An Exclusive Small Group Tour Sponsored by the OU Alumni Association Sightseeing Sooners Program

Treasures of Jordan
Antiquities & Natural Wonders
February 22-March 4, 2021

11 days for $4,197 total price from Oklahoma City
($3,595 air & land inclusive plus $602 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

Treasures of Jordan
Antiquities & Natural Wonders
February 22-March 4, 2021
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow Sooners from February 22-March 4, 2021, on an exclusive small group tour to the ancient land of Jordan to experience its historical, spiritual, and geological wonders.

Begin the journey with three nights in lively Amman, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, where a highlight is lunch in the home of a gracious family. Next, proceed north to the remarkably well-preserved Roman city of Jerash, the “Pompeii of the East.” See Madaba’s stunning mosaic map and Mt. Nebo, believed to be Moses’ burial site. A three-night stay in dramatic Petra offers the experience of a lifetime, with ample time to explore this stunning UNESCO World Heritage site. Heading further south, take a sunset jeep ride through the captivating desert landscape of Wadi Rum, overnighting in a tented camp. Experience the rare geographic phenomenon of the Dead Sea at the Dead Sea Panorama, and “float” in the lake’s therapeutic waters. The journey concludes with an excursion to the biblical site of Bethany Beyond the Jordan.

Space on this memorable tour of Jordan is limited to 24 guests in total. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Reserve risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Travel
OU Alumni Association

THE OU RESERVATION FORM: TREASURES OF JORDAN

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $_______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Treasures of Jordan, departing February 22, 2021. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Or you may call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.

Full Passport Name _____________________________________ Date of Birth ______________
Gender __________

Full Passport Name _____________________________________ Date of Birth ______________
Gender __________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________________ State ___________________ ZIP _______________________

Home Phone (_____) ___________________________ Cell Phone (_____) ___________________________

E-mail(s) ________________________________________ Badge Name(s) ____________________________

Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade ❑
I will share a room with __________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Treasures of Jordan, February 22-March 4, 2021, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _______________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment ❑ Check ❑ American Express ❑ Discover ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA

Account # ___________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________

Name of Cardholder _____________________________________________________________________________

Signature ______________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1:  Depart U.S. for Amman, Jordan

Day 2:  Arrive Amman

We arrive in Amman late this evening and transfer directly to our hotel.

Day 3:  Amman

After this morning’s briefing about the journey ahead, we set out on a “behind the scenes” walking tour that acquaints us with this lively Middle Eastern capital. First we meet locals engaged in nature conservation at the Wild Jordan Centre, then visit the King Abdullah I Mosque with its magnificent blue mosaic dome. We continue through the busy streets and vegetable markets near the Nymphaeum fountain (ca. 191 CE), the 6,000-seat Roman Theatre (ca. 170 CE) still used today, and the Citadel, offering excellent city views. After lunch in the home of a gracious Amman family, we return to our hotel mid-afternoon. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.  

Day 4:  Ajloun/Jerash

Today we travel north through scenic pine forests and olive groves to the town of Ajloun, site of the well preserved Qalaat Errabadh (“Hilltop Castle”), built in 1184 for protection from the Crusaders, with grand views of the Jordan Valley. We continue on to the Roman ruins of Jerash, dubbed the “Pompeii of the East” for its splendid state of preservation. After lunch together here we explore the colonnaded streets, theaters, churches, and temples that comprise the largest Roman site outside Italy.

Day 5:  Amman/Petra

Traveling from Amman to Petra today, we stop en route in Madaba, “City of Mosaics,” known especially for the Byzantine-era mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. We see this ancient relic covering the floor of a church here then continue on to the important pilgrimage site of Mt. Nebo, where Moses is believed to have seen the Promised Land before being buried overlooking the Jordan Valley. We visit Mt. Nebo’s 4th- and 6th-century Byzantine churches, and may be able to catch glimpses of Jerusalem rooftops in the far distance. From Mt. Nebo we proceed to the imposing 12th-century Crusader castle at Shobak,

Cover photo: Petra’s stunning Treasury stands at the end of the Siq entryway.

