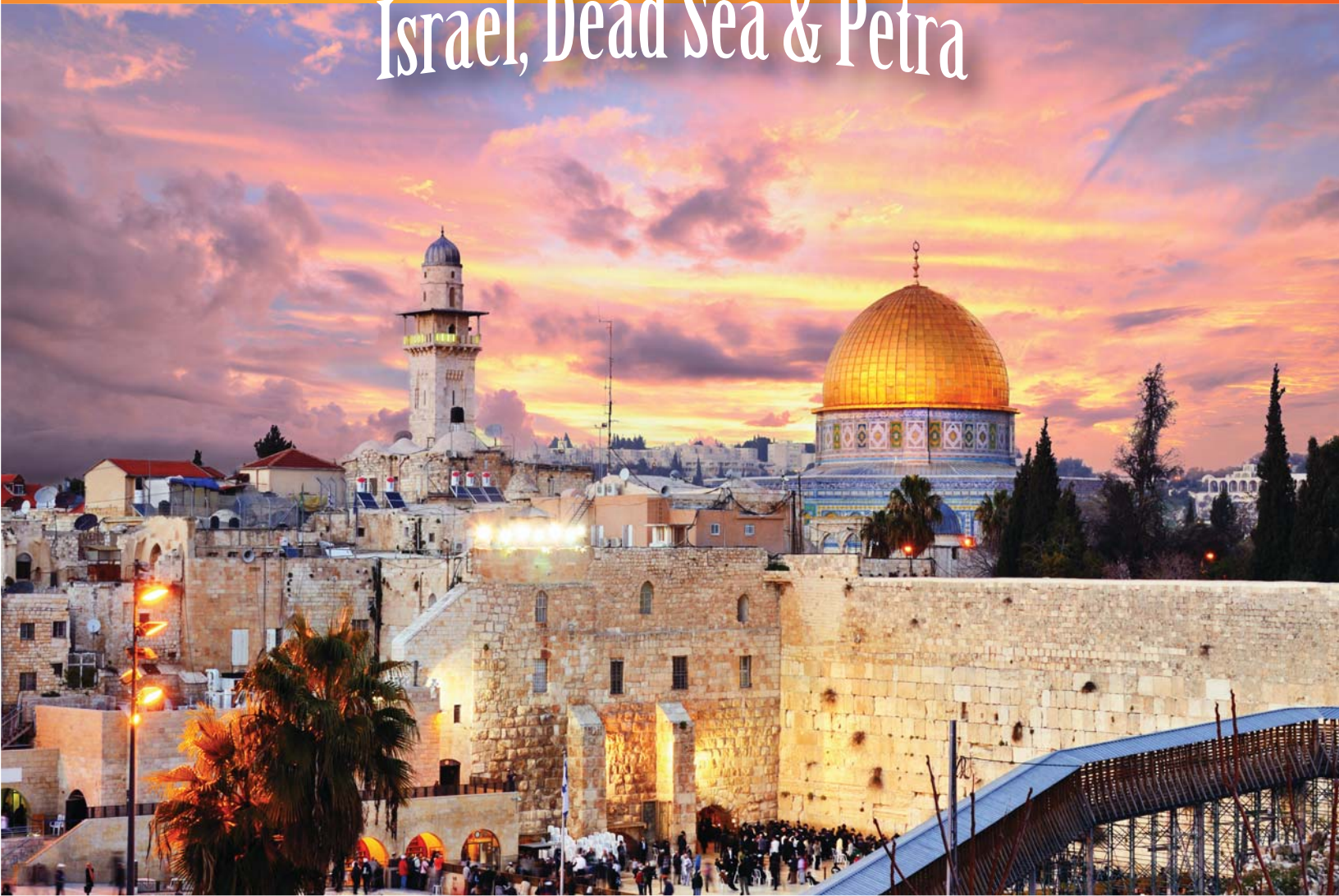


# HOLY LAND

July 7 - 20, 2019

Israel, Dead Sea & Petra



[www.platinumtoursinternational.com](http://www.platinumtoursinternational.com)



## Day 1 US – July 07

Depart Orlando Airport on Lufthansa Airlines for Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.

