

Living Stones Pilgrimage¹ 2023

with Canon Vicars Hodge & Bishop Terry Dance

Daily Itinerary

Rev: April 23, 2023

May 1 **Monday: 16:30 Hours: Depart Toronto Terminal 1 on AC80.**

Plan to **arrive at Air Canada Terminal 1 by 13:30** at the latest to check your baggage, proceed through security and go to departure lounge. We will meet each other in the departure lounge. An extra half hour can mean reduced stress if you hit any snags. (I recommend you [check-in online 24 hours before departure](#) to get your boarding pass and confirm your seat.).

Permit me to offer a bit of free advice about surviving a 10 hour flight that passes through 7 time zones: Do whatever it takes to get some sleep en-route. When you are awake, walk around a bit every couple hours. Drink water to reduce the effects of jet-lag and dehydration. We have long days ahead and taking care of yourself en-route is important.

May 2 **Tuesday: 10:05 Hours: Arrive Ben Gurion Airport & transfer to Golan Hotel.**

Immigration & Passport Control: When we arrive in Israel, we will be tired – and Israeli immigration procedures can be rigorous. Good manners go a long way everywhere, but *especially* throughout the middle-east. I suggest you put a paper clip in your passport now so that you can clip-in the blue or pink entry/exit visas which are issued by Israeli immigration. This slip(s) *must* stay in your passport while you are in Israel – if you lose it you will have an hour of delay on going home. While in Israel and Jordan keep your passport, with the visa slip, on your person (in an inside or zippered pocket) at all times, whenever you leave the hotel. If you are asked why you have come to Israel: *“I am a Canadian, on a Christian Pilgrimage, with Canon Vicars and Bishop Terry of the Anglican Church.”*

In Ben Gurion Airport, comply promptly and courteously with all requests from airport officials and security personnel. Never make any jokes about security matters in airports –especially in Israel. Israeli airport security is extra-vigilant -- they truly *“brook no nonsense!”* (I once had a large group held up for an hour because one of our en-tourage, a retired military police officer objected to a security officers questions.) In Ben Gurion Airport there will be undercover security officers mingling with passengers, listening for unusual conversations, looking for anxious people. Relax and be your best-mannered self. 😊

We will be met by a driver holding a sign: *“Albina Tours: Trinity Tour Group”*.

Albina Tours is the tour operator that manage the on-the-ground details for the Israel/Palestine part of our pilgrimage. Albina is a multi-generational Christian family business – that have been serving the pilgrim community since 1949. These are wonderful people who really know their business and bend over backwards to be helpful. We will meet our guide **Haitham** either today at the airport or tomorrow morning on the bus.

Transfer to Tiberias and check-in to the [Golan Hotel](#). (Tel: 04-6711555). While you may, if you wish, you do not need to tip the porter. We will be giving a group tip at the end of our stay (built into your fees) which is shared among all the hotel staff. Every room at the Golan has a view of the Sea of Galilee, air conditioning, a room safe, hair dryer, TV, etc.

Dinner and overnight at Golan Hotel. An early dinner (likely at 4 PM) is scheduled for us. Many will want an early night.

May 3

Wednesday: Our 1st Day of Touring.

Summary: Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Cana of Galilee.

Breakfast Routines in Israel: Usually be available at least 1 ½ hours before departure. (ie by 7 AM). We usually have a table reserved for our group.
Israeli buffet breakfasts are world renowned!

Dress Code: No shorts or sleeveless shirts on any day when we are visiting churches or religious sites.

8:00 AM Sharp our bus departs from the Hotel.

Bus Departure times will vary slightly form day-to-day depending on our daily program.

Please note the schedule as listed below for each day. It is important that we depart on time – sometimes in the Holy Land – a few minutes delay on arriving at a destination can mean we are behind another group and our whole day’s schedule is disrupted.

The daily routine after we board the bus will have a familiar shape.

