

Itinerary for 2027 May Kimber Family Holy Lands Explorations Program

Israel: May 01-13: Jordan: May 13-17(18), 2027

\$TBA(land only price)

(Includes recommended flight dates)

ISRAEL & JORDAN ITINERARY

Days 1 & 2. Saturday-Sunday, May 01-02

Locations: USA/Israel. Nahsholim Sea Side Resort. Bus transfer from Ben Gurion International Airport to Hadera Resort Hotel. Meeting room after dinner at hotel. (Meals in flight, D)

Day 3. Monday, May 03

Locations: Nahsholim (Dor), Caesarea Maritima National Park, Megiddo National Park, Mount Carmel, Muhkraqa Carmelite Monastery, Haifa, Baha'i Gardens Observatory, German Templar Cemetery, Tiberias, Ein Gev Holiday Resort. Full Day Bus. Breakfast at Hadera Resort and dinner at Ein Gev Holiday Resort.(B, D)

Day 4. Tuesday, May 04

Locations: Ein Gev Holiday Resort, Mount Tabor (Taxis up mount), Nazareth Village (include tour at 10:45 AM followed by 1st Century lunch), Church of Annunciation, Sisters of Nazareth Chapel (tour appointment at 1:50 PM), Magdala Franciscan Excavations, Yigal Allon Centre, Ginosar, Boat on Sea of Galilee (appointment at 4:00 PM), Ein Gev Holiday Resort. Full Day Bus. Breakfast and dinner at Ein Gev Holiday Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 5. Wednesday, May 05

Locations: Ein Gev Holiday Resort, Capernaum, Church of the Primacy of Peter, Mount of the Beatitudes, restaurant for fish lunch, Tel Dan Nature Reserve, Hermon Nature Reserve (Caesarea Philippi), Syrian-Israel Border below Mount Bental, Susita (Hippos) National Park (optional, based on time), Ein Gev Holiday Resort. Full Day Bus. Breakfast and dinner at Ein Gev Holiday Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 6. Thursday, May 06

Locations: Ein Gev Holiday Resort, Yardenit, Beit Shean National Park, Tel Shiloh Excavations (arrive at include private red heifer visit), Qasr el Yehud (Jesus Baptism), Tel es-Sultan, Jericho Oasis Hotel. Full Day Bus. Breakfast at Ein Gev Holiday Resort and dinner at Oasis hotel, Jericho. (B, D)

Day 7. Friday, May 07

Locations: Oasis Hotel, Jericho, Masada National Park, Qumran National Park (lunch), Kalia Dead Sea Beach, Judean Wilderness (Wadi Qelt Overlook), hotel, Jerusalem. Full Day Bus. Breakfast at Oasis Jericho Hotel and dinner at St. George Hotel, Jerusalem. (B, D)

Day 8. Saturday May 08

Locations: Sabbath in Jerusalem BYU Jerusalem Center, Orson Hyde Memorial Gardens, West Jerusalem and Israel Museum, view Knesset Building to visit National Menorah Memorial, Model City of 1st Century AD Jerusalem, Shrine of the Book, and Archaeological Museum. Full Day Bus. Breakfast and dinner at St. George Hotel, Jerusalem. (B, D)

Day 9. Sunday May 09

Locations: Old City of Jerusalem, Temple Mount, Western Wall, & Bethlehem. Visit the four quarters of the Old City, including the Moslem, Jewish, Armenian, and Christian quarters. Begin at the Harem al Sharif (Temple Mount), Via Dolorosa (St Anne's Church, Lithostratos, Holy Sepulcher), Shaban's or Alibaba's shop. Proceed to Jewish Quarter, Roofs of Shops, Cardo, Broad Wall, Hurva Synagogue square, Temple Menorah, Western Wall, Dung Gate. We then travel a few miles south of Jerusalem to Bethlehem and visit Catholic Shepherd's Fields in Beit Sahur, Joseph's Olive Wood shop, Manger Square, Church of the Nativity, Full Day Bus. Breakfast and dinner at St. George Hotel, Jerusalem. (B, D)

Day 10. Monday, May 10

Locations: Bethany, Bethphage, Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Orson Hyde, Mount Zion, Zion's Gate, David's Tomb, Upper Room, St. Peter en Gallicantu. Full Day Bus. Breakfast and dinner at St. George Hotel, Jerusalem. (B, D)

Day 11. Tuesday, May 11

Locations: (8:00 AM appointment with meeting area after tour) Garden Tomb, the City of David Excavations (10:30 AM appointment), Hezekiah's Water Tunnel, the Pool of Siloam, and the newly excavated tunnel to the Ophel excavations, Davidson Center, Jewish Quarter. No Bus. Breakfast and dinner at St. George Hotel, Jerusalem. (B, D)

