

# Ancient Wonders of the Bible Lands

– Egypt, Jordan & the Holy Land –

2025 Departures



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OPTIONAL

## NILE CRUISE PRE-TOUR STARTING AT \$1,598

### Pre-Day 1 – Arrive in Cairo

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed to Cairo by your local guide. Enjoy dinner and stay overnight at your hotel in Cairo.

### Pre-Day 2 – Fly to Luxor

This morning, fly from Cairo to Luxor, ancient Thebes, which served as the Egyptian capital during the New Kingdom and the time of Moses. Visit the magnificent Temple of Luxor with its avenue of sphinx statues and mighty monumental columns. Continue to the Karnak Temple, which took over 2,000 years to build and is the largest religious building ever constructed, and see the famed Hypostyle Hall, the Obelisks of Queen Hatshepsut and Tutomosis III, the temple of Amon, the Granite Scarabeus and the Sacred Lake. Board your Nile cruise ship and enjoy dinner.

### Pre-Day 3 – Valleys of the Kings & Queens & Esna

This morning, enjoy the sunrise over the Nile River before your visit to the Valley of the Kings. Tombs were constructed here for Egypt's kings and powerful nobles for nearly 500 years. The valley stands on the west bank of the Nile, across from Thebes (modern Luxor), within the heart of the Theban Necropolis. See the Colossi of Memnon, made of sandstone from Gabal El Silselah. Each colossus, including the pedestal and the crown, is about 21m tall and represents King Amenhotep III. See the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, one of only a handful of female rulers in Ancient Egypt. Her reign was the longest of all the female pharaohs. Sail to Esna, enjoying afternoon tea before visiting the Temple of Khnum. Have dinner and stay overnight on board.

### Pre-Day 4 – Edfu & Kom Ombo

Visit the Edfu Temple on the west bank of the Nile. Dating to the Ptolemaic period, the temple was dedicated to the worship of god Horus represented as a falcon. It is one of the most beautiful Egyptian temples, distinguished by its huge, splendid structure blending Pharaonic and Greek architecture. Enjoy lunch on board as you sail to Kom Ombo to visit the Kom Ombo Temple. Built on a hillside, this temple was constructed in the Ptolemaic Roman era for the worship of the gods Haroeris and Sobek. It is noted for the relief engravings on its walls, which show ancient surgical tools, bone saws, and dentistry tools. Nearby, view the three mummified crocodiles in Hathor's chapel.

### Pre-Day 5 – Aswan

Set sail on a smaller boat across the Nile to visit the temples at Philae, including the Temple of Isis, one of the greatest Temples in Egypt occupying a quarter of the island. Next, visit the High Dam, one of the most outstanding architectural achievements of the twentieth century. It was constructed to replace the old Aswan dam built in 1902. The 3600-meter-long dam was constructed to protect Egypt from floods and provide its citizens with irrigation and electricity. View the Unfinished Obelisk, made of red granites from Aswan's quarries. After exploring Aswan, fly to Cairo to check into your hotel for dinner and your overnight stay.

### Pre-Day 6 – Cairo

This morning, visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to view the unique collection of Pharaonic art and the renowned treasures of King Tutankhamun. Afterward, visit the Pyramids of Giza, constructed over 1,000 years before the birth of Moses. See the Great Sphinx and have the opportunity to ride a camel in the desert near the pyramids. Tour the Old City and see the Citadel of Saladin, built in 1183 AD, and view the Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali. In Old Cairo, visit the Abu Serga Church, built over the traditional site of the house where the Holy Family lived during their stay in Egypt. Stay overnight in Cairo.

### Pre-Day 7 – Fly to Amman

Check into your hotel for dinner and overnight.

# Itinerary

### Day 1 & 2 – USA to Cairo, Egypt

Your pilgrimage begins as you depart on your international flight. You will be welcomed to Cairo, Egypt by our representative and transferred to your hotel for dinner and your overnight stay.