- **Daily Overview** & reminders by Vicars and our Guide.
- **Brief Morning Prayer** usually including a brief reflection on a scripture relevant to this day’s tour.
- **Tour guide’s explanations:** Haitham, will share about the history and Biblical significance of the various places we will visit or are travelling past. All Israeli guides are very well trained and licenced and have a great deal of local knowledge. They are not theologians or Bible scholars. However, they are fonts of knowledge about the history, geography, archaeology, demographics, and context of the places we visit.

Today

- Announcements by Vicars & introduction to our Driver, and Guide.
- Headphones will be distributed.
- Morning Prayer
- Haitham begins his work guiding our tour.

Mount Tabor: a singular hill south of Nazareth, believed to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus. (Matt. 17:1-8). At the foot of the mountain we transfer from bus to taxis for the winding road ascending Mt. Tabor. At the summit, a garden surrounds the Franciscan Monastery & Basilica (with side-chapels for Elijah and Moses.) The viewpoint offers spectacular views of the **Jezreel Valley** which connects the Jordan River Valley with the Mediterranean coastal plane. The ancient route called *“The Way of the Sea”* from Egypt to Damascus passed through here – just to the north of Mt. Tabor. This route has felt the marching boots of Pharaohs, Alexander the Great, Roman Legions, Crusaders, Napoleon, and General Allenby’s British Army.

Nazareth: We drive to the hometown of Jesus (Lk4:16).

- **The Basilica of the Annunciation** (Luke 1:26-38). This massive Basilica dominates the cityscape. It is built over (and preserves) Byzantine Ruins of a 5th C. Church marking the location of **Annunciation** of the Angel to Mary.
- If time permits, either now or after visiting Cana, we will visit Nazareth’s **Synagogue Church** (Melkite) (Mk.6:1-6) and perhaps the **Orthodox St. Gabriel’s Church** (Mary’s Well).

- Lunch at the **Holy Land Restaurant**.
- **Note re: Lunches on Pilgrimage.** We have chosen an interesting set of well appreciated restaurants for our lunches. The meal is in every case pre-ordered. Usually it is either “family style” or “buffet” dining with a good variety of foods to accommodate every preference. Always ask if you have food allergies. Water will be provided at every meal. Other beverages may be ordered at your expense.
- **Christ Church, Anglican.** We meet Abuna Nael Abu Rahmoun, Rector who will tell us a bit about the local Christian Communities in the Holy Land and some of the story of the Anglican presence in this Holy Land.

Cana of Galilee: We drive to Kfar Cana, (Jn.2:1-11) the traditional site where Jesus rescued the wedding feast, changing water into wine. At 15:00 hrs, after the tour of the church site, there are two options:

1. For those who wish, Bishop Terry & Canon Vicars will be holding a brief “**Renewal of the Marriage Covenant**” service in a chapel of “St. Simon the Canaanite”.
2. The others will be accompanied by our guide, Haitham, to a **Wine & Souvenir Shop** just down the road.

Dinner and Overnight at the Golan Hotel

May 4 Thursday: Our 2nd Day of Touring.
Summary: Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, Magdala, Sail on Galilee.

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Church of Beatitudes: We visit the beautiful hill-top Church and garden commemorating the Sermon on the Mount. The octagonal church, with spectacular views of the Sea of Galilee, commemorates the eight beatitudes. (Matt 5:3-10)

Tabgha: (AKA *Heptapegon* (Latin) and *Ein Sheva* (Hebrew) – means the seven springs. The waters of the Sea of Galilee are fed by a series of underwater springs here. This has attracted fish and fishermen for millennia. It was here or nearby that Jesus called his first disciples. (Mk1:16-20) From earliest Christian times, this beautiful area on the shore of the Sea of Galilee has been associated with the **Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes** (Mk6:30-44) and the **Fish Breakfast** after the Resurrection (John 21).

- **Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes.** This 1938 Church incorporated what was left of the 5th C church on this site. Mosaic floors are from the Byzantine Church. Before the altar is found the famous mosaic of two fish flanking a basket of loaves.

