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GLOBAL EDUCATION**

**A Study Tour for Teachers**

**“Educating Educators about the Middle East”**



**Opportunity to earn graduate course credit!**

**June 15th – 25th, 2011**

**Price: \$2995 (Excluding Airfare)**

**Space is limited, sign up by March 1st**

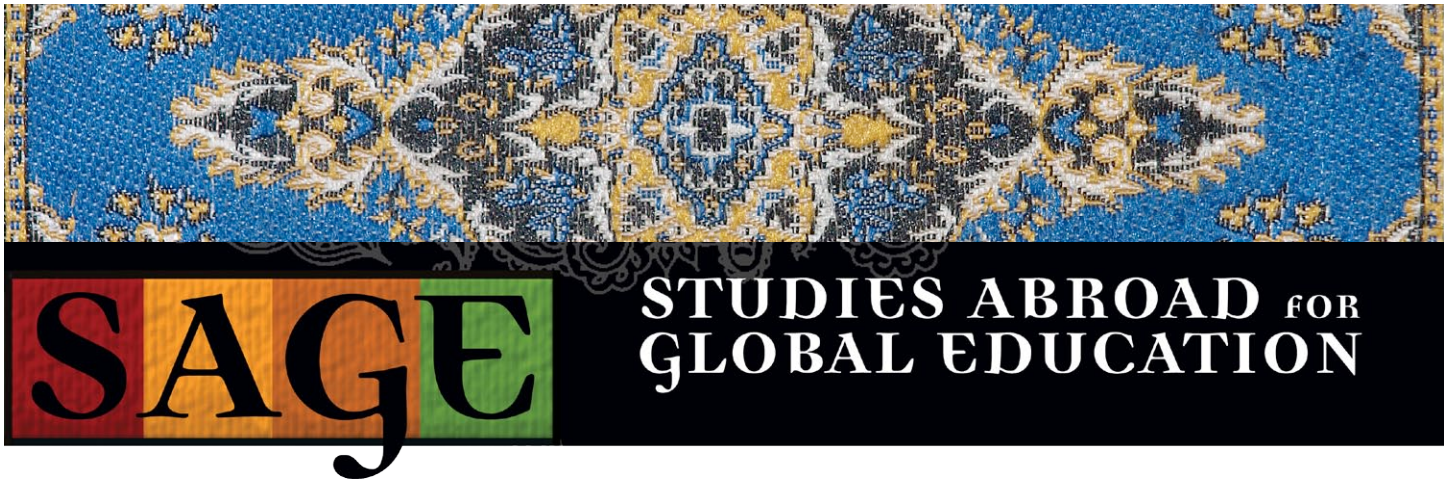
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## Course Description:

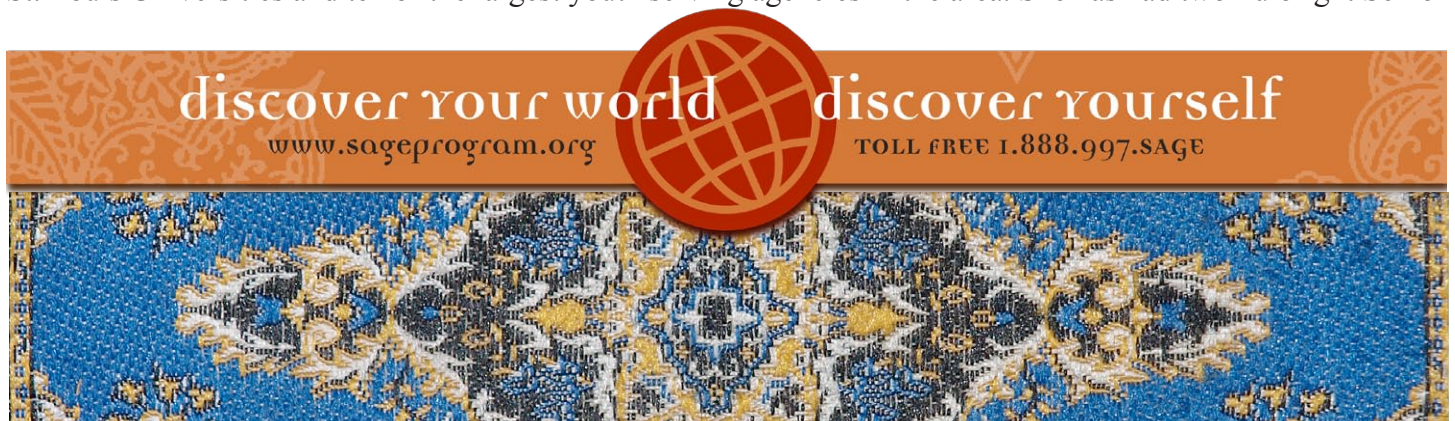
To many Westerners, the people, politics and religions of the Middle East remain mysterious, confounding, and even dangerous. Our intrinsic cultural fear of the “other” is partly to blame for this mistrust; the narrow lens of the Western media, which tends to focus primarily on the negative and sensational, is another factor.