### Day 3 – Cairo

This morning, visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to view the unique collection of Pharaonic art and the renowned treasures of King Tutankhamun. Afterward, visit the Pyramids of Giza, constructed over 1,000 years before the birth of Moses. See the Great Sphinx and have the opportunity to ride a camel in the desert near the pyramids.

### Day 4 – Cairo and Amman

Enjoy a felucca ride on the Nile. Tour the Old City and see the Citadel of Saladin, built in 1183 AD, and view the Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali. In Old Cairo, visit the Abu Serga Church built over the traditional site of the house where the Holy Family lived during their stay in Egypt. Late this afternoon, fly to Amman and stay overnight at the Dead Sea.

### Day 5 – Mount Nebo, Madaba

Visit Mount Nebo, where Moses caught a glimpse of the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34). On a clear day, you can see all the way across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, to the rooftops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Continue to Madaba, the City of Mosaics, to visit the Church of Saint George with its sixth-century Byzantine mosaic map showing Jerusalem and other holy sites.

### Day 6 – Petra

Travel to the city of Petra. Its entrance passes through a long, narrow gorge known as the Siq and can only be accessed by carriage, horseback, or on foot. Once inside the city, marvel at the intricate detail of a city that was cut into the cliffsides of rose-colored rock. Return to your hotel at the Dead Sea for your overnight stay.

### Day 7 – Dead Sea, Jericho, Qumran, Galilee

Enjoy free time this morning at your hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. Cross the border into Israel and visit Qumran, the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery. Learn about the mysterious community of Essenes who once lived on the shores of the Dead Sea. Head to Jericho to visit the ruins of the ancient city Joshua conquered (Joshua 6:20). From Jericho, you can see the traditional site of the Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1). Continue to the Galilee for dinner and your overnight stay.

### Day 8 – The Galilee

Enjoy a scenic drive to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee (Matt.4:13, 23). On the Mount of Beatitudes, contemplate the text of the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus preached there (Matt. 5-7). Experience a special onboard worship service as you sail across the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Church of the Loaves and Fish in Tabgha, the traditional location of the feeding of the 5,000 (Luke 9:10-17). As you pray in the Chapel of the Primacy, remember how Peter professed his devotion to the risen Christ three times (John 21). In Magdala, once home to Mary Magdalene, visit a recently discovered first-century synagogue.

### Day 9 – Cana, Nazareth, Caesarea

Journey to Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home (Matthew 2:23), and recall Jesus' first miracle as you travel through Cana (John 2:1). Visit the Roman aqueduct and theatre at Caesarea, a center of the early Christians, where Cornelius became the first Gentile convert to the new religion (Acts 10), and where Paul was imprisoned before being taken to Rome for trial. Continue to the Jerusalem area for your overnight stay.

### Day 10 – Bethlehem & Jerusalem

In Bethlehem, visit the cave where Jesus was born (Luke 2:1-7) and see the Church of the Nativity built over the site. Gaze out over Shepherds' Field, where the angels first proclaimed the Good News. Visit the Upper Room, revered as the site of the Last Supper (Mark 14:12-26). Visit the House of the High Priest Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57), where Jesus was imprisoned for a night.

### Day 11 – Jerusalem

Enter the Old City and walk along the Cardo, the ancient main street. Say a prayer at the Western Wall. Continue to the Southern Wall Excavations of the Temple Mount and the Teaching Steps where Christ would have the Temple area. After lunch, wander through the excavations of the City of David. Explore Hezekiah's Tunnel, an amazing engineering feat that was dug from both ends and met in the middle! Note: Those who are claustrophobic may want to meet the group at the other end of the tunnel. Visit the Pool of Siloam, which continues to be excavated to its original dimensions.

