

“Short Tour” (March 24-April 17, 2024 (23 nights))

From Noah’s ark to Ancient Egypt, to Mount Sinai and the Borders of the Promised Land.

March 24, 2024 – Depart the US for Turkey

March 25, 2024 - DAY BEFORE TOUR
Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul from your overseas flight before the next day’s early domestic flight to Eastern Turkey. Overnight in Istanbul near the airport.

March 26, 2024 - DAY 1

Iğdir/Ağrı, Doğubayazıt & Noah’s Ark

You will fly from Istanbul to our eastern Turkey gateway city of Iğdir or Ağrı. You will be met at the airport and driven by the foot of the tallest mountain in Turkey, Mount Ararat or as the Turks call it Ağrı Dağı. Finally, you will be driven to the hotel in Doğubayazıt to check into your room. After a short break, we will head to the Noah’s ark site for a short initial visit. You will then be driven back to the hotel to recover from jet lag. Dinner will be at a local restaurant in Doğubayazıt. We will end the day with a short meeting at the hotel to meet all the tour participants and answer any questions about the rest of the itinerary. Overnight in Doğubayazıt.

March 27, 2024 - DAY 2

Kargakonmaz Fossil Site & Noah’s Ark

We will leave the hotel mid-morning for our first stop near the Noah's ark site. Near the village of Kargakonmaz up in the hills we will visit a spectacular fossil bed site where you will be able to document seashells and sand dollars embedded in the rock layers. If you're lucky you might even find one laying on the ground as a free souvenir. From Kargakonmaz we will drive to the Noah's ark site for a full day of exploration and lectures. You will hear firsthand what the geophysical surveys found below the dirt at the ark site from those who were on the expeditions including discussion of data not publicly released. We will eat lunch at the site as well. Dinner will be at a local restaurant back near the hotel. Overnight in Doğubayazıt.

March 28, 2024 - DAY 3

Sağlıksuyu/Arzap Aka 'The Village Of 8' And Ishak Pasha Palace

An exciting day is in store for day number 4. We will stop for a photo opportunity in a local village near the base of the mountain. Next, we will continue to a nearby village and see up close what many believe are ancient drogue stones used by Noah. We will be visiting a newly discovered drogue stone without any carvings on it. An exclusive for this tour! Finally, see ancient nearby ruins and hear how they could be related to Noah and his family. We will do some traditional sightseeing to end the day with a visit to the Ottoman-era Ishak Pasha Palace with the Urartu castle behind it and a nearby museum. We will eat lunch and dinner at a local restaurant back near the hotel. Overnight in Doğubayazıt.

March 29, 2024 - DAY 4

Urartu Capital Of Tushpa, Van Archaeological Museum And Famous Van Cat House

We will travel to Van which is two hours south of Doğubayazıt. Van is a lakeside city that has impressive Urartian ruins being it was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Urartu. Next, we will visit the regional archaeological museum to learn more about the history of the area and

Urartu where we get the name Ararat from. Finally, we will visit a local “Van Cat House” to see these famous 2 colored eyes cats. Overnight in Van.

March 30, 2024 - DAY 5

Van

We will enjoy a famous Van Khavalti or Van Breakfast. Next, we visit another Urartu castle just east of the town and see how they preserved wheat and wrote their language using cuneiform script. Finally, we will take a ferry boat to an ancient Armenian Christian church on an island on Lake Van. Overnight in Van.

March 31, 2024 - DAY 6

Travel Day

We will fly from Van to Istanbul and then from Istanbul to Cairo, Egypt. Overnight in Cairo.

April 1, 2024 - DAY 7

Cairo Museums

Devote the day to the exploration of two distinguished museums in Cairo, each holding invaluable insights into ancient Egyptian civilization. Our first stop is the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), which partially opened its doors in February 2017. This treasure trove holds thousands of artifacts spanning the breadth of Egyptian civilization, from prehistoric eras to contemporary times, including the royal mummies of 22 revered pharaohs. Following this, we’ll turn our attention to the famous Cairo Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, home to one of the world’s largest collections of ancient Egyptian artifacts. Alternatively, if the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) is operational, we’ll shift our exploration to this epicenter of archaeological findings. Touted as the largest archaeological museum globally, the Grand Egyptian Museum will exhibit a vast array of ancient Egyptian artifacts, including the complete Tutankhamun collection, with many pieces being unveiled

for the first time. As evening descends, you'll have the opportunity to indulge in a bit of retail therapy if you so choose. Both lunch and dinner will be served at local restaurants, providing a delicious sampling of Egyptian cuisine. (Overnight Cairo)

