



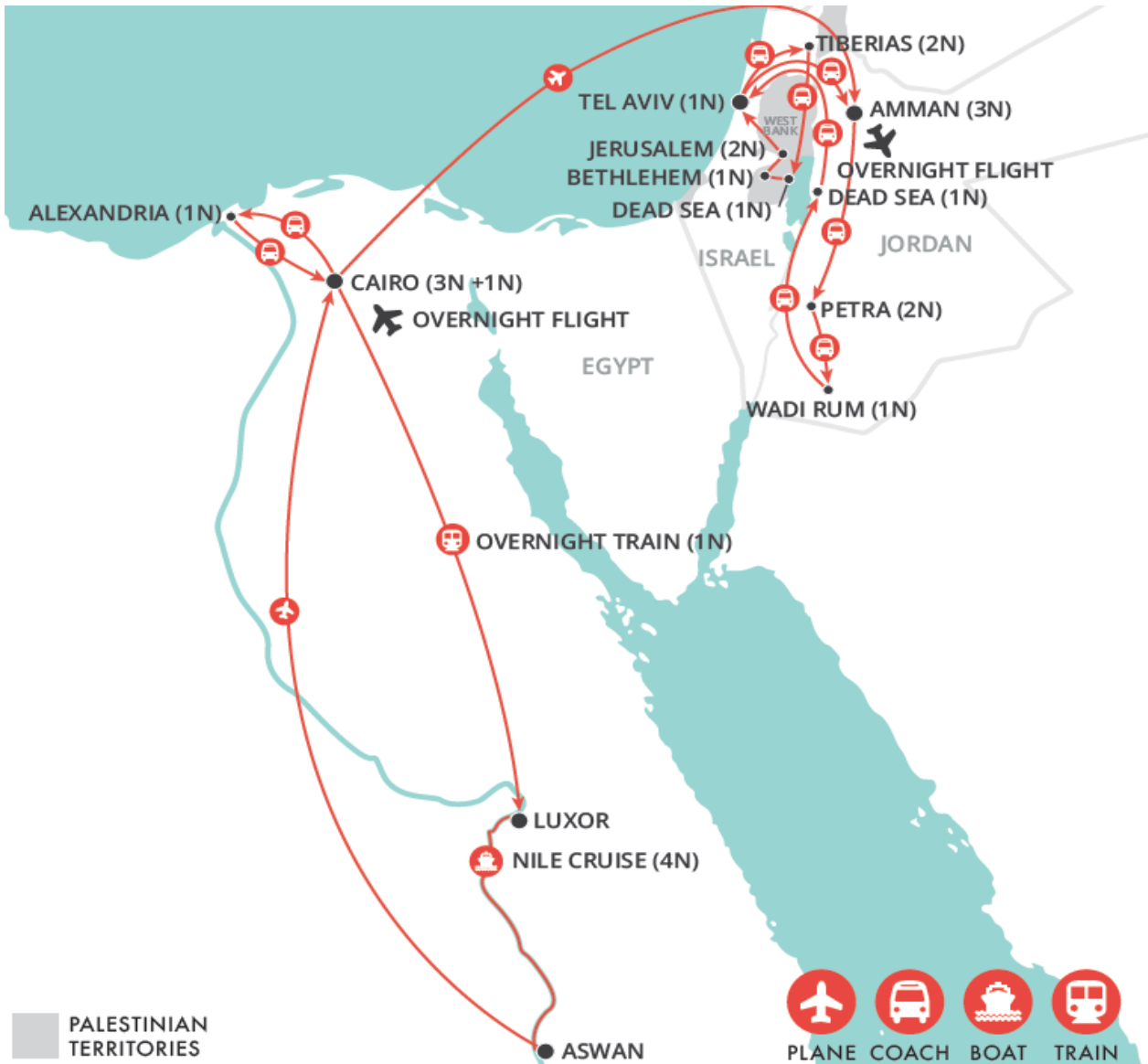
Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored

Classic Tour | 27 Days | Physical Level 1

Cairo – Alexandria – Luxor – Aswan – Cairo – Amman – Mount Nebo – Petra
– Wadi Rum – Dead Sea – Tel Aviv – Jaffa – Tiberias – Bethlehem (Palestine)
– Mount Zion – Jerusalem – Tel Aviv

Journey through three incredible countries taking in world-renowned ancient sites, magnificent temples and sailing Earth's longest river, The Nile. This history filled tour uncovers the intrigue of the Middle East in one bucket list trip.

