

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NSW, Inc
Presents a study tour to

Cyprus, Israel & Jordan

Sunday 4th October 2020 to Friday 23rd October 2020
20 days, 19 nights

Twin Share: **\$12 430** Single Supplement: **\$1 895**
Minimum of 12 passengers



TOUR OPERATOR

ACR International Travel & Tours

Lower Ground, Suit F

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Cyprus, Israel, Jordan Itinerary

October 2020

Day 1: Sunday 4th October – Depart Sydney

Depart Sydney on Emirates flight EK413 leaving at 21.10.



Day 2: Monday 5th October – Larnaca (Cyprus)

Arrive Dubai 5.40 and transfer to EK109 departing for Larnaca, arriving 11.10, meet the guide and transfer to the hotel. Stay 1 night Larnaca **D**

Day 3: Tuesday 6th October – to Nicosia



Tour Larnaca visiting the St Lazare church, stopping at the salted lake and at the Tekke de Hala Sultan Mosque. At Kiti, visit the Angeloktisti church. Travel to Nicosia, the capital of the Island since the Middle-ages. This city was successively held by the Templar Knights then by the Lusignan dynasty before finally being conquered by the Ottomans. Visit the Saint Jean cathedral and the museum of Byzantine icons. Have lunch in the old district of Laiki Yitonia, then visit the archaeological museum. Stay 2 nights Nicosia. **B,L,D**

Day 4: Wednesday 7th October – Nicosia, Kyrenia and Bellapais

Visit the ancient cathedral of Saint-Sophie which offers an example of French religious architecture in the middle-east. It was founded during the 13th century by Saint Louis, the King of France. Travel to Kyrenia to visit the stronghold palace built by the Venetians. Within the palace stands the small Byzantine church of Saint George and an interesting archaeological museum displaying the wreck of a Greek ship from 300 B.C. Finally, drive to the Bellapais Abbey, which is one of the most gorgeous sites of the Island. The Augustinian monastery was founded during the 12th century. Return to the hotel. **B,L,D**



Day 5: Thursday 8th October – Troodos



Head into the Troodos Mountains, passing through beautiful mountain villages along the way. Visit the UNESCO listed Asinou church, dating from the 12th century, dedicated to the virgin Mary. Visit the Kykkos Monastery, the most famous of the Island. Among its treasures, is the icon of the Virgin painted by the evangelist Saint Luc. After lunch continue to the tomb of Mgr Makarios III, the former archbishop and 1st President of Cyprus (1960-77). Visit the Saint Michel Archangel in Pedoulas. Stay 1 night at a hotel in the mountains. **B,L,D**

Day 6: Friday 9th October – Omodos and Paphos

Depart for the village of Omodos, calling at Linos winepress for a wine tasting, then visit the Church of the Holy Cross. Stop at Yeroskipou to visit the Paraskevi church and experience a loukoums degustation (Lunch in a tavern.) Continue to Paphos and see the houses of Dionysos, Aion and Theseus and their magnificent mosaics, the Pillar of Saint Paul and the Chryssopolitissa Church. Stay 2 nights Paphos. **B,L,D**



Day 7: Saturday 10th October – Paphos and Latchi



Tour Paphos and Latchi, visiting the 'Tomb of the Kings' and the serene monastery of Ayios Neophytos known for the Saint's hermitage in the rocks and its fine frescoes and icons. After lunch, pass by the famous Aphrodite's Baths. Return to the hotel to prepare for a memorable evening in a tavern with a lavish mezze dinner, traditional music and dance. **B,L,D**

Day 8: Sunday 11th October - Curium (Kourion) and Kolossi

Departure for Limassol. Stop at the rock of 'Petra Tou Romiou', birthplace of the legendary Aphrodite. Visit of the ancient Kingdom City of Curium, its Roman/Greek theatre, the mosaics of 'the house of Eustolios' and the sanctuary of Apollon Hylates. Later visit the Kolossi dungeon. Lunch during the excursion. Stay 1 night Limassol. **B,L,D**

**Day 9: Monday 12th October – to Tel Aviv**

Transfer to Larnaca airport and depart on El Al flight to Tel Aviv at 10.00. Meet the Israeli guide and check in to the hotel. Stay 1 night Tel Aviv. **B,D**

Day 10: Tuesday 13th October – to Galilee

After breakfast drive through Jaffa, an ancient port city and the oldest part of Tel Aviv. While driving along the beautiful Mediterranean coast, continue to the ancient city of Caesarea that was built by King Herod the Great. Proceed to Haifa, passing by Mt. Carmel to see the famous Bahai Gardens. From Haifa, drive to Nazareth and the Church of Annunciation. Drive to Cana, where the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine took place and visit the "Wedding Church". Stay 2 nights Tiberias/Galilee Sea. **B,D**

**Day 11: Wednesday 14th October – to the Golan Heights**

Start the day with an exciting boat ride on the Galilee Sea. Continue to see the "Jesus Boat", the ancient boat found sunk in the Sea of Galilee from the time of Jesus. Ascend Mt. Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the "Sermon on the Mount". Continue the day in Capernaum, known as "The Town of Jesus", visit the synagogue and Peter's house. Take a lunch break with a delicious St. Peter's fish lunch. Next, visit Tabgha, the place where the miracle of the loaves and fishes took place. There will be an opportunity to see the famous mosaic

under the alter of the ancient church of Tabgha. Proceed to the Golan Heights for a view over the surrounding area. Return to the hotel. **B,L,D**

