



Voyage: August 13, 2021 | 24 NIGHTS – Istanbul to Athens

Complimentary MAX Shore Program | ASH505GV The Ultimate Israel & Jordan Experience

Explore Israel and Jordan like few have the opportunity to do. All of the highlights and more are included in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

August 25	Ashdod, Israel	Overnight
August 26	Ashdod, Israel	Overnight
August 27	Haifa, Israel	Overnight
August 28	Haifa, Israel	Overnight
August 29	Haifa, Israel	Overnight
August 30	Ashdod, Israel	Overnight

Activity Level: Strenuous

Meals: Included as per Itinerary below.

Daily Itinerary:

Day 1

Your first day of this journey of discovery begins when you disembark the ship in Ashdod and make the drive to Jerusalem. A full day of exploration around this remarkable city begins with a drive to the Mount of Olives where a wonderful view of Jerusalem unfolds below you. At the foot of the hill is the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees and where it is believed Jesus spent his last night. From here, enter the Old City for a visit to the Western (or Wailing) Wall and views of the Al-Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Next, make your way to the Pool of Bethesda (where the angel ruffled the waters) and then on to St. Anne's Church, known as the traditional birthplace of Jesus' mother Mary.

Mid-day you will pause for lunch at a local restaurant and then resume your tour of the Old City and travel along the Via Dolorosa and on to the Convent of Zion Sisters (formerly the Antonia Fortress), the huge cistern and the Lithostrotos (pavement) considered to be the location where Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers and where the trial by Pontius Pilate took place. Onward from here, make your way through the bazaars and on to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

In the Jewish Quarter you will see the Cardo, the Roman street that served as the hub of the city, and then leave the Old City at Mt. Zion to visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, which was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas and where Peter denied Christ. Your first day of touring comes to a close with a transfer to your Jerusalem hotel for check-in.

Dinner is on your own.

Day 2 2 | Page

Begin with breakfast in the hotel and then head out and travel along the Dead Sea to Masada. Arriving, take the cable car up to the top of this sandstone mountain that was the last stronghold of the Zealots. Some 2,000 years ago, Roman legions stormed one of the two paths to the top to reach the Jewish Zealots headquartered there. The brave Israelite soldiers held out for three years against the invading Roman army before taking their own lives to avoid capture and enslavement. Many of the fortifications here that were originally built by King Herod, still stand.

After visiting Masada, stop at the Qumran Caves, located on the Dead Sea's northern shore, and the place where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Now a national park, the caves were used for storage purposes by the Essenes, a mystical sect that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 1947, a young Bedouin shepherd discovered manuscript fragments in the caves that were hidden for centuries in airtight jars. The fragments from the Books of Exodus, Isaiah and Psalms are now on exhibit in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Travel back to Jerusalem in the afternoon for your final overnight there.

Day 3

Following breakfast, drive to the Allenby Bridge (known as the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan side) and cross into Jordan. Following your crossing, a Jordanian English-speaking guide will join you and you will head to Mount Nebo. Mount Nebo is the mountain

mentioned in the bible where Moses was granted a view of the Holy Land but was not allowed to enter it. Nowadays the mountain is a memorial site where the "Church of Moses" stands. Ever since the first days of Christianity this mountain has been a holy place and a destination for pilgrimage. The location offers a magnificent view over Jordan, the Dead Sea and Israel. When the weather is clear, you may even be able to see Jerusalem, which is about 37 miles away.

Leaving Mount Nebo, continue on to nearby Madaba, known as the City of Mosaics. Perched on an archaeological site with more than 4,000 years of history buried beneath it. The quality and quantity of the mosaic flooring found here has made Madaba one of the most prominent cities in the world for mosaics. St. George's Church here houses a world-famous mosaic floor containing a large mosaic map of Palestine, which also features a detailed map of Jerusalem as it was during the sixth century. At the Church of the Apostles, found at the southern entrance of the city, there is a mosaic floor attributed to the craftsman Salamianos. The mosaic depicts the sea, with the central figure of a woman encircled with a selection of creatures, vegetation and an inscription.