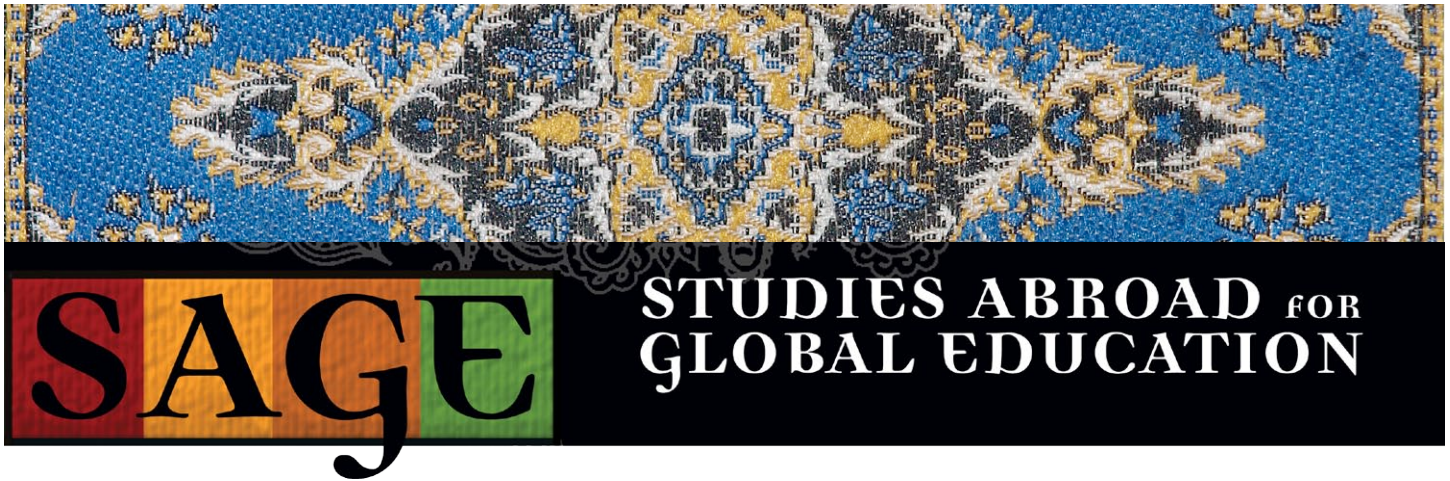
The aim of this course is to circumvent these fears and selective reports by providing educators with first-hand exposure to and interaction with the people, culture, history and educational systems of the Middle East—Muslim, Christian and Jewish—in order to break down stereotypes and misconceptions about the region. The program will include visits to both public and private local primary and secondary schools in Jordan and Israel, as well as major historic sites in the region (Petra, Jerusalem, Dead Sea, et. al.). Participants will visit schools, meet and exchange ideas with other teachers (both local and expatriate) and attend lectures aimed at broadening their understanding of what it means to live and learn in the Middle East. Visits to historic sites—including mosques, churches and synagogues--will focus on the shared monotheistic traditions of the peoples of the Middle East, and place the Arab-Israeli conflict into historical perspective. Participants taking the course for credit will submit a follow-up report or praxis on how they will incorporate material from the trip into their curricula.

