



Wall painting from Dura Europos

## From Petra to Palmyra Visiting Syria, Antioch and Jordan

Led by **Dr. Chahinda Karim**  
 of the American University in Cairo  
 October 21–November 5, 2010

*Journey through thousands of years of history in lands settled since Neolithic times. Experience magnificent biblical landscapes, souks with unmatched treasure troves, and the archaeological remains of some of antiquity's greatest monuments. Explore the grand ruins of Palmyra, Syria's "oasis city," and sites where Paul traveled in Antioch, Turkey. Travel from the vast splendor of Petra—the rock-cut Nabatean archaeological wonder—to Ebla and Ugarit whose ancient archives revealed the world from which the Bible emerged.*

### ABOUT OUR LECTURER

*Dr. Chahinda Karim has a Ph.D. in Islamic art and architecture with a minor throughout her studies in history. She also holds a diploma from the Institute of Linguistics in London. Dr. Karim has had a personal interest in religious history and archaeology and has conducted independent research on the subject. She is a professor at the American University in Cairo and the Middle East Studies Program. She has led and lectured on tours in the Middle East for 25 years, receiving rave reviews on our Egypt tours.*

#### Special Lectures by Dr. Karim will include:

- Syria and Jordan in Ancient times
- Syria and Jordan from the Islamic Conquest to Modern Times
- Birthplace of Many Faiths
- War and Conquest: The Crusades
- The Arrival of Islam
- A Showplace for Architecture from Ancient Times to the Classical Period
- The Art and Architecture of Islam
- Petra: Art and Architecture
- Petra: A religious history

### ITINERARY

#### Thursday, October 21

##### Arrive Amman D

Upon your independent arrival in Amman, Jordan, you will be met and transferred to the Century Park Hotel—the balance of the day is free. Originally named Rabbat Ammon, Amman was the capital of Ammonites in the Iron Age and was later renamed Philadelphia as a Greco-Roman site. Fashioned over the centuries with monuments marking its long history, the imprint of the past is not lost at the present.

#### Friday, October 22

##### Amman/Petra BD

Travel the Crusader Route, or King's Highway, to visit **Kerak**, the Crusader castle built by Baldwin I of Jerusalem in 1132 C.E. It lies on an ancient caravan route, which ran from Egypt to Syria in biblical times. Mentioned in the bible as Kir, Kir Mab and Kir Heres, it later emerges as a provincial roman town, Characmba. Also visit **Madaba**, a Moabite town many will know from the Bible (Isaiah 15:2; Joshua 13:9). Madaba, one of the towns divided among the 12 tribes of Israel, is known for its 6th century mosaic map of Palastine and lower Egypt which beautifully depicts the Nile River, the Dead Sea and many features of Jerusalem. Continue to **Mt. Nebo**, and there remember the biblical text: *Moses went up from the steppes of Moab to Mount Nebo. And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I will assign it to your offspring. I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there. So Moses the servant of the lord died there, in the land of Moab, at the command of the Lord* (Deuteronomy 34:1, 4-5) At Mt. Nebo, see a church housing lovely Byzantine mosaics at a site believed to be the tomb of Moses.

#### Saturday, October 23

##### Petra BD

Over 2,000 years ago, the Nabateans created a city by carving houses, temples, tombs, theaters and water systems out of the rock. The greater **Petra** region has antiquities from periods of history including the Stone Age, Edomite, Roman and Crusader eras. The imposing Treasury is the best-preserved monument among the more than 800 others scattered along Petra's hills and valleys. For centuries Petra was an important crossroads of

trade and commerce. Beginning at the Sig, the narrow entrance to the *Rose Red City of Petra*, we visit the tombs, the Treasury and the heart of this Nabatean capital with the luxury of a full day of exploration of this archaeological wonder.

#### Sunday, October 24

##### Petra/Amman BD

Depart Petra this morning for **Amman**. A special visit to the **American Center for Oriental Research** has been arranged for our group. Sightseeing includes the Jordan **Archaeological Museum**, with antiquities dating from prehistoric times to the 15th century; the **Citadel**, which clarifies the history and geography of Amman; the **Roman amphitheater** built in 169-177 C.E., which seats 6,000 and is once again being used for performances; the **Omeyyad Palace**; and the **temple of Hercules**.

#### Monday, October 25

##### Amman/Jerash/Um Quis/Gadara/Bosra BD

Depart Amman this morning for **Jerash**, a Greco-Roman city where theatres, colonnaded streets, temples, baths and Byzantine churches represent some of the best-preserved examples of Roman civilization in the Middle East.