Treasures of Jordan  
Antiquities & Natural Wonders  
11 days for $4,197 total price from Oklahoma City  
($3,595 air & land inclusive plus $602 airline taxes and fees)  

From times Biblical to Byzantine, Roman to recent, the land of Jordan has offered visitors a dazzling diversity of sights. Join us as we encounter wonders both of nature and of man: lively Amman and rose-red Petra, the Roman ruins of Jerash, the lunar-like landscape of Wadi Rum, and the restorative powers of the Dead Sea – enhanced by traditional hospitality and excellent lodgings.

Day 1:  Depart U.S. for Amman, Jordan

Day 2:  Arrive Amman  

We arrive in Amman late this evening and transfer directly to our hotel.

Day 3:  Amman  

After this morning’s briefing about the journey ahead, we set out on a “behind the scenes” walking tour that acquaints us with this lively Middle Eastern capital. First we meet locals engaged in nature conservation at the Wild Jordan Centre, then visit the King Abdullah I Mosque with its magnificent blue mosaic dome. We continue through the busy streets and vegetable markets near the Nymphaeum fountain (ca. 191 CE), the 6,000-seat Roman Theatre (ca. 170 CE) still used today, and the Citadel, offering excellent city views. After lunch in the home of a gracious Amman family, we return to our hotel mid-afternoon. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.  

Day 4:  Ajloun/Jerash  

Today we travel north through scenic pine forests and olive groves to the town of Ajloun, site of the well preserved Qalaat Errabadh (“Hilltop Castle”), built in 1184 for protection from the Crusaders, with grand views of the Jordan Valley. We continue on to the Roman ruins of Jerash, dubbed the “Pompeii of the East” for its splendid state of preservation. After lunch together here we explore the colonnaded streets, theaters, churches, and temples that comprise the largest Roman site outside Italy.  

Day 5:  Amman/Petra  

Traveling from Amman to Petra today, we stop en route in Madaba, “City of Mosaics,” known especially for the Byzantine-era mosaic map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. We see this ancient relic covering the floor of a church here then continue on to the important pilgrimage site of Mt. Nebo, where Moses is believed to have seen the Promised Land before being buried overlooking the Jordan Valley. We visit Mt. Nebo’s 4th- and 6th-century Byzantine churches, and may be able to catch glimpses of Jerusalem rooftops in the far distance. From Mt. Nebo we proceed to the imposing 12th-century Crusader castle at Shobak,

Cover photo: Petra’s stunning Treasury stands at the end of the Siq entryway.

Small Group Tour Highlights

-Amman sightseeing • Lunch in the home of an Amman family • Outstanding Roman ruins at Jerash • Madaba, “City of Mosaics” • Biblical Mt. Nebo • Three-night stay in Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage site • Petra touring • Sunset jeep ride through spectacular desert landscape of Wadi Rum • Overnight in Wadi Rum tented camp • Storied Dead Sea, with chance to “float” in salt lake • Excursion to biblical Bethany Beyond the Jordan

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Amman
2-4 Amman Grand Hyatt Deluxe
5-7 Petra Hayat Zaman First Class
8 Wadi Rum Memories Aicha Luxury Camp Not Rated
9-10 Dead Sea Movenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea Deluxe
11 Depart Amman for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.
We take a sunset jeep ride in vast Wadi Rum before our overnight in a tented camp.

one of Jordan’s most important early sites. Early this evening we reach the “Lost City” of Petra. B,L,D

Day 6: Petra  A UNESCO World Heritage site, the archaeological site of Petra fills even seasoned travelers with jaw-dropping wonder. We set out this morning to explore this “rose-red city half as old as time,” a collection of red-hued temples, tombs, civic buildings – an entire city carved into the sheer rock face of the Sharah Mountains by the Nabataeans more than 2,000 years ago. Having prospered from antiquity to the Byzantine era, Petra then was “lost” to all but desert dwellers until its rediscovery in 1812 by a Swiss traveler. Entering through the Siq, the long, narrow rock chamber that betrays no hint of the splendor inside, we spend the day exploring Petra: the dramatic Treasury (a key backdrop in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade), the 3,000-seat theater, colonnaded streets, rock-cut tombs, and shrines. B,L

