

CULTURE & HISTORY OF JORDAN, ISRAEL & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Amman – Petra – Galilee – Jerusalem – Tel Aviv – Oberammergau

May 13–27, 2020 (15 days)



Highlights:

- Step into the ancient world of the Middle East on a journey that combines the cultural and historical highlights of Jordan and Israel, including the 'lost city' of Petra, the Roman ruins of Jerash and the ancient city of Megiddo
- Discover the spiritual home to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, and the sacred sites central to these three major religions in Bethlehem, Nazareth and Capernaum
- Admire the region's natural wonders such as the dramatic desert scenery of Wadi Rum, the Golan Heights, the Dead Sea and the Judean Desert
- Attend the once-a-decade performance of the world-renowned Passion Play (Passionsspiele), produced and performed by residents of the Bavarian village of Oberammergau since 1634



SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

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ITINERARY

Day 1 / Wed, May 13 / DEPART CANADA

Depart for Amman, Jordan.

Day 2 / Thu, May 14 / ARRIVE AMMAN

After arrival at Queen Alia International Airport near Amman. Transfer to your hotel. Time to relax before dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 3 / Fri, May 15 / AMMAN – PETRA

Drive down the Desert Highway to **Wadi Rum**, where British officer T. E. Lawrence lived with his Bedouin allies during World War I, and where much of 'Lawrence of Arabia' was filmed. Also known as the Valley of the Moon, the landscape of Wadi Rum, with its immensity, colour and awe-inspiring shapes, creates an almost supernatural atmosphere. Wadi Rum is home to a number of Bedouin families and you will join a jeep tour to see this special place and gain an insight into the Bedouin way of life before driving to **Petra**. (B,D)

Day 4 / Sat, May 16 / PETRA

Walk through the dramatic 'Siq' (canyon) to visit the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra** located amid rugged desert canyons and mountains. Carved directly into vibrant red, white, pink and sandstone cliff faces, the prehistoric Jordanian city of Petra was 'lost' to the Western world for hundreds of years but was once a thriving trading centre and the capital of the Nabataean empire between 400 B.C. and A.D. 106. See the Treasury, carved in pink stone, and continue past the Roman theatre, the Corinthian Tomb and the Palace Tomb. Those who take the 50-minute hike to the monastery will be rewarded with views of the most dramatic monument in Petra and out into the rift valley. (B,D)

Day 5 / Sun, May 17 / PETRA – GALILEE

Drive north to visit the ancient Roman town of **Jerash**, a 3rd-century city with the most well-preserved Roman ruins outside Italy and often called 'the Pompeii of the Middle East'. Cross the Sheikh Hussein border into Israel. Remainder of the day to relax by the hotel pool or go for a swim in the **Sea of Galilee**, a geographical marvel surrounded by pretty rural settlements. (B,D)



Sunset, Wadi Rum © Wadi Rum Visitor Centre

Day 6 / Mon, May 18 / GALILEE

This morning, head to **Nazareth**, the boyhood village of Jesus, now a bustling city. Visit the open-air museum of **Nazareth Village** for an insight into how a life would have been 2,000 years ago. Continue to the remains of **Sepphoris**.

Spend the afternoon at the Roman natural pools of **Sakhne**, shaded by lush palm trees and surrounded by green lawns and rated as one of the top ten natural pools in the world. (B,D)

Day 7 / Tue, May 19 / GALILEE

Take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. View the chapels that commemorate the Sermon on the Mount and the Feeding of the 5,000 at **Mount Beatitudes** and **Tabgha**. In **Capernaum**, join a guided tour of the excavations of this once prosperous town where Jesus lived and preached. Drive north along the **Hula Nature Reserve**, a major resting and 'refuelling' stop for birds on their annual migration between Europe and Africa and back. Continue up to **Nimrod Fortress**, a medieval castle built by the Arabs and occupied by the Crusaders because of its strategic position, on the southern slopes of Mount Hermon. Hike down to **Banias**, the source of the Jordan River, and see the archaeological remains of this sacred place that span Pagan, Jewish, Christian Byzantine, Muslim and Crusader eras. Return to the Sea of Galilee via the **Golan Heights**. (B,D)

