

ITINERARY

Departure -15 NOV 2019

16th November-Mount Nebo and Baptism Site

Upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport at Amman in Jordan, complete airport formalities then bus to Mt Nebo where Moses died after viewing the Holy land. We will have our first glimpse of Palestine from Mt Nebo. We have lunch in Madaba and then proceed to Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan to the Baptism site. Then we come to our hotel. Dinner and early night at Cham Palace Hotel in Amman.

17th November-Amman Roman theatre, Jerash and crossing the border to Galilee.

After breakfast, we go to the centre of the city of Amman with its population of 4 million people and visit the Roman Theatre. We head north to visit Jerash (Gerasa in the Bible), which was founded by the soldiers of Alexander the Great in 300 BC. Jerash now stands as the best-preserved ruins of a provincial Greco-Roman city in the world. Along a 3 km stretch we'll see the oval shaped forum encircled by 56 graceful Roman columns, Hadrian's Arch, the Temples of Artemis and Zeus, and the massive Roman Theater. We continue to the Northern Bridge over the River Jordan and cross into Israel to the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Nof Ginosar at the Sea of Galilee.

18th November- Mt of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Peter's Primacy, Capernaum

After breakfast we drive to Mount Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 7) where we celebrate our Sunday Mass and visit the heptagonal church that was built by the Italian architect Berluzzi; here we will pray outside under a pergola overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Proceed to Tabgha, where we shall visit the Church of the Loaves and the Fishes (Matthew 14: 14-34) and the Church of Mensa Christi, where Jesus said to Peter "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep" John 21:17 Driving to the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, we shall reach Capernaum, the town of Jesus, where he lived; also we visit the house of Peter's Mother-Law, (Matthew 4: 13, Matthew 8: 14-15). Fish lunch and a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus walked on the water (Matthew 14: 22-23). Return to hotel for dinner and overnight at Nof Ginosar.

19th November - Day of Reflection and Mass on the beach

A time to walk, a time to feel the air that Jesus breathed, a time to share with each other. Reflect on our experience so far. We celebrate Mass in the morning and visit the famous boat museum. We have lunch at a nearby hotel Hanachal Restaurant and have our reflection time before dinner. Dinner and overnight at the hotel Nof Ginosar.

20th November - Cana, Nazareth, Nazareth Village, Jezreel Valley

After breakfast drive to Cana in the Galilee, site of the First Miracle of Jesus (John 2: 1-11 and John 4: 46-54). Drive on to Nazareth, visiting the Church of Annunciation (Luke 26: 28) and we walk to Mary's Well (in the Greek Orthodox Church) this is the walk Jesus, Mary and Joseph did every day. We follow this with lunch in Nazareth Village which is set up to let us see what life was like in Jesus' time. On to Illit Nazareth lookout we can enjoy a beautiful view of the Lower Galilee and the Jezreel Valley the place of the ancient city of Megiddo.

21st November - Kursi, Caesarea Philippi, Chorazim, Bethsaida

Drive to Kursi an archaeological site containing the ruins of a Byzantine monastery and identified by tradition as the site of Jesus' "Miracle of the Swine" (Mark 5:1-20), visit Caesarea Philippi (Banias) source of the Jordan River and the place where Jesus asked the apostles "Who do people say that I am" Matt 16:13-20. We spend some time in prayer and reflection before we have lunch and return to the valley on to the ruins of Bethsaida of the Bible Mt 11:20-30. Bethsaida is the birthplace of the Zebedee brothers, James and John and Peter and Andrew as well. After lunch we visit the final site Chorazim (Luke 10:12-16), a place Jesus frequently visited but remained an unprosperous city with Bethsaida and Capernaum. Dinner and overnight at the Nof Ginosar hotel.