With views of the Golan Heights and the Seas of Galilee (Lake Tiberias), **Um Quis** is the site of the ancient Greco-Roman town of Gadara—a Decapolis city where, according to the Bible, Jesus cast out the devil from two men into a herd of pigs (Matthew 8:28-34). After exploring the ruins, we visit **Pella**, a commercial league of ten cities formed by Pompey after his conquest of Syria and Palestine in 16 B.C.E. Although inhabited from as early as 5000 B.C.E., it was during the Greco-Roman period that Pella flourished. Cross the border into Syria and overnight at Bosra.

**Join us for a medley  
of past and present  
that seeks to experience  
the beauty  
and the history  
of these  
Jewels of the Middle East.**

**Tuesday, October 26**

**Bosra/Krak des Chevaliers BD**

Still inhabited today, the ancient city of **Bosra**, which dates back in early Bronze Age, rose to prominence in the 1st century C.E. when the last Nabatean king moved his capital from Petra to Bosra to take advantage of international trade routes. Visit well-preserved Nabatean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic remains as well as the remains of a Roman theater, one of most complete in the world. On our way to **Krak de Chavelier**, we visit **Chabba** (Philliopolis), **Qanawat** where the Christian church is comparable in size to Hagia Sophia, and the 3,000-year-old village of **Ma'lula**, where the mother tongue of Jesus and the disciples is still spoken. Overnight at Krak des Chevaliers.

**Wednesday, October 27**

**Krak des Chevaliers/Lattakia BD**

We begin our day at **Krak des Chevaliers**, a Crusader castle exemplifying the planning and engineering skills of the Crusader architects. As T. E. Lawrence observed, *it is perhaps the best preserved and most wholly admirable castle in the world.* We continue to the Crusader Church at Tartous and the Bronze Age port of **Ugarit**, where archaeologists have unearthed a magnificent collection of artifacts, including a 14th-century B.C.E. archive of cuneiform tablets. Arrive Latakia which mushroomed from a modest fishing village to a Crusader seaport and military base of considerable importance.

**Thursday, October 28**

**Latakia/Apamea BD**

Today we drive to **Apamea**, one of Mark Antony's and Cleopatra's favorite cities. Its museum, housed in a converted Ottoman caravanserai, has a superb collection of mosaics covering the floors. Visit the newly opened **Museum of Mosaics at Taybet Al Emam** and the famous **waterwheel at Hama**.

**Friday, October 29**

**Apamea/Aleppo BD**

Depart Apamea, visiting the lost cities of **Al Bara** and **Serjilla**, and **Ebla** where archaeologists uncovered an immense Bronze Age urban center and archive of over 16,000 tablets dating to about the third millennium B.C.E. Continuing to Aleppo, we visit the impressive **Church of St. Simeon**.

**Saturday, October 30**

**Aleppo BD**

One of the Near East's great commercial cities in the Middle Ages, Aleppo served as a hub of world trade from Central Asia, Mesopotamia and Europe, only declining in the 20th century. With its strategic position on trade routes, the city is a cultural melting pot, as is readily discerned from its varied architecture and cuisine. The full day is spent in Aleppo visiting the **grand Mosque—a 13th-century bazaar**, the **Citadel**, the old **Christian neighborhood**, local caravanserais and the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses a fine collection of artifacts from Mari.

**Sunday, October 31**

**Aleppo/Antioch/Aleppo BD**

Today we cross the Syrian border to Antioch to visit the famous **Mosaic Museum** and the **Church of St. Paul**.



Antioch, Turkey

**Monday, November 1**

**Aleppo/Dier Ezor BD**

We depart Aleppo and visit the citadel at **Qalaat Jaabar**, the **Euphrates River dam**, the ruins at **Raqqa** and **Halabia**, and **Rasafa**, an ancient walled city containing the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Continue to Deir-Ezzor for dinner and overnight.

**Tuesday, November 2**

**Dura Europos and Mari/Palmyra BD**

The full day is spent visiting the ruins of **Mari**, an important Mesopotamian city dating back some 5,000 years, and **Dura Europos** (founded in 280 B.C.E) on the Euphrates River. Afternoon drive to Palmyra.