Haret Jdoudna represents an authentic village in the city of Madaba, offering everything from amazing traditional food, to entertainment, to local crafts, mosaics and souvenirs. Enjoy lunch here at the Haret Jdoudna Restaurant, housed in a 19th century house that has retained its original features and floors. The excellent menu offers local mezza dishes, oven-baked delicacies and traditional home-made meals. Following lunch, travel to the Seven Wonders of the World Camp in Petra for check-in and dinner.

Day 4

After breakfast at the camp, transfer to Petra's Visitors' Center where your tour of **Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 1985, will commence. Petra has also been included as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. You may begin the visit with an optional horse ride from the main gate of Petra to the entrance of the old city. From there, walk on foot along to the Siq (entrance). The ancient city of Petra was built between 800 BC and AD 100 by Nabatean Arabs. In this era Petra was a fortress, carved out of the jagged rocks in an area which was virtually inaccessible. In the first and second century, after the Romans invaded, the city had reached the peak of its fame.

Petra covers an area of about 62 miles, and over 800 monuments can be found here. When shipping slowly displaced caravan routes, the city's importance gradually dwindled and it fell into disuse and was lost to the world until 1812, when it was re-discovered by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burkhart. Nowadays, Petra is a popular tourist attraction, known as the "rose-red city half as old as time". The Khazneh (the Treasury), was featured in the Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade film. Lunch will be served at the Basin Restaurant which is found amid the ruins of Petra. Here, nestled within the splendor of Petra's monuments, enjoy a chance to rest and have lunch before continuing your afternoon of touring.

Leaving Petra behind, transfer to Wadi Rum. Otherwise known as "Valley of the Moon", Wadi Rum is the largest - and most magnificent - of Jordan's desert landscapes and has been virtually untouched by humans. A maze of monolithic rock formations rises up from the desert floor to heights of 5,740 feet, creating a natural challenge for serious mountaineers. However, Wadi Rum may be best known for its connection with British officer T. E. Lawrence, who passed through several times during the Arab Revolt of 1917-1918. In the 1980s one of the rock formations in Wadi Rum was named "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom"

after Lawrence's book that was penned in the aftermath of the war. However, the 'Seven Pillars' referred to in the book have no connection with Wadi Rum.

Your day draws to a close with a ninety-minute desert exploration in a 4x4 that is driven by a local Bedouin. It ends just before sunset at a location where you can appreciate an exclusive view of the beautiful Wadi Rum desert as the sun sets, all while savoring a glass of champagne and some canapés. Afterwards, proceed to your desert camp where you will enjoy a night of desert "glamping" under the stars at AIXHA Memories Camp that includes dinner and overnighting in a luxury tent.

Day 5

It's an early morning breakfast at your camp and then you will make the drive from Wadi Rum back to the Allenby Bridge and cross back into Israel. Here, you will join your Israeli guide and travel to Tel Aviv. On arrival, check-in to your hotel and have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at your leisure with dinner on your own.

Day 6

Your final day starts with breakfast at the hotel and then you will set-out to explore the dynamic city of Tel Aviv. Your first stop is at Rabin Square, located in the eastern part of the city, it is named after the former Prime Minister, Yizhak Rabin. The square is a popular location in the city for concerts and mass gatherings. Continue with a drive through the "White City", deemed a UNESCO World heritage site because of its Bauhaus and Art Deco architecture. Before leaving Tel Aviv, visit Shuk Hacarmel - The Carmel Market, known in Israel as "Shuk Ha'Carmel". It is the city's largest marketplace and a fascinating, enjoyable place to visit. The market is basically one crowded narrow alley with long line of colorful stalls standing on either side, and where vendors proudly (and loudly) present their goods.

The remainder of your afternoon is spent in the ancient city of Jaffa, one of the oldest seaports in the world. Jaffa is a restored city, interesting for its antiquities and archaeological excavations, with many shops, art galleries and restaurants. Atop the hill is the old restored stone quarter, which now thrives as an artists' enclave that delights with its maze of alleys and courtyards, galleries, restaurants, and "new" antique shops. The Jaffa area was an important city throughout centuries and today retains a very typical eastern flavor integrated with North African local Arabic and Jewish heritage.

At the end of your time in Jaffa, you will be dropped off at the nearby Ashdod port where you will rejoin the ship and continue your voyage.

Contact: Cruise Connections Canada
Toll Free: 1-800-661-WAVE (9283)
Email: info@cruise-connections.com
www.cruise-connections.com