

Lifestyle Travel Ballarat
11 Armstrong Street North
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2023 Holy Land Pilgrimage

Departing – Sunday 11 June, 2023

Personally Escorted by Fr Justin Driscoll



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Sun 11 June

Depart Melbourne on Emirates at 9.15 pm
Arrive Dubai 12 June at 5.15 am

Mon 12 June

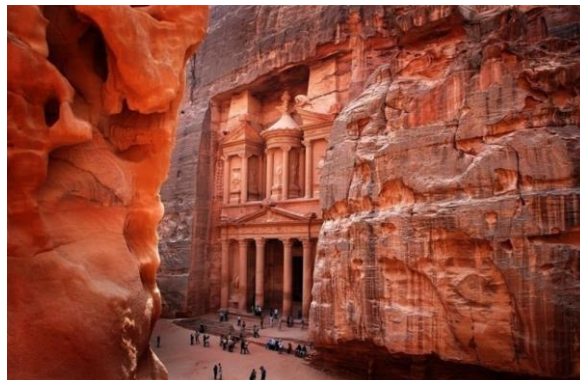
Depart Dubai at 2.05 pm
Arrive Amman at 4.00 pm

We will be met on arrival and then driven to Petra via Mt Nebo & Madaba.
Overnight **Petra Palace Hotel** (Includes Lunch & Dinner)

Tue 13 June

Today we tour Petra before meeting for a late lunch and driving to the Dead Sea on the Jordanian Side. Enjoy a swim in the Dead Sea while you are here.

Overnight **Movenpick Dead Sea Spa Resort or Similar** (B,L,D)



Wed 14 June

Free time this morning to sleep in or have another swim before departing mid morning as we cross into Israel via Allenby Bridge. We then travel out to **Bethlehem**, the City of David. Our first stop will be **Shepherd's Field** to commemorate the appearance of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas night, and where we will celebrate Mass. Visit the **Church of the Nativity** built over the stable where Jesus was born. Bending low, we enter the church through the *Door of Humility* and descend into the **Grotto of the Nativity**. A **silver star** in the floor marks the very spot where Christ was born. The star's inscription reads in Latin: *Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est* (Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born).

2 nights at **Paradise Premium Hotel, Bethlehem** (B,L,D)

Included sights: Shepherd's Field, Church of the Nativity, Grotto of the Nativity.



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Thu 15 June

Morning city tour and then visit Mt of Olives & Garden of Gethsemane in the afternoon.

After breakfast drive to **Mt of Olives** to enjoy a panoramic view over the city and a spectacular photographic opportunity before we commence our walk down the *Palm Sunday Road*, to arrive at the **Dominus Flevit** for Mass. This church was built on the site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem (Lk 19:41-44).

We then visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we will enter the **Church of the Agony** containing the bare rock upon which Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. The outside garden contains olive trees, the roots of which go back to the time of Jesus. Here at the base of the Mt of Olives we will also visit a Crusader Church which contains the **Tomb of the Virgin Mary** and is therefore the place of her assumption into heaven.

From here we see the path Jesus was taken along as a prisoner while ascending Mt Zion to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas. Here, at the **Church of St Peter in Gallicantu**, Our Lord was interrogated and imprisoned, while Peter denied Jesus three times. Continue on to the **Cenacle, room of the Last Supper** and the **Church of Dormition** where Our Lady 'fell asleep' in death. (B,L,D)

Included sights: Mt of Olives, Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, Church of the Agony Tomb of the Virgin Mary, Church of St Peter in Gallicantu, Cenacle room of the Last Supper & Church of Dormition.



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Fri 16 June

Today we visit Caesarea, Carmel & Muhraqa. Travel east to **Nazareth**, the town of Jesus' childhood. Firstly visit the nearby **Nazareth Village**, a recreation of the village life of Nazareth as in the days of Jesus. Here enjoy a traditional meal and take a parable walk back in time along the path that brings to life the environment and atmosphere which shaped Jesus' early years and ministry.

Later in Nazareth township, we will visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation** where a traditional cave becomes the focal point of Mary's response "*Let it be done to me according to thy word*" (Luke 1:38). Celebrate a touching Eucharist here. Also see the **Church of St Joseph**, **Mary's Well** and the **Synagogue Church**, a Melkite (Greek Catholic) church believed to be on the site of the synagogue in which Jesus preached.

(Nearby we will visit the **International Mary of Nazareth Centre**. Ecumenical in its approach, it uses multimedia techniques to show the place of the Mother of Jesus in Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.)