## Day 2 Tiberias – July 08

Welcome to the Land of Israel, the Promised Land, where you will be met by your professional guide and driver. You will be driven from Tel Aviv to Tiberias and check-in your Golan Heights Hotel, the Golan. You will begin to feel the significance of the ancient land we will be exploring while walking the footsteps of Jesus. After check-in, you will gather for a welcome dinner/brief history of this part of the country. (D)



## Day 3 Galilee – July 09

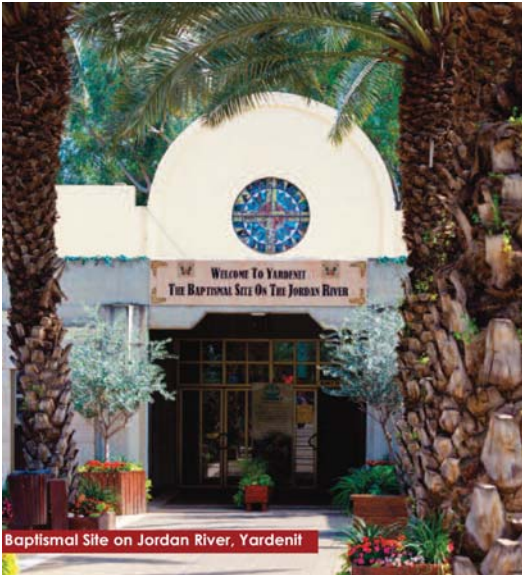
We begin the day with a ride to the Golan Heights to marvel at the spectacular view of the land that has been fought over for centuries, most recently between Israel and Syria. Then a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a visit to Ginosar where we will see the remains of a fisherman's vessel discovered on the shores, dating back to Jesus and the Apostles. We climb the Mount of Beatitudes, where we can appreciate the beautiful surroundings and views unchanged since the time that Jesus delivered the traditional Sermon on the Mount. Then we visit Tabgha, where Jesus fed 5,000 with a child's bread and fish, and tour the chapel commemorating the primacy of Peter. We continue to Capernaum, where Jesus spent most of his ministry. We will view Peter's house and the numerous churches that were built on top of it, as well as the ancient synagogue where Jesus preached. Crossing the Jordan River to the land of Gadarenes, we stop at Kursi where Jesus exorcised the demons in the Miracle of the Swine. After lunch we drive north to Caesarea Philippi, known in the ancient world as Paneas, and today Banias, where Peter declared Jesus to be the Messiah, "And Jesus said thou art Peter upon this rock I will build my Church." You will see the remains of the pagan site that existed at the time. Return to the hotel for relaxation, dinner and overnight. (B) (D)



## Day 4 Galilee – July 10

Start our day climbing to the Golan Heights for a view from Mt. Bental and observing the Syrian bunker. After this, we will have a wine tasting in the award winning Israeli winery – Golan Heights. After lunch we will be exploring the Galilee, we drive through Cana of Galilee to Nazareth where we will visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. On to Muchraka atop Mount Carmel, where Elijah challenged the prophets of Ba'al. Our next stop is Tel Megiddo, or Armageddon, where we will tour the antiquities and see the significance of this site for the end of days. Our final stop of the day will be Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean coast, built by King Herod. Here Cornelius was converted and Peter was imprisoned; we will see the Roman Theater, aqueduct, and palace of King Herod, as well as a byzantine church. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B)(D)