Day 7: Petra  We return to the ruins at Petra this morning for further touring together. This afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration or to relax by the hotel pool or in the spa. Dinner tonight presents a special opportunity to prepare a typical Jordanian meal alongside local people and a chef at Petra Kitchen, where the furnishings, décor, and tablewear all are handcrafted by Jordanian artisans. B,D

Day 8: Petra/Wadi Rum  This morning we visit nearby Al Beida (“Little Petra”), an ancient suburb whose ruins of tombs, temples, houses, and waterways carved directly into the rock walls resemble those at Petra itself. It was here during antiquity that caravans from Jerusalem and the Phoenician coast would travel to trade, and sometimes to settle, before continuing on to Petra. Following our tour we stop for lunch at a local restaurant then begin the two-hour drive south to Wadi Rum, the dramatic landscape of pink and white sands, prehistoric valleys, and towering sandstone monoliths rising from the desert floor. This is the homeland of the once-nomadic Bedouin, who now live in protected villages. And it was here that British army officer T. E. Lawrence and Prince Faisal bin Hussein set their headquarters during the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1917 – and where filmmaker David Lean shot parts of his 1962 epic Lawrence of Arabia. Late this afternoon we embark on a sunset jeep ride in the starkly beautiful moonscape that stands empty and silent, timeless and isolated. We
dine and sleep tonight at Wadi Rum in a comfortable tented camp.  \textit{B,L,D}

\textbf{Day 9: Wadi Rum/Dead Sea}  Believed to have been the site of five biblical cities, including Sodom and Gomorrah, the Dead Sea boasts a legacy of historical, spiritual, and geological import.  This salt lake lying between Israel to the west, Jordan to the east ranks as the world’s deepest hypersaline lake and second-saltiest body of water.  We learn about this rare geographic phenomenon at the Dead Sea Panorama, a geological museum with magnificent views of the Dead Sea and the hills beyond.  After we reach our hotel early afternoon, we’re free to “float” in the therapeutic waters or enjoy the hotel’s spa facilities.  Lunch and dinner today are on our own.  \textit{B}

\textbf{Day 10: Dead Sea/Bethany Beyond the Jordan}  

The Bible comes to life on today’s excursion to the Baptism Site at Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the area along the Jordan River where John the Baptist lived and Jesus was baptized.  Since 1996, archaeologists have unearthed 20 churches, caves, and baptismal pools dating from the Roman and Byzantine periods.  This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel.  \textit{B,D}

\textbf{Day 11: Depart for U.S.}  We depart this morning for the Amman airport and our connecting flights to the U.S.  \textit{B}

\textbf{Your Tour Price Includes}

\begin{itemize}
\item Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
\item 9 nights’ accommodations:  8 nights in Deluxe and First Class hotels, 1 night in luxury tented camp (Unrated)
\item 19 meals:  9 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
\item Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
\item Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
\item Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
\item Luggage handling for one bag per person
\item Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
\end{itemize}
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required, personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited tour director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement.

No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Responsibility: The liability of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servers, or representatives. The University of Oklahoma Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

COVID-19 and Planning Future Travel: We understand that travelers may have some concerns about booking future tours based on the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we look forward, we are hopeful that conditions will be favorable for international travel. However, the safety and security of our guests are always our top priorities and, should U.S. authorities – Department of State and the CDC – deem it unsafe to travel to any of the destinations in the brochure, we would cancel the trip no later than 30 days before departure. In the event of cancellation on our end due to COVID-19 concerns, we will refund all participants in full.

JOIN OU ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO JORDAN!

Presorted Standard U.S. POSTAGE PAID Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.