



The Abraham Path **Jordan, Palestine and Israel Itinerary**

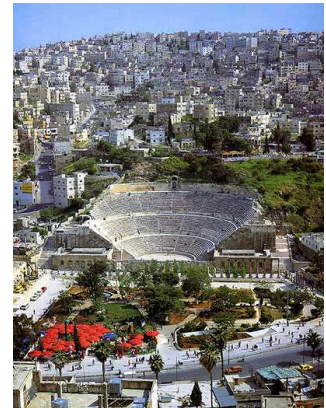
As you follow the cultural route of the Abraham Path through Jordan, Palestine and Israel, you will journey through lands that have sustained and nourished the lives of ancient and modern peoples, lands which gave birth to Abraham and the children of Abraham.

Little is known of the historical figure Abraham, but much is known of the values he embodies. It is said that Abraham's tent was open in all four directions, indicating the generous hospitality with which he welcomed visitors. As you travel this itinerary, keep in mind that the Abraham Path is more than a route or a series of historical sites; it is a path to experiencing Abrahamic values such as hospitality and respect, and the rich history and cultural traditions of the regions. It is the experience of the traveller who offers and receives in a way that inspires mutual respect and understanding across cultures.

Day 1 – Depart from your nearest gateway airport in **city of departure**. Please arrive early for your international flight for Istanbul. Try to get some rest on board. To minimize the effects of jet lag, we advise to avoid sugar, caffeine, salt and alcohol. Drink a lot of water to keep hydrated!

Day 2 – Arrive in **Amman, Jordan**

Arrive **Amman**, the capital city of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Meet your FAF representative and English-speaking driver at the airport and board your private motor coach that takes you to your hotel in Amman. Check-in and relax after your long flight. A welcome dinner and an introductory meeting will be arranged at the hotel. Overnight stay at your hotel.



Day 3 – In the morning we travel to **Ajloun** nature reserve where we have lunch and a short orientation walk. In the afternoon we visit **Baoun village**. Dinner and overnight at the nature reserve (lodges or tented cabins).



Day 4 – Full day walk from the nature reserve to **Tel Mar Elyas** (12km). We visit a soap-house, where local women who run the co-operative will show how to make hand-made soap from olive oil and aromatic herbs using the traditional method, and have lunch with a local family along the way. We finish our walk at the **Byzantine church** of Tel Mar Elyas with its mosaic floors, and watch the sunset over the hills of Palestine to the West. Return to the nature reserve for the night.



Day 5 – Beginning the Path: We spend the day working on the Abraham Path – perhaps clearing the trail at the abandoned village of **Serabis** (picnic lunch), or way-marking the trail from **Baoun village to Tel Mar Elyas** – including building stone cairns along around Ajloun. If the latter we visit Abu Mazen, an elderly Christian gentleman who knows all the stories and songs of the area, and have tea at his home. Abu Mazen will take us to the ruined shrine of **Al Khidr** which is hidden in the woods behind the castle. Al Khidr is a fascinating figure in the folklore of the Middle East – an Islamo-Christian Saint who is still venerated by local families here, also known as Saint George. Dinner and overnight at the nature reserve.



Day 6 – After a relaxed morning of reflection at the nature reserve we travel to the **Biblical sites of Mount Nebo**, where, according to the final chapter of Deuteronomy, the Hebrew prophet Moses was given a view of the promised land. According to Jewish and Christian tradition, Moses was buried on this mountain by God himself, and his final resting place is unknown. In the afternoon we cross the Allenby Bridge border into Palestine/Israel [allow 3 hours]. Travel to Bethlehem, where we stay overnight (Jacir Palace), with dinner at

restaurant Grotto accompanied by traditional Dakbeh dancing, performed by a troupe of Palestinian high school students.

Day 7 – We walk from the pool where King Solomon is said to have written the Song of Solomon, down a pilot segment of the Abraham Path to the **village and monastery of Artas**, and visit the **Church of Nativity** (10 kms). Dinner and overnight stays with Palestinian families (the group will be split up at this point into smaller groups/pairs and stay with different families).



Day 8 – Take bus from Bethlehem to **Ein Samia**. Meet with local village leaders. Walk from village to **Kufar Malak** of 7km. Dinner in village. Bus back to Bethlehem.



Day 9 – We travel to visit **Al-Khalil/ Hebron** where we walk through the old city to visit the **Ibrahimi Mosque** (tombs of the Patriarchs)/Synagogue. We visit the **Hebron Rehabilitation Community** who are restoring the ancient city centre. In the late afternoon we travel to Be'er Sheva in the Negev desert with dinner at the hotel.

Day 10 – Visit the **Old City of Be'er Sheva**, traditional site of Abraham's Well, and the ancient site of **Tel Sheva** (the



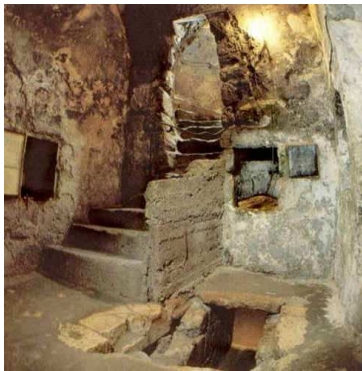
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Biblical citadel of ancient Be'er Sheva -- a World Heritage Site). Visit **Miriam's Center** (the Daughter of the Desert) in the Bedouin community of Tel Sheva. Walk to the community of **Nevatim**, built by Jews who came from India and carried with them a special connection to Abraham. Overnight on the path.



Day 11 – Walk the trail in the **rural area of Har Amsa**, along an ancient **Roman Road to the Falahin settlement of Drijat**. Visit the community and the reconstructed cave-dwelling of their forefathers. Walk to the ancient **Biblical Desert Fortress of Arad**, built by King Solomon and his successors. Overnight in the village of Drijat.



Day 12 – Free time in the morning. Walk in the Negev and have lunch. Travel to Jerusalem.

Day 13 – We walk from the **tomb of Lazarus** over the Mount of Olives to follow the traditional route into Jerusalem, visiting the **Ascension Place** and **Garden of Gethsemane** then explore the old city of Jerusalem with our guide, renowned archaeologist Avner Goren. Overnight in Jerusalem, with dinner at a local restaurant

Day 14 – Free day in Jerusalem with time for reflection on the journey and closing dialogue. Overnight in Jerusalem (Jerusalem Hotel), with dinner at the hotel.

Day 15 – Depart from Jerusalem airport back home.

Welcome home!

This program includes:

- Transfers in 1 private motor coach according to the itinerary
- 13 nights at hotels based on double rooms
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Program as indicated in the itinerary
- \$100 tax deduction upon completion of the tour

This program does NOT include:

- Airfare
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Personal expenses and incidentals

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