**Wednesday, November 3**

**Palmyra/Damascus BD**

Full day visit of **Palmyra**, the *place of palms*, which maintained a strategic position between the coast and Euphrates, and grew rich from flourishing trade routes. An oasis rising like a mirage out of barren desert, Palmyra has been settled since Neolithic times and is one of the world's great historical sites. It reached its peak of prosperity under Queen Zenobia, whose armies conquered Syria, Arabia, Egypt and

Anatolia, making Palmyra the center of a great Arab empire. Our visit includes the museum; the temples of Bel, Baal Shamin and Nebo; the Roman bath; the Tetrachyle; Diocletian's Camp; and the Valley of the Tombs. Late day we drive to Damascus.

**Thursday, November 4**

**Damascus BD**

Damascus, the oldest continuously occupied capital in the world, is located at the base of Mt. Kassion, which separates it from Lebanon and has experienced many glories and declines with the tides of its rich history. Our full day tour will take us to the **National Museum** of Damascus, containing a rich collection of archaeological and historical material, including artifacts from Palmyra, Mari and Ugarit as well as magnificent frescoes from 3rd-century synagogue at Dura Europos, the **Omayyad Mosque**—built on the site of the Byzantine cathedral of St. John the Baptist, it contains some of the finest and best preserved Islamic art in the world. Continue to the **Azem Palace**, **Anania's House**, **Via Recta**, **Bab Charki**, **St. Paul's Window** and the famous shopper's paradise: Suq al-hamadiyah.

**Friday, November 5**

**Amman/USA B**

Transfer to the airport for your individual flight to the United States. Most flights leave late night November 4.

**\*\* International Air \*\***

Please note that international airfare is not included. Transfers to/from the Amman airport are included. Please contact your preferred air carrier or ask us for information on international flight options. Rooms will be waiting for you upon arrival in Amman on October 21. The tour begins on October 22, 2010.

**Hotel Information**

**Amman** Century Park Hotel • 4 star • 3 nights  
**Petra** Taybet Zaman 4 star • 2 nights  
**Bosra** Bosra Cham Palace 5 star • 1 night  
**Krak** Al Wadi Hotel 4 star • 1 night  
**Lattakia** Riviera Hotel 4 star • 1 night  
**Aleppo** Dedeman Hotel 5 star • 3 nights  
**Deir Ezzor** Baidat Cham Palace 4 star • 1 night  
**Palmyra** Dedeman Palmyra 5 star • 1 night  
**Damascus** Cham Palace Hotel 5 star • 1 night

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
or to receive a brochure**

Visit [www.bib-arch.org/travel-study](http://www.bib-arch.org/travel-study)  
or call 800-221-4644 x 208

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

From Petra to Palmyra: Visiting Syria, Antioch & Jordan • October 21-November 5, 2010

## THE TOUR COSTS INCLUDE:

**TRANSPORTATION:** As outlined per itinerary. Journeys of the Mind cannot be held responsible for air arrangements made in connection with the tour.

**HOTELS:** Deluxe or as indicated based on two persons sharing twin-bedded room with private bath and/or shower. *Journeys of the Mind* reserves the right to substitute hotels in similar categories.

**SINGLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** *Journeys of the Mind* will endeavor to arrange for a congenial roommate, this is not always possible or recommended and a single supplement will be charged when required or requested.

**MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily.

**TRANSFERS:** International arrival and departure transfers are included.

**SIGHTSEEING/TRANSPORTATION:** All sightseeing tours described provided by best available motor coaches, or other vehicles depending upon circumstances at the time of tour operation. All entrance fees to places visited in the itinerary are included.

**LECTURER/GUIDES:** Dr. Chahinda Karim will provide lectures and there will be a local guide.

**BAGGAGE:** Includes the transportation and handling of two pieces of luggage per person throughout within the limits of airline regulations.

**GRATUITIES AND TAXES:** All local/government taxes on for hotels, meals and services listed. Tips to drivers and guides are not included.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** The tour price includes planning, handling and operating charges. The tour price is based on a minimum of 20 participants. An administration fee of \$200 will be charged for any deviation

from the printed itinerary when requested in writing up to 60 days prior to departure and are not accepted after this time. All deviations are subject to the terms and conditions stated herein.

## THE TOUR COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

International air, passport and visa fees, border fees, cost of personal/trip cancellation and baggage insurance, transportation of excess baggage, all items of a personal nature such as laundry, beverages, drinks, gratuities as stated above, optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour, individual transfers to join or leave the group once the tour has commenced, meals not shown as included, menu items not on the table d'hote menu, and any item not specifically mentioned as included.

