

ANCIENT & HOLY LANDS

Petra, a city carved into red desert cliffs, where temples chiselled in honour of deities still stand after 2000 years. Over the border in Jerusalem, one of the world's oldest cities remains a significant holy site to disciples of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Journey to a holy land where civilisations were formed and holy scriptures written. This journey is reserved for just 24 guests.



A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Amman - Petra - Wadi Rum - The Dead Sea - Jerusalem - Bethlehem - Nazareth - Rosh Pina - The Sea of Galilee - Tel Aviv

14 Days Exploration
Departing 12 September 2027

Day 1 Amman, Petra (Jordan)

From Amman, we're whisked away to the Lost City of Petra. Once home to some 30,000 people, the golden sands of Petra were left without footprints for more than 600 years. It wasn't until 1812 that Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt rediscovered the city's ruins and reintroduced Petra to the world. Savour two nights at the luxurious Mövenpick Resort Petra, from where the magnificent metropolis lies just moments away. This evening, a Welcome Dinner gives us the opportunity to meet our fellow travellers.

Day 2 Petra

As if created by a bolt of lightning, the Siq's dramatic walls provoke anticipation and summon an intrepid spirit within us. Mere footsteps away, the Treasury, Petra's most famous façade, awaits us. Carved directly into an imposing slab of mountainous rock, the elegance of its form is perhaps matched only by the unfathomable nature of its execution. Further within these ancient walls, we see the Street of Facades, Royal Tombs, Castle of Pharaoh's Daughter and the incredible Monastery. Sitting atop 800 steps, the climb to Petra's largest rock-cut structure is not for the faint hearted but is undoubtedly worth the effort. Its name may perplex because it was built in the third century BC as a tomb and was later used as a temple. Crosses etched into the internal walls reveal that the Byzantines used it as a church in later years. Whether explored by horseback or on foot, this spectacular carved city will soak into your memory.

Day 3 Wadi Rum

On a 4x4 expedition, we see carvings of human figures holding bows and arrows, as well as an array of Nabataean rock inscriptions. We then enjoy lunch at a desert camp. The Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea in the Jordan Valley awaits us for a two-night stay. Set on the banks of the Dead Sea, the hotel affords us private access to the hallowed waters.

Day 4 Jerash, Madaba

Following breakfast today, these full-day Your World experiences grant us several perspectives of this fascinating region:

- ★ Explore the ancient Roman ruins of Jerash. Incredibly well-preserved, given their antiquity, the sites include the Arch of Hadrian, the Oval Plaza and the Hippodrome.
- ★ See the striking sixth-century mosaics of Madaba and pay a visit to Mt Nebo, from where Moses is said to have looked upon the Holy Land.
- ★ Enjoy your day at leisure. Perhaps while away the hours floating in the remedial waters of the Dead Sea.

Day 5 Jerusalem (Israel)

Follow the tracks along the King Hussein Bridge to Israel. On our way to the capital, we pass through the ancient City of David. On arrival in Jerusalem, we pause for lunch in a local restaurant. Set out on a tour of the City of David, one of the region's most active archaeological sites. Look out over the valley as you hear the extraordinary history of this place. Extensive excavations around the Gihon Spring have revealed an ancient fortress, now known as the Spring Citadel. Tomorrow's return will yield further discoveries. We make our way to our exquisite accommodation, the celebrated King David Hotel, whose façade is crafted from a beautiful pink quartz. This stately residence serves as our base for the next five nights.

Day 6 Jerusalem

Our day begins with a visit to Judaism's most holy site, the Temple Mount. With a tumultuous history, the area remains controversial to this day and is shared between Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. Jews have claimed the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall – a title bestowed on it by foreign observers when they heard the despairing sounds of Jewish prayer. On our return to our hotel, we stop at Mt Zion and the Room of the Last Supper.

Day 7 Jerusalem, Bethlehem

Today we visit the main museum, the Avenue of the Righteous and the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem. Taking a step further back in time at the Israel Museum, discover a range of archaeological finds, including the Dead Sea Scrolls. After lunch, venture to Bethlehem. Become immersed in history and spirituality as we explore the sites of Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, as well as the monasteries of the Shepherd's Fields.

Day 8 Masada

This morning, we travel to the hilltop fortress of Masada. Boarding a cable car, we reach the ancient ruins, which were the site of the final Jewish revolt against the Romans. Surrounded on all sides by the Judean Desert, we're afforded remarkable views of the vast and undulating landscape, with the Dead Sea in the middle distance. While making our return to Jerusalem, we stop to visit the Garden Tomb, said to be the location of Christ's final resting place. At dinner this evening, we raise a glass to our wonderful day.

Day 9 Jerusalem

Stepping lightly on hallowed ground, where gnarled branches bear bitter fruits, we visit the Garden of Gethsemane, near the foot of the Mount of Olives. This is known as one of the places Jesus frequented with his disciples. Later this morning, enter the walled Old City of Jerusalem before travelling along the Via Dolorosa, also known as the Way of Sorrows. Upon arrival, we visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Day 10 Beth Shean, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Rosh Pina

Conquered by Egyptians, claimed by Romans and captured by Arabs, Beth Shean has quite a story. Together, we walk the path of pharaohs, kings and caliphs, uncovering the remnants of this ancient city. Later, Israel's Middle Eastern charm is on display in its largest Arab city, Nazareth. While here, perhaps take the opportunity to submerge yourself in the Jordan River at Yardenit, where it is believed that Jesus was baptised. St Peter's fish, caught fresh from the Sea of Galilee, tantalises our palates during an exquisite lunch affair. Continue directly to the source, as we sail upon the famous sea, before making our way to the Spa Hotel Mizpe Hayamim.

Day 11 Golan Heights, Rosh Pina

Take in vistas of Tabgha, Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes, where it is said that Jesus delivered his most famous teachings. We take pause at Golan Heights, born from volcanic eruptions millions of years ago. Journey east and the woodlands of Baniyas Nature Reserve are soon before us. We climb the volcanic cone of Mt Bental for breathtaking views.

Day 12 Rosh Pina, Tel Aviv

Deviating to the deep blue waters of Tel Aviv, a cable car ride takes us past the beautiful grottos and caves of Rosh Hanikra. Our journey continues to Akko and the Bahai Gardens, and lunch is served before a tour of ancient Caesarea. Afterwards, we choose from a range of restaurants for dinner. Retire this evening at The Jaffa, a luxurious hotel in the heart of this historic port city.

Day 13 Tel Aviv

We begin our day with a visit to the Ayalon Institute. Now a museum, the site was a secret armaments factory during the 1940s. This activity was part of a larger effort on the part of the Jewish people, as they rallied against the British mandate in their fight for Israel's independence. A short drive brings us to Sarona Market, Tel Aviv's largest indoor culinary market. Inside, we find copious amounts of restaurants, fresh food stalls and outlets dedicated to all manner of sweets. Weary with the abundance of choice on offer, we pause here for lunch.

Nearby, we find the Palmach Museum. The Palmach was the military defence force of the Jewish Yishuv and Zionist movement prior to the establishment of the State of Israel. The museum covers this legacy through a series of exhibitions and archives, as well as a moving memorial. We round out our day of exploration strolling through the seaside town of Jaffa, its vibrant boardwalk resplendent as the sun begins to set. This evening, we dine in our hotel's airy courtyard, which we find gracefully adorned with an abundance of greenery.

Day 14 Tel Aviv

Enjoy a final breakfast before we are escorted to the airport, our journey now at an end.