



## ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICES, INC.

*Union Seminary 2018*

### *Suggested Itinerary*

*23 April 18 – depart Richmond or Dulles or Charlotte in the evening*

*24 April 18 – arrive Amman in the evening. Transfer to the hotel (probably Landmark Hotel) in time for a late dinner and overnight.*

*25 April 18 – AM sightseeing at the Citadel of Amman and then to Jerash, exploring one of the largest extant cities from the Roman period. Lunch at the Green Valley. Return to Amman for dinner and overnight.*

*26 April 18 – Depart Amman for Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the traditional site for the baptism of Jesus. Check into the Dead Sea Spa Hotel for lunch. After lunch visit Madaba and Mt. Nebo. Return to the hotel for afternoon swimming in the Dead Sea. Dinner and overnight at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel.*

*27 and 28 April – Petra*

*Travel to Petra from the Dead Sea via Kerak – in time for lunch – and a visit to the Castle. Continue to Petra in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the Petra Moevenpick Hotel or similar.*

*28 April – Full day to explore Petra, whether on foot or taking a four-legged creature to the top. Lunch at the Basin restaurant inside the old city. Return to the hotel in the mid-afternoon for dinner and overnight.*

*29 April – Travel from Petra to the Wadi Ram. Have time to explore the Wadi Ram in 4-wheel drive vehicles, on camels, and hiking (or even rock-climbing!). Lunch and dinner and overnight in camp at Wadi Rum.*

*30 April – Continue to visit Wadi Rum with jeeps. Lunch. Depart Wadi Rum to Aqaba, one of the more important ancient cities in Jordan, and overnight at Aqaba Moevenpick hotel.*

*01 May – Depart Aqaba to cross into Israel at the Araba crossing (Eilat). Stop at the kibbutz just outside Eilat for the world's best ice cream and a chance to pick up sandwiches for a picnic later at Masada. While at Masada, participants can*

*either take the cable car or hike to this amazing and consequential fortress. Continue north to Jericho for dinner and overnight.*

*02 May – Drive south this morning to Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, before returning to Jericho. Lunch in Jericho before driving north to the Galilee. Dinner and overnight in the Galilee*

*02/03/04 /05/06 May – Galilee (4 nights)*

*During our stay in the Galilee, we will visit the Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha (multiplication of the loaves and the fishes), Capernaum, and enjoy a private boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We will visit the ancient city of Sepphoris to see the archaeological site and the “Madonna of the Galilee” mosaic. We will journey to Nazareth for a day and perhaps Akko and its Crusader castle (if we have time)*

*06/07/08/09/10/11 May – Jerusalem (5 nights)*

*Travel to Jerusalem, stopping briefly at the archaeological site of Bet Shean along the way. Our time in Jerusalem will include a visit to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. We will also meet with Mitri Raheb or one of his associates at the International Centre of Bethlehem to discuss Israeli-Palestinian issues. We will also explore the Mt. of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the beautiful churches along the way. We will visit the St. Stephen’s Gate, the Crusader Church of St. Anne, and the Pools of Bethesda. The stations of the cross will lead us to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Western Wall (Wailing Wall) will be on the itinerary, and if possible, the Temple Mount. A full day will be devoted to the Israeli Museum and the model of Jerusalem during the Roman (New Testament) period and the Shrine of the Book, along with Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum and memorial. We will hear from Israeli and Palestinian experts on the current situation in Jerusalem and the West Bank and any prospects for peace. A visit to Hebrew University to meet with some Israeli biblical scholars is also possible for those who are interested. Participants will have free time to explore Jerusalem on their own.*

*11 May – depart Tel Aviv for home.*