## Instructors:

Judith Cochran, Ph. D.  
E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Tutorial Education  
Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Dr. Cochran is Director of the E. Desmond Lee Regional Institute of Tutorial Education: a collaborative of six St. Louis Universities and ten of the largest youth serving agencies in the area. She has had two Fulbright Senior





Lectureships in the Middle East, a grant to study in China, published three books and over 30 articles on education, student retention, literacy and technology. She produced a PBS TV series, three instructional video series and served on national review boards for the Fulbright Commission, the Department of Education and the International Reading Association. Based upon her publications on education in the Middle East, Dr. Cochran was invited to be a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas (Summer 2005) and at the College of Education and CMES at University of Arizona (Spring 2006). In April 2005 *Convergence*, The International Journal of Adult Education, published Dr. Cochran's "Adult Education Providing Leadership in Peace in Palestine and Israel." (<http://coe.umsl.edu/web/faculty/elaps/cochranju.cfm>)

Tom Verde, MA

Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations

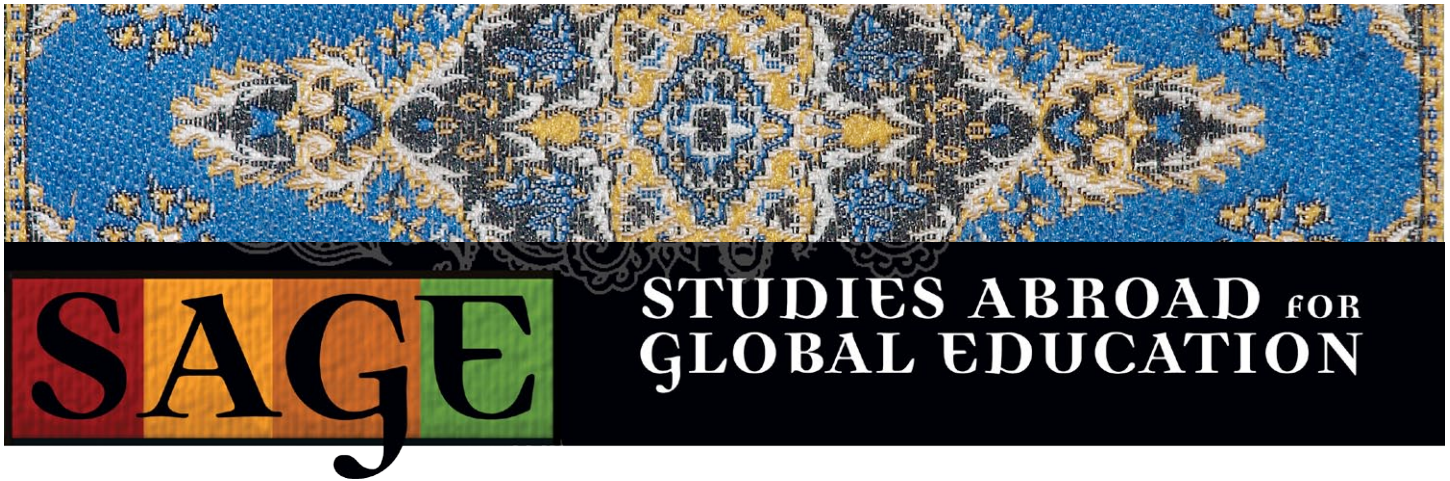
Journalist

Award-winning journalist Tom Verde was on the faculty of King's Academy in 2009/10 in the Department of Ethics, Philosophy and Religion.

