers or 1.5 mile each way. Daily: Mass, Rosary & Meditations.**

ACCOMMODATIONS

Madaba: Mosaic City Hotel – March 28-29, 2019 (one night)
Petra: Petra Guest House Hotel – March 29-30, 2019 (one night)
Wadi Rum: Wadi Rum Luxury Camp – March 30-31, 2019 (one night)
<http://www.wadirumnight.com/>

PRICE, PAYMENT & REGISTRATION

Price per person in double occupancy:[3]

All inclusive price \$1,145.00**

Registration on line at the same time as you register for your Pilgrimage
Single Room Supplement: \$165.00

****The above rate includes:**

Three nights' accommodation on half-board basis (breakfast & dinner)
Daily lunches (four)
English speaking; Entrance fees; Two-hour jeep ride in Wadi Rum
Porterage at hotels (1 suitcase per person)
Deluxe transportation as per your program
Jordanian Visa and exit taxes
Tips for guides, drivers, and hotel & restaurant staff

Rate does not include:

Any personal expenses such as telephone calls, beverages, laundry, or insurance. *Animal rides, horse, donkey or camel*
Any deviations or exceptions from the above itinerary
Anything not mentioned above

[3] Prices are based on 17 participants minimum and on exchange rates known at time of publication and expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Any devaluation or revaluation of currencies may affect the published price. Same payment deadlines as the Holy Land Pilgrimage apply
DEADLINES AND CANCELLATION POLICY IS THE SAME AS FOR THE SAME PILGRIMAGE YOU REGISTER FOR.

CONTACT: Cris Tallent at ctallent@ourladyofbethesda.org

WE WILL ENTER AND EXIT JORDAN THROUGH THE ISRAELI/JORDANIAN LAND BORDER AT THE ALLENBY KING HUSSAIN BRIDGE CROSSING. NO FLIGHTS ARE REQUIRED.



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