Day 12: Thursday 15th October – the Dead Sea and to Jerusalem

Begin the morning driving along the Jordan River to Yardenit Baptismal Site. Visit Qumran and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Travel on to Masada and take a cable car up to the fortress where the history of the famous Jewish fortification will unfold; the palaces built by King Herod, the synagogue and bathhouses used by the Jews. Descend from Masada and drive to the Dead Sea for some relaxation and a dip in the water. Continue to Jerusalem. Stay 3 nights. **B,D**

Day 13: Friday 16th October – Bethlehem

Go up to the Mt. of Olives, a cemetery that once was covered in olive groves, where you will have a magnificent panoramic view of Jerusalem. Depart for Bethlehem to see the Church of Nativity located at Manger Square. Look out over the Judean Desert and Shepherd's Field. Return to Jerusalem. **B,D**

**Day 14: Saturday 17th October – Jerusalem (New City)**

The morning will begin with a visit to Israel's official memorial to the Holocaust, Yad VaShem, located on Mt. Herzl. Drive past The Knesset and the Israeli Supreme Court, on the way to the Israel Museum, Israel's national museum, to see the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as a model of the Second Temple. Continue the day with an exciting tour of the Mahane Yehuda Marketplace (Shuk) and experience life as an Israeli. Return to the hotel. **B,D**

Day 15: Sunday 18th October – Jeruslaem (Old City) to Aqaba (Jordan)



Today will begin with a tour of the Garden of Gethsemane, the place where Jesus prayed and his disciples slept the night before his crucifixion. Make your way to Mt. Zion where you will visit David's Tomb and the site of the Last Supper, also known as the "Upper Room". We continue to the Christian Quarter where you will enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus was crucified. From there, walk where Jesus walked and make your way down

Via Dolorosa (Stations of the Cross). The day will continue with a trip to The Cardo, what used to be a main street in the Old City during the time when Judea was under Roman rule. Go down to the Western Wall and spend some time in reflection and/or prayer. Transfer to Arava Border and meet a Jordanian guide. Continue to the beautiful city of Aqaba. Stay 1 night. **B,D**



Day 16: Monday 19th October - Petra and Amman



Drive to Petra through the scenic Jordanian desert and the Wadi Rum area. Enter the Rose City of Petra through the Siq, a narrow passage through the mountains that has inspired people for centuries. Travel up to the treasury which suddenly appears at the end of the gorge, leaving the visitors breath-taken by its size, colour and beauty. Continue into the heart of this ancient city carved into the mountains, passing hundreds of tombs and monuments and a spectacular Amphitheatre, which once held 3,000 spectators. Stop for a sit-

down lunch before leaving Wadi Mussa - the new town of Petra. Drive to Amman. Stay 3 nights. **B,L,D**

Day 17: Tuesday 20th October – Madaba, Mt Nebo, Amman

Visit Madaba, famous for the unique mosaic map of the Holy Land, which can be found on Saint George's church floor. Then visit Mt Nebo, the place where Moses looked over the Holy Land and the Dead Sea. This is considered the burial place of Moses as this where he was seen for the last time. Here, visit the memorial church bearing his name. If the sky is clear, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, and Jericho can be seen. Return to the hotel in Amman. **B,D**



Day 18: Wednesday 21st October – Ajloun, Jerash, Amman



Drive from Amman to visit Ajloun, a military castle that was used by the Islamic armies of Saladin to protect the region against the crusaders. Next, visit Jerash, the Pompei of the East. Jerash has been covered by sand for centuries, which is the main reason why it is still so well preserved. Enter Jerash through the monumental South Gate and wander around the Roman city. Walk in the Oval Plaza surrounded by colonnades, visit the Roman theatre and Byzantine churches with mosaic-covered floors. Enjoy a

stroll along Jerash's main road, the Cardo, and pass by the Nymphaeum. Experience the marvellous acoustics of the theatre and see how the Romans built the earthquake-proof columns of the colonnaded streets. After the visit, return to Amman. **B,D**



Day 19: Thursday 22nd October –Amman. Depart for Dubai

A free morning. Transfer to Amman Airport for Emirates flight EK 904, departing at 18.00, for Dubai, arriving 22.00. **B**

Day 20: Friday 23rd October – return to Sydney

Transfer to EK 414 departing at 2.15, arriving Sydney at 22.05.



Tour Arrangements

The tour will be led by **Heather Rushton** and there will be accompanying English-speaking guides.

Accommodation is in three and four star hotels.

Transport will be by air-conditioned mini-bus.

Quoted price includes airfares, transfers, land transport, accommodation, all but two meals in Cyprus, all breakfasts and dinners plus two lunches in Israel & Jordan, admissions to sites and facilities as outlined in the program. Please note that the prices are correct at the time of publication but are subject to fluctuations in exchange rates and airline prices.

Not included in the quoted price – visas, departure tax (USD \$32), meals not listed, drinks, personal expenses, any extra activities, camera fees, gratuities (approximately USD\$20 per day in Israel/Jordan), personal travel insurance.

Interested? An application form can be obtained from ACR Travel by contacting sales@acrtravel.com.au. Return the completed form, along with a \$500 deposit, to the ACR office (Lower Ground 280 Pitt St, Sydney, 2000) or email it to heather@acrtravel.com.au (direct deposit details are available from Heather).

TOUR ORGANISED ON BEHALF OF



The Geographical Society of New South Wales

Advancing geography in New South Wales and throughout Australia.

School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney

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