11:00 Holy Eucharist by the lakeside

- **Church of the Primacy of Peter at Mensa Christi** (the table of Christ). (John 21:9). A Franciscan chapel built in 1933 atop the ruins of a 4th C church on the same site. It surrounds a flat rock outcropping that is believed to be where Jesus broiled fish on a charcoal fire.

Lunch at [Tanureen Migdal Restaurant](#).

Ruins of Capernaum (the town Jesus made his headquarters (Mt4:12-17) and called his “home” in Mark 2:1). Here we see the ancient synagogue, built atop the synagogue in which Jesus preached (Mk.1:21-28). Amid the ruins of the ancient town is the home that was Peter’s (Mk.1:29-34), which by the 5th C was an octagonal house church, all preserved by a magnificent modern church, elevated on pylons with a glass floor. It is striking architecture that protects this 4th C historic house-church site.

Magdala Archaeological Park. “Duc in Altum” Church (*Put out into the deep.*) (Luke 5:4) Traditionally the home of Mary of Magdala. This site was lost to history until recently excavated – 2009, discovering the Migdal Synagogue which dates to the time of Jesus.

18:00 Kibbutz Nof Ginosar and sail on the Sea of Galilee.

Prayers on Boat (Mark 4:35-41)

Dinner and overnight at the Golan Hotel

May 5 Friday: Our 3rd Day of Touring.
Summary: Upper Galilee including Banias, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan.

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Drive to **Upper Galilee.**

Banias : (corruption of the Greek Paneas – “place of the God Pan”.) 40 km north of the Sea of Galilee, at the foot of Mt. Hermon, at Banias, is the location of the Biblical site, **Caesarea Philippi.** (Mat 16:13-20)

10:00 AM Holy Communion

Dan Nature Reserve: site of [Tell Dan](#), site of a 5000 year old city.

Lunch: El Rawche Restaurant

Drive south through the Golan Heights.

Dinner at the Golan Hotel

- **After dinner Group Gathering** in a conference room at our Hotel (Time TBA)
- **(Pack as we check out in the morning. Settle your bill if you have any room charges this evening or early in the morning.)**

Overnight at the Golan Hotel.

May 6 Saturday Our 4th Day of Touring.
Summary: Check-out, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Jaffa, Check-in Golden Walls

Check out of Golan Hotel.

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Drive to Mt. Carmel, Muhraqa. Site of Elijah's sacrifice. (1Ki.18:20-40)

Amazing views from Mt. Carmel of the valley called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) from the Hebrew *Har Məgiddō*.

Caesarea Maritima – a very large archaeological site on the Mediterranean sea – the capital of the Roman Province of Judea. This is where Peter shared the Gospel with Cornelius – the first Gentile Christian (Acts 10.) Paul also visited here on his second and third missionary journeys (Acts 18:22) staying at the home of Philip the Deacon. Also, this is the place where Paul was kept under arrest before he was sent to Rome for trial. (Acts C23-25) We explore the Roman capital of Caesarea: the Restored amphitheatre, aqueduct, hippodrome, etc.

Lunch in Jaffa at [Abu Nassar Hinawi Restaurant](#).

Drive to Jerusalem check-in to the [Golden Walls Hotel](#) (Tel: 02-6272416). While you may if you wish, you do not need to tip the porter as we will be giving a group tip at the end of our stay which is shared among all the hotel staff.

Dinner and overnight at Golden Walls Hotel

May 7 Sunday Our 5th Day of Touring.

Summary: Western Wall, Temple Mount, St. George's Cathedral, Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, Group Meeting.

07:00 Bus Departs. Transfer to the **Dung Gate**.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Visit the Western Wall

Ascend the **Temple Mount** (AKA Haram al-Sharif) & view **Al Aqsa Mosque & the Dome of the Rock**.

Transfer from Dung Gate to St. George's Cathedral

[St. George's Cathedral](#) for the Sunday Eucharist

12:00 Lunch at [St. George's Guesthouse](#).

Israel Museum. See the scale model of ancient Jerusalem and the **[Shrine of the Book](#)** exhibit. (Dead Sea Scrolls)

16:00 [Yad Vashem Memorial](#) to the Holocaust.

