Pilgrimages to Jordan —
Five Biblical Pilgrimage Sites and Petra

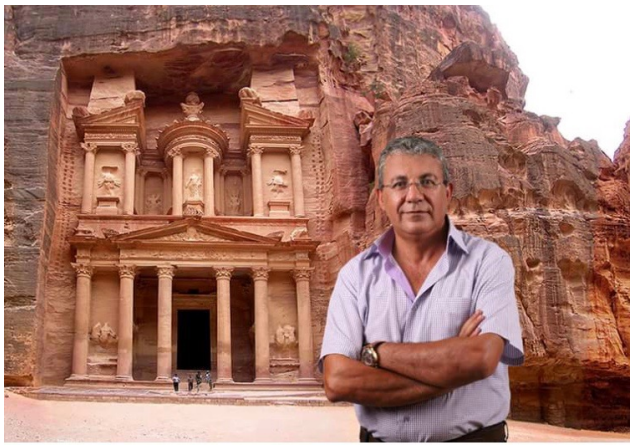
We land in Amman and spend 5 days and 5 nights in Jordan. We drive across the Sheik Hussein Bridge into Galilee.

Arrive in Amman, then head north to Ajloun, Anjara, Jerash, the Jordan River, Madaba, the Jordan Valley, Machaerus, Petra, the Dead Sea Resort, the Baptismal Site, and the Jordan River, then cross into Israel at the Sheik Hussein Bridge. Then, 8 days and nights in Israel.

Our guide is **Elias** (Elijah) **Khzuz**. He is a Roman Catholic Bedouin Arab. We are godparents to his daughter Leah, whom we baptized in the Jordan River 25 years ago.









Pope John Paul II visited Jordan in 2000 and designated 5 pilgrimage sites that carry special spiritual blessings for those who visit all five.

We visit all five sites and receive a blessing from our priest when we renew our baptismal vows where Jesus was baptized—on the Jordan side of the river.

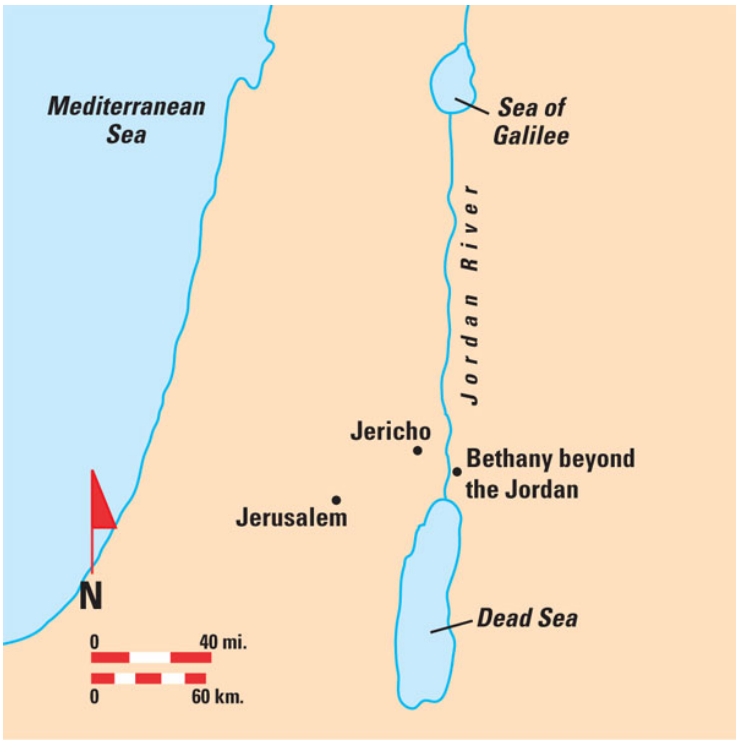


Five pilgrimage Sites in Jordan:

- **1. Baptism site of Jesus** and **Hill of Elijah** in "Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan" John 1:28

  -2000th anniversary of Jesus' baptism - beat the rush

  -Today the area is called Al-Maghtas, "the place of baptism"[1]



[1] The term Al-Maghtas has historically been used for the area stretching across both banks of the river. The western part is also known as Qasr el-Yahud. An ancient Jewish tradition identified the site of crossing with the same one used by Joshua, thus with Al-Maghtas, and the site of Elijah's ascension with Tell el-Kharrar, also known as Jabal Mar Elias, "Hill of Prophet Elijah".