- Explore relics in Edfu
- Discover the Temple of Kom Ombo
- Stay in a bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- Marvel at Petra by night
- Visit Mount of Beatitudes
- Float in the Dead Sea



Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Classic Tours:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of the Middle East on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Physical Level 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored' is rated 1 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

Country Profile: Egypt, Jordan & Israel

Egypt is located to the north of Africa and joins the continent to the Middle East. Dating to the time of the pharaohs, Millennia-old monuments sit along the fertile Nile River Valley, including Giza's colossal Pyramids and Great Sphinx as well as Luxor's hieroglyph-lined Karnak Temple and Valley of the Kings tombs. The capital, Cairo, is home to Ottoman landmarks like Muhammad Ali Mosque and the Egyptian Museum, a trove of antiquities

As one of the most peaceful and politically and economically stable countries in the Middle East, Jordan is one of the most popular countries in the region in terms of tourism. Most famous for the 2000-year-old city of Petra, carved out of sandstone rock, Jordan's lands are as rich and fertile as its people are welcoming. Travel back in time, along the paths of the Romans, Nabataeans and biblical figures as you travel around this beautiful country. Jordan's wealth of culture will envelop you with ruins of ancient civilisations, religious sites, cultural hotspots and fabulous landscapes, from the dusty desert canyons to winding valleys.

Jordan's populations is mainly comprised of Arabs, either descendants of various tribes that inhabited this region centuries ago or those whose ancestors migrated here long ago. There is a smaller Circassian demographic (descendants of Muslim refugees from the 19th century), Chechens and a small Armenian population. Most of Jordan's population identify as Sunni Muslims, and its Christian population belong to the Greek Orthodox Church.

Israel, the Holy Land to many, is a country of astounding antiquity, deep spirituality, and striking contrast.

Its heart and soul is ancient Jerusalem, a city that has played a pivotal role in thousands of years' worth of history. Below a skyline sculpted by the architecture of the Muslims, Christians and Jews that covert it as a holy place, you'll discover bustling streets where cultures converge, something that is particularly well demonstrated by the city's fantastic food scene.

Outside the city, Israel has plenty of astounding sights and relics – there's the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Tel Aviv, sacred Bethlehem and the ancient port of Jaffa, to name a few, as well as famous natural wonders such as the Dead Sea.

Whatever you look for in a holiday, from cultural to cuisine and adventure to relaxation, Israel is a magical destination to explore.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 27 days in duration including international flights. Please note due to flight schedules passengers may arrive/depart on Day 2. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 2 in Cairo and end the tour on Day 26 in Tel Aviv. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored

Days 1-2: Fly to Cairo

Fly overnight to Cairo, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for your overnight stay.



Destination Information

Cairo – Egypt's capital located on the banks of the Nile River is one of Africa and Middle East largest cities. The noise can be contributed to its approximate 21 million population. Cairo is the only city that still has a remaining ancient wonder of the world, and its university is one of the oldest in the world.

Day 3: Cairo

After breakfast, your day starts with a tour to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, followed by the Egyptian Museum which houses an extensive collection of statues, mummies and treasures including Tutankhamun's tomb. This afternoon you will visit the famous Khan El Khalili bazaar where your bargaining skills will be put to the test.

Please note: Should the new Grand Egyptian Museum be open when you travel then the old Egyptian Museum visit will be replaced by a visit to the new museum where all artefacts will be moved.



Destination Information

Pyramids of Giza – The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the complex. It is the oldest Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the only one remaining intact. The pyramids were built by Pharaohs Khufu (tallest), Khafre (background) and Menkaure (front).

Day 4: Old Cairo

This morning you will visit the Old Cairo churches, the Coptic Museum to view the world's largest collection of Egyptian Christian artefacts as well as Sakara, an ancient burial ground with numerous pyramids, the most famous of which is the Step Pyramid – tomb of the third dynasty ruler. You have the afternoon to explore before dinner at the revolving restaurant at the top of the Cairo Tower.



Destination Information

Coptic Museum – A museum in Coptic Egypt with the largest collection of Christian artefacts in the world. The museum follows the history of Egypt from the beginning to the present day. It is located within the Roman fortress town called Babylon in Old Cairo.

