



## LEBANON, JORDAN, AND ISRAEL

JUNE 1-12, 2011

11 Nights | 12 Days

### **PROGRAM:**

- 01JUN: Arrival to Beirut International Airport  
Tour of Beirut in the late afternoon / early evening including a visit of the city center that has been completely built again in an amazing style.  
At around 07:45 – 08:00PM, check-in at hotel for resting a bit and refreshing  
At 09:00PM, our guests will take the bus to have an amazing typical dinner that makes the Lebanese cuisine and wine famous worldwide.  
(that will be the only dinner to be included in our quotation as it would be interesting to leave the remaining days free to our guests to explore all the city and its restaurants. Of course I will send you a nice list of the best International, Lebanese, Japanese, Italian or Armenian restaurant we could recommend)  
Overnight Sofitel Le Gabriel or Hotel Palm Beach
- 02JUN : After breakfast, departure at 09:00AM to visit the area of the Shuf mountains and the Cedar reserve. Drive to the South of Beirut to visit the most enchanting area of Lebanon. Situated in the mountains at 45 kms south of Beirut the Charming town of Deir El Kamar was the residence of the Lebanese Governors for over 200 years. All around the main square the Emirs (princes of Lebanon) built their palaces which were added to those inherited from their Predecessors, then continue to BEITEDDINE where the Emir Bechir Chehab built a palace which is a jewel of the Lebanese architecture of the 19th century with elegant porches and monumental doors with various engraving. Light lunch en route. Proceed then to the natural reserve of the cedars situated at 2800 meters to visit and walk through a breathtaking forest of cedars.  
Drive back to Beirut to the hotel at around 06:30.PM  
Free time in the evening to enjoy Beirut nightlife  
Overnight at hotel of your choice
- 03JUN: After breakfast, departure at 10:00AM to visit the Jeita Grottoes as well as Byblos area. Drive along the coastal highway to the mouth of Dog River, open air museum of ancient and modern inscriptions engraved on the rocks of this strategic pass by conquerors of all times. The natural site of Jeita Grotto is, without doubt, one of the most remarkable grottoes in the world. You can have a boat ride on internal lake of the lower grotto 800 meters, and visit the upper grotto on foot one hour of visit through this veritable wonderland of stalactites and stalagmites allows the visitor a view of one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world. After this visit we climb the hill of our Lady of Harissa from where you have a beautiful view on the bay of Jounieh

and Beirut. Then continue to Byblos, ancient Phoenician City. Before the visit, stop for a light lunch then visit the remains of Temples, citadel, tombs, theater revealing the glorious past and the religious splendor of Byblos, legendary birthplace of Alphabet, seat of worship of Adonis and Egyptian Mythology, dating back some 6000 years. Byblos is now famous for its renovated souks where the nicest restaurants and bars are built in a Roman and Phoenician setting.

Drive back to Beirut at around 05:30PM

Free time in the evening to enjoy Beirut nightlife

Overnight at hotel of your choice

04JUN: After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Amman  
Arrival to Queen Alia airport Amman from Beirut  
Meeting and assistance with our airport representative  
Transfer to Wadi Moussa  
Join with the people that flew directly into Amman  
Dinner and overnight: Bait or Taybat Zeman

05JUN: An early start as a very exciting day unfolds as you visit the red rose Nabatean capital of Petra. Enter the site by foot (recommended) or on horseback. Proceed by foot through the siq, the narrow chasm chiseled by centuries in between two 80 meter high cliffs. The colors and formations of the rocks are dazzling. As you reach the end of the Siq you will catch your first glimpse of Al-Khazneh (Treasury). This massive facade carved out in the first century of the sheer, dusky pink, rock-face and dwarfs everything around it. The Treasury is just the first of the many wonders that make up Petra. There are hundreds of elaborate rock-cut tombs with intricate carvings, designed to last throughout the afterlife. 500 have survived - empty but bewitching as you file past their dark openings.. There are obelisks, temples, sacrificial altars and colonnaded streets, and high above, overlooking the valley, is the impressive Ad-Deir Monastery. After a quick lunch at Qantara, we proceed along the winding roads of Southern Jordan, until we reach Wadi Rum. "Vast, echoing and God-like" – this is the way T.E. Lawrence described Wadi Rum. The largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes, board your "jeeps" to tour and visit this amazing landscape – exploring the caves, sandstone mountains, sand dunes, and never-ending sites of natural beauty. From here we proceed to the Arava border. Following the border formalities we head to Eilat airport to catch the quick flight up to Tel Aviv. Our driver will be waiting for you for the drive to Jerusalem.

