



Christmas in Bethlehem

10 Nights/11 days – Jordan & Israel

December 18th to 27th (Includes Travel days)

December 18th - Departure from Auckland/Wellington/Christchurch/Sydney

Itinerary

Day 1 – December 19th Amman (lunch included)

Arrive in Amman. After immigration clearance, drive to your hotel in Petra. Stop on the way for breakfast/lunch (depending on time of arrival) and if time permits, tour around the Capital city with your guide.

Dinner and Overnight stay at a Hotel in Petra (To be confirmed – TBC).

Day 2 – December 20th PETRA & Wadi Rum

After breakfast, drive/walk to this world heritage centre - Petra. This ancient archaeological and historical rose city, located around 180km south of Amman, is Jordan's most visited tourist destination. In the 18th century, a Swiss explorer named, Johannes Burckhardt, dressed as an Arab, persuaded his Bedouin guide to take him to this lost city. After this, Petra became increasingly known and began attracting visitors. A UNESCO world heritage site, this place contains beautiful carved tombs. The tomb of Aaron (Moses's brother) is said to be located here (Mt. Hor or Mt. Aaron). At the end of the narrow gorge stands the "The Treasury" or "Al Khazneh". Part of the movie "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" was shot here making this place more popular. After Lunch, we will do a Jeep tour of Wadi Rum also known as the 'Valley of the Moon' to see and enjoy the brilliant colours of the rock formation and rock art. Dinner and **Overnight stay at Petra** (TBC).

Day 3 - - December 21st Nazareth & Cana (lunch included)

After an early breakfast, we cross border and travel to Israel

- Visit Nazareth - experience the **Nazareth Village** (a first century reconstruction of Nazareth village experience) Meal provided here.
- Stand on the Brow of the Hill to look over Jezreel Valley
- Visit **Cana** of Galilee – Where Jesus turned water into wine
- Dinner and **overnight stay in Galilee / Tiberias**

Day 4 – December 22nd Tel Aviv – Walking tour – Carmel Market – Jaffa Free time after Lunch

After breakfast, we spend the time as follows:

- Walking tour around **Carmel Market**.
- Drive to **Jaffa** (biblical Joppa) the oldest port in the world, where prophet Jonah was swallowed by a whale
- Back to hotel
- Free afternoon on your own. **Dinner & overnight in Tel Aviv.** (B, D)



Day 6 - December 23rd Caesarea, Jerusalem – Bethlehem

After an early breakfast, drive to:

- **Caesarea** – Herod's Port
City and the home of Pontius Pilate (Theatre, Palace, Hippodrome. Aqueduct) & Art Galleries of Caesarea.
- Visit Jaffa, the oldest port in the world, where Jonah was swallowed by a whale, and where Peter healed Tabitha
- Visit a **winery**; and **cheese tasting** on the way to Jerusalem
- Dinner & **overnight stay in Bethlehem**

Day 7 - December 24th Bethlehem – Dinner Included Free day on your own (no guide/driver until dinner time) Suggestions: Christmas markets & parade

- **Christmas eve traditional dinner at a hosts house in Bethlehem** (included)
- Midnight Christmas service at the Nativity church in Bethlehem - **view the mass service from Manger Square.**
Overnight stay in Bethlehem

Day 8 - December 25 – Lunch Included Manger Square – Mahne Yehuda – Sound and Light show

- Tour Bethlehem - Manger Square & Shepherd's Field
- **Christmas day lunch at Limoncello** or any similar (included)
- **Visit Mahne Yehuda** – the famous Souq in Jerusalem
- Enjoy **Sound and Light Show** in the evening

Overnight stay at hotel Nativity or Grand Hotel in Bethlehem or any similar.

Day 9 - December 26 – Jordan River – Jericho - Bethlehem

After breakfast we visit

- Jericho –to visit the **Mt of Temptation**
- **Jordan River** (Baptism can be arranged if a pastor/priest is travelling along if not it has to be privately arranged by tourist onsite).
- Back to hotel in **Bethlehem.**

Day 10 - December 27 – Flight back to New Zealand

Breakfast at the hotel. Utilise your free time for packing up. Transfer to airport for your flight back to New Zealand/Australia

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