Days 12 Wednesday, May 12

Locations: Check out of hotel by 7:30 AM and depart for Emmaus Nicopolis (meeting arranged at 8:45 AM); Travel to Tel Beit Shemesh, Valley of Elah, Beit Guvrin National Park, Tel Lachish Visitors Center, Cave of Patriarchs (Ibrahimi Mosque) in Hebron, Tel Beer Sheva National Park, and arrive at Ramon Hotel for dinner and overnight. Full Day Bus. (B, D)

Day 13 Thursday, May 13

Locations: **Mitzpeh Ramon • Eilat • Underwater Observatory Marine Park • Snorkeling in Red Sea • Yitzhak Rabin Terminal/Wadi Araba Border Crossing • Aqaba, Jordan • Mazayen Bedouin Camping • Wadi Rum Camel Trek • Bedouin Dinner • Lectures on Bedouin Family and Stars** – Our morning will begin with a morning tour of the Mitzpeh Ramon Visitors Center at 8:00 am. We will drive through the Ramon crater and head to the Arava and stop for a few minutes at **Yotvata** for refreshment before arriving at **Timna Park** and visiting **the Tabernacle of Moses Replica** at 11:30 am. We will visit the **Underwater Observatory Marine Park in Eilat** and some **snorkeling in the Red Sea at the nearby Coral Reef Beach**. Even for those who like shallow waters and are novices at snorkeling, the abundance of multi-colored tropical fish and corals will be astounding. At 5:00 pm, we head to cross the Yitzhak Rabin Israeli-Jordanian border near the port city of **Aqaba** which is located near the ancient port of **Etzion-geber** and is said to have been used by the Queen of Sheba in the days of King Solomon and possibly part of the journey of Lehi and his family. From the beaches of Eilat and Aqaba, we will be able to **see four national borders – Egypt and the Sinai, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel**. After crossing the **Yitzhak Rabin Terminal/Wadi Araba Border Crossing** into Jordan for an overnight in **Wadi Rum**, known also as **the Valley of the Moon**. Wadi Rum is described by **Lawrence of Arabia** as "Vast and Echoing", Wadi Rum is an outstanding desert landscape. Sheer-sided mountains of sandstone and granite emerge from open valleys to reach heights over 1700 meters (5577 feet); and narrow canyons cut deep into the mountains, often concealing ancient rock drawings. It is a star-gazing capital. Our first activity is after have a lecture on "Bedouin Families and Culture", while having a **traditional Bedouin sarb dinner**. Will gather in the later evening for a lecture on the stars and constellations as seen by the Bedouin culture. Our accommodations are at Rum Planet Camp sleeping in cabins after the manner of **Bedouin tents**. Israel has a full day bus return to Jerusalem, and Jordan has Full Day Bus and Guide (Desire Mohammed Salem). (B, D) **REQUESTED GUIDE IS MOHAMMED SALEM THROUGHOUT JORDAN.**

Day 14 Friday, May 14

Locations: **Rum Planet Camp Camel Trek • Wadi Araba Observation Point • Wadi Musa • Petra Visitors Center, hike Petra Ruins.**

After early breakfast, we will have an hour-long **Camel Ride in Wadi Rum** before saying good-bye to our host and lecturer at **Rum Planet Camp**. We then depart for **Wadi Musa**, meaning "**the Valley of Moses**", which is a town that is set within a valley that surrounds the ancient city of **Petra**. Enroute we will stop at a panoramic viewpoint to see the **Wadi Araba** which was possible route of Lehi and his family. Most people recognize Petra for **the Treasury**, but there is so much more to see. Included in the ticket is a horse ride (individual tip required). Another one is by a motorized 6-8-person cart (additional fee). The other method is going on foot, which is highly recommended (not a difficult walk) and allows for a scenic and memorable experience. Four hours of hiking and exploring this 3rd Century BC "Wonder of the World" will complete a very strenuous but rewarding day. Our dinner and overnight will be at the Petra Moon Hotel which is walking distance from **the Petra Museum**. Full Day Bus and Guide. (B, D)

Day 15 Saturday, May 15

Locations: **Wadi Musa • Karak Castle • Madaba • Mount Nebo • Bethabara (Al-Mughtas) Dead Sea**

After another early morning breakfast, we travel north along **the Kings Highway**, passing the ruins of **Shobak castle**. Next, we go northwestward to visit **Al-Karak Castle**, one of the largest crusader castles in the Levant. Along the Kings Highway we will pass many of the biblical cities and locations from the days of the Patriarchs through the Exodus of the Children of Israel. After our visit, we continue north along the King's Highway through the biblical lands of **Moab and**

