



"Discovering the Treasures of Lebanon and Jordan & Exemplary Private Residences"

Sponsored by
Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Arranged by
Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

Thursday, October 27 to Tuesday, November 8, 2011



The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art is pleased to announce its first, unprecedented, private tour to Lebanon and Jordan, renowned for their unparalleled heritage, culture and warm hospitality, priding more spectacular UNESCO World Heritage and archeological sites than many countries. During twelve extraordinary, inspirational days and evenings, our exclusive program, organized by Pamela Hunting Darling, will offer participants expert-guided visits, conducted by internationally renowned archeologists, historians, and architects, to legendary, unrivaled sites, some inaccessible to the public, erected during the Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Nabatean, Umayyad, Crusader, and Ottoman periods, superbly preserved, as well as momentous sites of 18th to 21st century architecture.

We will also be the privileged guests of distinguished international hosts—Ambassadors, Statesmen, members of the Royal Family of Jordan, private collectors, renowned architects, artists, and interior designers—for luncheons, cocktail receptions and dinners in outstanding private residences and palaces—not open to the public—housing the highest level of architecture, décor, and rare and extensive collections of art.

This once-in-a-lifetime journey will commence in Beirut, Lebanon, acclaimed the “Paris of the East”, for 5 extraordinary days and 5 nights. We will then fly to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, considered one of the pivotal centers of the Middle East for its heritage, culture and international development, for 7 glorious days and 7 nights.

We will reside in 5-star luxury hotels, offering all the amenities of 5-star European luxury hotels: pure luxury, relaxation, and splendid décor, surroundings and views, spas, fine cuisine, hospitality to perfection, and high-speed Internet and Wi-Fi access. We will stay at Hotel Le Gray in Beirut, the Four Seasons Hotel & Spa in Amman, Kempinski Hotel Ishtar & Spa at the Dead Sea, Mövenpick Resort in Petra, and Kempinski Hotel & Spa in Aqaba.

Tour price: (1) Full tour of Lebanon & Jordan: 12 days/12 nights: \$9,000 per person double occupancy; \$1,500 single supplement. (2) Lebanon only: 5 days/5 nights: \$4,000 per person double occupancy; \$900 single supplement. (3) Jordan only: 7 days/7 nights: \$6,000 per person double occupancy; \$750 single supplement. Prices are based on 12 participants minimum (20 maximum); and a fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to ICAA.

For more information and to reserve, please call or email Pamela Huntington Darling at: Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81; Email: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com .



This exclusive tour is designed for discerning travelers, enthusiasts of emblematic historical and contemporary sites, admirable residences housing remarkable décor and art, seeking a unique cultural experience, including personal encounters and exchanges with experts and leading members of the Lebanese and Jordanian community.

Suggested Flights (at cost): **Wednesday, October 26:** 6:15 pm depart New York (JFK): 2:05 pm **arrive** Beirut (BEY) **on Thursday:** Air France 17 / 566 (connect in Paris CDG) **or** 6:15 pm depart New York (JFK): 3:45 pm **arrive** Beirut (BEY) **on Thursday:** Air France 17 / 564 (connect in Paris CDG)

Tour Highlights

Thursday, October 27 to Tuesday, November 1, 2011: Lebanon

Lebanon is a unique cultural destination. With 6,000 years of history, one of the oldest, continuously inhabited countries in the world, it is rich in diverse cultural heritage of the civilizations that have left their inimitable imprint, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Lebanon also offers breathtaking natural beauty, where mountains slope to meet the Mediterranean Sea, and where valleys dotted with rivers and forests are abundant.

Beirut, the "Paris of the Middle East", named the top place to visit in 2009 by *The New York Times*, is a fascinating city, the focal point of the region's cultural life, renowned for its cultural activities, art, theatres, fashion, cuisine and nightlife, where the past and present blend harmoniously, and where creativity in every area is in full effervescence. Professor Antonia Kanaan, highly considered for her knowledge of the region, will be our expert lecturer in Lebanon.

Thursday, October 27

Arrival at Hotel Le Gray, Beirut

Private visit with Raymond Audi and May Ogden-Smith of the Audi Mosaic Museum in Beirut, housed in a prestigious palace, splendidly restored, priding a unique, spectacular collection of mosaics and artifacts from the Phoenician, Greek, Roman, and Umayyad periods.