Day 5: Alexandria

Depart after breakfast for Alexandria via the desert road. On arrival you will be taken on a city tour that includes the Roman theatre, the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa and you will visit the Qaitbay Citadel, a defensive fortress located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.



Destination Information

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa – A historical archaeological site, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages and are the largest known Roman burial site in Egypt. They consist of three tiers of tombs and chambers cut 35m into the bedrock.

Qaitbay Citadel – A 15th Century defensive fortress located at the entrance of the eastern harbor and built upon the ruins of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. It was built for the purpose of defending Alexandria from the advances of the Ottoman Empire.

Day 6: Train to Luxor

Once you have checked out of your hotel you will continue your journey back to Cairo. En route you will stop at El Alamein for a guided tour visiting the military museum and WWII cemeteries. Continue to Cairo where you will board your first-class sleeper train to Luxor.



Destination Information

El Alamein – A town on the Mediterranean coast known for a decisive WWII battle, commemorated in the War Museum with uniforms and tanks. The 2nd battle of El Alamein was a turning point in the North African campaign, as it ended the long fight for the Western Desert and was the only great land battle won by the British and Commonwealth forces without direct America participation.

Day 7: Cruise the Nile River

On arrival in Luxor you will transfer to the port and board your 5star Nile cruise ship. This afternoon visit Luxor's East Bank, which will include the Temple of Luxor and the Temple of Karnak, an impressive complex of buildings dedicated to the Egyptian pharaohs.



Destination Information

Temple of Luxor – Constructed over hundreds of years this temple was the largest and most significant religious Centre in ancient Egypt. Located in the middle of downtown Luxor it was the focus of one of the most important religious festivals in ancient Egypt.

Karnak Temple – A city of temples built over 2000 years. It still overshadows many of today's wonders and is the largest religious building ever made. The great temple at the heart of Karnak is so big that St Peter's, Milan and Notre Dame Cathedrals would fit within its walls.

Day 8: Explore West Bank

Start the day with a visit to Luxor's West Bank, one of the most stunning landscapes in Egypt. Touring today will include Colossi Memnon statues, the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir-el-Bahari and the Valley of the Kings, home to the tombs of ancient Egyptian kings. After touring sail to the farming town of Esna.



Destination Information

Colossi Memnon – Two massive stone (twin) statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III, who reigned during the 18th dynasty. They are located in the Theban Necropolis and have survived for 3400 years. They once flanked the entrance to his lost mortuary temple that has been eroded over time.

Temple of Hatshepsut - The mortuary temple of Hatshepsut located beneath the cliffs of Deir-el-Bahari is dedicated to Amun and Hatshepsut. It mirrored Mentuhotep II's temple but on a much grander scale as Hatshepsut needed to establish her authority and legitimacy of her reign in a more obvious way than her predecessors.

Valley of the Kings – Formed through excavation of rock cut tombs for the pharaohs and powerful nobles of the New Kingdom and burial site of nearly all the kings of the 18th, 19th and 20 dynasties, including Ramses X and Tutankhamun's tomb.

Day 9: Kom Ombo

Continue this morning to Edfu, south of Esna, visiting the Temple of Edfu. Sail to the agricultural town of Kom Ombo visiting the Temple of Kom Ombo, famous for its twin temples and then continue to Aswan.



Destination Information

Temple of Edfu – The best waterfalls in India, located on the Chalakudy River at the entrance to Sholayar hill range. These waterfalls drop from a height of 80 feet offering a scenic beauty. It offers spectacular views from the hill.

Kom Ombo Temple – An unusual double temple dedicated to two gods: the local crocodile god Sobek and Haroeris, meaning Horus the Elder. Its twin dedication is clearly reflected in its twin entrances, two linked hypostyle halls with carvings of two gods on either side, and twin sanctuaries.

Day 10: Discover Aswan

This morning you will tour the town of Aswan. You'll visit the 3600-metre-long High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisk and the majestic Temple of Philae. This afternoon, enjoy a felucca tour around the area, viewing Elephantine Island, Kitchener's Island and the botanical gardens.



Destination Information

Unfinished Obelisk – The largest known ancient obelisk created by order of Hatshepsut and is one-third larger than any ancient Egyptian obelisk ever erected. It is carved directly out of bedrock, but cracks appeared in the granite, so the project was abandoned. The bottom is still attached to the bedrock.

High Dam – The world's largest embankment dam built across the Nile in Aswan. It serves the irrigation needs of both Egypt and Sudan and helps in improving navigation across the Nile.

