

FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY (Vienna)

Holy Land & Jordan Pilgrimage 10-20 April 2016

Unique religious and cultural heritage

Fees:

€ 1.550,— per person (min. 40 persons)

€ 1.590,— per person (min. 35 persons)

€ 1.630,— per person (min. 30 persons)

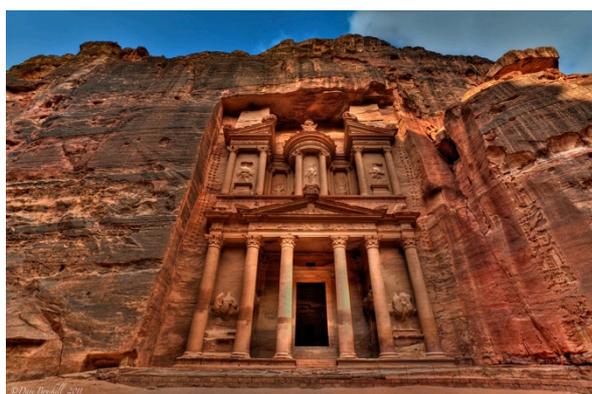
€ 1.670,— per person (min. 25 persons)

Single-supplement: € 390,—

Travel and cancellation insurance: Euro 88,--

DEADLINES:

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| 15 Dec. 2015 | Submit fully completed registration form and copy of passport |
| 31 Jan. 2016 | Pay 20% downpayment to KNEISSL Tours |
| 20 Mar. 2016 | Pay 80% balance to KNEISSL Tours |



1st day: Vienna – Amman city tour. Flight with Austrian Airlines from Vienna to Amman (10.20 a.m. – 2.55 p.m.) – after clearing passport and customs control, we will see the most important sights of Jordan's metropolis during our city tour.

2nd day: Amman – Jerash – Petra. In the morning, drive to Jerash: we visit the remains of Gerasa, a unique Roman city and capital of ancient Dekapolis (union of

ten cities). The city of Gerasa belongs to the best-preserved antique sites of the Middle East. The forum, the temple of Artemis, the spectacular street of colonnades and the southern theatre with its gorgeous stage setting are very impressive. The importance of Gerasa persisted during the Byzantine period, as can be seen in numerous churches with magnificent mosaics. In the afternoon, we head to the south of Jordan and will reach Petra in the evening.

3rd day: UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Petra. Starting in the 3rd century BC Petra was the centre of the mighty kingdom of Nabateans for 400 years. It was situated at the crossroad of many important trading routes between Africa, Asia and the Mediterranean. Wealth, which derived from caravan trading along the incense route between Arabia and the Mediterranean, made Petra a flourishing city; pompous graves were carved out of the unique, pink-coloured stone. Whole-day visit of Petra, rediscovered only 200 years ago by Jean Louis Burckhardt, a Swiss explorer. The mysterious capital city of the Nabateans, protected by a chain of mountains, could only be reached through the mile long, narrow Siq-gorge. We explore this overwhelming city of rocks, which surely imparts one of the most intense impressions of the Middle East, on foot, and ascend through narrow valleys. We reach the 'Treasury of the Pharaoh', climb up to the magnificent grave of ed Deir –overlooking the whole valley, visit the Kings' graves and hike (if we still have enough strength) to the place of sacrifice. The fascinating mottled sandstone is the reason why the Nabataeans gave Petra its name: Raqmu, the 'colourful stripes'.

4th day: Petra – Madaba – Mt. Nebo – Amman. In the morning we drive to al Beidha, where we visit the approximately 9000 year old ruins of a village, which – next to Jericho – is the oldest archaeological region in the Middle East. We continue on to Siq el-Barid, also called 'Little Petra', where the caravans stopped in Nabatean times. Afterwards we head to Madaba with its great Palestine mosaic in St. George's Church, which dates back to the 6th century. We will also visit some unique mosaics in the Apostle's Church. In the afternoon we reach Mount Nebo – the place where Moses saw the 'sacred land' for the first time. The Franciscans originally built a small church here, in which mosaics from early Christian times are nowadays exhibited. Meanwhile a splendid big cathedral has been built. In the afternoon we head back to Amman.

5th day: Amman – Maghtas – King Hussein Bridge – Bethlehem. Short drive from Amman to el-Maghtas, where John the Baptist was baptised. El-Maghtas meanwhile is a UNESCO World Heritage site. King Hussein Bridge, one of the few road borders to Israel (approx. 2 hours for border control), is not far off. From there we proceed through the West Bank to Bethlehem. In the surroundings of Bethlehem we find Beit Sahur, a sweeping landscape, which the locals regard as the shepherd's fields of the New Testament. Afterwards we visit the old town of Bethlehem with the Church of the Nativity, which was commissioned by Empress Helena (mother of Constantine the Great) in the early 4th century.