April 2, 2024 - DAY 8

Giza and Saqqara Pyramids and Imhotep museum

Witness the Step Pyramid of Saqqara, the world's oldest known stone structure, and the surrounding possible grain pits (known as the Southern Tombs). Further, enhance your understanding with a visit to the museum dedicated to Imhotep (currently under renovation but it could be open soon), the genius architect behind the Step Pyramid at Saqqara. A delightful lunch on the Nile River will serve as a soothing interlude to your day. Subsequently, we'll journey back north to marvel at the iconic Pyramids of Giza, a remarkable testament to the ingenuity of the ancient world and a sight that continues to captivate global audiences. You will have the option to climb inside the Great Pyramid. Your day will be filled with the grandeur and mystery of these ancient architectural marvels. Dinner at the hotel. (Overnight Cairo)

April 3, 2024 - DAY 9

The land of Goshen/The exodus route from Egypt

Embark on an expedition into the lush expanses of Goshen in the eastern Nile Delta region, and understand why it was known as the choicest land in Egypt (Genesis 47:6). As the afternoon unfolds, we'll explore the archaeological remnants of ancient Tanis, a city in the northeastern Nile Delta of Egypt. As referenced in Psalm 78:12, "In the sight of their fathers [Moses] performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan." (Zoan translates to Tanis). From the verdant Goshen, we'll traverse the route believed to have been taken by the Israelites. As we make our way out of Egypt, we'll pay a visit to Succoth, the first encampment of the Israelites. We'll also explore a few proposed

traditional Sea of Reeds crossing sites along Egypt's eastern frontier.
(Overnight along the Bitter Lakes)

April 4, 2024 - DAY 10

Exodus Route/The traditional Mount Sinai

As dawn breaks, we will board a flight bound for Sharm el Sheik or drive overland from the Bitter Lakes to St. Catherine's (Traditional Mount Sinai). Our route takes us into the heart of the Sinai Peninsula's rugged remote majestic mountains. Here, we will explore the traditional Mount Sinai and Saint Catherine's Monastery, along with the purported site of the Golden Calf Altar. (Overnight at Saint Catherine's)

April 5, 2024 - DAY 11

At Nuweiba – The real Red Sea Crossing

As morning unveils itself, we'll resume our captivating exploration of the authentic Red Sea crossing site at Nuweiba, Egypt – an important discovery credited to Ron Wyatt and substantiated by other researchers. We'll approach the monumental pillar discovered by Wyatt, now proudly standing near the mountain periphery. He found a matching pillar in Saudi Arabia, asserting that these landmarks were established by King Solomon to memorialize the renowned crossing of the Red Sea. Our journey then leads us to a serene beach where you can gather seashells, soak your feet in the Red Sea's soothing waters, and visualize the Israelites' predicament, hemmed in by mountains, with the sea as their only conceivable escape route. As we make our way towards the northern region, we'll pause at the entrance of Wadi Watir (Pi-HaHiroth), the singular access point to this beach from the archaic trade route that bridged the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt to Midian in Northwest Arabia. Experience firsthand the compelling geographic evidence which validates this location as the singularly plausible site for the Red Sea crossing. As the morning gives way to the warmth of the afternoon, we offer an enticing opportunity for those inclined towards underwater adventures. You can immerse yourself in the world beneath

the waves, scuba diving and snorkeling in the same waters of the Red Sea crossing, all accessible directly from our hotel property. This optional venture is a wonderful chance to witness the underwater marvels and perhaps, gain a more profound connection to the historical significance of this locale. Discover maybe an ancient Egyptian chariot wheel and the vibrant marine life that inhabits these waters, creating a vivid juxtaposition against the backdrop of ancient history. (Overnight in Nuweiba)