Day 11: Giza Sound & light show

After disembarking from the ship you have the morning free to explore as you wish. Why not take a stroll through Aswan market before transferring to the airport for your flight to Cairo? On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. In the evening attend the Sound and Light show at Giza.



Destination Information

Giza Sound and light show – A staged show taking you through the history of Egypt using sound and light effects, reflecting on the pyramids combining ancient wonders with modern technology.

Day 12: Depart Cairo

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Amman. On arrival in Amman you have the day to relax or explore your surroundings.

Day 13: Jerash Chariot Race

The following morning, you will head out 35km from Amman to the small city of As-Salt, where you will enjoy a city tour. Following your visit, hop back in your vehicle for the drive to Jerash, an ancient Roman city known as the Pompeii of the East. Here you will learn about the city's past before watching a favoured Roman pastime, chariot racing.

Continue your tour of Jerash followed by a short drive to the town of Ajloun. Here you will visit the fortress of *Qa'lat Al Rabad*, overlooking the Jordan Valley. After, head back to Amman to enjoy some downtime before dinner this evening



Destination Information

As-Salt - To the northwest of Amman lies As-Salt, a mountainous city and a UNESCO world heritage site. Founded by Alexander the Great, the city was destroyed centuries later by the Mongols before rediscovering its former glory during the Ottoman Empire. As-Salt and its ancient architecture has enjoyed less modernisation than its neighbour Amman, thus is a wonderful historical throwback to old Jordan. In addition to its historical past, the fertile soil in As-Salt has helped its burgeoning reputation as an agricultural hub, and the city is particularly well-known for the quality of its grapes, olives and other dried fruits.

Jerash - Widely agreed by scholars to be one of the most important Roman cities on the eastern fringes of its empire, Jerash is Jordan's most impressive Roman settlement and one of the best preserved sites outside of Italy. Ruins here include Emperor Hadrian's Arch, the Hippodrome, the Temple of Artemis and the iconic Forum that is bordered by 160 columns.

Ajloun - This small town is well known for its historic castle that sits atop Mount Auf, an important Saracen stronghold in the fight against the Crusaders. Also of note is the Ajloun Forest Reserve and Jordan's oldest mosque; the Great Ajloun Mosque.

Amman - The capital city is the largest in Jordan, spread over 7 hills and is the seat of the royal family. Amman is a blend of both new and old, being not only a prosperous centre of commerce and finance but also home to many ruins, including a magnificent Roman amphitheatre, the Byzantine Basilica and the Temple of Hercules or Great Temple of Amman.

Day 14: Nai Workshop

Enjoy a tour of the old city of Amman this morning, exploring the Citadel and Roman Amphitheatre.

After your tour, head out of the city for a visit to some of Jordan's Desert Castles. They are beautiful examples of early Islamic art and architecture. See the stunning artwork in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qasr



Amra, Al Kharranah Palace and Azraq Castle. Return to Amman this afternoon for a visit to a Nai-making workshop; a traditional Jordanian musical instrument. Under the tutelage of a local expert, you will learn how to make your own instrument.

Destination Information

Citadel - One of Amman's most famous ruins, the Citadel sits on Jebel Al Qala'a hill which overlooks the old city. Upon approaching the Citadel, you will see sections of the 1700 metre wall that dates back to the Bronze Age. Inside you will find the Temple of Hercules, a now largely-decayed structure that was built by Emperor Marcus Aurelius and that once reaches 13 metres in height, the Umayyad Palace, a complex dating from the 8th Century and the 6th Century Byzantine Church.

Roman Amphitheatre - Dating back to the 2nd Century AD, this well-preserved Roman site once housed up to 6000 spectators. The angle at which the amphitheatre was carved into the hillside ensured that the sun would not shine on spectators during performances. The acoustics are also perfect, meaning that during the Roman occupation even the audience members at the very highest seats would still have been able to hear the actors performing on stage.

Desert Castles - Scattered throughout Jordan, these desert castles were often used as a refuge for Caliphs who sought to escape the heat of the city. With the intricate mosaic work and stone carvings, they are a wonderful example of ancient Islamic art and architecture.