Dinner

After Dinner gathering of our Group in a Conference Room.

Overnight at Golden Walls Hotel

May 8 Monday Our 6th Day of Touring.

Summary: St. Stephen's Gate, Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. Zion.

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Transfer to the St. Stephen Gate.

- **St. Stephen Gate** ([AKA Lion Gate](#)) Acts 7:54-60 tells the story of the stoning of the Deacon, Stephen. Tradition holds that it was through a gate at this location that he was taken out to be stoned in the Kidron Valley.
- **Pool of Bethesda** John 5:1-9 Healing of the man who had been lame for 38 years.
- **Church of St. Anne** (a remarkable Crusader Church) built near the ruins of an earlier Byzantine church – the site traditionally believed to be the childhood home of the Virgin Mary with her parents Anne and Joachim. St. Anne's has amazing acoustics and so we will sing a hymn here.
- **Via Dolorosa**.—we follow the winding streets of Jerusalem for about 600m – the traditional path from Fortress Antonia to Golgotha.
- **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
This single site, shared by six Christian communities, houses both the place where Jesus was crucified and the location of the tomb. This is the mother church of Christianity.

12:00 Lunch at [Bulghourji Restaurant](#) in the Armenian Quarter

Transfer from Jaffa Gate to Mount of Olives

- Walk down the Palm Sunday Route
- **Pater Noster Church**
- **Dominus Fleuit** Chapel & panoramic view.
- Garden of **Gethsemane** and **Church of All Nations**
- **16:00 Prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane.** (Garden Ambo)

Transfer to Mount Zion:

- **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu**
- **Upper Room. (The Cenacle)**
- (time permitting) **Dormition Abbey**

Dinner and overnight at the Golden Walls Hotel.

May 9 Tuesday Our 7th Day of Touring.

Summary: Herodion, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

- **Herodion National Park** (aka Herodium) where we tour Herod the Great's Palace, artificial mountain, and tomb.
- **Beit Sahour, Shepherd's Fields**

11:00 Holy Communion –at **Shepherd's Fields**,

Lunch at [Shepherd's Valley Tent Restaurant](#) in Beit Sahour

- **Bethlehem: Manger Square**
- Visit the **Basilica & Grotto of the Nativity** –
- St. Jerome's Caves

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hote

May 10 Wednesday Our 8th Day of Touring.
Summary: Ein Karem, Neve Shalom, Emmaus Nicopolis, Abu Gosh

08:30 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Ein Karem:

- **Church of the Visitation:** Traditional place where Elizabeth greeted Mary. And Mary praised God in the words we call “the Magnificat” (Luke 1:39-45)
- **Church of St. John in Ein Karem** (Traditional birthplace of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66) and the Zeccariah’s Prophecy “the Benedictus.” (Luke 1:67-79)

10:00 Holy Communion at Ein Karem, Visitation Garden

Drive to Neve Shalom

12:00 Lunch & Tour/Lecture at *Neve Shalom, Oasis of Peace Center* (02-9993030 Yael)

- **Where is Emmaus?** Today we visit or pass by 3 contenders.
 - **Emmaus Nicopolis** – (time permitting)
 - **Abu Gosh:** Crusader Church and Benedictine Monastery

Drive back to Jerusalem

Passing by bend in the road “**Oolonia**” Emaus

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

May 11 Thursday Our 9th Day of Touring.
Summary: Hebron, Tombs of the Patriarchs, Mosque & Synagogue, Aida

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Drive to Hebron

- **Al-Shuhada’ Street** & the Hebron Market
- **Tombs of the Patriarchs:** Visit both the Mosque and the Synagogue

Lunch at Wij al Amar Restaurant in Bethlehem

15:00 [Aida Refugee Camp](#) (Beit Jala)

- **Al-Rowad Center:** Meet with Dr. Abdelfattah Abu Srour

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

19:30 Compline and conversation.

May 12 Friday Our 10th Day of Touring.
Summary: Judean Desert, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea.

