

Jordan Extension Pilgrimage with **Bishop Terry Dance** and **Canon Vicars Hodge**

**May 18 – 23, 2020**

*5 Days/4 Nights exploring the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*

## **Itinerary for Jordan Extension 2020**

*Draft 6 Sept 14, 2019<sup>1</sup>*



*The amazing archaeological site of Petra*

Many Biblical<sup>2</sup> events took place across the Jordan River in what is now the *Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*. Jordan is a truly fascinating place to visit – safe in every way and very hospitable to pilgrims. I have taken groups to Jordan several times now and also spent time there while I was on sabbatical in 2017. Jordan is the land of the ancient **Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites<sup>3</sup>**. In the Byzantine Period the landscape of Jordan was dotted with Churches and the people of this land were virtually all Christians. If you

can find the extra time and money – you will be glad you went with us to Jordan.

The *Jordan Extension precedes* our **2020 Living Stones Pilgrimage** to Israel & Palestine. Instead of flying to Tel Aviv on May 23, we will fly to **Amman, Jordan** (Queen Alia International) on Monday May 18, 2020, arriving May 19. On May 23 we will travel by motor-coach, to the border with Israel. We cross over to Israel at the famous **Allenby Bridge**, and by the end of the day, join the rest of our entourage who will be waiting for us in Nazareth at the **Golden Crown Hotel**. En-route we will have **lunch in Israel**, likely at **Beit She'an**, and we will also tour the extensive Roman ruins there.

**This Jordan Extension requires a good deal of walking.** You need to be sufficiently fit for the physical exertion of walking perhaps 10,000 paces some days<sup>4</sup>. It is important to have two pair of good walking shoes in your kit. Another important tip is to travel light – the more you bring,

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<sup>1</sup> Holy Land itineraries are always subject to change – for reasons of local conditions and to take best advantage of our time. Beyond the leadership of Bishop Dance & Canon Hodge, we have expert local guides to accompany our visits. When our guides know that a particular site is crowded – we sometimes change up the sequence and make changes as needed to best utilize our time. Our motor coach is Air Conditioned and usually has Wi-Fi connection.

<sup>2</sup> While most people think of the Holy Land as Israel and Palestine, properly speaking it includes portions of the modern nations of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. Ancient borders & territories did not follow today's political boundaries that have moved many times.

<sup>3</sup> Also, the allotted lands of the Tribes of Ruben, Gad, and Half-tribe of Manasseh were across the Jordan.

<sup>4</sup> An example of a high step-count day is Day 3 in Petra. A person can cut down the walking considerably by omitting some of the tour – but if you want to see the full site there is no way around a lot of walking on uneven paving stones and gravel.

the more you need to lug around and manage. Our tour package includes almost everything except air-fare, beverages, and personal expenses! (You will observe that similar packages often do not include tips and lunches.)

### **Monday, May 18, 2020 TRAVEL DAY**

We will travel together from Toronto, most likely an early evening flight.<sup>5</sup> Please plan to arrive at the airport by 3 ½ hours before departure. Travel with as little luggage as you find comfortable. This is an overnight flight arriving mid-afternoon Saturday. While aboard: drink water, stretch your legs once in a while, and do your best to sleep. Our pilgrimage program is demanding so it is a good thing to try to arrive rested.

### **1. Tuesday May 19, 2020 ARRIVE IN JORDAN & TO AMMAN**

**We will land Queen Alia International Airport, Amman** mid-afternoon – likely at 3:00 PM. After collecting our luggage and clearing customs we will be met by our guide who will take us to our motor-coach. The drive in to Amman takes a little less than 45 minutes. (Our motor-coach will be Air Conditioned and Wi-Fi equipped.<sup>6</sup>) A brief drive about Amman will help to orient us to this ancient city though we will make no stops. Afternoon check-in to our hotel for dinner and overnight at the [Century Park Hotel, Amman](#). We will be tired from our long journey and dinner and overnight will be welcome.

### **2. Wednesday, May 20, 2020 08:00 AMMAN, JERASH AND PETRA**

Our day begins with breakfast at our hotel with excellent middle-eastern food and western food to choose from. We then check-out of our Hotel and gather on the bus. We spend a couple hours exploring some highlights of ancient **Amman**, our tour will include **the Citadel** and the **Roman Theatre**<sup>7</sup>. Amman was called Rabbath Ammon or Rabat Amon by the Ammonites. It was later conquered by the Assyrians, followed by the Persians, the Greek Macedonians,<sup>8</sup> and the Romans.