Day 15: Amman - Mount Nebo – Madaba - Petra

After breakfast, you will make your way to Mount Nebo, the site of Moses' Tomb. From there, Moses viewed the promised land in Canaan and died there before being buried in a nearby village. Here there are ruins of 4th and 5th-Century churches whose floors are still covered with marvelous and intricate mosaics. Continue to the town of Madaba where you will visit the Orthodox Church of St George and the Madaba Mosaic Map, the oldest surviving depiction of the Holy Land. After your visit to Madaba, you will travel on to magnificent Petra.



Destination Information

Mount Nebo - one of the most important holy sites in Jordan, the church here was abandoned in 1564 and fell into disrepair before being purchased by the Franciscan Order, who restored the area and built a monastery there. Pope John Paul II visited the monastery in 2000, planting an olive tree next to the Byzantine Chapel.

Madaba - On the East Bank and on the Kings' Highway sits Madaba, 'The City of Mosaics'. True to its name, many of these excavated mosaics are on display in town's museum, but it is estimated that almost every house in the town may have ancient Byzantine mosaics beneath the ground that are just waiting to be discovered.

Day 16: Petra

This morning you will marvel at the beauty of the 'Lost City', exploring its many caves and tombs. Surrounded by imposing mountains and approached through a deep, narrow cleft in the rocks known as the Siq, Petra is a unique and unforgettable place and, enhanced by the play of light and shadow, an altogether overwhelming experience. You have the afternoon to yourself before your evening tour of Petra.



Destination Information

Petra - One of the world's most prized UNESCO World Heritage Sites and voted in 2007 as one of the 'New Seven Wonders of the World', this prehistoric city is nestled within desert canyons and carved deep into the sandstone cliff faces. Capital of the Nabataean Empire between 400 BC - 600 AD, the site gradually grew to prominence and has stood throughout history as one of the world's most unique attractions, with scenes from films such as *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* shot from the outside and within the city.

Day 17: Wadi Rum

Following a visit to Little Petra, transfer to Wadi Rum; the Valley of the Moon. Here you will find adventure and feel the romance of the Arabian desert. Wadi Rum is like a moonscape of ancient valleys and towering weathered sandstone mountains rising out of white and pink colored sands. Explore Lawrence's road, visiting the most spectacular sights of Wadi Rum. Drive among sand dunes and canyons with graffiti inscriptions and venture through the dry oasis, exploring the most interesting and exciting sites of Wadi Rum. This evening you will stay in a unique desert camp.



Please note that temperatures in Wadi Rum drop sharply at night. Make sure to bring a warm jacket with you.

Destination Information

Little Petra - The Nabataean archaeological site of Little Petra consists of 3 wide open areas connected by a 450-metre canyon. Similar to Petra, its many rooms were a result of carving into the red sandstone canyons.

Wadi Rum - This arid stretch of desert has been home to Jordanians for thousands of years, which is impressive in itself given its lack of fresh water and vegetation. Wadi Rum has also earned its place in history, with the locals fighting the occupying Turkish and German armies during the Arab Revolt of 1917 and 1918. Nowadays, whilst most of Wadi Rum's Bedouin inhabitants may have moved away from their nomadic lifestyle, they have equally played a pivotal role in recent years to bring tourism to the area.

Day 18: Dead Sea

Checking out of your desert camp in Wadi Rum this morning, you will head north along the Jordanian/Israeli border to the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth. After lunch you are free to enjoy the delights of the Dead Sea.



Destination Information

Dead Sea - This landlocked salt lake is located in the Jordan Rift Valley and sits on the border between Jordan and Israel. At 304 metres deep, rain and surface water flows into the Dead Sea but apart from evaporation, the water has no escape. The continuous evaporation in combination with the high salt content means that for over 65,000 years, the salinity levels of the Dead Sea have been ever increasing. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many

Day 19: Transfer to Tel Aviv

Today you will transfer from Amman to Tel Aviv to start exploring the third exciting county on your itinerary. On arrival at your hotel you will check-in and have the rest of the day at leisure.

Destination Information

Tel Aviv - This trendy Mediterranean port city is both ancient and cosmopolitan, boasting famous architecture, endless beaches, world-class cuisine and a collection of UNESCO-recognised buildings. There are many districts that make up Tel Aviv, including historic Jaffa, which you will visit on day 2.

Day 20: Jaffa

Exploring today takes you to the Jaffa district of Tel Aviv which contains the world's oldest active harbour. According to legend, Jonah reputedly stepped ashore here from the whale's mouth and Perseus circled the harbour atop of Pegasus, his winged horse. Continue to Caesarea to view the fascinating Roman ruins.