### **Day 5 Our way to Jerusalem – July 11**

Check out of the Golan hotel and follow the southern coast of the Sea of Galilee to the River Jordan to the Yardenit Baptismal site. Each year they welcome over half a million tourists and pilgrims, who come to experience the tranquility and spiritual beauty of the waters in which Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. A Christian Pastor will be available to perform the Baptism for those interested in renewing their commitment and love for God. We continue to Beit Shaen built where the Jezreel Valley meets the Jordan Valley, and tour the extensive Roman-Byzantine remains of the city that was once a part of the Decapolis. Drive through the Judean Desert and enjoy a roadside view of the Good Samaritan Inn. After a short stop at sea level for a panoramic view, we continue to Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Stop to see Zaccaheus' Sycamore fig tree and drive to the Mount of Temptation where Jesus went for 40 days after his Baptism in the Jordan River. Visit the Mount of Ancient Jericho where 25 ancient cities were uncovered. Drive to Jerusalem's Grand Court Hotel for dinner and overnight. (B) (D)

### **Day 6 Jerusalem – July 12**

We start our time in Jerusalem by entering the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate also known as the Lion's Gate. We will visit the Pools of Bethesda and the Church of Saint Anne, the Chapel of the Flagellation, the Gabbatha Pavement, and view the Ecce Homo Arch. We will follow many of the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa ending in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We continue on foot to the Jewish Quarter, where we will walk on the Cardo, view the "Wide" wall built by King Hezekiah to repel the Assyrians, and tour the Herodian mansions, home to some of the priests of Jerusalem at Jesus' time. As we approach the area of Mount Moriah we will have a view from afar of the Dome of the Rock, and will visit the Western Wall. Our final stop of the day will be the Ophel Archaeological Park and museum with remains of the city streets that Jesus would have walked on, as well as structures dating back to the times of King Solomon. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. After dinner, we will see the world famous sound & light show on the walls of the city of David. (B) (D)

### **Day 7 Jerusalem – July 13**

This morning we visit the Israel Museum including the Dead Sea Scrolls housed in the iconic Shrine of the Book and the impressive model of Jerusalem from the Second Temple Period. We view the Knesset, Israel's parliament building, as we continue to Mount Scopus where we will view the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and continue to the Mount of Olives for a panoramic view over the city of Jerusalem. We will stop at the Chapel of Ascension atop the Mount of Olives and then descend the mountain to visit the Church of All Nations and the Garden of Gethsemane. Following the Kidron Valley where we will view ancient tombs including those of Absalom, Zechariah, and James, we will climb to Mount Zion. Here we will visit the Room of the Last Supper as well as the burial tomb of King David before driving to the Garden Tomb where we view Calvary and our Communion service will be held. Today dinner we will be visiting a Jewish family and will join them for Shabbat dinner. (B) (D)



### **Day 8 Jerusalem & Bethlehem – July 14**

We enjoy a beautiful drive from Jerusalem to Bethlehem where we will walk Manger Square to visit the Church of the Nativity, the oldest Church in the Holy Land. We will be able to admire the ancient limestone columns and remains of the mosaic floors. We then descend into the Grotto of Nativity, where a Silver Star in the floor marks the spot where Christ is believed to have been born. We then proceed to the Church of the Milk Grotto where the Virgin Mary nursed baby Jesus. We end our day with a drive back to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B) (D)





### Day 9 Masada – July 15

Check out of Jerusalem hotel. We spend the day exploring and discovering the Judean Desert. We will pass the same route the pilgrimages have traveled for centuries to the Dead Sea, which is the lowest point on earth. Afterwards we continue down the Dead Sea Coastline to Masada, the table-top fortress built by King Herod as his summer palace and used by the Jewish Zealots for their last stand against the Roman Empire. Having toured the site, we will continue to the desert oasis of Ein Gedi, prominent in King Saul’s pursuit of the young David. Following lunch, you will have an opportunity to step into these mineral-rich salt waters and feel the ease of floating in the sea. Then we continue to Qumran where an ancient Jewish sect chose to live at the time of Jesus

and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Check in to Dead Sea Hotel, David. Dinner and overnight. (B) (D)