3 nights **Golden Crown Hotel Nazareth** (B,L,D)



Included Sights: Caesarea, Mt Carmel and Muhraqa, Basilica of the Annunciation, Church of St Joseph, Mary's Well and the Synagogue Church. Nazareth Village experience. (If time allows International Mary of Nazareth Centre)

Sat 17 June

Visit **Cana** where Jesus performed his first miracle transforming the water into wine at the wedding feast (Jn 2:1-11). Here we will celebrate our group Mass, and married couples will have an opportunity to renew their wedding vows, and single and widowed pilgrims will receive a special blessing. New Zealand's Good Friday Collection for the holy places helps to maintain this church. Continue to **Mt Tabor** before ascending by taxis up the narrow winding road leading to the majestic summit. Here Our Lord's divinity shone forth in the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-2). After spending time in this breathtaking setting we will better understand Peter's words '*Lord it is good for us to be here*'.

Continuing south, we journey to **Beit She'an**, located in the north of the Jordan Valley and the place where King Saul's body was displayed on its walls after his defeat by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10). See the second century **Roman Theatre** which is the best preserved in Israel, and the **Tell el-Husn**, one of the most important archaeological sites in the country dating back to 1318 BC. (B,L,D)



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Sun 18 June

Today we visit Capernaum, Tabgha & Mount of Beatitudes. Travel to the **Nof Ginosar Kibbutz** within which is preserved the remains of a first century fishing boat as in the days of Christ. Following this, we set off from the shore in a **traditional sailing vessel** to encounter one of our most memorable pilgrimage highlights – a **Private Mass floating on Lake Galilee** with engines switched off. Here we will recall the miracles of Jesus calming the storm and appearing to the apostles walking on this very water. After the Mass, we will continue back to the shore for our special **‘St Peter’s fish’ lunch**. Travel back to Jerusalem.

Included sights: Visit Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha & Mount of Beatitudes. Fish lunch, boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and the ancient boat museum. (Mass on boat).



Mon 19 June

View the old city and **Western (Wailing) Wall**. Before check in visit to the **Yad Vashem** holocaust museum (B,L,D)
4 nights at **Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem** or similar – close to light rail & walking distance to old city. (B,L,D)



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Tue 20 June

We begin our day with the **Stations of the Cross** as we pray and follow in Our Lord's footsteps along the traditional **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** where we will celebrate an unforgettable Eucharist.

Our next stop is the **Israel Museum** where we have an orientation viewing of the **Second Temple scale model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Jesus. Then proceed to the **Shrine of the Book** to view the **Dead Sea Scrolls** with our own eyes, and the Archaeology wing to see the remarkable artworks and treasures on display. Finally we end our day with a visit to **Ein Karem**, the birthplace of St John the Baptist and site of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth "*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord*" (Lk 1:43). Pilgrims may choose to pray a mystery of the Rosary here as we walk up to this church commemorating 'The Magnificat'. (B,L,D)

Included sights: Via Dolorosa ,Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Israel Museum Ein Karem.



Wed 21 June

After breakfast, view the Monastery of St. George. Continue to Jericho and ascend to Mt. Temptation by cable car. Then journey south along the Dead Sea to the site of **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy. Continue to Masada National Park and ascend the mountain by cable car. (B,L,D)

Included sights: Full day to Jericho Mt.Temptation, Qumran, Masada National Park



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Thu 22 June

Free day to explore & shop (B,D)

Fri 23 June

Depart after breakfast for Allenby Bridge back to Jordan (B,L)

Departing Amman on Emirates at 6.00p

Arrive Dubai at 10.00pm.

Sat 24 June

Depart Dubai at 2.40am

Arrive Melbourne at 9.50pm.

Included Sights:

- Horse Riding in Petra
- Bethlehem visit
- Garden of Gethsemane
- JRM Churches – St. Ann, Ecce Homo, Gallicantu, Etc.
- National Parks – 3 Entrances
- Boat Museum at Ginosar
- Capernaum
- Nazareth Village
- Mt. Tabor
- Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee + Fish Lunch
- Western Wall visit
- Yad Vashem museum
- Via Dolorosa
- Israel museum
- Jericho Cable Car
- Masada National Park Cable Car
- 2 bottles of water per day per person
- Border taxes Allenby
- Daily lunches
- Daily Mass

Not Included:

- Extra Meals other than those mentioned.
- Travel Insurance
- Personal Expense
- Approx USD 100 per person for Guides & Driver tips



Documentation Required:

- Current Passport with at least 6 months validity from your date of return to Australia. A copy will be needed 1 month prior to departure for visa issuance.
- Visas for Jordan & Israel are done as part of your group and are included in the package.
- Travel Insurance is essential.

Health Requirements:

There is little risk of major disease travelling to this region however it is best to check with your doctor for individual recommended health requirements. It is also important that your tetanus vaccination is up to date.

Jordan - General Information

Official Language:

Arabic is the official language; however English is widely spoken, particularly in the cities and around major tourist attractions.

