

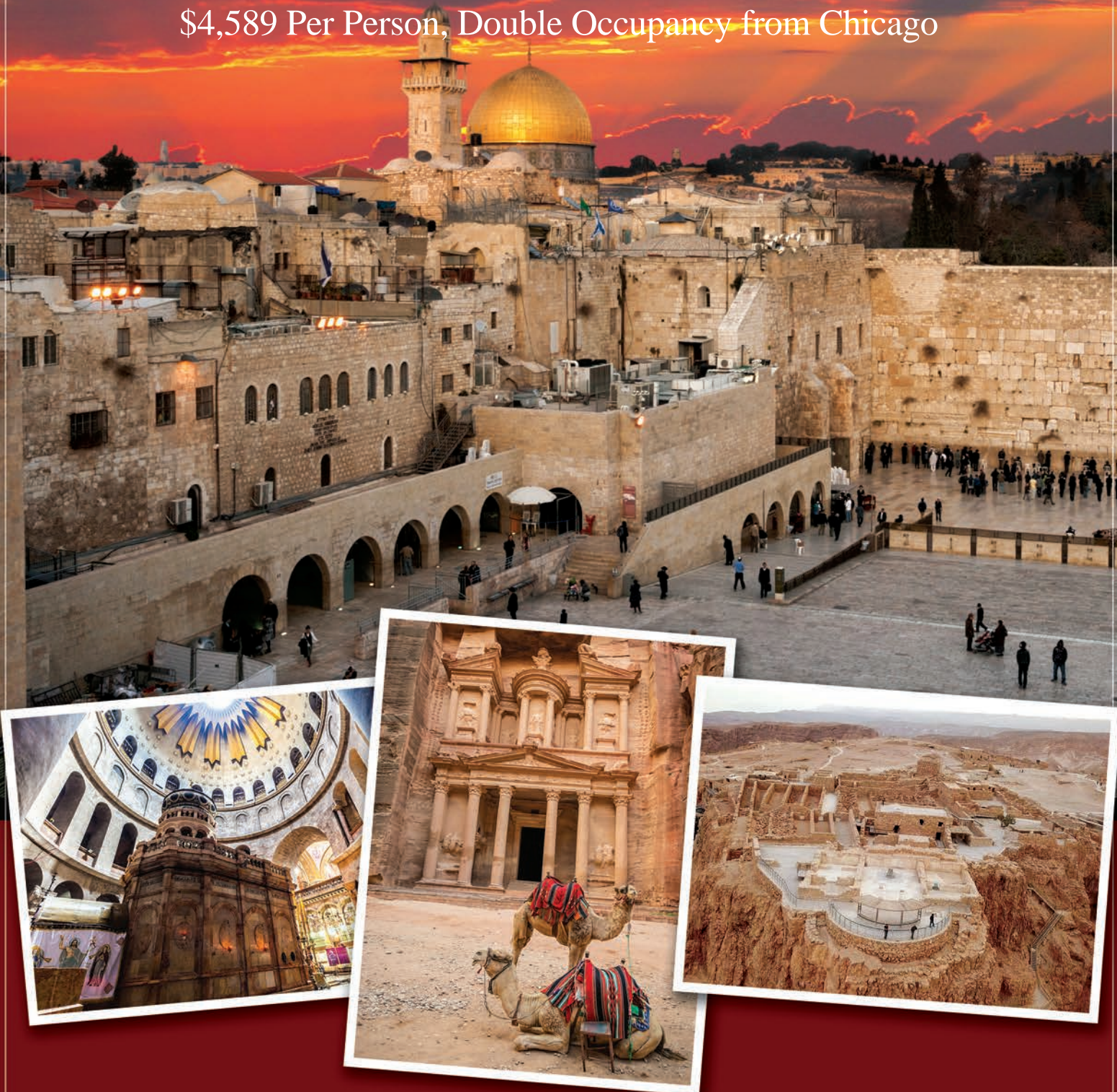
NIU
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents

Treasures of Israel and Jordan

February 12 – 23, 2020

\$4,589 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Wednesday, February 12 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare Airport late this morning by scheduled service of United Airlines and travel to Newark Liberty International Airport in preparation for this evening's connecting flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Thursday, February 13 – TEL AVIV (I,HD)

On arrival in Tel Aviv, we will meet our Tour Escort who will accompany us throughout our tour. A short drive will take us to our hotel in this Mediterranean resort city, representing the modern face of the Jewish state, for an afternoon at leisure.