6th day: Bethlehem – Nazareth – Tiberias/Galilee. On the way to Jerusalem we stop at the Greek-Orthodox Mar-Elias monastery, which overlooks the countryside between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Our next stop is the picturesque village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. After our visit to St. John's Church we head north to Galilee where we visit the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth with its famous mosaics, and eventually reach Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee in the evening.

7th day: Capernaum – Mount of Beatitudes – Golan Heights/Galilee. We start the morning with a boat tour on the Sea of Galilee and visit the Church of the Multiplication in Tabgha. Nearby we will also visit Capernaum, the hometown of the first disciples Peter, Andrew, James and John. Jesus worshipped and taught in the synagogue and healed many people of their illnesses. Amidst a beautiful garden we will find the Church of the Beatitudes, which offers a wonderful view over the lake. Our next stop is the nature-sanctuary of Banias further north in the Golan Heights, one of the most idyllic landscapes of Israel, place of the Banias spring. Banias is one of the three springs of the Jordan River - we will follow the small creek to a nice waterfall. In the evening we return to our hotel.

8th day: Galilee – Qumran – Masada – Dead Sea – Jerusalem. After a morning service we head south again to the Dead Sea. We stop for a visit in Qumran, an archaeological site in the West Bank on a dry plateau off the Dead Sea, where the famous antique Dead Sea Scrolls were hidden in a cave. Later we take the cable car up to Masada, an ancient fortification in the Southern part of Israel, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Herod the Great built palaces for himself at the top of the mountain – the place of the horrible siege during the first Roman-Jewish war, which led to the mass-suicide of nearly 1000 people. The fortress stands as a symbol for the downfall of the ancient Jewish empire. After a dip in the Dead Sea we finally drive through the Judean desert to Jerusalem.

9th day: Jerusalem. We start the day with a drive to the Mount of Olives – the best place to enjoy an unforgettable view over the Old City of Jerusalem. We follow the Palm Sunday Road down to the Church of All Nations, Dominus Flevit Church and the garden of Gethsemane, the place where Jesus prayed on the night before His crucifixion. We pass the necropolis on the east side of the Old City and will walk and pray along Via Dolorosa until we reach - through the bazaar streets - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, St. Anne's Church and the pool of Bethesda. After a short coffee break at the Austrian Hospice we will walk through the Arabian bazaar to the Jewish Quarter and the 'Cardo', the antique shopping street.

10th day: Jerusalem. In the morning we walk up to the plateau of the former temple square, also called the Temple Mount. We will see the Mosque of Al-Aksa and the Dome of the Rock (only from outside), two spectacular buildings dating back to the 7th century. The magnificent supporting West Wall of the former Temple Square is the holiest place for Jews, better known as the Wailing Wall. We then head to Mount Zion for a visit of the Dormition Abbey with the Last Supper

Room, the tomb of David and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu. If you wish, it is possible to meet a member of the order of the Dormition Abbey for a short conversation. In the afternoon we will visit the modern part of Jerusalem: Knesset – the Israeli parliament with its Menorah, and Yad Vashem, World Center of Holocaust Research.

11th day: Jerusalem – Tel Aviv – Vienna. Before our return flight, we see the famous glass windows of Chagall in the Hadassah Hospital of Jerusalem. Afterwards we head for the Mediterranean, to visit Tel Aviv with its modern townscape and the Quarter around Rothschild Boulevard with its Bauhaus-buildings. After lunch, transfer to the airport for our 4:10 p.m. flight to Vienna, where we arrive at 7:00 p.m.

Services included:

- Flight with Austrian Airlines: Vienna-Amman and Tel Aviv-Vienna
- Round trip with a Jordanian, a Palestinian (for Bethlehem) and an Israeli coach with air conditioning
- 10 nights in ***hotels (Jordan and Israeli classification), in twin rooms with shower/toilet
- Half-board from dinner on the 1st day until breakfast on the 11th day
- Simple lunch on Day 6
- Entrance fees: Jerash, Petra, Al-Beidha, Qumran, Massada with cable car ride, Banias, various Churches as mentioned in the itinerary
- boat trip on the Sea of Galilee
- English-speaking Jordanian, Palestinian (for Bethlehem) and Israeli tour guides
- 1 JPM-Guide 'Jordan' and 'Israel' per room
- Flight taxes (currently € 217,--)

Valid Passport required!

Tour operator: Kneissl Touristik GmbH, Linzer Str. 4–6, A-4650 Lambach, Austria

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