07:30 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Travel through the Judean Desert

[Qumran](#) (Where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found)

11:00 Ascend [Masada](#) Cable Car (Explore Herod’s desert fortress)

13.00 **Lunch & swim** (float) in the **Dead Sea at Ein Bokek (Lot Hotel)**
Drive back to Jerusalem
Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

May 13 Saturday: Our 11th Day of Touring.
Summary: Baptism Site at the Jordan River, Jericho, Wadi Qelt

08:00 Bus Departs.

Announcements & Morning Prayer

Travel through the Judean Desert to the Jordan River

- Stop at overlook of [Wadi Qelt](#) and [St. George's desert monastery](#) (since 420 AD). Associated with the place where Elijah was fed by ravens. (1 Ki17:5-6). Wadi Qelt is the setting for Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke10:29-37)

Holy Baptism and the Renewal of Baptismal Covenant at the Jordan at: **Qasr el-Yahud.**

[Baptismal site](#) on the Jordan River (AKA Al-Maghtas), where John baptized Jesus. (Mat 3:13-17).

Drive to Jericho

12:00 Ascend Cable Car to the top of [Mount of Temptation](#)

- Recall Jesus calling Blind Bartimaeus to faith (Mark 10:46-52)
- **Lunch in Jericho at Rawditna View Restaurant**

Drive back to Jerusalem

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

- After Dinner gathering and Communion.

May 14 Sunday:
Summary: Transfer to Airport for Return Flight OR
Jerusalem Extension, Day 1

- **A few (3) of our entourage transfer to Ben Gurion for return flight to Canada today.**
- **For most, this is the first day of the Jerusalem Extension.**

During the Jerusalem Extension, hotel, breakfast and dinner are provided. There is no tour guide, bus, lunch or planned itinerary included. Feel free to sleep in, shop, wander the Old City at your own pace. If you prefer, you are welcome to follow Vicars and Terry as they explore a few of various sites.

On this Sunday Morning, Vicars' plan is to be at the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#) when it **opens at 5 AM**. If you want to join in this adventure, meet Vicars at 4:30 AM in the hotel lobby. (We will miss breakfast – so pinch an extra dinner roll or apple from the supper buffet the night before.) One by one the six communities that share the ancient church sing or chant their morning office. It really is awesome to listen/worship with the Armenians, the Copts, the Orthodox, the Syriacs, Latins and Ethiopian Churches liturgies... one at a time and sometime overlapping. The diversity of their worship styles is an experience.

Then, we might explore the Old City a bit. Vicars and Terry are planning to then walk over to [Christ Church Jerusalem](#), a charismatic Anglican Church near the Jaffa Gate, for their 9:30 AM Holy Communion.

After worship, we will explore some more in the Old City.

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

7:30 PM Compline (location tba)

May 15 Monday Jerusalem Extension, Day 2

Breakfast & Dinner at the Hotel (included).

Again, there is no itinerary, guide, bus, or lunch.

You are free to follow Vicars and Terry around or strike out on your own. The list of things to do is almost endless: Visit St. James' Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter and then St. Mark's Church, the Syriac alternative site for the upper room and the events of the day of Pentecost. Walk through the Jewish Quarter – a look at the Cardo is of interest. Perhaps a walk around the top of the walls of the Old City. Some might like to explore the Western Wall Tunnels or the excavations at the City of David. For the more adventurous, walk thru Hezekiah's tunnel to the Pool of Siloam.

Dinner & overnight in Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel

7:30 PM Compline (location tba)

May 16 Tuesday Either Flight Home or Day 1 of the Jordan Extension

- **12 of our group transfer to the airport in a medium bus for their flight back to Canada.**
- **For the remaining 29 Pilgrims, this is Day 1 of the Jordan Extension.**

Summary: A drive Negev Dessert, Beersheba (drive-past), Side Boqer (stop), Mitzpe Ramon (Stop & Box Lunch), Arava Border Crossing, Wadi Musa.

08:30 Bus Departs for Jordan .

Announcements & Morning Prayer

No religious sites today... shorts are fine if you like.

(Expect daytime temp in the 25-30 degree range.)

