

# *A Pilgrimage Adventure in Jordan*

**MARCH 26-31, 2020**

## ***In the Footsteps of Moses and the Early Christians***

***Mount Nebo, Madaba, Petra, Umm ar Rasas &  
'Glamping' in the Wadi Rum***

***All inclusive  
from \$1,395\****



**Join Fr. Peter Hopkins, LC and Cris Tallent in this exciting "after the Holy Land" Pilgrimage Adventure!**

Come with Fr. Peter Hopkins, LC & Cris on this amazing adventure!

## PROPOSED ITINERARY [1]

**Day 1 – Mount Nebo, Thursday March 26, 2020** We depart bright and early 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. Though little remains of the original buildings, you can still see today the magnificent Byzantine mosaics from that basilica in the newly renovated chapel atop Mount Nebo. Schedule permitting, we will have Mass in the restored ancient shrine of "St. Moses."

We continue on to **Madaba**, (Medba in Scripture) which is an ancient 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 rule, it became the center of a school of mosaics, an industry that still flourishes to the present day. 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 Christians resettled there. They made this amazing discovery in 1884. Madaba was originally a Moabite town. We will see Ruth's well as well visit the shrine of the beheading of St. John the Baptist - which holds a relic of the True Cross. *Dinner and overnight in Madaba at the Mosaic City Hotel.*

**Day 2 – Madaba, Umm ar Rasas, Petra, Friday March 27** Continuing in the footsteps of the early Christians, we conclude our visit to Madaba and set out to visit **Umm ar Rasas**, also a Moabite town, biblically known as 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 and 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 incurred tremendous destruction, were abandoned, and lost in time. Excavations began in 1986 and are still ongoing. In 2004, the site was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among the notable finds unearthed at Umm-ar Rasas is the Church of Saint Stephen, which features elaborate and sophisticated mosaics dating from 785AD, we will celebrate Mass among the ruins. *Dinner and overnight in Petra.*

**Day 3 – Petra, Wadi Rum, Saturday March 28** In the morning, after a hearty breakfast, we begin our adventures in 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 Aramaic! 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 Petra eventually became the capital of the Byzantine province of Palestina Tertia. Several Christian churches were built there and the remnants of three still exist today with their exquisite mosaic floors. We will visit the 'Petra Church' and plan to have Mass there. Petra went into decline after suffering earth quakes, 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 Seven Wonders of the World' and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985.

To enter the city of Petra, we will walk through 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 of its historical importance as the desert-trade center of the region. The fascinating architectural technologies deployed in the city were considered advanced for their time. Christians were martyred here during the Diocletian persecution in the 4th century.

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. As the sun goes down, we need to be on the lookout for the very first star to appear. A special aspect of visiting the Wadi Rum, weather permitting, is the ability to see a myriad of stars at night. We will be there during a new moon which makes for optimal viewing of the beautiful night sky. A sight which can only be appreciated by an overnight stay! *Dinner and overnight at the Memories Aicha Luxury Camp.*

## Day 4 – Wadi Rum, Sunday March 29

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 on the Red Sea. It's uniquely shaped massive mountains rise out of the pink/red desert sands, 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. With our visit complete, we begin our journey back to Jerusalem, crossing into Israel at the Allenby King Hussain Bridge border crossing. Overnight in Jerusalem, Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center. Farewell Dinner.

**Day 5 - Jerusalem, Monday March 30** It is recommended that you book your flight to depart late the evening of March 30th for **USA arrival on the 31st.**

[1] Please note that this itinerary is subject to changes without prior notice to adapt to climate conditions, time limitations, availability or other circumstances beyond our control. 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, or take a very bumpy carriage ride in and out of the park\* but all visitors should be able to walk through the canyon to enter and exit the park site to fully appreciate the wonder of this landscape. The Siq or canyon has a distance of 2 kilometers or 1.5 mile each way.**

**Daily: Mass, Rosary, Meditations and fabulous faith filled adventures!**

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Madaba: Mosaic City Hotel – March 26-27, 2020 (one night)  
Petra: Petra Old Village Hotel – March 27-28, 2020 (one night)  
Wadi Rum: Memories Aicha Luxury Camp – March 28-29 2020 (one night)  
Notre Dame Jerusalem Center - March 29-30 (one night)

## PRICE, PAYMENT & REGISTRATION\*\*

Price per person in double occupancy: [3] from \$1,395  
All inclusive price \*\$1,395 for minimum of 15 participants, less than 10-14 participants price will be \$1,645 per person, double occupancy. Single room supplement \$265.

Registration on line at the same time as you register for your Pilgrimage

**\*\*The above rate includes:**

Four nights' accommodation on half-board basis (breakfast & dinner)  
Daily lunches and Farewell Dinner.  
English speaking guide; Entrance fees; 4x4 jride in Wadi Rum  
Porterage at hotels (1 small suitcase per person)  
Deluxe transportation as per 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. **^Carriages & Animal rides**, horse, donkey or camel, at your own expense. Wadi Rum camel caravan \$120pp. Any deviations or exceptions from the above itinerary Anything not mentioned above

[3] Prices are based on 15 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.

**DEADLINES AND CANCELLATION POLICY IS THE SAME AS FOR THE HOLY LAND. Final payments due 15 January 2020.**

**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.**



Aicha Luxury Camp