



15 Day ROTARY TOUR TO EGYPT, JORDAN & ISRAEL February 22 – March 8, 2011

Day -By - Day Tour Itinerary:

Day 1: Tuesday, February 22, Departure

Our journey starts today as we depart on our flight to Egypt – to the land of the Pharos. Our delta flights departs at 11:15am. Sit back, relax and enjoy your flight, and prepare yourself for a life-changing experience.

Meals: On Board

Overnight: On Board

Day 2: Wednesday, February 23 “Ahlan Wa Sahlan” - Welcome to Egypt - the Land of Pharos

Arrive at the Cairo International Airport at to be met and assisted by our representative.

A private transfer is included from the airport to the hotel. Our hotel is conveniently located only 1.5 miles away from one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, the **Great Pyramid of Giza**.

Check-in and Dinner at the hotel.

Meal: Dinner

Overnight Cairo:

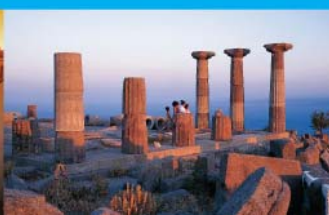
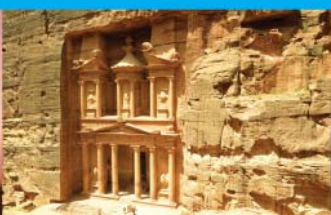
Optional Evening Activity: Pyramids Sound & Light Show (\$40 pp)

Day 3: Thursday, February 24, Discovering an Ancient Civilization

Pyramids / Sphinx / Solar Boat Museum / Egyptian Museum / Old Cairo / Coptic Cairo

After breakfast, meet our Egyptologist tour guide and start our first touring day in Egypt. Our first stop will be at the Pyramids of Giza. A visit to the 3 Giza Pyramids is on every world traveler's must-see list. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three, was built in the 3rd dynasty about 2690 B.C. and is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

In front of the Pyramids of Chephren, we will find the the colossal statue of the Great Sphinx, which has stood guard over the pyramids for more than 4,500 years. The Sphinx carved from a single piece of stone; it is a lion with a Pharaoh's head thought to be a portrait of the Pharaoh Chephren. Here we will be provided an opportunity to ride a camel by the Pyramids area. Next, we will visit the Solar Boat Museum, whose main attraction is an ancient Egyptian cedar wood boat dating back 4,500 years. We will then drive into Old Cairo to explore the City's cultural landmarks that span three millennium of Egyptian history. Discover the greatest collection of Pharaonic treasures in the world at the famous Egyptian Museum. See the unique collection of Pharaonic art, starting with the Old Kingdom Collection, on to the Middle and New Kingdom galleries and Greco-Roman periods and the famous Tut-Ankh-Amon treasures. Continue to Coptic Cairo, where we will visit the famous Suspended Church (Hanging Church), dating to the late 4th and early 5th century. This basilica was named "Al-Mu'allaqah" because it was built atop the south gate of the Fortress of Babylon. Continue to the Church of St. Sergius, a 5th century Coptic Church. This basilica is built on the cave in which the Holy Family stayed and is regarded by visitors as a source of blessing. As we stroll along, we will come to the recently restored Synagogue of Ben Ezra, which marks the place where Moses was saved by the water girl of Pharaoh. This is the oldest Jewish synagogue in Egypt built in 882 AC. Return to our hotel for dinner.





Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight Cairo:

Optional Evening Activity: Nile Dinner Cruise with Show (\$50 pp including transfers)

Day 4: Friday, February 25, Free day in Cairo or fly to sharem to attend the conference

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight Cairo:

Day 5: Saturday, February 26, From Coptic Cairo to the Sinai Wilderness

Sinai Desert / Land of Goshen / Marah by the Red Sea / Elim / Rephidim / Mt. Sinai

