ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS
November 7-18, 2019

12 days for $6,384 total price from Houston
($5,595 air & land inclusive plus $789 airline taxes and fees)

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.
Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Travel with us on an exclusive 12-day tour to Israel to discover a remarkable and timeless land. As you travel from the coastal plain to the Jordan Rift Valley, you’ll experience places of beauty and belief, steeped in history.

Begin in vibrant Tel Aviv where you tour the “White City” district and nearby Jaffa. In the hills of Galilee, stay at a hotel on the grounds of a kibbutz. Continue to Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and take a day trip to Nazareth and Safed. Spending the next five nights at the renowned King David Jerusalem hotel, enjoy an in-depth discovery of the “City of Gold” that includes the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, the Old City, the Western Wall, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, as well as an excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea. Explore “rose-red” Petra and the capital city of Amman with an optional 5-day/4-night post-tour Jordan extension.

With space for only 24 Rice-affiliated guests in total and several already pre-registered for this program, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place on this memorable journey through Israel!

Warm regards,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Programs
Office of Alumni Relations

RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM – ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Israel: Timeless Wonders, departing November 7, 2019. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, PO. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. You may also call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.

Full Passport Name ____________________________________________ Date of Birth ____________ Gender _____
Full Passport Name ____________________________________________ Date of Birth ____________ Gender _____
Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________ State ______________________ ZIP ___________________
Home Phone (______)_______________________ Cell Phone (______)_______________________
E-mail(s) ___________________________________ Badge Name(s) ___________________________
Please book my/our air from _______________________ I/We request an air upgrade to _____________________
I will share a room with _____________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability)
Post-Tour “Jordan: Petra & Amman” Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Israel: Timeless Wonders, November 7-18, 2019, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment

$q$ Check $q$ American Express $q$ Discover $q$ MasterCard $q$ VISA

Account # ____________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________
Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tel Aviv, Israel

Day 2: Arrive Tel Aviv
We arrive today and transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned and are at leisure to explore or relax as we wish.

Day 3: Tel Aviv
Today we travel north along the coast to Caesarea and see the ruins of an ancient Roman amphitheater and harbor. After lunch, we explore the nearby ancient port of Jaffa. We then return to the vibrant city of Tel Aviv, Israel’s arts and culture capital. Our tour features the “White City” district of distinctive Bauhaus architecture, a UNESCO World Heritage site; and the recently renovated neighborhood of Neve Tzedek. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 4: Tel Aviv/Upper Galilee
We begin our day with a visit to Independence Hall, where the state of Israel was declared in 1948. After touring here, we continue on to the artists’ village of Ein Hod, set amidst olive groves at the foot of Mt. Carmel overlooking the sea. Here we have the opportunity to visit the homes of some local artists and tour their workshops. Then we travel through the hills of Galilee to our hotel on the grounds of a kibbutz adjacent to a national park. Later we visit a working dairy farm. B,D

Day 5: Mount Bental/Tiberias
Today begins with a special tour of the kibbutz, followed by a visit to a local winery. We continue on to Mount Bental in the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Next: the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath; Tabgha, site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; and Kibbutz Ginosar, where we see the “Jesus Boat” carbon dated to 100 BCE. We travel on to Tiberias and our historic hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Important in both Judaism and Christianity, this ancient city has attracted visitors, settlers, and invaders for more than two millennia. B,D

Day 6: Tiberias/Nazareth
This morning we visit the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Then the New Testament
We explore the ruins at legendary Masada on Day 10.

comes to life as we travel to Jesus’ boyhood home of Nazareth, now a center of Christian pilgrimage. Here we visit the Church of the Annunciation, the largest church in the Middle East and where the archangel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. We enjoy lunch at a family-run dairy farm then continue to Safed, center of Jewish mysticism, home to many artists, and where we stroll the medieval streets. We visit some of the galleries here before returning to our hotel, where we dine tonight.  

Day 7: Tiberias/Jerusalem On our way to Jerusalem today we stop at the archaeological site of Beit Shean, where ongoing excavations have revealed the ruins of numerous cities. We travel on to Jerusalem, the 3,000-year-old “City of Gold,” sacred to the world’s three major monotheist religions. We get our first look from a panoramic lookout on Mt. Scopus. After lunch at a local restaurant, we spend the afternoon at the Israel Museum, whose treasures include the Dead Sea Scrolls, Shrine of the Book, a unique sculpture garden, and a scale model of Jerusalem from the Second Temple era. Dinner tonight is on our own in this eternal city. 

Day 8: Jerusalem Today we travel to the Judean Hills to the picturesque village of Ein Karem, John the Baptist’s childhood home. We continue our tour with a moving visit to Yad Vashem, Israel’s living memorial to the Holocaust on the Mount of Remembrance. Next, we enjoy an ethnic cooking class followed by lunch served with local Israeli wines. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. 

Day 9: Jerusalem/Old City This morning we visit Jerusalem’s Old City for a tour of the excavated tunnels beneath the Western Wall. Then we visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, traditional site of Golgotha where Jesus is believed to have been crucified and buried. After this sobering visit, we return to Jerusalem’s New City and the bustling outdoor market of Machane Yehuda (“Shuk”), then visit the Haas Promenade for panoramic city views. We enjoy a traditional dinner together at our hotel tonight. 

Day 10: Jerusalem/Masada/Dead Sea Today we travel to the Dead Sea to explore the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We

Post-Tour Extension

November 18-22, 2019

JORDAN:
PETRA & AMMAN
5 days/4 nights
for $1,795 total price
Single Supplement: $395

Discover the “rose-red city, half as old as time” on this exciting exploration. Plus: the capital of Amman.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Private motorcoach transportation Jerusalem/Petra/Amman
- 4 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Petra at Petra Marriott Hotel (Superior First Class), 2 nights in Amman at Amman Marriott Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Extensive included sightseeing of Petra and Amman
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
continue on to the ruins at Masada, the mountain stronghold (and UNESCO site) where Jews held out against a three-year Roman siege, and ascend by cable car to tour the ruins, overlooking the Dead Sea. Then we have the opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea before lunch together. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure in Jerusalem.  

Day 11: Jerusalem/Old City  We return to the Old City today, starting at the original settlement of the City of David, dating to at least 1800 to 1550 BCE. Our guide gives us an in-depth account of Jerusalem's history before we embark on a walking tour that takes in the Old City, including the Jewish Quarter; the ancient Cardo marketplace; and the Western Wall, sacred to Jews as the last remaining trace of the wall that enclosed and supported the Second Temple on the Temple Mount. We celebrate our Israel adventure tonight over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.  

Day 12: Depart Tel Aviv for U.S.  Very early this morning we transfer by motorcoach to Tel Aviv for our connecting flights to the United States.  

Your Tour Price Includes  
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities  
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels  
- 22 meals: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners  
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees  
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director  
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip  
- Luggage handling for one bag per person  
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers  

Tour Departs: November 7, 2019  
Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.  

- Boston, New York $5,884  
- Miami, Washington, DC $6,184  
- Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa $6,284  
- Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $6,384  
- Land Only (transfers not included) $4,695  

Please call if your city is not listed. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.  

For reservations and information, please call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price
Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day; optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 39-0 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Responsibility
The liability of the Office of Alumni Relations and Rice University, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalty fees for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., the Office of Alumni Relations, and Rice University shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.