Today is "Desert Day" --- travelling south through Israel, passing by **Beersheba** (stopping briefly at an overlook). This is the city of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Issac, & Jacob. "*From Dan to Beersheva*¹" was used 9 times in the Bible to describe the whole Promised Land.

After Beersheba, we are entering the **Negev Desert**.

- **About 10:00 AM** stop at [Side Boqer](#) Viewpoint: An amazing view overlooking the **Wilderness of Tsin**. This is the heart of the Negev. This is also the site of Ben Gurion's Grave (Modern Israel's first Prime Minister.)

¹ Jud20:1; 1Sam3:20; 2Sam3:10; 17:11; 24:2; 15, 1Ki4:25; 1Chr21:2; 2 Chr30:5)

- **About 11:15** stop at [Mitzpe Ramon](#): The famous “[Ramon Crater](#)” – a 500m deep 40km long, erosion crater caused by the top layer of rock (limestone) being atop a softer layer (sandstone.)
 - **Lunch: We have arranged with The Golden Walls Hotel to prepare a take-away lunch.** We will pause at here at the Ramon Crater overlook and enjoy our meal before continuing.
- We drive down into the crater, and follow the [Jordan rift valley](#) toward Elat.

About 2:30 PM Yitzhak Rabin (AKA Arava) Border Crossing from Israel to Jordan

- At Wadi Araba we leave our Israeli Bus. (take everything)
- Israel Border exit procedures – clip the pink slip into your passport.
 - Vicars will pay the \$65 pp Israel Exit Tax.
 - Enter Jordan.
 - At the Immigration counter we will be met **Discovery Tour’s** Representative who assists with procedures. (Entry Visas are already organized.)
- Our Guide (Mohamad Bani Naser) will meet us.
- About 3 PM Board our Jordanian Bus.
- **Drive through southern Jordan to Wadi Musa** (About 2 Hours)

Dinner & Overnight at [Petra Moon Hotel](#) (Tel: +96232156220) which is only 150m from the entrance to the Petra site.

7:30 PM Compline (location tba)

May 17 Wednesday: Jordan Extension Day 2
Summary: Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Petra

Breakfast at the Hotel.

08:00 Leave the Hotel to visit the site at Petra.

Start Petra tour. Once the ancient Nabatean capital, this city has a lot to tell.

The visit starts at the visitor’s center, where each person is assigned a Bedouin guided horse for the journey to the entrance of the lost city. This horse ride is just a gimmick to produce some tourism income for locals. The “fee” is already paid. The customary tip for the guide is US\$5-7. – on the bus the day before I will pass you all \$7. The Bedu guides always try to work you over for more – be firm \$7 is fair. Some prefer to skip this horse business altogether and walk from the visitor centre to the beginning of the Siq.)

After passing some tombs which are located outside the city, the visitor passes through the SIQ, an immense crack in the Nubian sandstone. It is a winding, one kilometer long fissure between overhanging cliffs that seem to meet more than 300 feet overhead. We walk this path. (You can pay for a carriage ride if you prefer but then you will miss out on the guide’s explanations along the way.)

Near the end of the passage, the SIQ, with great style, makes one last turn and out of the gloom in towering brightness appears Petra’s most impressive monument, [el Khazneh - The Treasury](#). This is one of the most elegant remains of antiquity, carved out of the solid rock from the side of the mountain, is nearly 140 feet high and 90 feet wide.

Beyond el Khazneh the visitor is surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures, soaring temples, elaborate royal tombs, a carved Roman theater, large and small houses, burial chambers and much more. The Victorian traveler and poet, Dean Burgon, gave Petra a description which holds to this day - *"Match me such a marvel save in Eastern clime, a rose-red city half as old as time."*

Our Guide will accompany us as we transit the primary sites of Petra during the morning.

Lunch: On the Petra site is the [Basin Restaurant](#) where we will enjoy our lunch.

