

Israel & Jordan with Pierre du Plessis Itinerary 2023

PART 1: ISRAEL

Day 1 Saturday 28.10.2023

Group Departure from South Africa (Cape Town) ET 844V @ 13:50

Group flights with Ethiopian Airlines. Some tour members are making use of their own flight arrangements.

Dinner and Overnight on flight.

Day 2 Sunday 29.10.2023

Ethiopian Airlines flight arrives at Ben Gurion airport @ 03:00. Welcome to Israel!

After breakfast and coffee at Ben Gurion Airport, we will drive along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea with our first visit to the Old Town of Jaffa. Walk through the narrow passages of Old [Jaffa](#), believed to be the oldest port city in the world and where cedars from Lebanon arrived to build Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 2:16). Take a spectacular view of Tel Aviv Shoreline from Jaffa Hilltop. Peter came to Jaffa (Joppa) from Lydda to raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead. While in Jaffa, the apostle stayed at the house of Simon the Tanner. St. Peter's Church marks the traditional site of Peter's vision of the Great Sheet (Acts 10:9-16).

Then on to the amazing archaeological site of [Caesarea Maritima](#). Here Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. This ancient city was once the centre of early Christians, and capital of Judea under the Romans. Visit the excavations of this ancient city, see the famous aqueduct and sit on the steps of the Roman theatre, here where Paul made his defence before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome. The ruins of King Herod's summer palace still clearly bear witness to the glitz and glamour this king once enjoyed.

Now continuing our first day's journey to [Mt. Carmel \(Muhra\)](#) where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. The area is also home to a unique ethnic and religious group called [the Druze](#).

We will end our day with a visit at [Nazareth](#) - childhood town of Jesus, with the Basilica of the Annunciation; the Church of St. Joseph; Mary's Well; the Church of St. Gabriel. Our last stop is the reconstructed [Nazareth Village](#), where you can learn about daily life in the days of Jesus.

If time permits, we'll drive to Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first public miracle, the turning of water into wine at the wedding feast.

We now head towards Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee where we will stay 2 nights at the wonderful Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel right on the shore of the lake.

Dinner and overnight [Hotel Nof Ginosar](#)

Day 3 Monday 30.10.2023

Holy sites around [the Sea of Galilee](#).

Today we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. At the [Mount of Beatitudes](#) - traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, you will experience a calm tranquillity in the beautiful gardens with amazing views over the lake.

Then on to [Capernaum](#) also called "the town of Jesus", was home to Peter, Andrew and Matthew, and the scene where Jesus executed more miracles and preached more in the surroundings of Capernaum than any other place during His ministry. Here we will visit the ruins of an ancient synagogue and Peter's home.

Continuing to [Tabgha](#) where Jesus' did the miracle of the Multiplication of the Fish and Loaves. This is also the site for Jesus' fourth resurrection appearance after his crucifixion.

We then visit the recently opened ruins of the town of [Magdala](#) where Maria the Magdalen once lived. This site also has the most intact synagogue dating from the time of Jesus.

At the [Yigal Alon Museum](#) back at [Kibbutz Ginosar](#) where we also stay overnight, we will see a magnificent display of the wooden Galilee Boat, dating from the time of Jesus, discovered mired in the mud on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Here we will end our day with a relaxing boat ride (a bit more modern wooden boat) on the Sea of Galilee. 2,000 years ago on this exact same body of water, the Lord calmed the storm (Luke 8:22-25), and did one of the most dramatic miracles: walking on water (Mark 6:47-52),

Dinner and overnight [Hotel Nof Ginosar](#)

Day 4 Tuesday 31.10.2023

We continue east back to the Jordan Valley and then south towards [Jericho](#) and take the [cableway up to the mount of Temptation](#). After lunch in Jericho we go back to where Christianity began in [Bethlehem](#). We will visit the Shepherds fields and Church of the Annunciation.

Whilst Bethlehem and Jericho are both in the Palestinian Authority, it's safe to visit both these places. We do however monitor the political stability and should there be any reason for concern, we will skip these towns.

Diner and overnight [Prima Royal, Jerusalem](#)

Day 5 Wednesday 01.11.2023

We start our day by ascending [the Mount of Olives](#) from where we will see the whole city of Jerusalem. The same view Jesus saw when weeping over the destruction of the Temple before His trial and death (Luke 19:41-44). A thousand years before that, King David came here after being betrayed (2 Samuel 15:14 - 31).

From the top of Mount of Olives where the Lord also ascended into heaven (Acts 1) we will have a view across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate where the prince of Peace will enter (Ezekiel 43). We pass by Pater Noster Church standing on the traditional site of Christ's teaching of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4), and visit Dominus Flevit where "The Lord wept" as he beheld the Holy City (Luke 19:41-44). Through Palm Sunday Road proceed down to the Gethsemane (Mark 14:32, John 18:1 & Matthew 26:36) where you will see 2,000 year old Olive trees that date back to the time of Christ. In the Garden of Gethsemane the place that Jesus prays (Luke 22:39) and his disciples customarily visited, which allowed Judas to find him on that fateful night of his arrest (Luke 22:47-52), and it's in Gethsemane where an angel from heaven appears to strengthen Jesus (Luke 22:43), and where he found his disciples sleeping and awakes them and tells them to get up and pray (Luke 22:46).

In a private part of the [Garden of Gethsemane](#) we spend some time, just as Jesus and His disciples once did. Here we can become still and remember.