Welcome dinner at the residence of prominent New York City/Beirut artist Nabil Nahas, friend of ICAA, whose art is internationally recognized and whose Beirut residence is featured in the *Elle Decor USA* April issue, a spectacular home "filled with a mix of rare finds, with Indian inlays, 1940's furniture, and an impressive collection of art and sculpture...a definite must see." Distinguished members of the community will be invited to welcome us!

Friday, October 28

Byblos, the first city in Phoenicia, around 5,000 BC, and one of the oldest, continuously inhabited cities in the world; one of the most important religious, commercial and cultural centers of the Mediterranean during the Roman period. Visit to the Phoenician temples, the Crusaders castle, the ancient port and ramparts built by the Crusaders.

Private visit with distinguished architect Nabil Azar to observe what prominent architects are accomplishing in rebuilding Beirut. As well as contemporary architectural commissions that are traditionally inspired, we will observe restorations including Saint George cathedral, built in 1729. The striking combination of traditional and ultra-modern architecture is exemplary of Beirut's central district: eclectic and exhilarating.

Cocktails and dinner at the residence of Elie Gharzouzi, internationally renowned interior designer, one of the most stunning, classically inspired contemporary seaside homes in Lebanon priding the ultimate in architecture, décor, works of art, and splendid views of the Mediterranean, with prominent members of the Lebanese community.

Saturday, October 29

Baalbek, one of the most moving sites in Lebanon—its greatest Roman treasure—priding two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, counted among the wonders of the ancient world. The largest and most noble Roman temples ever built, among the best preserved, their monumental proportions proclaimed the power and wealth of Imperial Rome.

Anjar, a stronghold built by the Umayyad dynasty in the 8th century, the only archeological site entirely Arab in Lebanon, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site, revealing a regular layout reminiscent of the palace-cities of ancient times, a unique testimony to city planning under the Umayyad reign.

Cocktails and dinner at the residence of aesthetes and architects, Joseph Achkar and Michel Charrière, a majestic 18th century palace of a former Ottoman governor of Lebanon, featured in *Architectural Digest*, fastidiously restored by the proprietors, perched above the hillside village Hosrayel, near the ancient city of Byblos. Shaded by eucalyptus trees and gardens, the interior features the owners' stunning décor of museum-quality antique textiles, furniture and decorative arts.



Sunday, October 30

Private visit with the curator of the National Museum of Beirut and its major archeological collection, over 1,000 artifacts covering 6,000 years of civilization and heritage, from prehistoric times to the medieval Mamluk period, including a remarkable collection of ancient Phoenician objects, testaments to former glories and empires.

Sidon, a 12th century Crusader-period building on the harbor, with spectacular views of the Sea Castle of Sidon.

Tyre, Phoenician, Greek-Roman, then Tyre of the Crusaders, today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, priding significant archaeological remains, mainly from Roman times; including the Triumphal Arch, the Crusader cathedral, the Roman hippodrome from the 2nd century, one of the best conserved of the Roman period, and the Necropolis.

Bsous, Private visit and dinner with George Asseily, Secretary General of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, and Alexandra Asseily, at their ancient and remarkably restored Silk Museum in Bsous, followed by dinner in the gardens of their exquisite residence, “La Magnanerie de Bsous”, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.



Monday, October 31

Private Visit of Beiteddine Palace with Madame Nora Jumblatt, Member of Beiteddine Festival’s Executive Committee, overlooking a terraced mountainside, built over 30 years for Emir Bachir Chehab II, considered a masterpiece of early 19th century classic Lebanese architecture; with courtyards, monumental gates, elegant arcades, beautifully groomed gardens and terraces dominating a steep, precipitous valley; and its impressive collection of Byzantine mosaics, decorated ceilings, marble mosaic floors, luxurious Turkish Baths and harem suites.

Luncheon at the residence of Raymond Audi, Chairman of the Audi Bank, and May Ogden-Smith, in Beit Ed-Dine, restored by renowned architect Habib Debs, a perfect harmony of ancient and contemporary architecture surrounded by a landscape offering marvelous views, and an extraordinary décor and outstanding collection of art.