- **2. Mount Nebo —** Moses looked out over the Promised Land and died at 120 years old.

  -2 Mac 2:4–5: "[Jeremiah] received an oracle, that the tent and the ark should follow with him and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up [Nebo] and had seen the inheritance of God. [He] found a cave, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense, and he sealed up the entrance."

- **3. Tel Mar Elias — Tishbe** — birthplace of Elijah, 6th-century church — Greek mosaic dated 622 AD. "Saba the Priest asks for the blessing of Prophet Elijah" 👉



  -1 Kings 17:1: "Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab …"

- **4. Our Lady of the Mount** in Anjara to the north near Aljoun

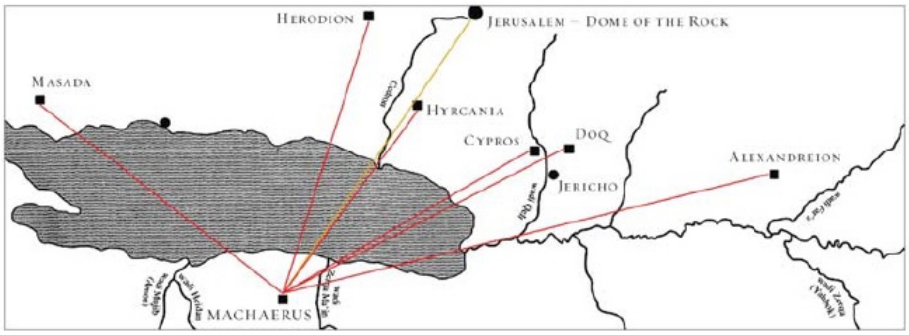
  -The least-known and least-visited of the five Catholic sites. Early Christian writings maintain that the Virgin Mary accompanied Jesus as they passed through these mountains on their way from Jerusalem to Galilee.

  -Lovely church and school. The church is lined with large images of all the Rosary Mysteries. A statue of Mary that has wept oil, scientifically verified.

- **5. Mukawir (**Ma-cow'-er**) — Machareus** — Mountaintop Herodian fortress. Imprisonment and beheading of John the Baptist.

  -Josephus wrote, "Accordingly [John the Baptist] was sent a prisoner, out of Herod's suspicious temper, to Macherus, the castle I before mentioned, and was there put to death." (Book 18, Chap. 5)





Other Biblical Sites in Jordan

1. Jerash — Jesus was in the district of the Gerasenes or Gadara, which is today the ruins of the ancient city of Jerash.

-Luke 8:37: "And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes [Jerash] and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He

got into a boat and returned."

2. **Petra** — Biblical city — a city carved from stone

   -*Sela* (Hebrew “rock”); The traditional view has long identified the site with the city of Petra, later the capital of the Nabateans.

   -Isaiah 16:1: “Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, from **Sela**, by way of the desert, to the mount of the daughter of Zion."

3. **Moses** (Wadi Mousa) and High Priest Aaron.

4. **Aaron’s tomb** on top of Mount Hor.

   -Num 20:28: “Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son. And Aaron died there on the top of Mount Hor. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain."

5. **Magi —** some speculate they came from Petra.

6. St. Paul passed through Petra on his way to Mount Sinai. “I went away into Arabia (to Sinai), and returned again to Damascus.” (Gal 1:17; 4:25).

   -Aretas, related to Paul in Damascus, ruled from Petra. 2 Cor 11:32: “At Damascus, the governor under **King Aretas** was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me,"

7. **King’s Highway** (Num 20:17; 21:22)

8. We drive through the biblical lands of **Gilead**, **Ammon** (Amman), **Moab**, and **Edom**.



9. Ruth came from Moab; **Esau** founded Edom (means “red”),

10. Three tribes received land east of the Jordan: **Gad**, **Reuben**, and the **half-tribe of Manasseh**. (Num 32:33–42)