After, visit the Druze Villages on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Visit the street bazaars and interact with the community before a local lunch. Drive to Mukhraga for a wonderful view of the Holy Land followed by a short visit to the Carmelite Monastery of St Elijah. Finish the day in Tiberias, on the shores of the famous Sea of Galilee.



Destination Information

Caesarea - This ancient Phoenician settlement was once ruled by King Herod the Great, under the patronage of the Roman Empire. Renamed to Caesarea after the Emperor Augustus Caesar, this city became the capital of the Roman province of Judaea and was also an important centre of Christianity. Caesarea is best known however for its harbour, after excavations in the 1970's and 1980's helped it claim international attention as a marvel of the ancient world.

Tiberias - Built by Herod Antipas, son of King Herod the Great, the city was built during the 1st century BC and in similar fashion to Caesarea, was given its current name in tribute to the Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar. Rich in archaeological remains, the 'City of Water' is known as one of Israel's four holy cities and 2,000 years was the last sea of the Sanhedrin (Supreme Court of Jewish law).

Day 21: Tabgha

Drive from Tiberias to Tabgha, the sites of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. Head to Capernaum to visit the Ancient Synagogue and House of St Peter.

Continue to the Mount of Beatitudes where the Sermon on the Mount took place, followed by a stop at Safed, a hilltop town with a rich heritage of Jewish mysticism.

Return to Tiberias this afternoon.



Destination Information

Tabgha - Apart from its bible miracle, this small area on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee has been known as a fishing hotspot for thousands of years. The nearby springs produce water that is warmer than the neighbouring sea which promotes algae growth, bringing many fish to the area.

Safed - This small town is known for its charming network of winding cobblestone alleys that is home to artists' galleries, medieval synagogues and guesthouses.

Day 22: Jericho

Head to Kibbutz Degania B, Israel's first Kibbutz. Tour the community and learn about the founding of the movement and its development from one of its members. After, drive through the scenic Jordan Valley to Qasr El Yahud - the original site of Jesus' baptism.

You will enter Palestinian Territory to visit the city of Jericho for your cable car journey (both ways) to the Quarantal Monastery on the Mount of Temptations, followed by a drive to the Dead Sea to float in the mineral-rich waters. After some leisure time, continue to Kibbutz Kalia where you spend the night.



Destination Information

Kibbutz Kalia B - One of Israel's many kibbutz, these are agricultural places of work where workers live together and share duties and income.

Dead Sea - This landlocked salt lake is located in the Jordan Rift Valley and sits on the border between Jordan and Israel. At 304 metres deep, rain and surface water flows into the Dead Sea but apart from evaporation, the water has no escape. The continuous evaporation in combination with the high salt content means that for over 65,000 years, the salinity levels of the Dead Sea have been ever increasing. Many travellers come to bathe in these unique waters and the high salt content and mineral-rich mud are said to bring many health benefits

Day 23: Bethlehem

After breakfast travel to Masada where you will ascend by cable car (both ways) to the top of Masada Fortress, where apart from the wonderful view, you will learn of the last stand by Jewish rebels against the Romans.

Enjoy lunch followed by a visit to Qumran, famous for being the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Following your fortress visit, you will continue your journey to Bethlehem, re-entering Palestinian Territory, for a 1- night stay. Enjoy a Palestinian dancing show during dinner this evening.



Destination Information

Masada Fortress - One of Israel's most popular tourist sites, Masada Fortress sits atop a high cliff face that overlooks the Dead Sea. Constructed by King Herod the Great between 37-31 BC, a century later, Jewish rebels defeated the Roman garrison here. In response, the Roman governor Flavius Silva sent the Tenth Legion to take back the fortress. Knowing that the defenders had no response to the Romans' superior artillery, Elazar ben Yair, the rebel leader, ordered the defenders to commit suicide. Thus, the rebels wrote themselves into history.

Qumran - Situated between Jerusalem and the beaches of the Dead Sea, Qumran was established during the 2nd-century BC by the Essenes Jewish sect, a religious group who shunned city life and instead settled here, creating a monastic-like community. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Bedouins in 1947 (changing hands many times before falling into the hands of scholars) shed light on the ways and beliefs of this mysterious community.