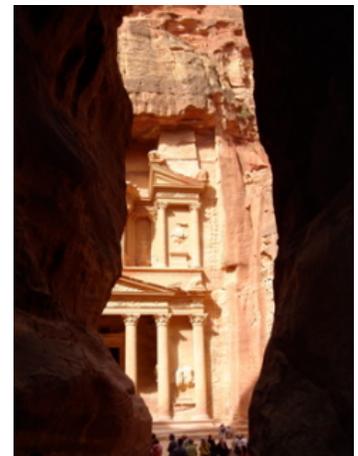
Deir Al Qamar, a picturesque village overlooking the region with many well-preserved historical buildings, the only village in Lebanon typical of the 17th century, famous for its palaces displaying the ancient Lebanese architectural style, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for the castle of Emir Melhem Shehab, the mosque of Emir Fakhreddine, the palace of an Ottoman governor, its ancient stepped streets, walled gardens and a restored silk souk.

Private reception and cocktails with Lady Sursock Cochrane and son Roderick Cochrane at their residence, Palace Sursock, a unique 19th century mansion built by her notable family, the largest private palace of the period, located in Beirut's exclusive residential area, designed in a harmonious combination of Mamluk and Mediterranean architectural styles, admirably decorated with museum-quality 16th-17th century Flemish and Italian paintings, rare pieces of furniture, Flemish tapestries, Persian carpets ... “a thousand and one nights”.

Tuesday, November 1 to Tuesday, November 8: Jordan

Morning flight to Amman, Jordan (included in cost of tour).

The stunning Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan offers flavors of both east and west, ancient and modern, sea and desert. Besides its history dating to the earliest beginnings of civilization, with Jordan Rift Valley rivaling Mesopotamia as the birthplace of civilization, and 200,000 archeological sites, it is today considered one of the pivotal centers of the Middle East. **Image courtesy of Emily Lodge Pigeon**



Amman, capital and thriving metropolis, intertwining ancient and traditional with modern, famous for its archeological and cultural heritage, hospitality, art of living as well as openness to the world, unveils the road to a country with many historical riches, including the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, rivaling the splendor of Ephesus in Turkey; treasured Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, standing proudly in the south of the Kingdom; enchanting Wadi Rum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the captivating Dead Sea, offering among the most dramatic landscapes in the world, its historical legacy and its therapeutic value.

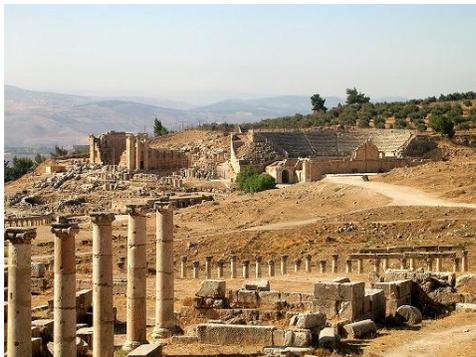
We will discover Jordan unknown to most visitors, with the intervention of renowned archaeologists and historians, from the dawn of civilization in Paleolithic times, to its biblical and Bedouin heritage, to sites relating its Empire: Persian, Egyptian, Greek, Nabatean, Roman, Umayyad, Crusader and Ottoman periods, and Jordan today.

We will be received by private collectors, architects, Ambassadors, Statesmen, and members of the Royal Family, who will personally assure our once in a lifetime experience in this treasured land!

Jane Taylor, historian, photographer, and author of "Jordan: Images From the Air", "Petra", "Petra and the Lost Kingdom of the Nabateans", and upcoming book on Jordan's biblical sites, will be our principal guide.

Tuesday, November 1

Dr. Jacques Seigne, distinguished archaeologist, Director of IFPO *Institut Français du Proche-Orient* (French Institute of the Near East) for Jordan, will lead us on this day to discover sites IFPO is exploring.



Jerash, private visit with Dr. Jacques Seigne of one of the most significant cities of the Decapolis, a Roman province dominated by 10 semi-autonomous cities – Philadelphia (Amman), Gerasa (Jerash) and 8 others. Built during the Hellenistic period following the death of Alexander the Great, and continuously rebuilt throughout the Roman, Christian and early Muslim periods, Jerash is a study in the development of classical architecture, featuring Hadrian's Arch, the famous oval piazza, the Temples of Artemis and Zeus, with theaters and other extensive ruins. Dr. Seigne will also unveil the new French museum.

Luncheon at "Um Khalil" Lebanese restaurant in Jerash.

Iraq al Amir, where Dr. Jacques Seigne, will unveil a rare example of Hellenistic architecture dating to 180 BC, the hunting lodge and palace built by a member of the Tobiad family, who had earlier (5th to 4th century BC) been local *satraps* (governors) for the Persians during their period of control of the region.