### Day 10 – Dead Sea - Crossing the Jordan – July 16

We have a morning of leisure to have one more dip in the Dead Sea and check out of the hotel for the drive across the Allenby Bridge to Jordan. We will be met by a Jordanian customs agent to process our entrance into Jordan. After Immigration processing is complete, we will begin our journey with a city sight-seeing tour of Amman before checking into the Geneva Hotel. (B) (D)

### Day 11 - Amman to Petra – July 17

Depart Amman for the drive through the desert to Petra. We will stop along the way in Madaba, Jerash Mt. Nebo, and Kerak and check in Petra Moon Hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B) (D)

### Day 12 – Petra – July 18

Full day touring the historic site of Petra (Including horse-back ride through the Siq, a narrow gorge of stone opening into the main entrance to Petra). Transfer back to Amman. Hotel, dinner and overnight. (B) (D)



### Day 13 – Jordan – Tel Aviv – July 19

Check out Amman hotel, drive back from Jordan to Israel’s Ben Gurion airport for flight back to US. (B)

### Day 14 – July 20

Arrive back in US full of memories of a lifetime.

### TOUR FEATURES

- Meet & Assist upon arrival and all transfers from Airport and Holy Land Hotels
  - 7 days Guide and Sightseeing in Israel • All entrance fees to Holy sites
- 11 full breakfasts & 11 full dinners in Israel • Boat ride in Sea of Galilee • Porterage fees in Hotels
  - Wine Tasting – Israeli Winery • Sound & Light Show at the Walls of the City of David
- Traditional Shabbat Dinner with Jewish Family • 3 days Guide and Sightseeing in Jordan
  - Transfer from Allenby border in Jordan to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv

DATE	CITY	HOTEL
July 08 – July 11	Tiberias	Golan
July 11 – July 15	Jerusalem	Grand Court
July 15 – July 16	Dead Sea	David
July 16 – July 17	Amman	Geneva
July 17 – July 18	Petra	Petra Moon
July 18 – July 19	Amman	Geneva

# HOLY LAND PLACES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## ISRAEL

Akeldama (Field of Blood)  
Herod's Temple – Shrine of the Book  
6 Day War  
Tiberias, Tiberias National Park, sail Sea of Galilee, West Bank, Golan Heights, Serria Citadel  
Al-Aqsa Mosque  
Bethphage – starting point of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem  
Cenacle – Upper Room, Last Supper  
Garden of Gethsemane  
Acre – Crusader City  
Mount Carmel – Baha's Shrine  
Elijah's Cave  
Tomb of King David  
Jordan River – Baptismal for participants  
Inn of the Good Samaritan  
Holocost Museum  
Peter's House  
Valley of the Shadow – Monastery of St. George, Monastery of the Temptation  
Mount of Temptation  
Maranatha  
Qumran  
Judean Desert – Cliff hanging complex carved into a rock wall  
Church of All Nations (Bascilica of the Agony)  
Church of Anne – Pools of Bethesda – Mary's birth place  
Church of St. James - Herod Agrippa  
Church of Mary Magdalene  
Mount of Olives  
Church of Ascension – Tower  
Tomb of Mary – Ephesus – St. John  
Church of the Holy Sepulchre – Jesus' Resurrection, Chapels, Stone of Anointing  
Greek & Armenian Chapels  
Beersheba – Well built by Abraham

Church of the Redeemer (Pre-Christian Remains)  
City of David – King David, Solomon, Cannanite Tribes, Observation Platform  
Beth Sheba – history  
Dome of Ascension – Mosque & Mount of Olives  
Old City – Temple Mount  
Bethlehem  
Nazareth  
Mount Zion  
Armageddon  
Jericho  
Dead Sea  
Mary of Nazareth International Center – Multi Media Presentation  
Megiddo  
Haifa  
Jezreel Valley  
Kidron Valley  
Mount of the Beattitudes  
Schindler's Grave  
Caesarea Maritime  
Caesarea Philippe  
Shrine of the Book  
Israel Museum – Dead Sea Scrolls  
Capernaum

## HEART OF OLD CITY (JERUSALEM)

Girded Wall divided into 4 quarters  
Muslim Quarters – Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock  
Al-Aqsa Mosque, Pools of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa  
Christian – Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre  
Jewish – Western Wall, Sacred Temple Plaza  
Armenian – reminder that they were the first to make Christianity a state religion  
Diversity – symbolizes transformation of Jerusalem – from Jewish City to Christian to Muslim.  
Today the city is culturally & religiously diverse.

