



brehtaking view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea to the rooftops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Proceed to Bethany where Jesus Chris was baptized. The site has now been identified on the east bank of the Jordan River, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and is being systematically surveyed, excavated, restored, and prepared to receive pilgrims and visitors.

Our final destination is Amman, a city of wide streets, modern shops and spacious villas – all a reflection of a bygone era. The modern city of Amman spreads across seven steep hills and has experienced spectacular growth in the last decade. Recent excavations reveal that Amman was inhabited in the early Bronze Age, and is mentioned in the Bible as the capital of the Ammonites around 1200 BC. Today Amman is the seat of the country's government and the hub of cultural and commercial activity.

**FOUR SEASONS AMMAN**

#### **Day 04                      AMMAN – JERASH – ROMAN CHARIOT RACES**

The morning will be spent exploring the city of Amman, formerly the Ammonite capital city of Rabbath-Ammon and later the Graeco-Roman city of Philadelphia. The city is built on seven main hills (jebels) and from the top of the Citadel, one of the highest hills; you will see a wonderful panorama of the whole city. Here you will also see the ancient ruins of the Temple of Hercules, which dates from the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180 AD), and the fascinating National Archaeological Museum. The highlight of downtown Amman is the restored Roman theatre, a remnant of the days of the city of Philadelphia. Built into the side of a hill, the theatre dates back to the 2nd century AD and has a capacity for 6000 people.

Proceed to Jerash, part of the Decapolis (the ten big Roman cities of the East), which has been called the Pompeii of the East for its unique state of preservation. The city features theaters, churches, temples (Zeus and Artemis), a Nymphaeum and colonnaded streets.

Jerash rose from the rubble, awakened from its long repose – its ancient city walls enclosing colonnaded paved streets with chariot tracks worn in the original stone, a dramatic oval plaza defined by a colonnade of Ionic columns, a complex of baths, theatres, the temples of Dionysus, Artemis and Zeus, and a superb hippodrome. As a living testimony to its majestic past, we'll witness a Roman Army performance, gladiator fights, and a chariot race at the authentic locale, the monumental hippodrome of the ancient city of Jerash, which has been restored to its former glory.

**FOUR SEASONS AMMAN**

#### **Day 05                      DEPART AMMAN**

Your journey draws to a close as you are transferred to the Amman Airport to board your homeward bound flight, greatly enriched and enlightened by the sights and experiences you have had in this extraordinary part of the world.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### **MOEVENPICK RESORT, Petra Jr. Suites**



Located directly at the entrance to the historic Nabatean city of Petra, the Moevenpick Resort Petra is one of the most notable hotels in the Middle East. The resort's 183 rooms and suites are equipped with all modern conveniences, including air-conditioning, heating, satellite TV, direct-dial telephone, hair dryer and minibar. There are seven dining outlets to choose from.

[http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com/en/pub/your\\_hotels/worldmap/petra/overview.cfm](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com/en/pub/your_hotels/worldmap/petra/overview.cfm)

### **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, Amman Deluxe rooms**



Between the prestigious Al Sweifiyah residential area and the Shmeisani financial district, Four Seasons offers Amman's finest setting for business or leisure. Its dramatic hilltop location presents breathtaking views of the surrounding cityscape. The 15-storey hotel offers 192 generously sized guest rooms and suites – renowned as the largest in the city. <http://www.fourseasons.com/amman/>