Welcome Dinner Reception at the residence of Emily Lodge, writer and designer, and Robert Pingeon, featured in *NYT Great Destinations* in June 2008, and *Trendesign*, June 2011, with a terrace offering a remarkable view of Amman. Prominent guests and experts, who will be leading us on our visits and receiving us, will also be invited. **Gaetano Palumbo, director of the World Monuments Fund for the Middle East and North Africa**, is scheduled to present an overview of the sites we will be visiting. Overnight at the Four Seasons Hotel & Spa in Amman.

Wednesday, November 2

Jane Taylor, expert lecturer, historian, photographer, and author will guide us on our visits this day.

Amman's ancient Citadel, surrounded by walls built between the Middle Bronze Age and the Mamluk period; we observe the Roman Temple of Hercules, Byzantine remains and an early 8th century Umayyad palace complex and the Archaeological Museum with artifacts dating to 10,000 BC. The Citadel offers a grand view over the majestic Roman theater below, with the forum and an Odeon, surrounded by the modern city, including the "souq".

Luncheon at Wild Jordan overlooking the Citadel.

Private Visit of Jordan's National Gallery of Fine Arts with HRH Princess Wijdan, Founder, and Patron of the Arts in Jordan, and Dr. Khalid Khreis, General Director The Royal Society of Fine Arts, a cultural, non-profit organization, was founded by HRH Princess Wijdan in 1979. Its mission is to encourage cultural diversity, disseminate artistic knowledge and promote art from the Islamic and developing worlds. In 1980, RSFA established the National Gallery, whose collection comprises contemporary artwork by artists of the developing world.

Darat al Funun (house of art) gallery, where Madame Suha Shoman, director, will greet us, promotes Arab visual arts and culture and has a history that mirrors the complexity of Jordan. Overlooking the oldest area of Amman, the early 20th century buildings of Khalid Shoman Foundation served as an officers' club during the British Mandate and stand alongside a Roman temple dedicated to Herakles. In the 6th century, it became a Byzantine church, today providing a majestic backdrop to summer musical events. Our visit coincides with an architectural art exhibition by Jordanian artist Saba Innab and Lebanese Fouad el Khoury reflecting on the urban changes in Amman.

Cocktail Reception at the residence of Shermine Dajani, CEO of one of Jordan's multinationals, a passionate collector, at her impressive villa in Jabal Weibde, housing a remarkable collection of Contemporary art and décor. Emily Lodge Pigeon and Shermine Dajani have essential in the organization of our privileged program in Jordan.

Dinner Reception at the Residence of the French Ambassador to Jordan, Madame Corinne Breuzé An honorable invitation, the Ambassador will also invite special guests, including Statesmen, prominent artists and architects, to welcome us to Jordan for a convivial evening. Overnight at the Four Seasons Hotel & Spa in Amman.

Thursday, November 3

Jane Taylor, expert lecturer, historian, photographer, and author will guide us on our visits this day.

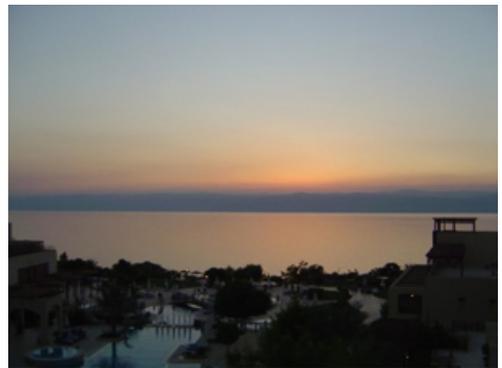
Private visit with Dr. John Austin, Headmaster, of King's Academy, opened four years ago, a long-held dream of HM King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein: "to have in Jordan a boarding school that embraces the same academic rigor, breadth of extracurricular stimulation and respect for community ethics and values that I experienced as a high school student at Deerfield Academy in the United States." King's Academy is home to 425 male and female students from 23 countries. More than 60 percent of the students are boarders. The school is growing toward an enrollment of 600 students. This will be an enlightening experience!

Madaba, famed for its mosaics, the Archaeological Park, centered on the Byzantine Church of the Virgin, with a wide range of mosaics from the region displayed in covered galleries, lying beside a large stretch of Roman road. A short walk brings us to the Greek Orthodox Church of St George, housing the unique 6th century Byzantine mosaic map of the Holy Land. **Luncheon** at Haret Jdoudna restaurant, described as "the best in Jordan".