Bethlehem – Located within Palestinian Territory is an important religious centre to Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Bethlehem is known as the fabled birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Day 24: Mount Zion

This morning, visit the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem before proceeding to Mount Zion to visit the Cenacle (the room of the Last Supper), King David's Tomb and the Dormition Abbey.

After lunch, drive to the Mount of Olives to enjoy spectacular views of Jerusalem. Step back in time as you visit the Pater Noster Church and the Church of Ascension, followed by a descent into Josaphat Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations.

Round off the day as you leave Palestinian Territory, venturing into Western Jerusalem to visit the Hebrew University, Parliament House and the Supreme Court. Enjoy a 2-night stay in Jerusalem.



Please note that there is a lot of walking today, though the walking will be at a leisurely pace. Do watch your footing whilst walking down the Mount of Olives as the pathway here is steep and ensure you are wearing sensible footwear

Destination Information

Jerusalem - Considered by many to be the world's most holy city, Jerusalem has been an object of desire for Christian, Muslim, and Jewish people for centuries. Its sacred old town in eastern Jerusalem is alive with atmosphere, and the Western Wall and the famous Dome of the Rock are found here. Western Jerusalem is more contemporary in architecture and is home to an array of excellent restaurants and bustling markets offering fresh local produce.

Mount of Olives - A fabulous viewpoint over Jerusalem's Old City, the Mount of Olives rises more than 800 metres above Jerusalem and takes its name from the endless olive groves that once covered the land.

Garden of Gethsemane - At the foothills of the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane (translates to 'olive oil press') has eight olive trees spread throughout the garden.

Day 25: Jerusalem

On your tour of Jerusalem today, you will begin by driving to Dung Gate to visit Temple Mount, where you will find Dome of the Rock and Al Aksa Mosque. After, you will continue to the famous Western Wall, an iconic site in the Holy Land.

Next, enter Jerusalem's Western Wall Tunnels to view the original stonework from King Herod the Great. Then, walk to the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Round off the day with an authentic Shabbat dinner experience, hosted and prepared by a local Rabbi. This fascinating experience will really help you to gain an understanding of Jerusalem's orthodox Jewish community and gain an insight into their lives.



Please note that there is a lot of walking today, though the walking will be at a leisurely pace.

Destination Information

Temple Mount - Known in Hebrew as known in Hebrew as *Har Habayit* and in Arabic as the *Haram al-Sharif* (the Noble Sanctuary), this site is of religious significance in both Judaism and Islam. On Israeli land but administered by a Muslim religious trust, Temple Mount contains both the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aksa Mosque in its interior, two of Jerusalem's most recognised and holy landmarks.

Day 26-27: Depart Jerusalem

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.



Please note: *Late check-out* is not included in our Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Jerusalem, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers).

Please inform our reservations team of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at time of booking.

Egypt, Jordan & Israel Explored Travel Information

Visas

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork if applicable and submit the visa application on your behalf. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it from the date of entry into Israel.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Currently a visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Eating in Egypt, Jordan & Israel

Whilst travelling in a group with us, be sure that all food and beverage recommendations we offer are safe and up to the international hygienical standards. Guests are often advised not to eat fresh/raw fruits or vegetables, but in fact this means missing a lot of the best taste sensations people can ever have! Caution is always advised if buying raw food from street vendors or at open markets. Packaging and expiry date should be checked, and no food should be eaten before it has been washed. Although it might look and smell delicious, we advise you to avoid eating in really downgraded places or local street food outlets. If you wish to try typical local food that is strongly recommended to try, you may make a choice between Falafel, Koshary, Molokheya, Fava beans, Houmous or Eggplant. If you are a meat lover, Grilled lamb/veal kebab would be a recommended option. Apart from the stuffed vegetables and the veggie or meat stew tagins, these are the most popular Egyptian dishes that are locally preferred. Please advise us before travelling if you have any specific dietary requirement.

It is not advisable to use tap water for drinking as it's highly chlorinated. This doesn't mean that the tap water is polluted, it simply means if you are not used to it, then it could cause side effects. Bottled water is available everywhere as well as on the coach. Please use bottled water for brushing your teeth. Tap water is okay to use for showers, washing hands and for hygiene purposes.

Jordanian cuisine is wonderfully rich and flavourful, with the inspiration for much of its cuisine dating back hundreds of years when Jordan was a vital stage on the spice routes from China and India.