*Roman Theatre at Amman*

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<sup>5</sup> We will decide which flight early in 2020 based largely on price. Royal Jordanian, Air Canada, Lufthansa, Egypt Air all fly this route. There are no non-stop connections so we will end up changing planes in Vienna, Heathrow, Frankfurt, or Cairo.

<sup>6</sup> Wi-Fi is notoriously unreliable on tour-buses. Roaming in Jordan can be expensive – so I suggest you turn roaming off and go ‘unplugged’ for a few days. A good app is Maps.me (install and load Jordan maps at home.)

<sup>7</sup> The Roman Theatre in Amman seated 6000. Built during the reign of Antonius Pius (138-161 AD) when the city was known as Philadelphia.

<sup>8</sup> Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the Macedonian ruler of Egypt, renamed it Philadelphia.

We then drive to the ancient city of **Jerash**, site of the ruins of the Greco-Roman city of **Gerasa**, also referred to as **Antioch on the Golden River**. After the Roman conquest of AD 63, Jerash was included in the Roman province of Syria, and later became part of the **Decapolis league** of cities. After AD 106, Jerash was part of the Roman province of Arabia of which Philadelphia (Amman) was the capital. Remains in the Greco-Roman Jerash include (numerous Corinthian columns, **Hadrian's Arch**,<sup>9</sup> the **circus-hippodrome**, two large **temples** (dedicated to **Zeus and Artemis**), an



*Jerash is one of the best-preserved Roman ruins outside of Italy.*

unusual **oval forum**, a **long colonnaded street or cardo**, two theatres (the large South Theatre and smaller North Theatre), two baths, a scattering of small temples, and an almost complete circuit of city walls.

**Jerash flourished in the Byzantine period** – evidenced by the many churches found within the walls. From AD 350, a large Christian community lived here, and between AD 400–600, more than **thirteen churches**<sup>10</sup> were built within less than a mile of each other. Many of these had superb mosaic floors. A cathedral was built in the 4th century. Jerash declined rapidly after the Persian invasion of AD614. Outside of Italy, Jerash is considered one of the largest and best-preserved sites of Roman architecture in the world. We will enjoy Lunch at the [Jerash Lebanese Restaurant](#) offering Arabic traditional Cuisine.

After lunch we drive south to the village of *Wadi Musa* adjacent to the site of **Petra**. There we check in at the [Petra Guest House](#), for dinner and overnight. (We will stay for two nights at this elegant hotel, perfectly located for exploring Petra.)

*Our Day 2 Route*



<sup>9</sup> Built to celebrate the Emperor Hadrian's visit AD129-130.

<sup>10</sup> An ancient synagogue with detailed mosaics, including the story of [Noah](#), was found beneath a church.

### 3. Thurs. May 21 08:00 ROSE-RED ANCIENT CITY OF PETRA

After breakfast at our hotel, we spend our day in **Petra**, an historic ancient city famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Another name for Petra is the *Rose City* due to the color of the stone out of which it is carved. Known as the capital city of the *Nabateans* and currently a symbol of Jordan.



Petra, well known in Biblical history, became ‘lost’ – at least to western eyes. In 1812, Petra was “found” by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. (Of course, the locals would say it was never lost.) It was described as “*a rose-red city half as old as time*” in a [Newdigate Prize-winning poem](#) by John William Burgon. UNESCO has described it as “**one of the most precious properties of man's cultural heritage.**” The impressive eastern entrance leads steeply down through narrow gorge called *The Siq* (“the shaft”), a natural geological feature formed from a deep split in the sandstone rocks and



*The Royal Tombs of Petra*

and serving as a waterway flowing into *Wadi Musa*. At the end of the Siq stands Petra's most elaborate ruin, *Al Khazneh* (popularly known as “the Treasury”). A little farther from the Treasury is a massive theatre, so placed as to bring the greatest number of tombs within view. At the point where the valley opens out into the plain, the site of the city is revealed with striking effect. An amphitheatre has been cut into the hillside and into several of the tombs during its construction. Here are hundreds of elaborate rock-cut tombs with intricate carvings. There are **obelisks, temples, sacrificial altars** and

**colonnaded streets**, and high above, overlooking the valley, is the impressive **Ad-Deir Monastery** – a flight of 800 rock cut steps takes the more adventurous of us there.

Lunch is on-site at **Petra Basin Restaurant** offering International Cuisine & Open Buffet. Our day at Petra includes a guided tour until lunch and free time to explore the site in the afternoon. We meet up at about 3:30 PM for the walk out, back through the Siq. Some choose to hire a camel or carriage – this is not included and costs about US\$20. Dinner and Overnight at *The Petra Guest House*.