Currency:

The official currency is the Jordanian Dinar and the dinar is divided into 100 Piasters or 1000 Fills. Most credit cards are accepted but smaller shops still prefer cash payments, and ATMs are increasing, but some don't accept all foreign cards. Euros and USD can easily be exchanged.

Time Zone:

Jordan is two hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time and has daylight saving from the last week in March to the last week of September. During Australian Summer, Jordan is approximately nine hours behind Australian Eastern Standard Time, and during Australian Winter, they are approximately seven hours behind.

Climate:

The climate of Jordan is Mediterranean with Amman being sunny and cloudless from May to October and July and August are hot and dry.

Food:

Like some other Middle Eastern countries, there are many characteristics shared. However, the inclusion of yoghurts and cheeses separate Jordan from the rest. Most restaurants in main cities have menus with both Arabic and European dishes with specialties including Meze, a selection of starters including fool, a type of stew, hummus, moutabel (smoked eggplant dip) and tabouleh. Other dishes include Mensaf, stewed lamb in yoghurt sauce; Makloubat, chicken with spices; Kibbi, deep fried lamb or beef with ground wheat, onion and cinnamon; and Baklava, honey-nut filled pastry.

Electricity:

200Ac volts, 50hz, same as in Australia. Two pronged or three pronged European Style cylindrical plugs are used.



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Population:

The population was estimated to be at just over 6.2 million in 2010.

Ramadan:

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from eating and drinking during daytime, tourists travelling during this time are generally not affected except some historical sights close at approx. 3pm.

Weekends:

As Friday is the public holiday for Muslims, most businesses and shops are closed on that day, weekends are considered to be Friday and Saturday.

Shopping:

Be sure to visit the local Arab Souk to pick up a bargain. Mosaic handicrafts, hand painted ostrich eggs, handcrafted sand jars, embroidered clothing and jewellery made from local silver. Shop hours vary but from Saturday to Thursday the general operating hours are 0930-1330 and 1530-1800, other shops open as early as 8am and close at 8pm. Shops are generally closed on Fridays except the Souks (markets) which open from approx 4pm.

Tipping:

Tipping is expected for all services including drivers, tour guides and hotels services. Recommended tips start from A\$1 for porters, \$2 for escorts, \$5 for drivers and average \$10 per person per day for guide. In Petra, it is essential to tip the horse handlers, carriage drivers and donkey boys.

Israel - General Information

Official Language:

Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages; however English is also widely spoken.

Currency:

Israeli Shekel, 100 Agorots is equal to 1 Shekel; however \$USD is widely accepted. Visa and MasterCard are the preferred credit cards and most tourist areas have ATMs. Most banks are open from Sunday to Thursday from 0830 to 1200 and from 1600 to 1800 on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. On Fridays and the eves of major Jewish holidays, banks are open from 0830 to 1200.

Visas:

A three month visa is granted to Australian Passport holders upon arrival. There are a few countries that do not accept passports with an Israeli visa in it (Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Libya). For those not wanting a visa stamped into their passport can instead fill out a FORM 17L, which is available in the arrival hall prior to passport control. Without the visa or FORM 17L, you risk being charge VAT Tax by hotels. Entry is granted provided there is more than six months validity on your passport.

Climate:



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Ranging from Mediterranean in the north to arid in the south, there is an area to suit everyone. Israel has long warm to hot and dry summers from May to October. Jerusalem has mild nights and warm days, while the Dead Sea is very hot around this time averaging temperatures 32-38 degrees during summer. Israel also has cool wet winters from December to February. Generally the Dead Sea region is warm to hot all year round with temperatures staying high, even during winter, which makes it a perfect winter spa escape.

Time Zone:

Israel is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. Israel is approximately seven hours behind Australia during European Summer, and nine hours behind in European Winter.

Population:

Israel had a population of just over 7.6million in 2011.

Electricity:

220Ac volts, 50hz. Plugs are two or three pronged cylindrical in style and an adapter will be required.

Food:

Israeli food is generally a mix of East and West. Most restaurants are moderately priced with menus in both Hebrew and English. National specialties include Falafel (deep fried balls of mashed chickpeas), Hummus, Tahina (sesame seed sauce). In addition there are favourites such as shashlik which is charcoal meat on a skewer, shwarma, slices of grilled meat served in a pitabread, bean stews and a Shabbat meat stew called cholent. A huge buffet Israeli breakfast features at all hotels.

Tipping:

Tipping is expected for taxis, hotel portorage and guides, however with all other services, tipping is optional. Recommended tips are as follows: meals in restaurants between 10-15% of the bill, however, many include a 12% service charge and as such, a tip is not required. Other tipping includes: tour guides US\$5 pp/day, tour drivers US\$3 pp/day, private tours US\$20-US\$30 per car/day, transfer drivers US\$5/transfer and porters US\$1 per bag.