Mr. Verde has travelled extensively throughout the Middle East, Africa and Europe reporting on the history and culture of Islam and early Christianity for a host of nationally-recognized news outlets including The New York Times, the Boston Globe and public radio. He is the author of several books and has published in various publications such as Newsweek, Travel and Leisure, National Geographic Adventure, Biblical Archaeology and Saudi Aramco World, where he is a regular contributor.

In 1999/2000, Verde spent several months retracing the ancient frankincense trail for a public radio series on the history of the trade route which took him across the Arabian Peninsula and through five countries. In 2000, he also produced a public radio series on the history of Cairo, for which he received a National Headliner Award for best radio documentary series as well as a New York Festivals award. His graduate school career was distinguished by numerous awards and honors, including the William Thompson scholarship for notable proficiency in the field of Biblical studies, three Lilly Foundation/Religion Newswriters Association scholarships in Religion for Journalists, a Regional MENSA Education and Research Foundation Scholarship and a scholarship to study Islam and the





West at Berlin's Freie Universität. He was also nominated for the MENSA Margot Seitelman National Scholarship for Professional Writers/English teachers, the Best Graduate Student Paper award by the Middle East Studies Association and a Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowship in Religion and Science.

Mr. Verde obtained his Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Rhode Island and his Master's degree in Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations from Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut.

## Lectures:

"The modern Middle East" HE Senator Akel Biltaji

"Education in the Middle East" Judith Cochran

"Arab Heritage Through the Lens of Literature" Samia Doany and Hani Olayyan, Faculty, CRLA (Communication, Rhetoric and the Literary Arts) Department, King's Academy.

"Women in the Middle East" Judith Cochran

"Aspects of Archaeology in Jordan" by Dr. Barbara A. Porter, ACOR director

"History of Food in the Middle East and its Influences on Western Culture" Tom Verde

"The Arab-Israeli Conflict: An Overview" Allan Rabinowitz, journalist, guide and staff member at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies, Jerusalem.

"Traveling the King's Highway through the Biblical Land of Jordan" Tom Verde





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### Your highlights:

**Amman:** Jordan's modern capital and the ancient capital of the Ammonites; a sprawling city, like Rome, of seven hills and seat of power for Biblical kings, Roman governors, Byzantine bishops, and Ummayad court officials. Visit the Amman B. School, the El Sherrif School, and the Modern American School.

**Jerash:** All the might of imperial Rome is on display the ruins of this provincial city, the most well-preserved and extensive Roman ruins in the Middle East.

**Jerusalem:** The roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam intertwine in this historic and holy city which rabbinic scholars and medieval cartographers named "the navel of the world." Visit an elementary school in Jaffa and a university in West Bank.

**Dead Sea:** Stand at the lowest point on Earth and float weightlessly in the waters of its famous inland sea.

**Mt. Nebo:** Gaze across the plains of Moab to the Promised Land as Moses did from the heights of this holy mountain where the Biblical prophet is believed to be buried.

**Petra:** Explore the ancient, rock-hewn ruins of the Nabataens, and wander through centuries of Biblical/Roman/Byzantine history.

**Baptism Site:** A 1st century CE site of baptismal pools and churches, believed to be the very place where John the Baptist preached and Jesus was baptised.

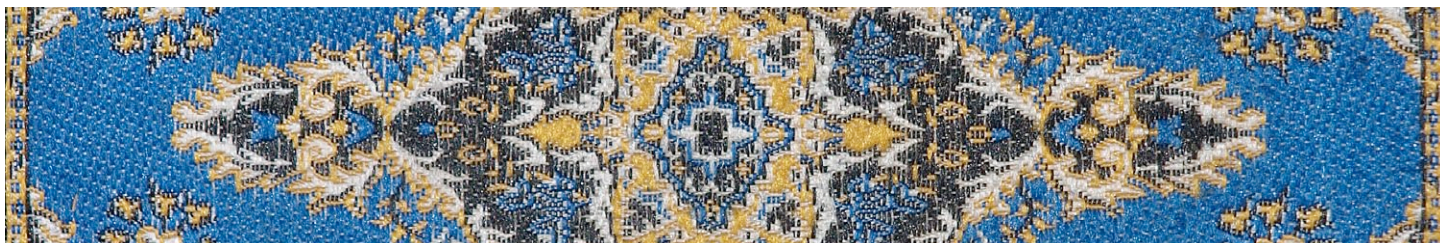
**Wadi Rum:** Follow in the footsteps of camel caravans and Lawrence of Arabia through a dramatic desert landscape which Lawrence characterized as "vast, echoing and god-like."