From here to the Lions gate - also called [St. Steven's gate](#) as this is the site where the first martyr Steven was stoned to death. We enter the old city and visit the [Church of St Anne](#), (a church with amazing acoustics for all the singers in our group), [Bethesda](#) and [the Ecce Homo](#) arch before walking along the [Via Dolorosa](#) and the various stations marking the sacred events on the "Way of sorrow". We end our day with a gripping visit to the [Garden tomb](#).

Diner and overnight [Prima Royal, Jerusalem](#)

Day 6 Thursday 02.11.2023

We begin our day just outside [the Dung Gate](#) on the southeastern hill below the Temple Mount and walk towards [the City of David](#). The City of David is ancient Jerusalem, the Biblical City of King David.

We will have a magnificent view over fortifications and ancient walls, underground water tunnels. a dip in the waters of the Gihon Spring and a walk in [Hezekiah's Tunnel](#)- a water tunnel considered to be one of the technological wonders of the ancient world- with the help of a flashlight

Now back through the Dung Gate and on to the [Westernwall](#) - the holiest site in Judaism and one of the original walls that retained the Second Temple. Today is Thursday and we can see the [Bar Mitzva](#) ceremonies and celebrations today at the Kotel. Bar Mitzvah (and Bat Mitzvah for girls) are the joyful occasion when a Jewish boy of 13 reads from the Torah in public for the first time.

We then visit [the Davidson Centre](#) where the group learn about the Temple and understand the history involved a little better.

You have the afternoon free. Wander the old City markets, steeping yourself in its sights, sounds and aromas, and try your hand at hunting and bargaining for treasures. Or just stroll through the Old City of Jerusalem.

**We also offer an optional visit to the [Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Centre](#) should you wish to visit this remarkable site. (Entrance fee for own costs)
Diner and overnight [Prima Royal Jerusalem](#)**

Day 7 Friday 03.11.2023

Before we depart from Jerusalem we will make our way to the [Israel Museum](#) to visit the model of the Jerusalem during the second Temple period, the museum with amazing Jewish art and artifacts, and the Shrine of the Book - where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed

Continue to [Qumran](#) with view of the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

Diner and overnight [Daniel Dead Sea](#)

Day 8 Saturday 04.11.2023

After breakfast we will visit the mountain fortress of [Masada](#) famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. We will ascend to Masada by cable car and discover the first century Synagogue, King Herod's Bath house and other sites atop of Masada.

Driving further along the shores of [the Dead Sea](#) we continue to the oasis of [Ein Gedi](#) also called the "Spring of the Goat" where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (1 Samuel 23). It was also here that David composed several of his Psalms. This biblical oasis has a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves.

Diner and overnight [Daniel Dead Sea](#)

Day 9 Sunday 05.11.2023

Israel tour members depart back to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights to South Africa.

The Jordan tour members departs Southwards to Eilat.

PART 2: JORDAN

Day 9 (1) Sunday 05.11.2023

We greet the Israel tour members returning back to South Africa and depart with a private coach Southwards to [Eilat](#). Our lats night in Israel before crossing the border into [Jordan](#).

Located on the Red Sea, and surrounded by the legendary Red Mountains, Eilat is the go-to destination for snorkeling and breath-taking beaches. Options are a visit to [Dolphin Reef](#), or the [Coral World](#) underwater observatory. Or just go snorkeling in the beautiful clear waters of the Red Sea and enjoy the beaches overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba.

Dinner and overnight Eilat.

Day 10 (2) Monday 06.11.2023

[Wadi Rum](#)

After crossing the border into Jordan, the group will be transferred to the Wadi Rum Village for a typical Bedouin experience. A fun and scenic 4x4 Jeep ride through the desert awaits taking you to the heart of the desert. We now head to a typical Bedouin camp to overnight. See how the Bedouins live in their goat haired tents while enjoying a desert barbeque, sipping Bedouin tea and sit around the campfire enjoying the peace and quietness of the desert.

Once home to Lawrence of Arabia's adventures during the Arab Revolt of 1917-19, this breathtakingly beautiful landscape has been the backdrop for numerous filmsets including the Martian (Matt Damon).

Dinner & Overnight Wadi Rum Desert

Day 11 (3) Tuesday 07.11.2023

Ancient city of [Petra](#)

Today will surely mark one of your most exciting travel days ever!

Carved directly into vibrant red, white, pink, and sandstone cliff faces, the prehistoric Jordanian city of Petra was "lost" to the Western world for hundreds of years.

Located amid rugged desert canyons and mountains in what is now the southwestern corner of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Petra was once a thriving trading center and the capital of the Nabataean empire between 400 B.C. and A.D. 106.

Today a UNESCO World Heritage site and declared one of the seven wonders of the world.

Take note, no camel ride in the world can compare to one in Petra!

Dinner and overnight in the town of Petra

Day 12 (4) Wednesday 08.11.2023

Mount Nebo, Madaba

After breakfast we drive North to visit [Mt. Nebo](#), the famous mountain where it is said that Moses was buried by God Himself. With breathtaking views over the Holy Land - the exact same view Moses once saw - we end of this wonderful Biblical tour.

After our Mount Nebo visit, we go to the quaint town of [Madaba](#), well known for its mosaics and Jordanian carpentry. Last minute shopping awaits!

Dinner & Overnight on the flight.

Day 13 (5) Thursday 08.11.2023

Flights departure at 03:05.

Arrive in Cape Town 13:00