Hearty dishes such as *mansaf* (lamb, rice and rehydrated yoghurt) fragrant *zarb* (succulent chicken, herbs and vegetables cooked in a pot beneath the desert sands in true Bedouin style), *baba ghanoush* (grilled aubergines with fresh parsley and pomegranate molasses) fresh *hummus*, olives and endless varieties of dates all contribute to the wonderful cuisine to be found here. Savoury dishes aside, Turkish and Arabic coffee is served throughout the country. Jordanians also have a taste for all things sweet, with sweet pastries like *baclava* a favourite amongst locals and tourists alike. Whilst we always encourage our guests to try the local cuisine, you will have opportunities during your tour to eat Western food.

Israeli food offers you a wonderful culinary delight. With various food choices like Pita bread, Hummus, Kebabs and Shwarmas, it makes for a difficult choice but guaranteed to leave long lasting taste. Israel has many delicacies, and a traditional meal consists of hummus, small plates of a variety of salads and warm pita bread. Mujaddara is a dish of cooked lentils with rice and sautéed onions.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitizer will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in the Middle East. We recommend that when it comes to Middle Eastern food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Accommodation

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand, Jordan and Israel. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

While all group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities air conditioning, TV and a telephone, on the sleeper train there are shared ablutions at the end of each carriage, but your compartment will have a basin. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Egypt, Jordan & Israel. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in Egypt have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in Egypt have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Cruise ships: On this tour you will take a 4-night cruise down the Nile River. Your cabin on your Nile River cruise ship will have a private bathroom and French balcony. Please note that the cruise ship and all shore excursions arranged by the cruise are on a shared basis.

Trains: On this tour you will take an overnight sleeper train from Cairo to Luxor (approx 10 hrs duration). Following checkin you will be served a light dinner to your cabin. Cabins consist of 2 seats that are then converted to two beds (bunk beds) at nighttime, there is also a small wash basin and vanity in each cabin. Bathroom facilities are on a shared basis.

4WD: Due to Wadi Rum's remote location and difficult terrain, you will travel to and from here in a fleet of 4x4's. Water will be provided and you will experience the thrill of venturing through the desert in an all-terrain vehicle

Development in Egypt, Jordan & Israel

Concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Public Holidays in Egypt, Jordan & Israel

If you are travelling within the below Middle Eastern Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded.

Egypt: Labour Day May 1, End of Ramadan 13 – 15 May 2021, birth of Prophet Muhammad 19 Oct 2021, Aid Al Adha 20-22 July 2021.

Jordan: New Years Day 1 Jan 2021, Labour Day 1 May 2021, Eid al-Fitr 12 -15 May 2021, Independence Day 25 May 2021, Eid al-Adha 19 -23 Jul 2021

Israel: First day of Passover 27 – 28 Mar 2021, Seventh Day of Passover 2-3 April 2021, Yom Ha'atzmaut 15-15 Apr 2021, Shavuot 16-17 May 2021, Rosh Hashanah 6-8 Sep 2021, Yom Kippur 15-16 Sep 2021, First Day of Sukkot 20-21 Sep 2021, Shemini Atzeret 27-28 Sep 2021

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

Group Size

The group size on our Middle East Classic Tours is on average 10-18 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Middle East is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

Luggage

All travelers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Exchanging cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Cairo. US Dollars and New Zealand Dollars can be exchanged at Cairo Airport and in some hotels, provided the New Zealand currency is new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure. ATM's are widely available throughout Israel with the exception of the small towns, and debit and credit cards are widely accepted. However, we recommend having Israeli shekels with you should any of the hotels or restaurants you visit encounter technological issues.

Personal expenses and optional tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of NZ\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours – Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing a number of steps.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Cultural Difference

Egyptian, Jordanian, and Israeli society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Egypt, Jordan & Israel more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter are, whilst Muslim women's clothing often covers their legs, arms, and hair, Western women are not subject to these customs. In Jordan, very revealing clothing is discouraged, and dressing conservatively around the old part of Amman and outside of the cities is advisable for both men and women. Furthermore, women do not need to cover their heads or tie their hair. T-shirts are also fine. Some Jewish areas of Israel closely observe Shabbat, which begins at sunset Friday and continues until sunset Saturday. This time is considered to be a day of rest, and as a result, driving and using electricity and digital devices are usually restricted.

Some religious sites and homes might require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Holiday Health has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.holidayhealth.co.nz

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Last updated: November 2020