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## Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Arrive in Amman. After checking into your hotel and resting, attend a reception at King's Academy at headmaster's house, followed by an introductory dinner where we review the program, distribute materials and meet several King's staff and faculty.

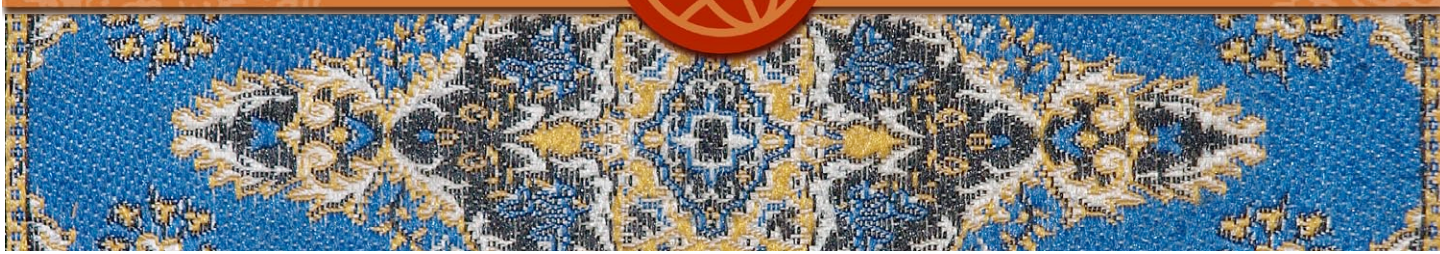
**Day 2:** Return to King's for campus tour in the morning, and meeting with King's faculty members for brainstorming session on Middle Eastern Studies lesson plan development and cultural exchange. Visit the nearby mosaic town of Madaba, a Moabite settlement, famed for its 6th century mosaic map of Palastine and lower Egypt which depicts the Nile River, the Dead Sea and many features of Jerusalem still recognizable today. Visit the local Greek orthodox school plus the Archeological Park, which occupies the site of



a Byzantine villa. Enjoy a lunch of traditional Middle Eastern fare at Haret Jdoudna, a restored complex of Ottoman-era merchant houses, gardens and terraces mixed with ancient Roman features. Continue on to Mt. Nebo, where Moses first

looked upon the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34:1, 4-5: 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

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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). At Mt. Nebo, see mosaics in a Byzantine church built over the site believed to be the tomb of Moses and gaze, as he did, across the plains of Moab to Jericho and the Dead Sea. Descend

to Amman Beach for a swim in the Dead Sea's famously bouyant waters, followed by sunset photo opps and refreshments at the Dead Sea Panorama.

**Day 3:** Travel to the Baptism Site at Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan (John 1:28), where John the Baptist preached, Jesus was baptised, and

where Christianity as a new world religion began. Also visit Elijah's Hill, where the prophet ascended to heaven in a fiery chariot and wander among the ruins of Byzantine-era church complexes and baptismal pools on the banks of the Jordan River. Enjoy lunch at a seafood restaurant close by the Jordan and dine on locally harvested tilapia, aka, "St. Peter's fish," believed to be the species with which Christ fed the multitudes. Spend the afternoon exploring Amman—Rabbat Ammon of the Hebrew Bible (II Samuel 11:1; Ezekiel 21:20)--the Iron Age capital of Ammonites, known to the Romans as Philadelphia, one of the cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Greco-Roman trading centers. Sightseeing includes the Jordan Archaeological Museum, with antiquities dating from prehistoric times to the 15th century; the Citadel, where Uriah the Hittite fell (II Samuel 11:15-17); the Umayyad



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Palace of the Muslim caliphs; and the temple of Hercules, erected during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Browse the shops of the city's old and new quarters, and visit the magnificent blue-domed King Abdullah mosque. Enjoy a reception and dinner at the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR).