**VISAS: Passports must be valid within six months from return date.**

Our Syrian operator will obtain visas provided we can supply them with an electronic ticket and a copy of your passport, up to 90 days prior to departure. After this date visas will have to be obtained from the Syrian Consulate in Washington, D.C.. To enter Syria or obtain a Syrian visa, you cannot have an Israeli stamp in your passport.

**RATES:** All rates quoted in U.S. dollars based on tariffs and rate of exchange in effect as of November 2009. These rates are subject to change prior to the operation of the tour. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency or in tariff rates, the cost is subject to revision.

**RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT:** Early reservations are essential. A deposit of \$500 is required to ensure your membership. Balance of payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure.

**CANCELLATION AND REFUND:** Cancellations must be made in writing and subject to the following charges: \$250 per person at any time; 90-60 days prior to departure, \$500; from 60 days prior to departure forward, no refund unless your space can be sold. **For these and other reasons mentioned herein, you are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance.** A cancellation by a share could result in the need to accommodate a roommate in single accommodations, this cost will also be deducted from refunds due, if any, to the person canceling. *Journeys of the Mind* does not assume responsibility for cancellation fees imposed by air carriers, due to itinerary departure changes, and cancellations made after ticketing, nor are we responsible for any individual air arrangements made in connection with group flights.

**UNUSED:** Prices quoted based on group participation; no refund for

**unused services, airline tickets or portions of the tour not taken.** Refunds cannot be made to tour members who do not complete the tour for any reason.

**INSURANCE:** *Journeys of the Mind* is not responsible or liable for loss, damage, or theft of personal baggage and belongings. *Journeys of the Mind* is not liable for personal injury, accident, or illness. We strongly suggest that you check with your insurance agent for adequate coverage for any eventualities.

**Upon booking, our specially designed insurance covering baggage, accident, health and trip-cancellation will be made available. We strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance.**

**OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS:** Terms apply to all optional extensions and excursions.

**HEALTH:** We strongly suggest that tour members contact their personal physician. By forwarding a deposit the passenger certifies that he/she does not have a physical condition that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

**SMOKING:** This is a non-smoking tour. Smoking is not permitted where the group is gathered.



**NOTICE:** Although *Journeys of the Mind* makes every effort to adhere to the printed itinerary, on rare occasion it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to circumstances beyond our control. Private functions are subject to the availability of the respective sponsors at the time of travel and, occasionally, substitutions may be required. Should any activity be unavailable, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and no refund will be made. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the responsibility of the tour member.

*Journeys of the Mind* reserves

the right to cancel the tour prior to departure, to decline, to accept or retain any person's membership in its entirety or for any part of the tour before departure of the tour or during the tour, should such person's health, mental or physical condition, or general department impede or may tend to impede the normal operation of the tour and/or may or does impose on the rights and comfort of the other tour members. A refund of recoverable unused services is the limit of liability for cancellation by *Journeys of the Mind*. Please note: *Journeys of the Mind* cannot be held responsible for any hotel or airline arrangements that we have not made.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** *Journeys of the Mind*, Chicago, Illinois, the Biblical Archaeology Society, Washington, D.C., its affiliates, assignees and cooperative agents act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation, hotels and automobile contractors. They exercise every care possible, but cannot be held responsible for personal injury in connection with the service of any airplane, train, automobile, carriage or other conveyance which is used in carrying out these tours, nor are they responsible for delay, accident, sickness, loss of personal property, strikes, armed conflict, additional expenses due to weather, disruption of advertised schedules, refusal of visas, or any other causes beyond their control. They are not responsible war, terror or acts of God.

Further, the operation of the vehicles used in their tours is the full responsibility of the companies and individuals engaged in the conveying of passengers; said companies or individuals are governed by laws of the country of operations and recourse for any mishap must be filed locally. Unforeseen conditions may necessitate tour changes and the right is reserved to make such changes or withdraw the tour as deemed advisable. The right is also reserved to refuse to accept or retain any passenger on any tour at any time for any reason. All cooperating airlines and steamship companies are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are on board; the limit of the liability is that of a common carrier and the passage contract in use by such carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between companies and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Acceptance of the services of *Journeys of the Mind* by all agents and/or travelers constitutes acceptance by them of all the above noted terms and conditions.

**RELEASE:** All members must sign a release and waiver of claims acknowledging their assumption of risk by participating in the tour.