Friday, February 14 – TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS (B,HD)

This morning we depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea where we'll stop to visit Caesarea. Built by Herod the Great over the site of an ancient Phoenician port, we'll see the magnificent ruins of the Roman theatre, the Crusader walls and the impressive Roman aqueduct, making Caesarea one of Israel's major archaeological sites. Then we continue our journey north to the slopes of Mount Carmel to visit the pilgrimage site of Elijah's Cave, where Elijah lived and meditated before defeating the pagan prophets of Baal. Afterward, we'll travel inland across the Jezreel Valley to the town of Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus, where we'll visit the Basilica of the Annunciation where Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel and told of her forthcoming child. Leaving Nazareth, we'll stop in the village of Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle, a wedding where he turned water into wine, before ending our day on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Saturday, February 15 – TIBERIAS (Sea of Galilee) (B,HD)

The public life of Jesus Christ, where he preached, narrated parables and worked miracles played out in a relatively small geographical area around the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Our day will begin as we sail across the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus walked on the water, to visit the ruins at Capernaum, a fascinating archaeological precinct where we'll find surviving houses from the period, as well as a church built over the ruins of what is believed to have been the home of Disciple Simon Peter. Next, we'll travel to Tabkha to visit the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fishes, the spot from which Christ fed 5,000 followers with five loaves and two fishes, known as the "feeding of the 5,000". Nearby, we'll visit the Church of the Primacy of Peter, a Franciscan chapel built on a site where Jesus Christ appeared to the Apostles after his Resurrection, and the Church of the Beatitudes, overlooking the lake from where Christ gave his Sermon on the Mount, which began with his "beatitudes".

Sunday, February 16 – TIBERIAS (Golan Heights) (B,HD)

A leisurely day on tour will take us north to the Golan Heights, a great combination of natural beauty and rich history from where we can see the Road to Damascus. At the foot of Mount Hermon, we'll explore the remains of the ancient city of Caesarea Philippi where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Leaving present day Banias, we'll travel by way of Kuneitra to the ancient Jewish farming village of Katzrin where we'll enjoy an unforgettable visit to the famous

Golan Heights Winery. Then we'll travel to Mitzpe Shalom for a magnificent panoramic view overlooking the Sea of Galilee, before stopping to visit Yardenit, the sacred Baptismal site on the Jordan River that attracts pilgrims from all over the world.

Monday, February 17 – TIBERIAS / JERUSALEM (B,HD)

Today we depart Tiberias and travel to the ancient city of Jerusalem, the core of Holy Land. Our travels will take us through the Jezreel Valley to Mount Tabor where Jesus was transfigured before his disciples, to visit the beautiful Franciscan Church of the Transfiguration, built within the ruins of a 12th century Muslim fortress. Afterward, we'll travel to Beth Shean where we'll stop to view the excavations of the best-preserved Roman-Byzantine town in Israel. Then we'll travel through the Jordan Valley as we make our way to the heights of Mount Scopus from where there are ever-changing views of the deep depression of the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and the Old City of Jerusalem.

Tuesday, February 18 – JERUSALEM

(Mount of Olives, Old City & Bethlehem) (B,HD)

Our exploration of Jerusalem will begin at the Mount of Olives, from where there are magnificent views of the Dome of the Rock, one of the oldest and most beautiful of all mosques, and the walled Old City of Jerusalem. We'll visit the Mosque of the Ascension, where the first medieval chapel was built to commemorate Christ's Ascension. Then we'll visit the Church of the Paternoster where Christ taught the Lord's Prayer. Afterward, we'll walk the Palm Sunday Road, commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, and visit the Chapel of Dominus Flevit, where medieval pilgrims identified a rock as the one on which Jesus sat when he wept over the fate of Jerusalem. Reaching the Valley of Jehoshaphat, we'll stop in the Garden of Gethsemane and visit the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed the night before he was arrested. We'll also visit the Tomb of the Virgin, an underground sanctuary where the Disciples entombed the Virgin Mary, one of the most intimate and mystical holy places in Jerusalem. Next, we'll enter the walled Old City of Jerusalem and visit the Church of St. Anne, the spot where the parents of the Virgin Mary lived, and the site of the healing Pool of Bethesda. We'll walk in the footsteps of Jesus as he bore the burden of our sins to the Cross at Golgotha. Then, we'll walk the Via Dolorosa following the 14 Stations of the Cross from Pontius Pilate's Judgment Hall to the last five Stations all located in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Built around the site of Christ's Crucifixion, burial and Resurrection, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the most important in Christendom.