April 6, 2024 - DAY 12

At Nuweiba – Explore Wadi Watir and the Wilderness of the Red Sea

Embark on an exhilarating Jeep exploration of a segment of the exodus route leading to the Red Sea crossing. Savor an authentic Bedouin lunch nestled within a serene desert oasis. Experience the thrill of a camel ride back to our vehicles, if you desire, or enjoy the ease of a Jeep transfer. As the day culminates, soak in the awe-inspiring sunset amidst the rugged mountains of the Sinai Peninsula. (Overnight in Nuweiba)

April 7, 2024 - DAY 13

Travel day

Travel from Nuweiba to Saudi Arabia. Arrive by evening in Saudi Arabia. (Overnight in Haql, Saudi Arabia)

April 8, 2024 - DAY 14

The Land of Midian where Moses fled to

Embark on the official expedition, journeying to the ancient Land of Midian, the refuge of Moses while in exile. Here, you'll get a glimpse of the Saudi town of Al-bad', the hometown of Jethro. Uncover the mysteries of Jethro's "Caves" or "Tombs" and enrich your understanding with a visit to the nearby museum. Discover the traditional well of Moses, the meeting spot of Moses and Zipporah, complemented by a breathtaking vista overlooking this area of Midian. As the day concludes,

immerse yourself in the magical hues of sunset at the Red Sea crossing.
(Overnight in Haql)

April 9, 2024 - DAY 15

From the Red Sea crossing to the Israelite camping sites of Midian (Possible Marah, Elim and the coastal Israelite campsite)

Kickstart the day with a revisit to the Red Sea crossing. If desired, you can snorkel from the shore or possibly even enjoy a boat ride across the Red Sea crossing, subject to the availability of permits for tourist boat rides. Witness Solomon's pillar marker spot discovered by Ron Wyatt. Embark on a captivating journey following part of the exodus route into Midian and Shur. Your adventure continues towards the lush oasis of Wadi Tayyab Ism canyon, a potential site for Elim or Marah. Cap off the day with a visit to the enchanting coastal oasis of Magna, famous for its "Springs of Musa". This is speculated to be a possible Numbers 33:9-10 coastal camping location, or Elim, according to some interpretations.
(Overnight in Haql)

April 10, 2024 - DAY 16

Split Rock of Horeb

Behold the amazing split Rock of Horeb, a highlight of our tour! Discovered by Jim and Penny Caldwell back in the 1990s. Scramble around this geological wonder and navigate through the split where, as per biblical accounts, water poured out when Moses struck the rock. In addition, we will venture to the stone circle dwellings discovered by the Caldwells. Observe the intriguing stone petroglyphs and footprint carvings found in the vicinity. As we drive through the surrounding encampment plains, visualize the possible site of the historical battle with the Amalekites. Immerse yourself in these stunning landmarks that blend spiritual significance with awe-inspiring natural desert beauty.
(Overnight in Haql)

April 11, 2024 - DAY 17

The *real* Mount Sinai

Get ready for an exhilarating visit to the base of the REAL Mount Sinai, known locally as Jabal Maqla in the Jabal al Lawz mountain range. Be captivated by the historic sites at its base – explore the potential graveyard of those killed following the Golden Calf incident, the intriguing cow petroglyphs (marking the probable Golden Calf altar site), the dried stream bed etching the path where water once flowed from the mountain, the substantial double-walled stone “wells” reaching 18 feet, and the Moses’ altar site with its beautiful white marble pillars. Enjoy lunch in the plain where the Israelites camped in front of Mount Sinai. Learn of the research as to why this is probably the real Mountain of God, Mount Horeb, in the Land of Midian. Witness the hallowed ground where the Ten Commandments were audibly delivered by God to Israel. A site once forbidden now welcomes public exploration! This extraordinary day of our tour is one you won’t want to miss, offering an unmatched fusion of Biblical significance, historical intrigue, and natural beauty. (Overnight in Haql)

April 12, 2024 - DAY 18

The Cave of Elijah & the Encampment Plain of the Israelites

Savor your final gaze upon the awe-inspiring Mount Sinai. For those seeking a last burst of adventure, embark on a 2-3 hour climb to the Cave of Elijah, a site steeped in biblical lore. Then, we’ll venture eastward from the Israelite encampment plain into the starkly beautiful Hisma desert. Witness firsthand the desolate landscapes that led the Israelites to voice their complaints after journeying here for three days. (Camping at the base or near the base of Sinai or overnight in Haql)