Memorial of Moses at Mount Nebo, with Italian mosaics restorer, Dr. Franco Sciorilli, who will relate his work over the past 3 years restoring both the mosaics in the ancient church. At the edge of the terrace, we see the spectacular "Moses view" over the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, to the hills that lead up to Jerusalem.

From Mount Nebo we take the road that leads directly into the Jordan Valley, giving a magnificent panorama on our drive to the Dead Sea where guests can relax and swim.

Dinner at Code Thai Asian fusion restaurant, during which Jane Taylor will discuss early Christianity and monasticism in the region. Overnight at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar & Spa at the Dead Sea.



Friday, November 4

Free day to relax and enjoy the Dead Sea and spa treatments at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar & Spa. The Dead Sea has special healing and curative properties, and the Spa offers a variety of special treatments.

Optional Morning Visit: Jane Taylor will guide a private visit to Christ's Baptismal site (at cost).

Optional Afternoon Visit: Jane Taylor will guide a private visit to the Sanctuary of Lot, the Byzantine Church, and the new museum of biblical artifacts (at cost).

Evening presentation and cocktails with Barbara A. Porter, Ph.D., Director of the American Center of Oriental Research, ACOR, in Amman and Boston, who will offer her insight into the 200,000 archaeological sites in Jordan, ACOR's research in Jordan, and its most recent discoveries.

Free dinner: recommended restaurants: Akkad or Ashur. Overnight at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar & Spa at the Dead Sea

Saturday, November 5

Jane Taylor, expert lecturer, historian, photographer, and author will guide us on our visits.

A breath-taking drive along the Dead Sea and inland up a spectacular wadi, to Karak, the great 12th century Crusader castle During our private tour of the Karak castle, Jane Taylor will explain why it is said to have been so significant: that, when Karak fell, the Crusaders lost the Holy Land.

Luncheon at Kir Heres restaurant in Karak. **Afternoon** drive to Petra and on the way a stop at **Dana Reserve, Jordan's largest nature reserve**, sheltering rare and spectacular wildlife, covering over 200 square miles of rugged and stunning landscape along the Great Rift Valley.

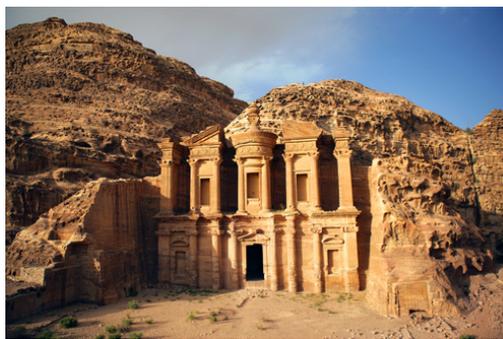
Cocktails and presentation by Jane Taylor of Petra and the Kingdom of the Nabateans, author of "Petra and the Lost Kingdom of the Nabateans", followed by **dinner** at Al Iwan. Overnight at Mövenpick Resort in Petra

Sunday, November 6

Jane Taylor, expert lecturer, historian, photographer, and author will guide us on our visits this day.

All day visit to Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World"

One of the most spectacular sites in the entire Middle East, within walking distance of the hotel, we will discover, on horseback or by foot, the "Siq" (gorge) that slowly winds through a massive rock wall, to the majestic façade of the "Treasury" with breathtaking views, architecture and ingenious complex of dams and water channels. Walking to the Siq and the Treasury is best to appreciate the significance of this ceremonial, sacred and strategic entrance to Petra. Inside the site, camels and donkeys are available for hire.



Our visit will also include the Theater, the Urn Tomb, the Nymphaeum, the Colonnaded Street, the Temenos door, the Temple of the Winged Lions, the Byzantine church with its 5th & 6th century mosaics, the so-called Great Temple and Qasr al Bint (the Young girl castle), once the main temple of Petra.

Luncheon at the Petra guesthouse, the Basin Restaurant, a Crown Plaza Hotel affiliate, at the foot of the entrance to "The Monastery" **After luncheon**, those who wish may climb, by foot or by donkey, to the magnificent "Monastery" with its view of indescribable beauty of Wadi Araba to the west.

Dinner at al-Qantara, a 10-minute walk from hotel. Overnight at Mövenpick Resort in Petra.