Day 8 / Wed, May 20 / GALILEE – JERUSALEM

Drive to **Acre**, the Mediterranean port city the Crusaders used as their base. Explore the stunning halls and buildings of the **Knights Hospitaller and Templar**. Held by the Ottoman Turks in the 18th century, the city successfully repelled an attack by Napoleon, who laid siege on the town for two months without breaching its defences. Walk through the market bazaar and head for **Mount Carmel** to enjoy the dramatic views.

Visit the fascinating archaeological ancient city of **Megiddo**, a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking the Jezreel Valley and for centuries a major hub for the Via Maris trade route. Continue to **Caesarea** to see the remains of the Roman and Byzantine city that once dominated the region. It was from Caesarea that Paul set sail for Rome, an event that eventually brought Christianity to the Western World. Late afternoon arrival in **Jerusalem**. (B,D)



Church of the Beatitudes © Itamar Grinberg, Israeli Ministry of Tourism

Day 9 / Thu, May 21 / JERUSALEM

Your guide will walk you through the Four Quarters of **Jerusalem**, starting along the Way of the Stations of the Cross through the markets of the **Christian and Muslim Quarters** to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. From the roof of the Austrian Hospice, enjoy the magnificent view over the Dome of the Rock Mosque, the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where the Via Dolorosa ends. Here you can see the devotion and prayer, by many different denominations, at the site of the Crucifixion and the Tomb of Christ.

After a lunch break in the **Armenian Quarter**, walk down through the **Jewish Quarter** via the Cardo to the Western Wall. Here you may observe worshippers praying towards the Holy of Holies, and many rituals such as that of placing written prayers into the seams. End the day with a visit to **Mount Zion** to see the tomb of David and the Upper Room. (B,D)

Day 10 / Fri, May 22 / JERUSALEM

This morning, visit **Yad Vashem** – the Jewish people's memorial to the six million lives lost to the Holocaust. Established in 1953, the site includes the Holocaust Museum, the tomblike Hall of Remembrance, the Hall of Names and the moving Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations, where over 2,000 trees were planted in honour of non-Jews who endangered their lives in order to save Jewish lives from the Nazis.

Drive past the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, en route to the **Israel Museum**. See the fascinating Model of Jerusalem as it was during the time of the Second Temple and the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of Nativity, birthplace of Jesus, and the Shepherd' Fields which, according to Catholic tradition, marks the place where the angels first announced his birth. (B,D)

Day 11 / Sat, May 23 / JERUSALEM

Drive along the Dead Sea to visit the stronghold of **Masada**, on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert. This mountaintop fortress built by King Herod was the scene of the last stand by the zealots fighting the Romans – a dramatic event that has become loaded with symbolism to Israelis. Continue to **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** for a hike up the Wadi. Visit **Kibbutz Ein Gedi**, and enjoy a swim in the **Dead Sea** before returning to Jerusalem. (B,D)

Day 12 / Sun, May 24 / JERUSALEM – TEL AVIV

Drive to the vibrant city of **Tel Aviv**, which combines sandy Mediterranean beaches with a buzzing cultural scene, UNESCO listed architecture, incredible food and a world-class nightlife. Day at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax at the beach. At dusk, enjoy dinner at a fish restaurant in the ancient port of Jaffa overlooking the Mediterranean. (B,D)

Day 13 / Mon, May 25 / TEL AVIV – MUNICH – OBERAMMERGAU

Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv for your flight to **Munich, Germany**. Transfer to **Oberammergau**. (B,D)

Day 14 / Tue, May 26 / OBERAMMERGAU

Morning at leisure in Oberammergau.