April 13, 2024 - DAY 19

Hike to the summit of Mount Sinai

Awaken with the dawn for an early morning ascent of Mount Sinai. Embark on this once-in-a-lifetime climb, reaching as high as your spirit takes you. Aim for the plateau, where according to the Bible, 70 elders

ate with God up on the mountain, or dare to touch the peak shrouded in its signature blackened basalt rock. This day promises an unparalleled view from the southern peaks of Mount Sinai, a vista that only a privileged few have witnessed. (Overnight in Haql)

April 14, 2024 - DAY 20

Travel Day

Travel day from Haql, Saudi to Petra, Jordan. (Overnight in Petra)

April 15, 2024 - DAY 21

Petra

Petra, often described as the "Rose City" due to the color of the stone from which it is carved, is an archaeological site located in the southwestern desert of Jordan. Dating back to around 300 B.C., it was the capital of the Nabatean Kingdom. This historic city is renowned for its sophisticated water management system and the stunning architecture that includes tombs, temples, and an ancient theater carved directly into the pink sandstone cliffs. The most famous structure, The Treasury, greets visitors as they emerge from the Siq, a narrow gorge that serves as the main entrance to the city. Petra's intricate facades and the rugged landscape that surrounds it have made it a symbol of Jordan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985. It's not just a monument to the ingenuity of the Nabateans but also a testament to the enduring allure of ancient civilizations. Petra offers a unique window into the past for travelers, making it a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and adventurers alike. (Overnight in Petra)

April 16, 2024 - DAY 22

Sodom & Gomorrah & the Dead Sea

We depart from Petra and drive to the lowest point on earth, The Dead Sea region. Embark on a unique expedition to explore the wonders near the Dead Sea, starting with the Lowest Museum on Earth. This museum,

set in a dramatic landscape, showcases artifacts and exhibits that illuminate the rich history and natural beauty of the Dead Sea region. Its location adds to the allure, offering a distinctive cultural experience in the heart of the Jordanian desert.

Next, hike up to Lot's Cave, a site of profound biblical significance. According to tradition, this is where Lot and his daughters sought refuge following the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The cave offers a tangible connection to these ancient stories, set against the backdrop of the stunning natural scenery of the area. Visitors can explore the archaeological findings and consider the historical and spiritual narratives that have shaped this land.

The adventure continues as you drive to the Lisan Peninsula, a striking landform that reaches into the Dead Sea opposite the historic site of Masada. Here, embark on a fascinating hunt for sulfur nodules, also known as brimstones. These natural formations are associated with the fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and provide a unique opportunity for exploration and discovery in the context of geological and biblical history.

Conclude your day with a scenic drive along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth's surface. This route offers breathtaking views of one of the world's most extraordinary landscapes, characterized by its intense blue waters, salt formations, and surrounding mountains. This one-day itinerary offers a blend of history, culture, and natural exploration, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the unique stories and sights of the Dead Sea region. (Overnight near Mount Nebo)

April 17, 2024 - DAY 23

Baptism site of Jesus & Mount Nebo

Begin your spiritual journey at the sacred Baptismal Site of Jesus on the Jordan River, known as "Bethany Beyond the Jordan." This serene location is where John the Baptist is believed to have baptized Jesus Christ, making it a pilgrimage site for those of all faiths seeking to connect with a pivotal moment in Christian history. Visitors can explore

the remnants of ancient churches, baptismal pools, and a spiritual atmosphere that brings biblical stories to life.

After immersing yourself in the tranquility and significance of the baptismal site, the tour will take you to the majestic Mount Nebo, an iconic site mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. It is here that Moses is said to have been granted a view of the Promised Land, a moment of profound importance in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions. Standing atop this mountain, you will witness the same breathtaking panorama of the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, Jericho, and, on clear days, Jerusalem itself. (Overnight near Mount Nebo)

April 18, 2024

Travel day – return home

Tour is over. Tourist can leave from Amman, Jordan the evening before or today.