22nd November - Jericho, St George's Monastery lookout over Wadi Qelt, and Jerusalem

After breakfast we leave Galilee behind and travel down the Jordan valley to Jericho where we have lunch on the Mountain of Temptations; see the sycamore Tree and Elisha's spring. As we drive towards Jerusalem we go to a lookout to view a cliff monastery in the desert: the kind of place that John the Baptist could have lived. Then on to Mount Scopus for a view of Jerusalem. Check in to the Gloria hotel. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

23rd November - Holy Sepulcher Church of the Resurrection, Mount of Olives, Garden of Olives, Gethsemane and the Kidron Valley and the Gehinnom Valley

We will celebrate Mass in the very early morning in the Church of the Resurrection (the Holy Sepulchre Church) the place where Jesus died and rose again. Here we find the Chapel of the tomb of Jesus (Edicule) and the rock of Calvary inside the church followed by breakfast back at the hotel. After breakfast drive to the Mount of Olives firstly to visit the traditional site of the Ascension, then the Pater Noster church where Jesus went to pray at night and then for a wonderful view and orientation of the Old Jerusalem City. We walk down the Palm Sunday road to the Dominus Fleuit (Jesus weeps over Jerusalem) Church and we finish in Gethsemani Garden of Olives next to the church. After lunch we walk through the Gihenna valley before returning to our hotel.

24th November - Mount Zion, Upper room, Dormition, Peter Gallicantu Armenian Quarter to David's citadel and shopping inside Jerusalem old city

We celebrate our very early Sunday Mass in the Holy Sepulchre church, return to the Hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we travel to the Southwestern corner of the old Jerusalem now called Mount Zion to visit the Room of the Last Supper



(Cenacle), and then the Church of the Dormition a beautiful church to commemorate the end of Mary's life. Then we visit the Sacred Steps and the church of the Cock Crow (Peter Gallicantu) and go into the crypt to see the most likely place where Jesus spent Holy Thursday night in Caiaphas' House. We walk to the Armenian Quarter where we have lunch before ending at the David's Citadel. Time for shopping in the afternoon in the Old City. Dinner in the Gloria Hotel.

25th November - En Karem, Bethlehem, Shepherds' Field

After breakfast we drive to En Karem where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah; it is the birthplace of John the Baptist. We visit and pay our respects at the John de Baptist church and the Visitation church. From there we drive to Bethlehem and celebrate Mass in St Helena's chapel. Lunch in Bethlehem. After lunch we visit the Shepherds Field and back to the Jerusalem hotel for dinner.

26th November: Dome of the Rock, Lithostratos, Stations of the Cross

After breakfast we walk through the old city walk past the wailing wall to the security entrance of the Dome of the Rock called by the Jews as the Temple mount. We walk through this area that used to hold the Temple of Solomon and end up at the St Anne's church where the Sheep pool used to be to cleanse animals before sacrifice in the temple. We make a visit to the place where Jesus was condemned to death, the Roman pavement called Lithostratos. After lunch we make the Stations of the cross from the Lithostratos to the Holy Sepulchre.

27th December - Qumran, En Gedi and swim in Dead Sea

Today we get our desert experience as Jesus did and so did John de Baptist. We drive down past the Dead Sea to Qumran and visit the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. These are originals written before, during and after the time of Jesus. Very valuable in interpreting the New Testament culture. We have lunch at the En Gedi springs kibbutz famous for young David hiding from King Saul (1 Samuel 18:6-20:42)

We drive to the En Bokek a resort further down the Dead Sea for a swim. The dead sea is 430.5 metres below sealevel the lowest place on earth and 10 times saltier than the Pacific Ocean. After dinner we stay overnight there at the King David Hotel.

28th November- Our return to Amman in Jordan for our journey home

In the morning we leave En Bokek and travel north to the central border crossing opposite Jericho and say farewell to Israel. After crossing the border we head for the Amman International Airport to return home.

29th November-30 November

Extra Option – one night in Amman and one night in Petra

If you wish to extend your tour, you may wish to opt in at extra cost to staying overnight in Amman and travelling to the famous Petra one of the 7 wonders of the world in southern Jordan. We visit the Sig, treasury, Royal tombs, Nabataean theatre and drive back to Amman International Airport the following morning (30th November) to catch the plane back home to Australia.

For more information
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