# JORDAN PLACES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Aqaba is a fun place. It is a microcosm of all the good things Jordan has to offer, including a fascinating history with some outstanding sites, excellent hotels and activities, superb visitor facilities, good shopping, and welcoming, friendly people, who enjoy nothing more than making sure their visitors have a good time.

Hiking to the High Place of Sacrifice in Petra. Far above Petra on a mountain summit, the Nabataeans carved out the High Place of Sacrifice, their most sacred open-air altar where they performed ritual killings of animals. The path to the altar includes obelisks dedicated to the kingdom's two main deities: Dushara, the god of strength, and al-Uzza, the goddess of water and fertility. Along with public worship, the Nabataeans also practiced private worship as evidenced by the shrines and niches cut into the surrounding rock face. They continued to practice this religion for hundreds of years, but by the early fourth century they had adopted Christianity as their main religion.

## Petra visit from gate

Full day tour of Petra. Once the ancient Nabatean capital, this city has a lot to tell. The visit starts at the visitors center, where each person is assigned a Bedouin guided horse for the journey to the entrance of the lost city. 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. 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, 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."

Wadi Rum, the home of "Lawrence of Arabia". Upon arrival, enjoy a mint tea or cardamom coffee at the Resthouse, before getting on one of the jeeps owned by the local Bedouins for a tour of this moon-like landscaped desert.

## Kings Way (Madaba, Mt. Nebo and Kerak Castle)

Depart Amman to Petra via the Kings' Road. En route, 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. After Madaba, a short drive will bring you to Mt. Nebo, the alleged burial site of Moses overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Here Franciscans have built a structure that protects a 4th and 6th Century Byzantine church. After visiting this site, continue on via the scenic canyons of Wadi Mujib (Arnon's Valley in the Bible) to the Crusader castle at Kerak. This 12th Century hill top fortress features galleries, towers, chapels and ramparts that recall the gallantry of the Crusaders themselves.

## Dead Sea

Enjoy your day at Dead Sea for a swim in the salty waters of this lowest spot on earth. Experience the ultimate sensation of trying to swim, while you can actually only float.

Begin a city tour of Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom. Often referred to as the "White City" because of the white stone used to build houses, Amman offers a contrast between oriental and cosmopolitan. The tour will take you to the museums, the Citadel, the amphitheater, the souks and the modern part of town.

## Jerash and Ajlun

Proceed to the North of Amman for a 45 minute drive to the best preserved example of Roman civilization, the city of Jerash. Jerash, part of the Decapolis (the ten big Roman cities of the East) has been called the Pompeii of the East for its unique state of preservation. The city features theaters, churches, temples (Zeus and Artemis), a Nymphaeum and colonnaded streets. After the visit, proceed to the Saracen castle at Ajlun. This 12th Century castle was built by Saladin in his successful campaign to drive the Crusaders from Jordan in 1189 and is an outstanding example of Arab/Islamic military architecture.

JUmm Qais, or Gadara of antiquity. Gadara commands a magnificent view over the northern Jordan Valley, the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias), the Yarmouk River gorge and the Golan Heights.

Pella, another city of the Decapolis, in the Jordan Valley

Most of the visible structures date from the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods (2nd to 14th Centuries A.D.) and there is ample evidence of human occupation during the earlier Hellenistic, Persian, Iron, Bronze, Chalcolithic, Neolithic and Paleolithic periods.

