



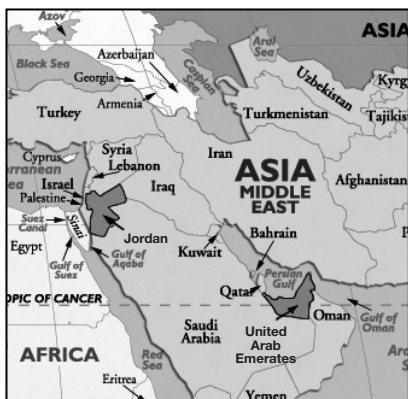
Hadrian's Gate, Jerash



Atop Mt. Nebo



Crossing Wadi Rum



Mapping our journey . . .

Jordan & Dubai: Contrasting Arab Worlds

March 10 – 22, 2009

Trip Cost, land only: \$7040. (Double occupancy, based on a minimum of 20 travelers and on currency exchange rates as of August, 2008. In the event of significant fluctuation in the exchange rate, tour price or inclusions are subject to change.)

Single Supplement: \$2515.

Deposit: \$1000 per person **Balance is due on or before December 8, 2008.**

Please note: We are considering an optional extension to Oman if there is sufficient interest; please indicate your interest on the response form.

Travelers must be **both** OMCA & Art Guild members.

Inclusions: 4 nights at The Grand Hyatt Amman; 2 nights at the Marriott Petra, 1 night at the Ishtar Kempinski, 5 nights at The Palace at the Old Town, Dubai; 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners, transportation by deluxe motor coach and 4 wheel-drive vehicles; all sight-seeing and activities as listed; services of a Distant Horizons tour manager throughout; the services of local guides; all gratuities to porters, waiters, all guides and drivers for all activities on the itinerary; airport/hotel transfers for group arrivals and departures.

Exclusions: International airfare; flight between Amman, Jordan and Dubai on Emirates Airlines, flight #902 on March 17, 2009; Jordan Visa fee, \$15; excess baggage charges and items of a purely personal nature.

Air Travel: If ten or more people are interested in travel on the same dates and routing, a group airfare on Emirates Airlines (non stop, SFO-Dubai) which *includes the round trip flights from Dubai to Amman* will be offered at a very attractive rate. Distant Horizons will assist with group bookings and all other airline reservations including upgrades and tickets "purchased" with airline miles for no service fee. **Please contact Katie Kennedy at Distant Horizons, 1-800-333-1240 or 562-983-8828.**

Cancellation Policy: For cancellation prior to December 8, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 cancellation fee plus any necessary surcharges. After December 8, no refunds will be made. No refunds will be made for unused portions of the trip. Cancellations must be in writing.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

Please note: While every effort will be made to carry out the trip as planned, it is subject to changes deemed necessary by, and/or beyond the control of the OMCA Art Guild and Distant Horizons; Distant Horizons and OMCA Art Guild reserve the right to make comparable substitutions when necessary. OMCA Art Guild reserves the right to cancel the tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient number of participants as well as the right, without penalty, to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip at any time. CST # 204-6776-10, # 202-4420-40.

THIS TRIP IS PHYSICALLY ACTIVE & INCLUDES CONSIDERABLE WALKING;
PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE PACE OF THE GROUP.

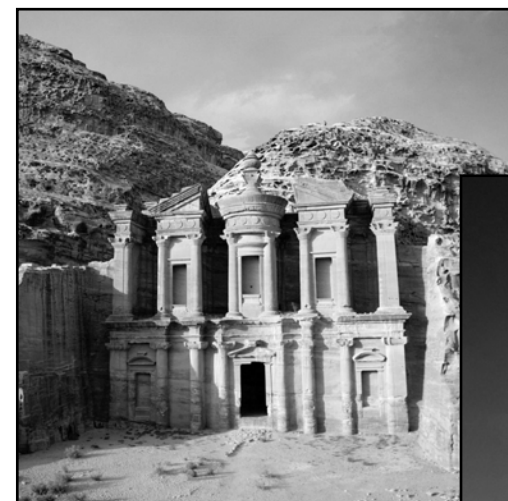


**Trip Leaders: Judy Wood, 925-254-7047
Evans Wyro, 925-254-5295**

The purpose of the Art Guild is to support the Art Department through education, outreach, fundraising and service.

The Oakland Museum of California Art Guild Travels to

Jordan & Dubai Contrasting Arab Worlds



The Treasury, Petra



Burj al Arab, Dubai

Icons of the Past . . .
Visions of the Future

March 10 - 22, 2009

Jordan & Dubai: Contrasting Arab Worlds

This extraordinary Middle-Eastern adventure is different from any we have ever experienced before . . . and our two destinations reveal two dramatically different perspectives on the Arab world!

Peter Greenberg, NBC's expert travel editor, speaks of **Jordan as "an ancient land with a very modern attitude. . . All who come here are moved by its beauty, its people and its soul."** Here, we'll explore history, perfectly preserved to reveal a mystical land that, throughout the ages, has witnessed the triumphs and milestones of the world's great religions.