After Breakfast we will travel east heading towards the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula and the Land of Goshen tracing the Route of the Biblical Exodus (Genesis 16-18). We will drive via the tunnel underneath the Suez Canal to the west branch of the Red Sea. Our first stop will be Marah by the Red Sea, the desert springs along the shore of the Red Sea, where the children of Israel found the waters bitter. Continue to Elim and visit the desert oasis and the possible sites where the 12 wells and 70 Palm Trees were found during the children of Israel's journey to the Promised Land. We then travel along the western Sinai coast to Wadi Feiran (Rephidim), the desert valley where the Children of Israel fought against the Amalekites. From here we can see Mount Serbal, the possible site where Moses held his arms up for victory. We head inland heading towards the granite mountains of Mt. Sinai and Wadi el Raha. Raha in Arabic means "rest" and according to tradition this is the area where the Israelites camped and the golden calf was forged (Exodus 32). In the afternoon we will arrive at our hotel near Mt. Sinai and St. Catherine's Monastery. Check in and dinner. Please note: the options for accommodation in the remote area of Mt. Sinai are limited. Although not equivalent in quality to the other first class hotels we use along this tour, the hotel we use is the best this area has to offer.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

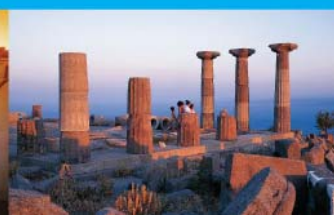
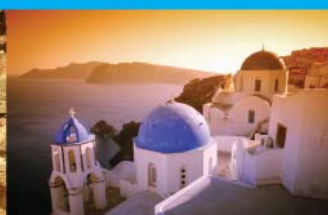
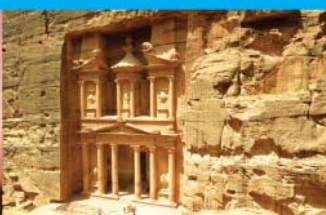
Overnight Sinai:

Optional Night Activity: Climb Mt. Sinai (\$25 pp)

For those who wish to climb Mt. Sinai, please bring warm clothing for the ascent.

**Day 6: Sunday, February 27, From Mt. Sinai to the Red Sea and the Mountains of Edom
Climb Mt. Sinai / Eilat / Cross to Jordan / Aqaba**

At day break, those who desire and are physically capable, will depart for a memorable early ascent to Jebel Musa – Mt. Sinai (about 6,900-ft) walking in the footsteps of Moses and the devoted pilgrims who tread this route centuries earlier. You may choose to ride a camel part way, stopping at one of the stations to take in the scenery along the climb to the summit (750 steps). We should reach the summit just before dawn in time to witness its incredible sunrise and splendid views. We will enjoy a time of praise and unforgettable, breathtaking views of the Sinai wilderness. As we read from the Book of Genesis we remember that this is the place where Moses met the Lord in the Burning Bush and where he received the Ten Commandments. Descending the mountain we return to the hotel to rejoin the rest of our group for breakfast. We spend the later part of the morning touring the beautiful and unique Monastery of St. Catherine, taking in its fascinating and interesting sights and exceptional history. St. Catherine's Monastery was constructed by the Roman Emperor Justinian (527 and 565 AD). It is built around what was thought to be Moses' Burning Bush. The Greek Orthodox church building is the oldest continuously used church building in the world. Leaving the Mt. Sinai area we will head towards the eastern shores of the Sinai Peninsula and on the Red Sea on our way north to the Taba Border (Egypt / Israel border). After crossing, meet our Eilat representative and welcome to Israel. We will take a short city tour in Eilat – Israel's southernmost town on the Red Sea. After lunch at the lovely Kibbutz Eilat we will arrive at the Arava Border (Israel





/ Jordan southern border). Cross to Jordan and meet with our Jordanian tour guide - Welcome to Jordan, We will drive via the City of Aqaba for overnight.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Overnight Aqaba

**Day 7: Monday, February 28, Exploring the Nabatean Treasure City of Petra
Petra / Amman**

After breakfast drive to Petra, one of the world's greatest archaeological sites – the 2,000-year old city of **Petra**, known as the red rock city. It was the ancient capital of the **Nabateans** from the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AC. Carved by the Nabataeans out of solid rock, Petra was forgotten for hundreds of years until it was rediscovered in 1812. At the entrance to Petra travelers are offered the option to ride a horse for 800m - from the visitors centre to the entrance of the dramatic "Siq" (canyon). From the entrance to the Siq there is a 1,250 meter walk to the 1st monument "**The treasury**". Throughout most of the day we will explore Petra's incredible structures: the treasury, the field of tombs, the obelisks and the altar, and much more. In the late afternoon we will drive north to **Amman** – Jordan's capital and largest city. Check in and dinner at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Overnight Amman:

Day 8: Tuesday, March 01, From Jordan to Israel

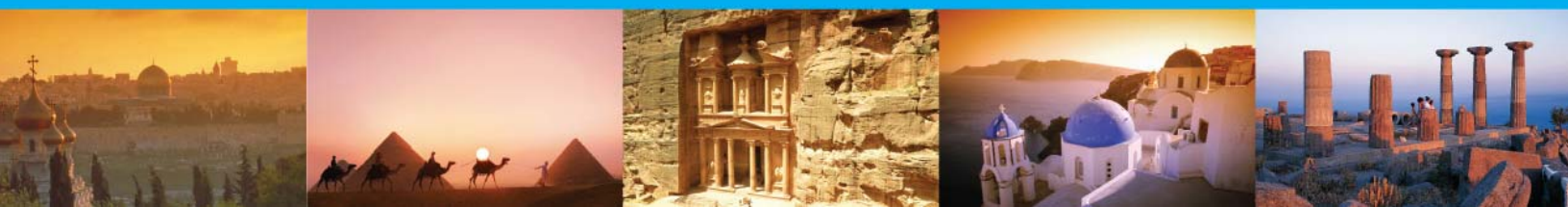
Madaba/ Mt. Nebo / Optional Jerash / Cross to Israel /Beth Shean Valley /Sea of Galilee
After breakfast we head to the biblical town of Madaba. Madaba is best known for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics and for its Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. Here we will view the earliest original map of the Holy Land. We continue to the biblical Mt. Nebo from which Moses viewed the Promise Land. Mt. Nebo, believed to be the site of the tomb of Moses, commands a spectacular view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. We will drive north for an **optional** visit to ancient Jerash – Gerasha. Located about 45 km north of Amman in the fertile heights of the Gilead, Jerash is one of the best preserved and most complete of the cities of the Decapolis. Visit the ancient Roman city with colonnaded streets, the baths and the temples. From here we will drive to the Sheikh Hussein Border, (border with Israel). After border crossing procedures enter to Israel, meet your Israeli tour guide and drive through the Beth Shean Valley to the Sea of Galilee and our hotel located in the town of Tiberia on the shore of the Sea of Galilee

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Overnight Sea of Galilee:

Day 9 : Wednesday, March 02, Around the Sea of Galilee

Today we will experience the important sites around the Sea of Galilee. After breakfast we will board a wooden boat and sail across the Sea of Galilee. Will visit Kibbutz Ginosar, where we will see the ancient boat that was found in the Sea of Galilee dated back 2000 years ago. Drive along the western shore of the Sea of Galilee to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Then on to Tabgha - the site of the Feeding of the 5,000 & Primacy of Peter. Continue on to the 2000 year old remains of Capernaum (Luke 4) and its ancient synagogue. We will end this remarkable day by visiting Yardenit – the baptismal site on the Jordan River. Drive back to our hotel for Dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Overnight Sea of Galilee



**Day 10: Thursday, March 03,****Golan heights, Gamla, Katzrin, Talmudic village, Mt. Bental, Banias, Corazim**

Today we drive up to the Golan Heights. We will visit Gamla and the town of Katzrin (the only town in the Golan Heights), here we will visit the Talmudic village to learn about the ancient Jewish settlements of the Golan Heights. From Katzrin we will drive to the peak of Har Bental, where we can view Mt. Hermon. Here you can enter army bunkers and take in a panoramic view at the crossroads of three countries. From this point we can see across the Golan Plateau bordering with Syria and observe the abandoned Syrian city of Kuneitra and the U.N. outpost located nearby. We continue to visit Banias - ancient Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16.13 and Mark 8.27), where Jesus said on this rock I will build my Church. We conclude this day by visiting the ancient synagogue of Corazim. Corazim was one of the major settlements in the Sea of Galilee region (together with Capernaum and Bethesda) from the time of Jesus and was mentioned in the New Testament (Matthew 11:20). Return to our hotel for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight Sea of Galilee