According to the historian Josephus, Mukawir is the site that Salome danced for Herod. Herod was so pleased he promised to grant Salome anything she wanted. At the advice of her mother she asked for John the Baptist to be beheaded. See Matthew 14:1-12

Um Al Rasas has been identified as the site of a Roman garrison town called *Kastron Mefaa*, which subsequently became a prosperous city during the Byzantine/Omayyad period. A very important mosaic was discovered in the Church of St. Stephen there, which dates to 785AD or well after the Muslim religion was established in the Middle East. The mosaic depicts beautiful scenes of hunting, agricultural and pastoral life surrounded by a geographical border showing cities of Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. Sadly, much of the center of the mosaic was destroyed during the iconoclastic period, but the cities remain. A building in the ruins of the church shelters this mosaic which is still in its original place.

Shobak was originally called *Krak de Montreal* or *Mons Regalis*. Built in 1115, it was the first of many fortifications built beyond the Jordan by King Baldwin I of Jerusalem to guard the road from Egypt to Damascus. It successfully resisted a number of sieges until it fell to Saladin's troops in 1189.

The Mameluk Fort, one of the main historical landmarks of Aqaba, was rebuilt by the Mameluks in the sixteenth century. Square in shape and flanked by semicircular towers, the fort is marked with various inscriptions marking the latter period of the Islamic dynasty. The current excavations at the ancient site of early Islamic town *Ayla*, with its two main streets intersecting in the middle, dates back to the 7th Century and already revealed a gate and city wall along with towers, buildings and a mosque.

Depart on a full day tour of the Desert Castles in the eastern desert of the Kingdom, which offer the fresco art and zodiac dome of *Qasr Amra* baths; fortress-like enigmatic *Qasr Karana*; the Roman fort turned Umayyad residential palace at *Qasr el Hallabat*; and the black basalt Roman/Medieval Islamic fort at *Azraq*.

Little Petra is well worth a visit. It was thought to have served as an agricultural centre, trading suburb and resupply post for camel caravans visiting Petra. The surrounding area is picturesque and fun to explore, especially as it is home to some of the oldest settlements in the world, including *Al-Beidha*.

#### Baptism Site In Jordan

For Christians, the most significant event associated with the River Jordan is undoubtedly the baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist. Interestingly enough, this also took place very close to *Beit 'Abara*, where Joshua, Elijah and Elisha crossed the river. In New Testament times, it became known as *Bethany*, the village of John the Baptist. This *Bethany* is not to be confused with the village of *Bethany* near Jerusalem, where the Bible says Lazarus was raised from the dead.

The Bible clearly records that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3: 13-17), and that John the Baptist lived, preached and baptized in the village of *Bethany*, on "the other side of the Jordan" (John 1: 28). The baptism site, known in Arabic as *al-Maghtas*, is located at the head of a lush valley just east of the Jordan River. It is now protected. After Jesus' baptism at *Bethany*, he spent forty days in the wilderness east of the River Jordan, where he fasted and resisted the temptations of Satan (Mark 1: 13, Matthew 4: 1-11).

#### Lowest Point on Earth Museum

Shaped like a giant stone comma, it contains beautifully displayed remains excavated from the site, including mosaics, 4,500 year-old pottery, and ancient textiles. Other displays explain the area's importance for sugar production during the Mameluke period, and artifacts that bring the region's story up the Bedouin tribes of today. Also the tour will take you to visit the Medieval Sugarcane Factory.

Short drive to visit *Lot's Cave*, just past the Lisan Peninsula. The cave is where Lot and his daughters apparently lived after fleeing the destruction of *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*.

## **COST BREAKDOWN**

**Per person Based on Double Occupancy**

**Land-Only \$3899.00**  
**Air Economy Class \$1484.00**  
**Air Business Class \$4179.00**

**Travel Insurance \$252.00**  
**Single Supplement \$899.00**

**Note: Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure.**

### **DEPOSIT**

**A \$500 Deposit is required to secure your Land-only reservation. This price does not include your round-trip air transportation cost.**

**If you request airline tickets, please indicate economy or business class accommodations. You will be billed separately.**

**Travel Insurance is required for international travel to protect your investment.**



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