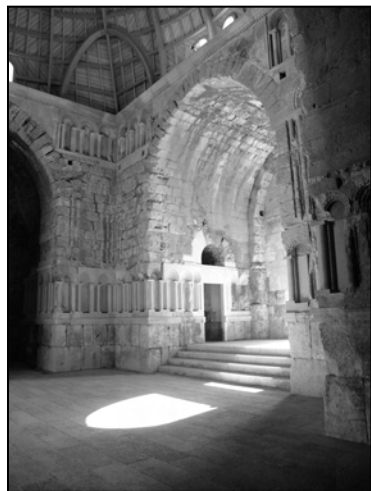
Dubai, currently the fastest growing city in the world, began as a small fishing village in the early 1800's and is now one of the seven United Arab Emirates (UAE) formed in 1971. In its brief history, it has become "one of the most fascinating cities on the planet!" During our stay, we'll venture to **Abu Dhabi**, capital of the UAE and to **Sharjah**, the third Emirate on our itinerary, was named the *Capital of Arab Culture* by UNESCO.

We are fortunate to have Janet Moore, President and owner of Distant Horizons, as our Tour Manager along with carefully selected, experienced, local guides who will enhance the remarkably memorable experience that awaits us!

While in JORDAN, our itinerary includes . . .

AMMAN– 4 nights at the Grand Hyatt Amman.

Though ruins of a culture thousands of years old are evident, Amman is very much a modern Arab city embracing an earthy downtown and urbane western suburbs. We begin in this urban, commercial and cultural center of Jordan.



The Citadel, Amman

Here, rolling hills give way to leafy residential areas, trendy cafes and impressive art galleries. Highlights include:

◆ A briefing at the US Embassy and a walking tour to acquaint us with the old part of Amman; **The Citadel**, the ancient palatial complex, is now home to the **National Archaeological Museum** chronicling Amman's history; behind it are the remains of the Roman Temple of Hercules built from 161 to 180 AD.

◆ "Briefings" by the Director of the **American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR)** and representatives of the **Petra National Trust** will enhance our understanding of Jordan's commitment to the preservation of sites which exemplify its rich and varied cultural heritage.

◆ A private cocktail reception and dinner at the **Dar Al Anda Gallery** which displays art in a wonderful space that affords dramatic views of Amman.

◆ A visit with the Director of **The National Gallery**, founded by HRH Princess Wijdan Ali who was recently appointed Jordan's Ambassador to Rome.

◆ The **castle and caves in the village of Iraq al-Amir** west of Amman; the women of the Iraq al-Amir Society will prepare a home cooked meal for us and talk with us about their lives.

◆ **Afternoon tea at the home of Widad Kwar** who has the largest collection of **traditional costumes, textiles and jewelry** from village, Bedouin and city communities in the Arab world. . .and a chance to "dress up" in the costumes!

◆ A meeting with the head of the **Arab Archives Institute**, author of the study, **Freedom Fries: Fried Freedoms, Arab Satellite Channels' Struggle Between State Control and Western Pressure**. The Institute's focus is media/press freedoms and human rights issues.

◆ A short drive to the north, we'll enter a world of the past. **JERASH**, first inhabited 6000 years ago, is **one of the best preserved Roman provincial cities in the Middle East**. We'll walk back in time to the site of the 2000 year old Hippodrome, temples, churches, a market place and baths that once served a population of nearly 20,000.

DANA, PETRA – The Marriott Petra

We'll travel through red and white sandstone cliffs along the ancient, picturesque King's Highway, to **Mt. Nebo where Moses is said to be buried**. On a clear day, the Dead Sea and the spires of Jerusalem's churches are visible from this site! At the top of Nebo are the ruins of a **small church and monastery with spectacularly well preserved mosaic floors visited by Pope John II**.

◆ Our next stop is **Madaba** to see the famous **sixth century map of Palestine, a dramatic mosaic**; though it was **originally created ca. 560 AD using over two million pieces, many features are still recognizable today!**

◆ **Before heading down the "wadi," (valley)** we'll explore the enchanting honeycomb of stone houses, fertile orchards and terraced gardens of Dana Village, occupied since 4000 BC. Here, we'll **meet local farmers, visit a traditional bakery and Dana's Jam Factory**.

PETRA – Marriott Petra

We'll spend a **full day at this most spectacular archaeological site of the Middle**



Wadak Rock Bridge, Wadi Rum

East. One of the "new 7 Wonders of the World," its existence remained a carefully guarded secret until the early 19th Century. We'll walk through the mile long twists and turns of the 60 foot high narrow gorge, or "siq." Suddenly, the sandstone walls open to reveal **the grandest of icons, The Treasury, one of the few protected UNESCO World Heritage sites. Standing majestically alone and carved deep into the rose-pink sandstone rock, its fine architectural detail has been beautifully preserved and was the site of the film, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade!** We'll continue further into the valley to explore the ruins of a city, its Amphitheater, the Royal Tombs and the Temple of Winged Lions.