This afternoon we will visit the Jerusalem Archaeological Park where ongoing excavations have uncovered remains dating back to the First and Second Temple periods. The park is also home to the Western Wall Plaza, which functions as a large open-air synagogue and is home to the Wailing Wall, Judaism's holiest site. Afterward, we'll travel to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus Christ. On our return to Jerusalem, we'll visit the Shepherd's Field where the Angel of the Lord appeared to the Shepherds on that first Christmas Eve to announce the birth of the Savior.

Wednesday, February 19 – JERUSALEM

(Mt. Zion & New City)

(B,HD)

We begin our day by traveling to Mount Zion, synonymous with biblical Jerusalem and the Promised Land, where we'll visit the white-stone Neo-Romanesque Church of the Dormition. We'll tour the Hall of the Last Supper, the site of Christ's last meal with his Disciples, and the Tomb of King David, associated with Pentecost and the death of the Virgin Mary, and where Christ washed his Disciples feet after the Last Supper. Then, we'll visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu where Christ spent the night before being taken to Pontius Pilate. Afterward, we'll travel to the New City of Jerusalem to visit the Israel Museum containing some of the country's finest art and archaeology, including the Dead Sea Scrolls. Our day will end following a visit to the Garden Tomb, thought to be Golgotha referred to in the New Testament.

Thursday, February 20 – JERUSALEM / EILAT (B,HD)

Today we travel to the most arid and inhospitable region of the Holy Land as we venture to the remote site of Qumran, the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, and the isolated mountain-top fortress of Masada. We'll begin our day with a visit to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We'll watch a short film on the Essenes, and view an exhibition on the community, before being directed to the archaeological site at the foot of the cliffs, where we can see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by a shepherd boy looking for a lost goat. Next, we'll travel to the Dead Sea resort of Ein Gedi, a lush oasis in an otherwise barren landscape where David hid from King Saul. The Dead Sea has been touted since ancient times for the therapeutic qualities of its water and mud and we'll have an opportunity to "dip and float" in the salty water. Afterward, we'll take to the skies by cable car to the isolated mountain-top fortress of Masada to visit the palaces of Herod the Great where the Jews chose to commit mass suicide rather than submit to the Romans. Our day will come to an end as we set our sights on Eilat, Israel's famous resort city on the Red Sea.

Friday, February 21 – EILAT (Petra, Jordan) (B,L,HD)

Our full day tour to Petra begins with an early departure from Eilat as we travel to the Arava Border crossing where we'll enter the Kingdom of Jordan. Our destination is the legendary 'lost city' of Petra, one of the world's most impressive and atmospheric archaeological sites. We'll discover the ancient entrance to Petra as we follow the Siq, a narrow passage through a deep ravine, formed when a split in the mountains was swept clear by water from the Wadi Musa. This prelude to Petra has many tantalizing examples of the Nabataeans' appetite for sculpting monuments out of mountainsides. As the Siq descends, it closes in and at its deepest, darkest point unexpectedly opens out on Petra's most thrilling monument, the Treasury. In addition, we'll discover the Theatre, Royal Tombs, and ancient City of Petra.

Saturday, February 22 – EILAT / JERUSALEM (B,HD)

The morning is at leisure to enjoy our beautiful accommodations located on Eilat's pedestrian Promenade, one of the city's main attractions. This charming walking "street" passes by some of the city's largest and most opulent hotels, which are all filled with restaurants, bars and shops for those last-minute gift items. Early this afternoon, we'll depart Eilat and return to Jerusalem for one final evening on tour and in preparation for tomorrow morning's early departure.

Sunday, February 23 – JERUSALEM / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we depart Jerusalem and travel to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Treasures of Israel and Jordan* that will last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Escort.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Israel and Jordan exit border tax.
- Jordan Visa fee.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$700 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Escort, and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation**

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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