06JUN: Today is a day to explore the city that is home to 3 great religions. Our appreciation of the Old City of Jerusalem begins as we enter through the gates of the city at the Jaffa Gate. While admiring the amazing architecture of the city walls, we can pay our respects in front of the two almost forgotten tombs on

your left- those of the architects of the Old City Walls killed by the Ottoman Sultan Suliman the Magnificent in 1538 (as they were the only people that knew all of the "secrets of the wall")

Walk past the Citadel of David through the Armenian Quarter and into the Jewish Quarter. Visit the Western Wall and the Southern Wall excavations. On to the Broad Wall and the Cardo, the shopping street of Jerusalem 2000 years ago. Enter the area of the Temple mount (pending confirmation) for a visit to Dome of the Rock, Islam's 3rd holiest site. Walk through the Rabbinical Tunnel (pending confirmation) to the Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter. No visit to the Old City would be complete without testing your negotiating skills in the marketplace.

Leave the Old City of Jerusalem through the Dung Gate and return to your hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem –Prima Royale Hotel

07JUN: An exciting day awaits you as we leave Jerusalem, driving through the Judean desert towards the shores of the Dead Sea. Drive to Mount Scopus, passing by the campus of Hebrew University. Proceed through the new underground tunnel through the Judean desert eastwards until you reach the shores of the Sea. Enjoy a "swim" in the rejuvenating waters of the Dead Sea. Don't miss the opportunity to use the natural black mineral mud. On to Qumran for a quick lunch. From here we continue to Massada, the last stronghold in the zealots battle against the Roman Empire. Ascend to the top via the new cable car. After a tour of this mountaintop fortress, we descend down the Roman Ramp and proceed to a nearby Bedouin Village. Enjoy traditional Bedouin hospitality and dinner. For those up for it, a short camel ride awaits you.

Overnight: Jerusalem – Prima Royale Hotel

08JUN: We bid farewell to Jerusalem and drive through the Judean Desert. Proceed along the shores of the Jordan River passing by the ancient city of Jericho. Our first stop of the day are the amazing excavations of Beit Shean. First established during the 5th Century B.C. in the heart of the fertile Galilee area, excavations in Bet She'an have uncovered the remains of a Canaanite city, a Hellenistic city (renamed Scythopolis) and a Roman Byzantine city. During its Hellenistic period, the city was the capital of the 10 Greek Decapolis cities (including nearby Jerash). A short drive north through the Galilee brings us to the Sea of Galilee. Time permitting enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, with the Golan Heights off to the east. Drive along the shores of the sea of Galilee through Tiberias to Capernaum, home of St. Peter where the remains of a majestic synagogue were found. On to Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional site of Jesus' delivery of the Sermon on the Mount. Drive to Nazareth, where Jesus spent his boyhood. The New Testament mentions Nazareth many times, referring to it as the home of Mary and Joseph, the town that inspired Jesus during his childhood and early manhood, the place of the Annunciation and his clash with fellow citizens who disapproved of his non-conventional way of thinking. Proceed through the Jezreel Valley passing by the Druze Villages. Arrive to the

Mediterranean coast, passing the towns of Netanya and Herzliya – and finally to Tel Aviv.

Evening: Welcome dinner in one of Tel Aviv's local restaurants

Overnight: Tel Aviv – Carlton Tel Aviv (superior seaview rooms)

09JUN: Drive along Tel Aviv's coastline to Jaffa. Visit the artists' quarter and Jaffa's ancient flea market. Passing the renovated Turkish train station, proceed to Neve Tsedek, Tel Aviv's first neighborhood. On to Rothschild Blvd where there are over 5000 Bauhaus buildings, the largest number in any one city in the world; a fact that led UNESCO to recognize it as a "[World Heritage Site](#)." Tel Aviv is also known as, "The white city", named so in account of the bright colors of the building style: white, off-white, light yellow. On to Rabin Square, the large public square in front of Tel Aviv's city hall, where, in November 1995 Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated. Enjoy free time this afternoon to get acquainted with the city on your own or to meet the locals on the beach. Evening: We will advise you of all of the pride events taking place in the city. Overnight: Tel Aviv - Carlton Tel Aviv (superior seaview rooms)

10JUN: 12.30pm – We meet at the Meir Park - participate in the Tel Aviv gay pride happening. Lots of mingling, dancing and fun. We then parade (dancing and singing along the way) down to the beach, where on the shores of the Mediterranean participate in an amazing beach party. Further details to be advised. (the main beach event is a 4 minute walk from your hotel) Overnight: Tel Aviv - Carlton Tel Aviv (superior seaview rooms)

11JUN: Day at leisure in Tel Aviv  
Overnight: Tel Aviv - Carlton Tel Aviv (superior seaview rooms)

12JUN: Departure transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your flight home. (or on Saturday night depending on flight)

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**JUNE 1-12, 2011**

**11 Nights | 12 Days**

**\$4,088 Per person double occupancy**

**Single Occupancy:** If you are single and would prefer your own room then there will be a 50% surcharge.

**Passports required. Must be valid for 6 months after return date.**

**What's included:**

Includes all transfers, accommodations, meeting assistance at airports and border crossings, land transportation and private guides throughout touring and sight seeing. Includes all breakfast, welcome dinner, and meals during guided tours.

**Not Included: International Airfare, Travel Insurance, and Gratuities.**