Monday, November 7

Wadi Rum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site "Vast, echoing, and God like" are the words of T. E. Lawrence to describe this infinite, silent place both romantic with its natural landscape and massive mountains in spectacular shapes and colors, one of the natural marvels of the world of indescribable beauty. We will board open Bedouin jeeps for a safari into the desert, including the sand dunes, the Lawrence of Arabia Spring, Jabal Khazali with rock drawings on the walls of a narrow gorge, the so-called Mountain of the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, followed by refreshments at the Rum Restaurant.



Image courtesy of Emily Lodge Pigeon

Scenic drive to the coastal city of Aqaba on the Red Sea, renowned for its striking beauty, marine life and coral reefs

Luncheon at "The Walk" located near the beach, with culinary delights from the Mediterranean.

Afternoon Swimming and relaxation at Kempinski Hotel & Spa Red Sea, where we will reside overnight.

Optional: private, two-hour snorkeling cruise on the coral reefs aboard the luxury yacht Sindbad (at cost).

"Farewell Dinner" hosted and arranged by H.E. Mohammed Salem Turk, CEO of the Aqaba Development Corporation, at the historic Aqaba Mamluk castle on the port of Aqaba, the meeting point of three continents. Our gracious host will also invite prominent members of the Jordanian community to celebrate with us our last evening in Jordan and the Middle East. And memorable evening it will be!



Tuesday, November 8

Return flight to Amman (in cost of tour) for departure to U.S.

8:50 am depart Aqaba; 9:35 arrive Amman: Royal Jordanian 301

Suggested return flight to U.S.: (at cost to participants)

11:45 am depart Amman; 9:20 pm arrive New York: Royal Jordanian 117 / Air France 8 (connect in Paris CDG)

ICAA and Pamela Huntington Darling wish to extend their sincere gratitude to all the hosts and experts who are graciously receiving us in such privileged conditions, and with such warm and generous hospitality, assuring that our discovery of Lebanon and Jordan will remain with us forever and will further new relations! We also give special thanks to Raymond Audi, May Ogden-Smith, Nouha Alhegelan, Emily Lodge Pigeon, and Shermine Dajani, for their relentless commitment to assure this once-in-a-lifetime program of unique discoveries and personal encounters!

Tour Price:

- (1) Full tour of Lebanon & Jordan: 12 days/12 nights: \$9,000 per person double occupancy; \$1,500 single supplement.
- (2) Lebanon only: 5 days/5 nights: \$4,000 per person double occupancy; \$900 single supplement.
- (3) Jordan only: 7 days/7 nights: \$6,000 per person double occupancy; \$750 single supplement.

Prices are based on 12 participants minimum (20 maximum) and a fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to ICAA.

Price includes:

- (1) Full tour of Lebanon & Jordan: 12 days of expert-guided visits; 12 nights of accommodation at 5-star luxury hotels; all breakfasts; 10 luncheons and 10 dinners; flights from Beirut to Amman and from Aqaba to Amman. *Guests will schedule their international flights to Beirut and from Amman.*
- (2) Lebanon only: 5 days of expert-guided visits; 5 nights of accommodation at 5-star luxury hotel; all breakfasts; 4 luncheons and 4 dinners. *Guests will schedule their international flights to and from Beirut.*
- (3) Jordan only: 7 days of expert-guided visits; 7 nights of accommodation at 5-star luxury hotels; all breakfasts; 6 luncheons and 6 dinners; flight from Aqaba to Amman. *Guests will schedule their international flights to and from Amman.*

We will stay at 5-star hotels: Hotel Le Gray in Beirut, the Four Seasons Hotel & Spa in Amman, Kempinski Hotel Ishtar & Spa at the Dead Sea, Mövenpick Resort in Petra, and Kempinski Hotel & Spa in Aqaba, all offering high-speed Internet and Wi-Fi access in rooms.

All tour prices include: costs involved in the program; transport to and from events during the tour in an air-conditioned, luxury coach; expert lecturers; etc. Prices do not include: international airfare; alcoholic beverages at meals in restaurants.

For more information and to reserve, please call and email Pamela Huntington Darling at your earliest convenience. Tel.: Paris: 011 33 1 45 67 62 81. Email: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com

To assure tour availability and scheduled flights from Beirut to Amman and from Aqaba to Amman, please reserve before August 30. Reservations will be treated according to their reception.

Members of ICA&CA at the Contributor or Individual ~ Professional level or higher are welcome to attend our tours. Join or upgrade your membership at www.classicist.org or call (212) 730-9646, extension 104.

Due to the exceptional character of certain private visits and receptions, if a venue is cancelled, it will be replaced by one of equal quality, and guests will be notified.

