



Israel, Egypt and Jordan Connoisseur Tour

11 Days / 10 Nights

Day 1: Wednesday	Depart SA with Egypt Air. Overnight on flight.
Day 2: Thursday	Arrive in Cairo 05:35 where your luxury tour bus awaits. Transfer to hotel. Egypt Day tour including Pyramids, Sphinx, Papyrus, Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Mohamed Ali Mosque, Old Cairo – Khan Elkhalili Bazzars. Overnight Cairo.
Day 3: Friday	Egypt Air flight at 06:45 and arrive in Amman 09:05. Cross Israel/ Jordan border to Israel via Allenby Bridge. In the afternoon you will go for a peaceful boat ride on lake Tiberias. Overnight Tiberias.
Day 4: Saturday	Today you are treading in Jesus' footsteps through Galilee. Every moment of today will take you back to the stories of the Gospels. We visit Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes and Tabgha, where Jesus fed 5000 through the miracle of the five loaves of bread and two fish. It is also here at Tabgha that He met his disciples after his resurrection and prepared a meal for them as they returned from fishing. At Capernaum we see the ruins of a second-century Synagogue, as well as the excavations of St. Peter's house. Spend a little time here and remember... After lunch we depart further North to the significant Caesarea Philippi (Banyas) where Jesus ended His teachings on earth by saying to Peter: "But who do you say that I am?" Only Simon Peter answers him: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". (Matthew 16:17) Jesus then also said to Simon Peter.... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church". Overnight Galilee.
Day 5: Sunday	After Breakfast depart for Nazareth and drive through Cana – the town where Jesus did His first miracle. Today this town is in the Palestinian area so almost no wine to be found here! Before lunch you will visit the remarkable "Nazareth Village" to experience life in Israel as it was 2000 years ago. After lunch we stop at Mount Tabor (mount of Transfiguration). We start to understand how Jesus prepared the disciples for their calling. We end the day with an opportunity for tour members who would like to be baptized in the river Jordan at Yardenit. (Optional visit).
Day 6: Monday	Say farewell to Galilee and depart to the South. On our way to the Dead Sea we drive through the Jordan Valley and learn about modern Israel as a progressive agricultural country. Then drive past the strategic crossing between the Yesreel and Jordan Valleys and stop at the ancient city Beth Shean (aka Scythopolis) on the mountains of Gilboa. According to tradition Saul was killed here (1 Sam 28 / 2 Sam 1) and Jesus healed the 10 lepers (900 years later). Visit Jericho and have lunch here (traditional Palestinian cuisine). On your way to Jerusalem, visit Qumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were found by a Bedouin shepherd. Overnight Jerusalem (1).

<p>Day 7: Tuesday</p>	<p>Your day starts at the spectacular Israel Museum with a scale model of Jerusalem during the second Temple period. The Dead sea scrolls are also kept at the "Shrine of the Book" in this brilliant museum. We get a little closer to the Jewish nation. We drive by the Knesset (Israeli parliament) and see the massive Menorah in front of the building. Our next stop is a visit to the Yad Vashem – holocaust memorial. This is the biggest of its kind in the world and truly an emotional, bur important visit (optional for sensitive tour members) But we need to see where the Jewish nation comes from and we need to remember with them. End our day with a visit to Bethlehem where you will visit the Shephard fields and the Church of Nativity. Overnight Jerusalem (2).</p>
<p>Day 8: Wednesday</p>	<p>Pack your walking shoes as this is the day on our feet. Today is the Shabbat so the streets of Jerusalem are peaceful and quiet. After a slow breakfast (as the Jews do it on Shabbat) we start our day at the Haas Promenade on the Mount of Olives with spectacular views over Jerusalem and Temple Mount. We visit the beautiful Paternoster church with the Lord's Prayer displayed in every language around the world! Then start walking down the Mount of Olives and stop at a private garden at Gethsemane for a few quiet moments. Now on to the Lions Gate (This is where Stephen died a martyr death), and enter the Via Dolorosa route. We pass by Bethesda and all the Stations of the Cross, through the old town and Arabic area until we reach the end of this age old pilgrim's road: The Garden Tomb. We end our day in this tranquil garden. This will be one of your absolute highlights in Israel. Overnight Jerusalem (3).</p>
<p>Day 9: Thursday</p>	<p>We start our last day at the City of David – dating back to the First Temple era. This is the site of Hiskia's tunnel and the Siloam bath where Jesus healed the blind man. We then go through the Dung Gate into the Western Wall area. On Thursdays there are Bar Mitzvah festivities when 13 year old boys (Girls at 12) reads from the Torah for the first time. We rejoice and pray with the Jews at this remaining part of the Second Temple. We then enter the Davidson archaeological centre and go to the Southern wall and steps (Entrance to the Temple in the time of Jesus). After lunch in the old city we end our tour in the Jewish and Armenian quarters visiting the tomb of King David and the Upper room (According to tradition the place where the pouring out of the Holy Spirit was and the Christian church was born). The depart for the Dead Sea to spend the night in a luxury Spa Hotel on the banks of the Dead Sea. Overnight Dead Sea.</p>
<p>Day 10: Friday</p>	<p>Today's theme is the DESERT. We remember the many footsteps from the past wondering around in this desolated area. Our first stop is the Ein Gedi nature reserve with Oases. The exact same oases where David hid from Saul and also later his own son Absalom. It is here that he wrote many of the psalms and truly experienced God's love and care for him. We then visit the majestic fortress of Masada and go up the mountain by cable car. King Herod the great built his winter palace on top of Masada. But it is the chilling story of a 1000 Jewish rebels that fled Jerusalem on destruction by the Roman Empire that makes this visit so significant and memorable. We experience this historic event and start to understand the Jewish history and words like "Never again" better just before we depart for Jordan. We cross the border at Aqaba oand overnight in Petra.</p>

<p>Day 11: Saturday</p>	<p>After Breakfast you will visit the magnificent ancient city of Petra – one of the seven ancient wonders! Today you will walk a lot, so dress comfortable with walking/ hiking shoes, a hat and a scarf. Also make sure you have plenty of water with you.</p> <p>The first part to the beginning of the Siq is through desert area and direct sun. (± 20 min walk) Once in the Siq you will be walking partly in the shade. The magnificent and breathtaking path through the Siq (± 1.2 km/ 30 min walk) is laid out with cobble stones so a fairly easy walk. Once you arrive at the Treasury, everyone can do their own thing. There are two Bedouin restaurants with typical Bedouin cuisine. For the more adventurous there are two options:</p> <p>A. The first option is to walk a circle route to the 'High Place' starting from the restaurant area from where you will have stunning views over hundreds of carved out tomb stones. You will climb about Allow yourself 1.5 – 2 hours.</p> <p>https://www.zigzagonearth.com/petra-high-place-sacrifice-wadi-al-farasa/</p> <p>B. The second option is to go to the Monastery (± 5 km and 850 steps up). This is a tough but definitely worthwhile excursion to this phenomenal 48m high and 47m wide facade. Allow 2-3 hours. In the afternoon depart for Amman.</p> <p>Overnight Amman.</p>
<p>Day 12: Sunday</p>	<p>Start your day with a scenic ride through Amman before we depart for Madaba, the town known for its famous mosaic work and mosaic workshops. You will end the day on Mount Nebo from where God showed Moses the Promised Land. The beautiful view from Mount Nebo includes Jerusalem, Jericho and the Dead Sea. Moses also died here and was buried by God Himself. A most spectacular place to end this wonderful tour.</p> <p>Depart.</p>