#### 4. Friday May 22, 2020 08:00 KERAK, MADABA, MT. NEBO, AMMAN

Breakfast in the hotel. Check-out and transfer to visit **Kerak**, known for its famous crusaders castle. The ruins of the castle, one of the three largest ever built in the Levant, was erected in the 1140's<sup>11</sup>. Kerak is magnificently situated with an amazing view however, in my opinion, the site is rather poorly developed and lacks adequate interpretation. Still impressive, and worthwhile to visit.



*The view from Kerak is breathtaking.*

We continue to drive north to **Madaba**,<sup>12</sup> best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics. Here we will visit the Archaeological Park which encompasses several Byzantine Churches. Nearby is the **Greek Orthodox Church of St. George**,<sup>13</sup> with the famous 6th century [mosaic map](#) of the Holy Land covering the floor of the sanctuary.<sup>14</sup> As time permits we may visit other sites in Madaba. **Lunch** at local restaurant in Madaba offering Arabic traditional Cuisine.



*Our route on Day 4*

We then drive to **Mount Nebo**. The Bible tells of the Israelites, near the end of their desert wandering, looking down into the promised land from Mt. Nebo in Moab. Because of its altitude of 700 m, from here you can see captivating views of the Jordan Valley, and on clear days, to Jerusalem and beyond. At the summit is the mountaintop memorial of Moses<sup>15</sup> and a Franciscan Church, built atop ancient ruins. The mosaic floors are magnificent and a good example of typical Byzantine immersion font is preserved. In one of the chapels we will celebrate **Holy Communion**.



*Looking West across the Jordan from Mount Nebo*

We then proceed to the **Century Park Hotel in Amman** for check-in and overnight.

<sup>11</sup> Kerak was built during time of Fulk, King of Jerusalem to secure the eastern boundary of his Crusader Kingdom.

<sup>12</sup> Once a Moabite border city, referred to in scripture: Numbers 21:30 and Joshua 13:9

<sup>13</sup> Ruins of so many churches make clear that Madaba was home to a flourishing Christian Community in the Byzantine period. Indeed, the Bishop of Madaba attended the Council of Chalcedon in AD451.

<sup>14</sup> The map dates to the 6<sup>th</sup> C and is comprised of about two million pieces of coloured stone.

<sup>15</sup> From here, Moses was granted a view of the Promised Land that he would never enter. Deuteronomy 34:1-12 tells of Moses on Nebo just before his death.

## 5. Saturday, May 23, 2020 07:15 (On the bus) AMMAN, ALLENBY & NAZARETH

After breakfast we check-out of the **Petra Guest House** and drive to the **Allenby Bridge** border crossing into Israel. At the Jordanian side we say farewell to our guide, and once border procedures have been completed, we will meet our Israeli bus and driver.<sup>16</sup> We will not have a local Guide on for the rest of today, but Vicars is familiar with the border procedures and our



route and visits for the day. We will proceed up the Israeli side of the Jordan River Valley – stopping at **Beit She'an**. We will see the extensive ruins of the large Roman City including a hippodrome, cardo, viaduct, and public baths. Beit She'an sits astride the ancient highway known as the **Via Maris** or *Way of the Sea*. This ancient trade route, followed the Mediterranean coastal plain up from Egypt, turned inland following the **Jezeel Valley** and then here, at Beit She'an, turned to follow the **Jordan Valley** north toward Syria and Mesopotamia. Beit She'an figured in the Biblical story as well, as this is the location of the battle of **Mt. Gilboa** between the Philistines and Israel.<sup>17</sup> In Roman times this was the leading city of the **Decapolis** league of 10 cities in the Levant.

We will have lunch at a local restaurant in **Beit She'an** and then continue to **Nazareth** (the town of Jesus' childhood) where we will check into the **Golden Crown Hotel** for dinner and overnight. The

rest of our entourage, travelling directly from Canada, will arrive here today as well.

**Tomorrow morning our “Living Stones Pilgrimage” will begin.**

**Please Note:** This itinerary sets our plans as of the above date. Further amendments are to be expected as we continue the ongoing task of fine tuning the itinerary. Check our website regularly for updated information. [www.trinitytour.org](http://www.trinitytour.org) On our flight to Amman (if not sooner) you will receive a booklet with an updated itinerary, maps, and other information. **Also, due to local circumstances or situations, changes sometimes are necessary – switching days around or adding or substituting one site visit for another.** Every night during our pilgrimage, as we arrive at our hotel for the evening, we will review the itinerary for the following day.