### Day 12 – Jerusalem

Stand on the Mount of Olives as Jesus did, and enjoy a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed for God's will to be done (Matthew 26:36-39). View the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-18), where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle, and sing a hymn in the Church of St. Anne to experience its beautiful acoustics. Visit Herod's Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1). Walk the Via Dolorosa, "the Way of the Cross," and end your day at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, reflecting on Christ's sacrificial love. End your day with communion at the Garden Tomb (Matthew 27:57-60).

### Day 13 – Return from Tel Aviv to the USA or enjoy an extension to Dubai.

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## Dubai Extension

Day 13 - 17 • STARTING AT \$1,498\*

### Day 13 – Depart Israel

Fly to Dubai from Tel Aviv. Arrive in Dubai and transfer to your hotel for dinner and your overnight stay.

### Day 14 – Old Dubai

Journey to the Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood to explore Old Dubai. Part of the attraction of the district, which showcases the traditional way of life in Dubai from the mid-19th century until the 1970s, is simply wandering through its narrow lanes. Here, you'll discover creative art spaces, museums and cafés housed in traditional L-shaped homes made from gypsum, coral and limestone. Look up and you can't miss the buildings topped with distinctive wind towers. While exploring this neighborhood, you will visit the Textile Souk, full of colorful fabrics and kitsch souvenirs. Next, visit the Saruq Al Hadid Archeology Museum to see the archaeological treasures that have been discovered in and around Dubai. Embark on a water taxi ride at Bur Dubai Abra Station by Dubai Creek. This waterway continues to reflect Dubai's historical roots, back when early settlers relied on its waters for their livelihood. You will queue for a short trip across the creek to Deira on traditional wooden boats, known as abras. Once on the other side, visit the Gold Souk, where you can haggle with shopkeepers for beautiful jewelry, before continuing to the Spice Souk. As you wander through the stalls, you can savor the aromas of cardamom, turmeric, dried lemons, and rose petals. This afternoon, zoom into the remote Lahbab Desert that lies outside the city. During the drive, your guide answers any questions and shares information about the region. Head off-road into bright red dunes and have your camera ready to capture what looks like giant beanbags of sand. Then, hold tight as you cruise toward the highest slopes. Feel the adrenaline race as your vehicle plows up the dunes before sliding and slipping back down the slopes, churning up billowing clouds of sand in the process. Reach a high desert dune for a photo stop and admire 360-degree views of the desert landscape as the sun slowly sets. Take a camel ride and enjoy dinner and a show at night before you return to your hotel.

### Day 15 – Abu Dhabi

Embark this exhilarating tour to the highlight destinations of Abu Dhabi. As you travel to your first destination along the Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi, listen to the region's rich history and culture. Let's visit the architectural beauty of the country's largest mosque- Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, which is known as the acclaimed symbol of contemporary Islam. The place offers a feast to the eyes as it blends the cultural diversity of Islamic art and contemporary design. You will be driven to the next destination, Abu Dhabi Corniche. Feel relaxed seeing the sweeping curve of clean water harbor, pearl white sand beaches and the beautiful promenade that stretches the Northwest city shore. Next, stop at the Emirates Palace, a highly celebrated destination in the UAE. Get a chance to pose in front of this eminent destination and take a lot of photos. Visit Qasr Al Watan. The palace is the reflection of Emiratis and their leaders. Absorb the essence of culture, architectural features, and the awe-inspiring history of the Emirates. Learn about the amazing journey spurring Arabian design to the present state. Return to Dubai for dinner and your overnight stay.

### Day 16 – New Dubai

Visit the Burj Khalifa, which, at 828 meters, is currently the tallest building in the world, located next to the Dubai Mall, one of the world's largest shopping centers with 1,200 shops. Visit the viewing platform at 452 meters above sea level. Ride the building's express elevator to the 124th floor at a speed of 10 meters per second. From there, you can enjoy a breathtaking 360-degree view of all of Dubai and its unique skyline. Enjoy free time at the impressive Dubai Mall afterward. Prepare for your return flight home.

### Day 17 – Return home with memories to share!

*Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.*