Edom (tribal inheritances of Rueben). Our next stop is the **city of Madaba** where the **oldest mosaic map of the Holy Land** is displayed on the floor of **the Church of St George**. A short distance from Madaba we have lunch and visit a **mosaic factory** before heading to a mountain peak in the Jordanian western mountains, **Pisgah and Mount Nebo** where Moses departed from leading the tribes of Israel and entrusting their leadership to Joshua. After taking in the panorama of modern Israel and the Palestinian Territories and reviewing the events on this mountain we will travel down from the mountains to the Great Rift Valley of the River Jordan and **Dead Sea**. This was the region of **Perea** where the small tributaries of the Jordan River flow. Here we will visit the crossing point of the Jordan River at **Al-Mughtas or "Bethany beyond the Jordan"**, the probable site of **Bethbara** where the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist occurred. Here also, is where it is believed that Joshua and the children of Israel, Elijah and Elisha, Joseph and Maty, and Jesus and His disciples crossed. We will reminisce about those events, before going south to our **Dead Sea Spa & Resort** which has a private **Dead Sea beach**. Here is where we will have dinner and spend the night. Full Day Bus and Guide. (B, D)

Day 16 Sunday, May 16

After breakfast and a morning **float on the Dead Sea**, we depart northward along the Jordan Valley to climb east up the mountains of **the Dome of Gilead** as mentioned in the Old Testament. The region of Gilead is where **the prophet Elijah's homeland** was located. Climbing the eastern mountain road to **the city of Jerash**. Jerash was one of the Greek-Roman cities of **Decapolis**. We will marvel at its magnificent ruins that are some of the **best-preserved of Greco-Roman cities** in the world. Having lunch along the way we head south towards the capital city of **Amman (ancient Philadelphia or Rabbat Amman)**. Along the highway we will stop briefly at the **Zarqa River**, known in Old Testament times as **the Jabbok River**. We will dip our fingers in the Jabbok River near **Penuel** and recall that the patriarch Jacob at its banks wrestled with an angel through the night and was renamed "Israel" by the Lord. [If time permits (**see Day 18**), we will tour the **Amman Citadel**, location of the **Jordan Archaeological Museum, Temple of Hercules**, and other significant sites at the Citadel. We will view **below the Citadel the Roman Theater** and the **Odeon** before entering **the open-air market or Suk.**] After this eventful day we will arrive at our Ambassador Hotel for dinner and overnight. Full Day Bus and Guide. (B, D)

Day 17 Tuesday, May 17

Locations: Amman•Irbid • Umm Qais • Jordan Valley • Pella • Wadi Al-Yabis (Elijah's Spring) • Amman

This morning, we take a journey through **the northwestern areas of Jordan**. Our adventure begins with a drive north of Amman through **the land of Gilead (tribal territory of Gad)** and pass through the provincial capital of northern Jordan, the modern city of **Irbid**. Traveling a little farther north, we come to **the northern borders of Jordan** to the New Testament city of **Gadara (Umm Qais)**, where we have a **view of the Sea of Galilee**. This was also a city of **Decapolis** where Jesus and his disciples must have taught. From this vantage point, we can see **the borders of Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan**. After our tour we go west through the scenic western **hills of Bashan (tribal allotment to half the tribe of Manasseh)** to **the Jordan River Valley**, then following the valley south we arrive at the city of **Pella**, where the Jewish Christians fled from Jerusalem in AD 66, following the prophetic instructions of Jesus and his disciples. Finally, leaving Pella, we travel east climbing once again through the picturesque **mountains of Gilead** and will stop along the **spring Cherith** at a spot called in Arabic, **Wadi Al Yabis**, where Elijah was fed by a raven while hiding from Queen Jezebel. Here is one of the largest and oldest olive trees and old mills in the country. Finally, we will reminisce about those events as we continue southeast through the highlands of Jordan to Amman. **Farewell dinner**. Full Day Bus and Guide. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 18 Wednesday, May 18 (Depart late night May 17 or early morning flight Wednesday, May 18 to USA)

Departure Day: On May 18 if the departure is in evening for transfer to Queen Alia Airport outside Amman flying to the USA, the schedule may need to adjust based on the air arrangements. If it is an evening flight from Amman, a visit to **the Amman Citadel instead of Day 16** and the **Downtown Suk (open air market)** and a visit to **Jordan National Museum** with some of the Dead Sea Scrolls (the famous copper scroll) exhibited along with the history and cultures of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan could be done. After a **Farewell dinner**, the tour group would depart to **the Queen Alia International Airport** for the **USA**. Full Day Bus and Guide for the adjusted option which would include an additional cost for the hotel, bus, and guide. Recommend May 17 late night (near midnight) departure or early morning (after midnight) departure May 18).