

Jerusalem peace שלום Peacebuilders

The Other Holy Lands: Jordan and Jerusalem
A Jerusalem Peacebuilders – Palmer Memorial Church Pilgrimage
Tuesday, 11 October – Saturday, 22 October 2022

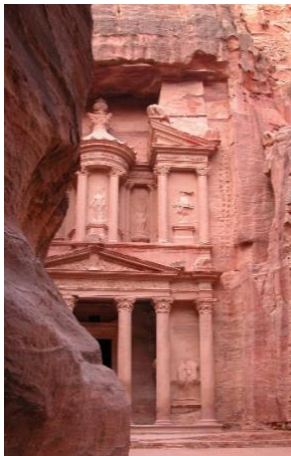
Tuesday, 11 October 2022: Depart United States for Amman, Jordan.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you were a pilgrim: lead us and guide us as we follow your steps. Open our hearts that we may find you not only in ancient stones but in your people and in each other. Let your words be a fire burning within us. Write your Gospel upon our hearts. Give us a spirit of prayer lest we return full of facts but not of grace and love. Teach us and bless us in these lands where you taught and blessed your first disciples. Amen.

Wednesday, 12 October: *Arrive at Jordan's Queen Alia Airport and drive to Petra*

After clearing customs at the Airport, we will drive south along the Desert Highway to the ancient Nabatean capital city of Petra. Constructed in the 16th Century by the Ottoman Turks to transport Muslim pilgrims on Hajj to Mecca, the Desert Highway today is Jordan's main North-South corridor. After checking into our hotel and unpacking, we will enjoy dinner and the lights of Petra.

Thursday, 13 October: *Petra*



Hidden from Western eyes until its "discovery" during the 19th Century by the young Swiss explorer, John Burckhardt, Petra is over 9,000 years old. This "rose-red city half as old as Time" was cut into the living stone of the surrounding mountains by the Nabateans. About 150 B.C., Hellenistic culture profoundly influenced this trading people and led to their adoption of Greco-Roman concepts of art and architecture. Growing interference from Roman Empire and the great earthquake of 19 May 363 A.D. finally ended the grand life of this desert Shangri-La. Yet the Great Treasury, temples, tombs and triclinium's continue to bear witness to the Nabateans' admiration of Hellenistic culture. We will thread our way through the mysterious Siq and spend the entire day exploring the exquisite classical facades and buildings of Petra. After lunch, those planning to climb Jebel 'Aroun to Aaron's Tomb will limber their legs by climbing up to the Monastery and the sacrificial High Place. We dine and spend the night in Petra.

Friday, 14 October: *Petra, Little Petra and Aaron's Tomb*

In the morning, we have two options. Those who wish will make their way up the heights of Jebel 'Aroun to the white domed Tomb of Aaron. Here Muslim tradition remembers Moses' eloquent brother Aaron who, like Moses, died before entering the Promised Land. After lunch, they will have the chance to return to their favorite sites in Petra. Those not climbing Jebel 'Aroun will spend the morning exploring Petra or visiting the lesser-known Little Petra. We dine and spend the night in Petra.



Saturday, 15 October: *Umm ar-Rasses, Madaba, Mount Nebo and Amman*

We rise early to travel north along the fabled King's Highway through Edom. Egyptian Pharaohs, Roman Legions, Nabatean traders and Muslim pilgrims all plied the King's Highway, and Moses led the Twelve Tribes north along this road to the Promised Land. Our first stop is the enchanting mosaic maps of the Holy Land in the Byzantine churches of Umm ar-Rasses. These maps point us to a time when Christianity flourished in Transjordan. One map at Umm ar-Rasses provides us with a rare 6th Century view of Christ Jesus' Empty Tomb

in Jerusalem. We lunch in Madaba, once a bustling Byzantine center. There, St. George's Orthodox Church contains the sole map of Byzantine Jerusalem with the Cardo, the Nea Church and Emperor Constantine's grand Church of the Holy Sepulchre all fully visible. Later we enjoy Mt. Nebo. Here, Moses gazed onto soft wind-blown hills of the Promised Land never to cross to the other side. We dine and spend the night in Amman.



Byzantine Mosaic Map of Jerusalem in the 6th Century AD

Sunday, 16 October: *Philadelphia, Old Amman, and Desert Castles*

We begin the Lord's Day by attending worship at the Church of the Redeemer, the local Episcopal Church in Amman. Afterward, we step into the history of Jordan's capital. We enter the Citadel on Jebel el-Qala with its Archeological Museum and numerous ruins including the Temple of Hercules, a Byzantine church and an elaborate Omayyad Palace. From the Citadel, we will survey the city plan of Roman Philadelphia. Like Rome, Philadelphia was a city built on seven hills. Judging from the size of its various monuments and Forum (80,700 square feet), it appears to have been a "home away from home" for Roman soldiers and officials. From the Citadel, we go down into the ancient Forum, stopping at the Amphitheater before stepping into the outdoor souq bustling with its stalls, shops and people. Then we venture into the desert east of Amman. Dotting this vast expanse of sand, limestone and flint wastes are a series of fortresses, hunting lodges, and caravansaries. These dramatic structures are still radiant with the half-memory of a luminous, silky Eden teeming with antelope and turbaned traders. The Roman Emperors Septimus Severus (A.D. 193-211) and Diocletian (A.D. 284-305) built garrisoned outposts. With the Islamic Arab conquest of A.D. 636, many of these settlements were restored. Their use continued by the Mamluks, Ottomans and Lawrence of Arabia until WWI. We will visit Qasr al-Kharaneh and Qusayr Amra. We dine and spend the night in Amman.