◆ Our day ends at **Petra Kitchen where we'll learn to cook the traditional food before enjoying a wonderful dinner.**

WADI RUM and THE DEAD SEA

The Ishtar Kempinski Hotel

A morning drive takes us to **Wadi Rum** where pillars of massive, strangely shaped sandstone rock towering 1500 meters high rise abruptly from the sandy desert floor. **Here, an hour long jeep ride into the magnificent landscape takes us to the site of the epic film, Lawrence of Arabia. A camel ride into the silent desert adds to this amazing experience. We'll enjoy a special Bedouin lunch before heading north to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on the surface of the earth!** Here, due to the high rate of evaporation, a mixture of salts and minerals give the sea its "glutinous" surface – **enjoy an effortless "float" or an optional legendary therapeutic skin treatment with minerals from the Dead Sea.**

Itinerary continues on insert.

Our trip continues to the United Arab Emirates!
Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah



“The Palace” that will be our home for five nights

We bid a fond farewell to Jordan as we board a morning flight to **DUBAI**, “a 21st century *phenomenon*.” The Emirates have sought to reinvest the fruits of the oil boom into industrial and service sectors – the result is amazing! Yet, as development surges forward at a dizzying pace, the country’s new leadership aims to promote the Emiratis’ pride in their heritage and culture and in preservation of their historical and archaeological sites. **Dubai Creek** runs through the heart of the city; a water taxi takes us to the **Dubai Museum** for a fascinating introduction to life in Dubai prior to the discovery of oil.

◆ We’ll visit the area known as **Jumeirah**, headquarters of the development of **The Palm Island Trilogy**; here, a briefing for our group will focus on two new man-made island developments that will be visible from outer space: **The Palm Islands** and **The World!** A third island, **The Palm Deira**, expects nearly a million residents by the end of this year. All are scheduled to be completed prior to our arrival. Learn more at: www.thepalm.ae/ & www.theworld.ae/



Dubai’s Palm Islands



Jumeirah Grand Mosque, Dubai

◆ We'll meet the director (schedule permitting) of **Art Dubai**, an exhibition of cutting-edge contemporary art that has established itself as a yard-stick for the emerging art scene in the region. **This important juried show** includes artists currently living and working in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. **The Creek Art Fair**, running at the same time, showcases the work of emerging artists from the UAE including some who have international reputations. We'll wander through galleries in the area known as **Bastakia** and visit with the owner of **XVA Gallery**. Later, we'll meet with **five emerging women artists** as well as an **established artist who is personal art advisor to a Sheikh's wife!**

◆ In a city of numerous mosques, the largest and one of the most beautiful, the **Jumeirah Grand Mosque**, is a spectacular example of modern Islamic architecture. Generally, non-Muslims are not permitted to enter, but **we have been granted special permission to attend a unique presentation** by a Muslim entitled **Open Hearts, Open Minds**. Though other faiths are tolerated and officially sanctioned, this will introduce us to Islam, the state religion, and Muslim life in the UAE today.

The UAE is well known for its use of oil as the chief engine of its thrust to modernity. **ABU DHABI**, its capital, represents 80% of the total land mass and holds 90% of its oil reserves; though just 50 years ago, it was little

more than a fort surrounded by a modest village and a few hundred date palms!

◆ Our day's excursion takes us through the world's largest man-made seaport and continues through coastal desert scenery studded with acacia trees. Modern skyscrapers and palaces, many with contemporary interpretations of ancient Islamic themes, line the Corniche overlooking the blue waters of the Gulf. At the vibrant **Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation**, its noted artistic and cultural center, we'll hear about efforts "to make Abu Dhabi the cultural center of the region."

◆ We'll visit the opulent **Emirates Palace Hotel** for a look at a multi-million dollar **exhibition of images and models for an island sanctuary** off the coast of Abu Dhabi. Due for completion by 2018, it is divided into seven zones including major beach and golf resorts and most importantly, **cultural destinations including satellites of The Louvre designed by Jean Nouvel, The Guggenheim designed by Frank Gehry, a performing arts center by Zaha Hadid and a maritime museum by Tadao Ando.**

Just a few minutes' drive from Dubai is **SHARJAH**, –"the anti-Dubai"– a 19th century center of a vibrant pearl trading industry. When "cultured pearls" contributed to its demise as a

mercantile district, the fine, functional homes built by wealthy pearl traders fell into disrepair. Recently, they have been **faithfully restored and many have been converted to museums reflecting aspects of Arab and Islamic heritage.** In this "cultural capital"



The Central Souq, Sharjah

we'll visit **two of the most interesting neighborhoods in the UAE and save time for a stop at the souqs**, perhaps the best place to shop for that perfect souvenir!

Join us for what promises to be an unforgettable introduction to two fascinating Arab worlds, each affording new insights on the past as well as an extraordinary "up-close" look into the future of this dynamic region.
Please reserve early as space is limited.