

# Calvin University Middle East Study Tour, May–June 2022



**WHAT:** An exciting faculty-led Middle East travel experience that explores the deep links between the region's past and its contemporary cultures and challenges, including its major religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Participate in a real archaeological dig, helping to excavate and record a 1500-year-old church at Calvin's own archaeological site: Umm al-Jimal, Jordan's next UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the site of Jesus's baptism, the hometown of the prophet Elijah, the fortress where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded, and (just as Moses did) look out over the "promised land" from Mount Nebo. Float in the Dead Sea, explore the ancient and modern city of Amman, traverse the canyons and tombs of Petra, sleep in a Bedouin tent camp, ride a camel, and enjoy desert barbecues and other local cuisines. Worship in the ruins of an ancient cathedral and modern Arab Christian churches, visit mosques, and welcome Shabbat in Jerusalem's Old City. Live and speak with local Muslims, learn about their beliefs and practices, and how to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue. Learn from Middle Eastern teachers, business leaders, government officials, development and relief workers, and more. Hear multiple perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, learning to understand him and his message within the context of Middle Eastern culture. Transform your life and be better equipped to be an agent of renewal!

**LEADER:** Prof. Darrell Rohl ([dr33@calvin.edu](mailto:dr33@calvin.edu))

**WHERE:** Jordan, Israel, and Palestine

**ACADEMIC CREDIT:** Optional academic undergraduate credit is available from Calvin University for the following courses, all taught by Prof. Darrell J. Rohl:

HIST 233: Modern Middle East - 3 credit hours

IDIS 340: Fieldwork in Archaeology - 3 credit hours

Students may enroll in one or both courses and there are no prerequisites for either course. Courses run over an 8-week period, from 4 May to 25 June. Within this period, primary course delivery is during the travel experience (10 May to 6 June) but there will be an online introduction prior to travel and a limited asynchronous online component following the conclusion of travel. Final coursework deadlines will be on 25 June.

**COSTS:** The following programs costs apply, depending upon number of academic credits:

Visitor (no credits): \$2,700

Student (3 credits): \$3,800 (includes base “visitor” fee and 3 academic credits)

Student (6 credits): \$4,500 (includes base “visitor” fee and 6 academic credits)

The “visitor” fee represents the base cost that covers the full travel experience (including accommodation, meals, transportation, entrance fees, programed cultural experiences, archaeological training, and weekend tours) during the established field school dates (10 May to 6 June). International airfare and entrance visas are NOT included and are the responsibility of each participant. Participants are strongly encouraged to purchase the Jordan Wanderer Pass (\$99, available at <https://jordanpass.jo/Contents/Prices.aspx>, and which includes entrance visa to Jordan) prior to travelling.

**HOW TO APPLY:** All participants MUST apply via the Calvin University Off Campus Programs online application system: <https://calvinuniversity-horizons.symlicity.com/>

The easiest way to find this program is to select Jordan or Israel from the “Destination” search filter, leaving all other search filter options blank. Please apply AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! Deposits (\$500) to secure your place will be due by 15 Feb.

# DRAFT Itinerary - 2022 Middle East Study Tour

## 3+ Weeks in Jordan, with final excursion to Jerusalem

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITIES	ACCOMMODATION
10 May	T	Depart for Amman, Jordan	Airport, Plane
11–12 May	W–TH	Arrive in Jordan, settle in at Umm al-Jimal, tour, dig prep.	UJAP Dig House
13 May	F	Dig preparation, Mafraq, evening travel to Amman	Amman Pasha Hotel
14 May	SA	TOUR: North Jordan/Decapolis (Jerash, Umm Qais, Ajloun)	Amman Pasha Hotel
15 May	SU	TOUR: Amman Citadel, Museum of Jordan, free time	UJAP Dig House
16–19 May	M–TH	Archaeological Fieldwork, classes, Mafraq, Zaatari “camp”	UJAP Dig House
20 May	F	Archaeological Fieldwork, evening travel to Madaba	Salome Hotel
21 May	SA	TOUR: Bethany, Dead Sea, Mount Nebo, Madaba	Salome Hotel
22 May	SU	TOUR: Madaba, Umm er-Rasas, Machaerus, Hisban	UJAP Dig House
23–27 May	M–F	Archaeological Fieldwork, classes, Mafraq, prepare for Petra	UJAP Dig House
28 May	SA	TOUR: Travel to Petra via Kerak and Shobak Castles	Ammarin Bedouin Camp
29 May	SU	TOUR: Petra and Little Petra, free time	Ammarin Bedouin Camp
30 May	M	Return from Petra, afternoon labs	UJAP Dig House
31 May – 2 June	T–TH	Archaeological Fieldwork (wrap-up), classes, Mafraq, Umm al-Jimal community celebration, prepare to leave Jordan	UJAP Dig House
3 June	FR	Depart for Jerusalem, settle in at Austrian Hospice, Jerusalem	Austrian Hospice
4 June	SA	City of David, Temple Mount, Israel and Rockefeller Museums	Austrian Hospice
5 June	SU	Sunday worship and dual narrative (Jewish/Palestinian) tour	Austrian Hospice
6 June	M	Depart for USA	Airport, Plane

NOTE: academic courses CONTINUE (online) until the END of Summer Session 1, 25 June.