**Day 4:** Travel to Jerash, one of the most well-preserved Roman provincial cities in the Middle East mentioned in both Matthew (4:25) and Mark (5:20, 7:31). Tourists are free to explore the numerous temples, amphitheaters and public spaces of this once-thriving center of worship and trade. In the afternoon, head north to Aljoun to explore Qala'at ar-Rabad (Aljoun Castle), a Crusader-era fortress with sweeping views of the Jordan valley from its crenelated turrets. Continue to the Jabbock River and Pella, where Jacob wrestled with the angel (Gen. 32:

22-31) and where early Christians fled to escape Roman persecution in 66 C.E. Highlights include a massive Bronze and Iron Age temple, one of world's best preserved temples from Old Testament times,

as well as Byzantine church ruins. Continue on to Umm Qais (Gedara), where Jesus cast demons from two men into a herd of pigs (Matthew 8:28-32 and Mark 5: 1-13). The site features striking Roman/Byzantine



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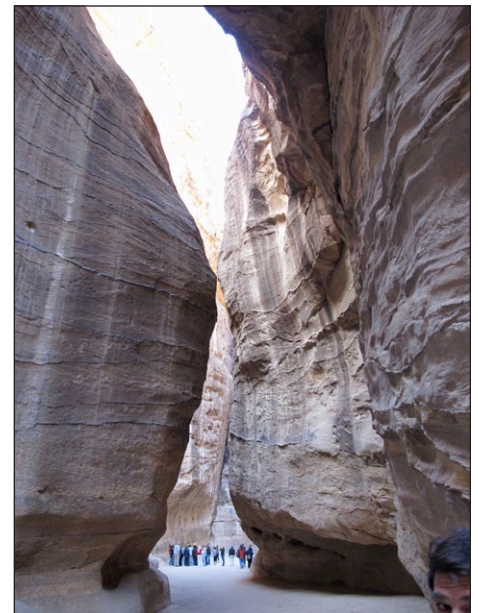
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black basalt ruins as well as breathtaking views of the Golan Heights, Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) and the distant, snow-capped mountains of Lebanon. Enjoy the views and a sunset dinner from the terrace of the Umm Qais resthouse, a restored Ottoman villa.

**Day 5:** Visit TBD school in Amman in the morning for meetings with teachers and tours of the school. Then head south along the 4000 year-old King’s Highway—the route of Moses and the Exodus (Numbers 20: 17; 21:22) and of Crusaders—to Kerak, the largest of all the mountain-top Crusader castles, built by Baldwin I of Jerusalem in 1132. After lunch in Kerak, head to Wadi Mousa and Petra to check into hotel and attend a cooking class at Petra Kitchen, where we will learn to make hot and cold mezzas (appetizers) and local favorites such as green wheat soup, gayla bandura

(sauteed tomatoes with garlic and pine nuts) and Jordan’s national dish, mansaf (lamb stewed in yogurt with spices, almonds and pine nuts).

**Day 6:** Devote a leisurely full day to touring the famed “rose-red” city of Petra and its environs, including antiquities dating from Stone Age, Edomite, Roman, Byzantine and Crusader eras. Home to the Nabataens, who carved their houses, tombs, public buildings and water systems in the living rock more than 2000 years ago, Petra was a major trading stop along the caravan route from southern Arabia to Damascus and Alexandria. Begin at the Siq, the mile-long entranceway to the site, and arrive at the magnificent and imposing Treasury, the best-preserved of Petra’s 800 tombs. Wander down the city’s main collonaded street, and see the architectural legacies of the conquerors and occupants who followed, including Roman temples



and Byzantine mosaic chapels. Explore caves where Bedouin families lived for centuries—up until as recently as 30 years ago—and bargain with them for locally-made handicrafts and jewelry. We’ll also the visit the mountains encircling Petra, including Aaron’s Mountain (Jabal Harun), the highest peak in

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the area (4000 feet above sea-level) and a place of great sanctity to local Bedouin, and Muslims in general, as the site where it is believed Moses' brother Aaron died and was buried. A 14th century mosque stands here with its white dome visible from most areas in and around Petra.