Day 11: Friday, March 04,**Beth Shean / Dead Sea / Massada / Jerusalem**

After breakfast we depart from the sea of Galilee region and drive south along the Beth Shean valley and the ancient city of Beth Shean for an overview of this remarkable archeological site. We will drive through the Jordanian Valley past the city of Jericho and arrive at the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea. We will visit the 1,500 foot mountaintop fortress of Masada. Built by King Herod, Masada is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. We will ascend to Masada by cable car and discover the 1st century Synagogue, Herod's Bathhouse and many other sites. We will continue along the shores of the Dead Sea for a look out on the oasis of Ein Gedi, where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (1 Samuel 23). It was here that David composed several of his Psalms. Next, we will visit Qumran and walk through the ruins of this ancient Essene community. In this spot, an amazing cache of ancient biblical texts were discovered in 1947 - commonly called the Dead Sea Scrolls. From here we will ascend to Jerusalem - the holy city of Zion. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, experience a breathtaking panoramic view of Jerusalem from Mt. Scopus. Continue to our centrally located hotel for check in and dinner. Our hotel is conveniently located walking distance from old city Jerusalem. Free time to rest, relax and enjoy your first evening in Jerusalem.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

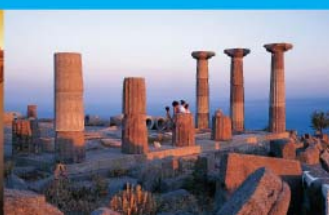
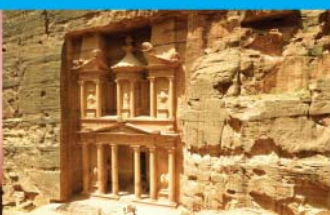
Overnight Jerusalem:

Day 12: Saturday, March 05, Old City Jerusalem

Following an early breakfast we will begin our first day of touring Jerusalem and head to the top of the Mount of Olives, where we take in a breathtaking view of the city across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate. We will take the Palm Sunday Road down to the Garden of Gethsemane where we will see 2,000 year old olive. We will enter the Old City; our first stop will be the Western Wall ("Wailing Wall") - the holiest site in Judaism and one of the original ancient walls that retained the Temple. We will be privileged to enter the most important excavations in Israel - the famous Western Wall Tunnels; running along the base of the Western Wall will lead us through the Second Temple era. Continue to St. Anne Church and the Pool of Bethesda. We will start our walk along the Stations of the Cross - the Via Delarosa, to visit the Judgment Hall of Pilate all the way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We will end the day at the Garden Tomb. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight Jerusalem:





Day 13 - Sunday, March 06 - Old City Jerusalem

Mt. Zion, Temple institute, New City, Model , Shrine of the book, Yad Vashem

After breakfast we will drive to Mt. Zion to visit St Peter's Basilica and the Upper Room. Next, we will walk through the Jewish Quarter to explore its architectural and archaeological sites. We will visit the Cardo and the Hurva Synagogue and the colorful bazaars. Visit the Temple Institute to learn about the Temple era. We will drive through the Knesset and the famous Menorah - the emblem of the State of Israel. Continue to the Israel Museum and the miniature model of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period. From here we will drive to the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. We will end the day at the newly-expanded Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Overnight Jerusalem:

Day 14 - Monday, March 07 Old City Jerusalem

City of David, Ein Kerem, Chagall windows, Bethlehem

After breakfast we will start the day by visiting the City of David (the original Jerusalem) the most ancient section of Jerusalem, built by King David. Drive to Ein Kerem - the birthplace of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-80) and visit the Church of St. John the Baptist. Continue to Hadassah Medical Center to visit the Chagall Windows. We will end the day visiting Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity (Luke 2: 1-7). From here we will drive to a lovely restaurant for our farewell dinner. Continue to the airport for our flight back home.

Day 15 - Tuesday March 08 - Arrival in the USA