After lunch, we can explore [Petra at leisure](#). There are many side trails and excursions that are not part of this morning tour. The more adventurous will be climbing to the top of the High Place of Sacrifice and exploring all the Royal Tombs. Others will visit the more easily accessed sites such as the Great Temple, Colonnaded Street, and the Byzantine Church Ruins (with an amazing font) and then wander back at their own time to the Hotel. You can also hire a carriage, a horse, or a camel (at your own expense) to take you back to the welcome centre.

Petra Moon Hotel for dinner and overnight. (Pack as we check-out in the morning.)
7:30 PM Compline (location tba)

May 18 Thursday: Jordan Extension: Day 3
Summary: Check out hotel, Kerak, Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Check-in Amman

Breakfast at the hotel.

Check out of your room – best to pay any room charges the night before so as not to have this to do in the morning.

08:00 Bus Departs from Wadi Musa for Kerak
Announcements & Morning Prayer

Crusader castle at Kerak. This 12th Century hill-top fortress features galleries, towers, chapels and ramparts that recall the gallantry of the Crusaders themselves.

Lunch in [Saraya Castle Restaurant](#) in Kerak

Drive to Madaba via the scenic canyons of [Wadi Mujib](#) (Arnon's Valley in the Bible). Visit the mosaic city of Madaba, where the oldest [map of the Holy Land](#) exists on the floor of **Saint George's Church**. Madaba, or Medeba in antiquity, features many famous mosaics that exist in public and private buildings.

Mount Nebo: a short drive from Madaba brings us to [Mt. Nebo](#), where Moses overlooked the Promised Land although he was not to enter himself. (Muslims believe he was buried here.) From this place we can overlook the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea and see into the land of Israel. Here Franciscans have built a structure that protects a 4th and 6th Century Byzantine church.

4:00 PM Holy Eucharist will be celebrated here at Mt. Nebo.

We now drive to Amman (a short ride) and check into our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at the [Ambassador Hotel in Amman](#).
7:30 PM Compline (location tba)

May 19 Friday Jordan Extension Day 4

Summary: Jabbock River, Jerash, Mar Tel Elias, Amman

Breakfast at the hotel.

08:00 Bus departs

Announcements & Morning Prayer

En-route to Jerash we stop at [Jabbock River](#). Today it is called the Zarqa River. This is the second largest tributary of the Jordan River (after the Yarmouk R.) Jacob crossed the Jabbock on his way to Canaan, after leaving Haran. Here at the [Jabbock](#) that Jacob wrestled with the angel (Gen:32:22-32) and again where he and his brother Esau reconciled (Gen. 33:1-10).

Jerash: About a 45 minute drive north brings us to [Jerash](#), one of the best preserved examples of Roman civilization. Jerash (then called Gerasa) was part of the [Decapolis](#) (the ten big Roman cities of the East). People from this region were followers of Jesus. (Mat 4:23-25). It is quite possible Jesus visited this city in his tour of the Decapolis. (Mk7:31-37). It has been called *the Pompeii of the East* for its remarkable state of preservation. The city features theaters, many churches, temples (Zeus and Artemis), a Nymphaeum and colonnaded streets.

Lunch at [Lebanese House Restaurant](#) in Jerash.

[Tel Mar Elias](#), traditionally understood as the home of the prophet Elijah, is a site that consists of the incredible archeological ruins of two Byzantine churches that are situated on the top of a hill overlooking vast greenery and hilly landscapes. (The nearby village of Listib, was formerly known as Tishbe, the home of Elijah.) (1Ki17:1) The churches' floors include beautiful mosaics of floral and geometric patterns. The site also includes remains of historic tomb chambers and a baptistery that one can also explore and walk around.

Holy Communion at Mar Tel Elias

Drive back to Amman.

Dinner and "overnight" at the Ambassador Hotel in Amman.

Some prefer to check in online... [if so here is a link](#)

(Help yourself a few things from the dinner buffet for a midnight snack.)

Try to get a few hours of sleep, as our plane departs at 03:25 If you have room charges I suggest you pay the bill before going up to your room to save time later.

11:45 PM: Bus to the Airport

May 20 Saturday: Fly Home

Flight from Amman departs AMM at 03:25

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