**Day 7:** Travel south to Wadi Rum,

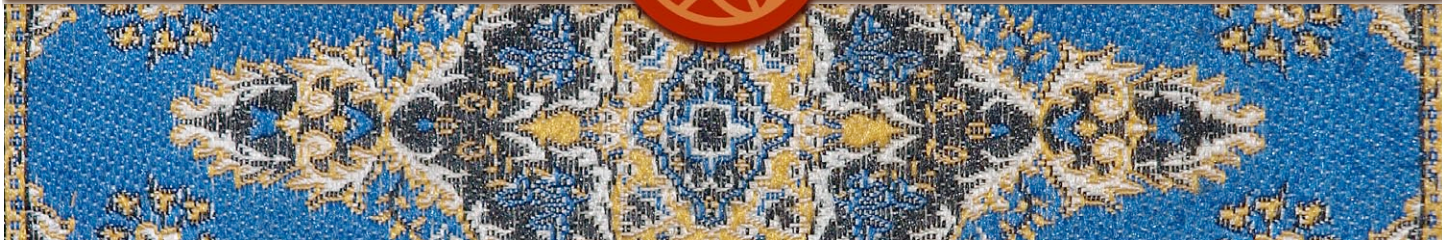
Jordan's largest desert and one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. T. E. Lawrence (aka Lawrence of Arabia), who campaigned here during the Arab revolt, called it "vast, echoing and god-like." Director David Lean also filmed parts of "Lawrence of Arabia" here, using local Bedouin as extras. We'll explore this incredible desert terrain of

red sand dunes and wind-sculpted mountains in the company of Bedouin guides by jeep or camel, wandering through vast canyons, scrambling over dunes and rocks, and searching for prehistoric petroglyphs carved into the stone. Wind down the day at a private camp in the middle of the desert where a large Bedouin tent will be set to serve as the group's sitting room and platformed tents will be set up for sleeping. Enjoy a traditional Bedouin barbecue dinner party around a bonfire with live music, then lie back on carpets and cushions and linger over fragrant mint tea or cardamom-flavored coffee while gazing up at a star-studded night canopy that stretches from horizon to horizon.



**Day 8:** A day of travel: Wadi Rum to Amman, where we stop for lunch at Al-Wahah, a traditional tented restaurant, then cross border into Israel at the Allenby Bridge. Arrival

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in Jerusalem; check into hotel and dinner.

**Day 9:** Full day of touring the Old City of Jerusalem. We'll visit sites sacred to all three monotheistic faiths, including: the Wailing Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the last remnant of the temple built by Herod the Great in 19 BCE on the site of the original temple built by Solomon; the Via Dolorosa (the "Way of Suffering"), the route which Christ followed on his way to his crucifixion and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to be the site of Christ's burial and resurrection; the Mount of Olives where Jesus taught and the Garden of Gethsemane, where he began his Passion; the Temple Mount, third holiest site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina, known as al-Haram (Noble Sanctuary), where Muhammad ascended to heaven on his "night journey." The Temple



Your fearless leader, Tom Verde.

Mount is known to Jews as Mount Moriah, the place where Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac.

**Day 10:** Visit to an Israeli school in the morning, followed by tour of Tantur Ecumenical Institute for

Theological Studies on the way to Bethlehem to see the Church of the Nativity, built above the grotto where Jesus was born. We'll also visit a Palestinian school in the afternoon, then depart for Amman for evening flight to U.S.

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