*Beit She'an is a well preserved Roman City from the time of Jesus*

<sup>16</sup> We are travelling during Ramadan and this is Saturday. We need an early departure today as we want to get to the Allenby Bridge border crossing by 8:30 AM. Once across, we enjoy a more leisurely pace.

<sup>17</sup> After they were killed in fighting with the Philistines on Mt. Gilboa, the bodies of King Saul and three of his sons were hung on the city walls of Beit She'an. 1Sam31:10-12). Years later, King David's troops defeated the Philistines here, driving them back to the southern coastal areas.

## Prices & Details: **Jordan Ext.**

<u>Group Size</u>	<u>Cost US Dollars</u> <sup>18</sup>	<u>Single Supplement</u>
16 -19	\$1350	\$196
20 -22	\$1250	\$196
23 – 28	\$1200	\$196
29 & up	\$1100	\$196

<b>Payment Schedule Jordan Extension 2020</b>	
<b>Payment Due Date</b>	<b>Amount due US\$</b>
December 31, 2019	\$250
Jan. 31, 2020	\$250
Feb. 28, 2020	\$250
March 31, 2020	Full Balance

## Cancellation/Refund Policy

If WE cancel the tour<sup>19</sup>, we will send full refunds to all. If YOU cancel your participation, the first \$200 of fees paid is non-refundable.

Thereafter, we give full refunds on cancellation, until Feb. 5, 2020 or until funds expended. After that, some of our funds will have been paid to expenses and tour operators overseas and only partial, pro-rata refunds are possible.

## What is included:

Transfers at Airport and Allenby Bridge, border assistance, Hotel (4 nights) with Porterage. Transfers and tours by modern A/C Motor Coach. Breakfast and Dinner at Hotels, all lunches on tour, Entrance fees, Most Tips<sup>20</sup>, English speaking private guide, Jordanian entry Visa, Jordanian Departure Tax. One short horse ride in Petra from main entrance to the beginning of the Siq.

## What is not included:

Beverages. Personal expenses. Porterage at the Border. Carriage ride in Petra<sup>21</sup> (optional.) Travel Insurance. Lunch on Wednesday. Anything not mentioned in the itinerary. Optional donations made at charities visited.

**Note:** Fees depend upon group size. We are anticipating that a good number of those who come for the *Living Stones Holy Land Pilgrimage*, will also participate in this Petra Extension. My best guess at this early point in planning is to expect about 20 to 25 for the Petra extension.

## 6% Early Booking Discount

The most stressful period for planning these pilgrimages comes when the hotels are asking for deposits to continue to hold our reservations but I do not yet have enough confirmed pilgrims to be able to commit. About the same time (January) ticket prices are best, but I am waiting while prices rise. I end up writing emails to pilgrims urging them to commit and to suppliers urging them to wait. This year I am determined to eliminate some of this stress. The sooner I know that we have the minimum number of committed pilgrims, the better life is for me. **So, we are offering a 6% discount on whatever amount you pay before Dec. 31, 2019.** Pay \$1000 and save \$60. Pay \$3750 and save \$225. Feel free to pay the whole total early if you desire. **All payments received by us on or before Dec. 31, 2019 for the Living Stones Pilgrimage or either Extension will be credited at 106% of funds received.**

<sup>18</sup> **Prices are based** on quotations in hand, \$US/\$CAD at about \$1.33-\$1.35, and Jordanian entry and exit visas remaining at the prices in effect today. If there are changes in these costs which we are unable to control, or if other unforeseen increases occur, we will be in touch with all concerned to discuss options. Note: we have firm quotes in hand for all major costs except currency exchange and government fees so we do hope the prices quoted will stand.

<sup>19</sup> By January 15 we must have a minimum of 22 people (including leaders) confirmed for the 12 Day, Living Stones Pilgrimage or else we would cancel. In the unlikely event that we need to cancel, we would notify all confirmed people and refund deposits. For the Jordan Extension, an additional minimum is 16 confirmed pilgrims (including leaders) or else the extension would need to be cancelled. Both these minimums should be easily achieved.

<sup>20</sup> **Your fees include gratuities** to the Tour Guide(s), Bus Driver, Lunch Servers, Hotels for Porterage and other Services. Note, in Jordan, servers in hotel restaurants seem to work hard at getting additional tips. We cannot prevent this local custom. You may want to respond to good service with a small tip of a couple dollars a meal.

<sup>21</sup> **The “free pony ride” in Petra** is really quite pointless as it is only about 3 or 4 blocks and the horse drivers can be quite a nuisance asking for tips. (They expect about \$5 but always ask for more.). Personally, I usually say “no thank-you” and walk in.

**If you have questions please contact me:**

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