After lunch, take seats in the theatre to attend the **performance of the 42nd Passion Play**. The history of the Passion Play goes back to the year 1634, when the quaint alpine village of Oberammergau was threatened by the deadly and contagious Black Plague that scourged Europe, killing two-thirds of the population of Germany. The people of Oberammergau vowed that if the village could be spared, a re-enactment of the life and suffering of Christ would be performed. The village was miraculously saved from the ravages of the Black Death. Since that date, the play has been performed every ten years. Performers are local villagers; often, roles are handed down from generation to generation within families. Dinner is included during a three-hour break. (B,D)

Day 15 / Wed, May 27 / DEPART MUNICH – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to Munich Airport for your flight(s) back to Canada. (B)

TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, based on twin occupancy:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| From Vancouver | \$5,290 |
| From Calgary/Edmonton | \$5,290 |
| From Toronto/Montreal | \$5,090 |

From other cities, please contact our office for a quote.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Single supplement | \$1,090 |
|--------------------------|----------------|

(twin-share only in Oberammergau)



Old City Market, Jerusalem © Noam Chen, Israeli Ministry of Tourism



The Last Supper © Passion Play Oberammergau 2020

INCLUDED

- Return economy airfare incl. Tel Aviv – Munich
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation throughout
- English-speaking guide throughout
- 13 nights in comfortable 3- and 4-star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Oberammergau Passion Play tickets (category 2)
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

NOT INCLUDED

- Air taxes
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote; we strongly recommend purchasing a cover upon payment of the 3rd installment)
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature
- Visas (if required)

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$300 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$300 pp due by March 31, 2018
3rd installment of \$300 pp due by October 31, 2018
4th installment of \$300 pp due by February 20, 2019
5th installment of \$1,000 pp due by October 31, 2019
Balance due by February 13, 2020
Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The deposit of \$300 is non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Until Oct 30, 2018 | \$300 |
| Oct 31, 2018 – Feb 19, 2019 | \$600 |
| Feb 20 – Oct 30, 2019 | \$900 |
| Oct 31, 2019 – Feb 13, 2020 | \$1,900 |
| From Feb 14, 2020 | 100% |

NB: different payment/cancellation policy applies to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or

liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel. Travel insurance should be purchased upon payment of the 3rd installment, so that each payment thereafter is fully covered in case of cancellation (due to an insurable reason).

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any airliner carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.

RESERVATION FORM

CULTURE & HISTORY OF JORDAN, ISRAEL & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY **May 13-27, 2020**

Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$300.00 and travel insurance payment for each traveller. Travel insurance is optional but recommended. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill').

| TRAVELLER #1 | | TRAVELLER #2 | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mr/Mrs/Ms | First name | Mr/Mrs/Ms | First name |
| | Middle name(s) | | Middle name(s) |
| | Last name | | Last name |
| Date of birth: | dd/mmm/yyyy | Date of birth: | dd/mmm/yyyy |
| City + country of birth: | | City + country of birth: | |
| Passport #: | | Passport #: | |
| Passport expiry date: | dd/mmm/yyyy | Passport expiry date: | dd/mmm/yyyy |
| Passport issuing country: | | Passport issuing country: | |
| Preferred first name (for name tag): | | Preferred first name (for name tag): | |

ADDRESS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Street: | |
| City: | Province/State: |
| Postal code: | Country: |
| Cell #: | Home #: |
| Email: | |
| Accommodation: | <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing with: |
| Seating preference on aircraft: | <input type="checkbox"/> Aisle <input type="checkbox"/> Window |
| Special dietary meal request: | (where available) |
| Next of kin (in case of emergency): | Phone #: |

TRAVEL INSURANCE (to be purchased upon payment of the 3rd installment)

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Cancellation <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| Amount of premium (see next page): \$ |

PAYMENT

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to: SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL 4603 Main Street Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada Tel: 604-291-1332 or 1800-665-0998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MasterCard (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card) |
| Card #: |
| Expiry date: |
| Name on card: |
| Amount to be charged: \$ |

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** _____



Sunset, Old City of Jerusalem © Noam Chen, Israeli Ministry of Tourism



Mosaics in Petra © Jordan Tourism Board



Oud Player, Petra © Jordan Tourism Board



**SPECIAL
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