Monday, 17 October: *Jerash and Salt*

Often called the "Pompeii of the East", Jerash retains all the magic and beauty of a wealthy provincial city of the Roman Empire. Built by the armies of Alexander the Great during the 2nd Century B.C., the city was incorporated into the Roman Empire by Pompey in 63 B.C. It reached its peak of wealth and influence under Pax Romana during the 2nd Century A.D. Along with Amman and eight other cities, Jerash belonged to the Decapolis, a league of ten Greco-Roman cities often mentioned in the Gospels. The magnificent temples, theaters, colonnades, and churches testify to over 1000 years of uninterrupted existence spanning the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Omayyad and Abbasid Empires and point us to the historical and cultural mélange that are the Holy Lands. After lunch, we visit the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt. This educational and care facility for youth is the flagship ministry of the Episcopal Church in Jordan. Its organization and approach have served as blueprints for the entire healthcare system of Jordan and care for the hearing impaired across the Middle East. We dine and spend the night in Amman.



Tuesday, 18 October: *Jordan Baptismal Site, Jericho, Jerusalem the Golden*

Our day begins early with a visit to the recently excavated Byzantine shrine commemorating John's Baptism of Jesus. After preparing ourselves spiritually to enter the Promised Land, we proceed by way of the Allenby Bridge into the Judean Desert. Our first stop is Jericho, the oldest city in the world, located 800 meters below sea level. After lunch, we ride up the Mount of Temptation by cable-car. Along the road to Jerusalem, we stop to view the Wadi Kelt and the spectacular hanging Monastery of St. George of Kosiba. Lunch at Al-Rawda Restaurant, Jericho. Dinner, prayers and overnight at Golden Walls Hotel, Jerusalem.

Wednesday, 19 October: *Dome of the Rock and St. Anne's Church*

We enter the Old City early at 7:30 am in order to venture onto the holy ground of the Haram Al Sharif on the Temple Mount. By special arrangement, we visit the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock with its golden



View of the Dome of the Rock from the Ecce Homo Convent

dome, mosaic interior and sapphire blue tiles. Built in 691 by the first Imperial Arab Muslim Dynasty with the help of Christian artisans, the Dome of the Rock represents a triumph of Islamic architecture and is the third holiest site in Islam. A northern gateway will lead us to St. Anne's Church. The current Crusader church is associated with the mother of St. Mary, and it stands atop pagan and Byzantine sites connected to healing pools formerly on the grounds. After lunch, we follow the pilgrims' way to the Church of Our Lord's Ascension and the Church of Pater Noster ("Our Father" in Latin; commemorating the Lord's Prayer) on the Mount of

Olives and then walk the Palm Sunday road down to the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of All Nations and the Tomb of Mary. Dinner, prayers and overnight at the Golden Walls Hotel.

Thursday, 20 October: *Old City Walls and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre*

Our day begins at the Jaffa Gate to walk atop the Old City walls built by Suleiman the Magnificent in 1538 A.D. for a bird's eye view of the Holy City. At the famed Damascus Gate, we descend and walk the Roman Cardo to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Inside we will unlock the beauty of Golgotha, the Empty Tomb and the architectural complexities of this most holy Christian site. We lunch in the Old City, and then we proceed to SS. James Armenian Orthodox Cathedral in the heart of the Armenian Quarter. We attend Vespers sung by the boys' choir and tour the only remaining walled quarter in Jerusalem. Before returning to the hotel, we will visit the Jewish Quarter and the Western Wall. The Western Wall is one of the exposed containment walls of the foundation platform needed to support Herod's Temple. Jews from around the world pray and worship here. Dinner, debrief and overnight at the Golden Walls Hotel.



Praying at the Western Wall

Friday, 21 October: *Way of the Cross and Church of the Holy Sepulchre*

We start early to process and pray the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. The Way of the Cross leads to the Empty Tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After praying inside the Empty Tomb, we conclude our devotions with a final celebration of the Lord's Supper at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. We lunch nearby. The remainder of the afternoon is free to rest, explore or shop. Before our farewell dinner, we gather at 6:30 pm in the hotel lobby for a celebratory time of recognitions and reminiscing. Please pack and prepare all your belongings for departure. Dinner and prayers at the Golden Walls Hotel.



Saturday, 22 October: *Allenby Bridge, Jordan and Points West*

We depart Jerusalem early for departure either by way of Tel Aviv or Amman.

- Each day, we begin at 8:30 AM unless noted otherwise.
- Each day, please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.
- Each day, there will be appropriate devotions, silent reflection, and a homily.
- Local alumni and staff of Jerusalem Peacebuilders will meet with us.
- Our hotels are the Petra Boutique in Petra, Bristol Hotel in Amman and Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem.

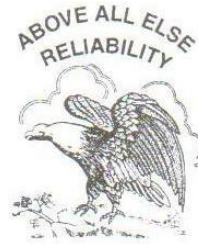
ACCOMODATION:

- In Petra: www.petraboutiquehotel.com
- In Amman: www.bristolamman.com
- In Jerusalem: www.goldenwallshotel.com-israel.com



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