

B'S KNEE Travel Company

Getting to Dubai...

Thursday 25 February

Karla takes Virgin Blue Flight DJ3033
Departs Wellington at 1.30pm
Arrives Auckland at 2.30pm

Neil and Sandra take Air NZ Flight NZ8806
Departs New Plymouth at 1.00pm
Arrives Auckland at 1.45pm

Emirates Flight EK413
Departs Auckland at 6.45pm
Arrives Dubai on Friday 26 Feb at
5.30am

Flying Business Class on the A380!!!

Accommodation in Dubai at:
Arabian Park Hotel
Hotel Check-In Time is 2.00pm
26–28 February (2 nights)
Phone: +971-4-3245999



On to Jordan

Sunday 28 February

Emirates Flight EK901
Departs Dubai at 8.20am
Arrives Amman at 9.50am

Upon arrival, a member of Jordan Direct Tours will meet us at Queen Alia International Airport for assistance with customs and immigration procedures.
Transfer to hotel in Amman: Amman Century Park

Century Park Hotel
Tel: +962 6 5680090
Fax: +962 6 5605688
E-Mail: info@centurypark-hotel.com
P.O. Box 9506 Amman 11191
Location: Tunis Street, between 4th and 5th Circle, Jabal Amman

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Monday 1 March

Amman / Um Qais/ Ajlun/ Jerash/ Amman

Depart Amman to visit Um Qais, a city rich with basalt ruins and overlooking the Jordan Valley, Golan heights and Lake Tiberius (the sea of Galilee). Continue to visit the village of Ajlun with its fortress and magnificent view into the Jordan Valley. Proceed to visit Jerash: one of the most preserved Greco-Roman cities in the Middle East and return to Amman.

Tuesday 2 March

Amman City Tour/ Dead Sea

Morning city tour of Amman to visit the Citadel, the Roman Theatre and Umayyad Palace. Free time for walking/shopping in the old down town area of the city and transfer to Dead Sea, the lowest point on the surface of the earth for a swim in its warm salty waters.



Dead Sea Spa Hotel

Salt Land Village, Po Box 184194 | Sweimeh, 184194, Jordan

Wednesday 3 March

Dead Sea/ Madaba/ Mt. Nebo/Wadi Mujib/ Kerak/ Petra

Morning departure south through the king's way, an ancient route that still has marks left from traders, armies and pilgrims who crossed it centuries ago. Visit the Christian Town of Madaba "The City of Mosaics" and take a detour to Mount Nebo, the site of an endearing monastery. Proceed to Kerak through Wadi Mujib, a deep valley holding one of Jordan's most breathtaking views. Visit the Kerak castle with its diverse history dated from the Byzantine to the Mamluk period. Continue to Petra.

Petra Crowne Plaza Resort

P.O.Box: 30, WADI MOUSA, JORDAN.

Tel: +962 (0) 3 215 6266

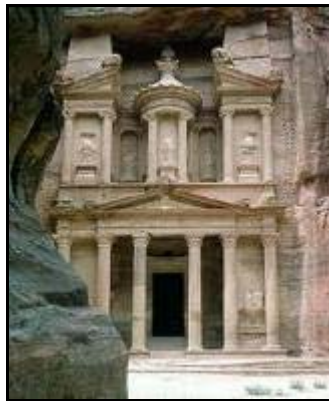
Fax: +962 (0) 3 215 6977

E-mail: ammhc@cprpetra.com

Thursday 4 March

Petra

The visit of the ancient Nabatean Capital starts on horseback, followed by a walk through the Siq, a long narrow fissure between two overhanging cliffs. The tour then proceeds to gradually unfold the mysteries of the Red Rose City with its spectacular treasury (see picture below), Royal Tombs, burial chambers and high places of sacrifice.



Friday 5 March

Petra / Beida/ Wadi Rum/ Aqaba

After breakfast proceed to Beida, also known as little Petra and the place where the Nabateans used to entertain their guests. Continue south to the enchanting desert of Wadi Rum, Jordan's largest desert and one of the most spectacular desert landscapes in the world. Jeep tour inside the Wadi. Watch the most beautiful view while drinking a cup of traditional Bedouin tea and transfer to the Gulf city of Aqaba.

Aqaba Marina Plaza Resort

Tala Bay | Tala Bay, Aqaba, Jordan

Saturday 6 March

Aqaba/ Amman

Free day at leisure in Aqaba. Afternoon transfer back to Amman.

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Sunday 7 March

Amman / Desert Castles / Amman

Transfer to the Desert Castles. Visit Qasr Amra (shown below) Azraq and Kharaneh and return to Amman.

Monday 8 March

Amman

Free day in Amman.



Tuesday 9 March

Departure

Emirates Flight EK904

Departs Amman at 4.30pm

Arrives Dubai 9.15pm

Accommodation at the Arabian Park Hotel from 9–14 March (5 nights)

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To Turkey...

Sunday 14 March

Emirates Flight EK123

Departs Dubai at 11.05am

Arrives Istanbul at 1.55pm



ISTANBUL AT LEISURE

Welcome to Turkey! You are met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Settle in and relax, or start exploring the wonders of this glorious city, uniquely located on two continents! At 6:00pm this evening join your Tour Director for a Welcome Drink.

Hotel: Conrad

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Monday 15 March

ISTANBUL – BURSA

Embark on a superb Highlight cruise along the Bosphorus past Ottoman palaces, old mansions and fortresses. Leaving Istanbul, take a short ferry trip and drive to Iznik. Visit the ruins of St Sophia and see the city walls before continuing to Bursa. In the afternoon there is time to haggle in the bazaar and silk markets.

Hotel: Kervansaray Thermal.

Tuesday 16 March

Day 3 – BURSA – ANKARA

Visit the glorious Green Mosque and Mausoleum complex and Grand Mosque in Bursa before driving to the charming Cumalikizik Village with its traditional wooden houses and narrow cobblestone streets. Visit Gordion, where Alexander the Great cut the famous Gordion Knot, en route to Turkey's modern capital, Ankara.

Hotel: Hilton

Wednesday 17 March

ANKARA – CAPPADOCIA

Sightseeing includes a visit to the Hittite Museum, portraying the fascinating history of Asia Minor from earliest times. You also visit Anit Kabir, the mausoleum of Ataturk, Turkey's greatest leader in modern times. Visit the mausoleum of Sufi philosopher Haci Bektas before heading to Nevsehir in the Cappadocia region.

Hotel: Dedeman

Thursday 18 March

CAPPADOCIA – GÖREME EXCURSION

In this unique region of volcanic landscapes and 'fairy-chimneys', visit Goreme's rock-carved churches, see ancient frescoes in the open-air museum and see the Zelve valleys, where the scenery is dotted with caves and troglodyte dwellings. Visit the underground city of Kaymakli and see the cone of Uchisar. Enjoy dinner at the hotel followed by a colourful folklore show in an underground cave, featuring dances from the different regions.

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Friday 19 March

CAPPADOCIA – KONYA

Visit the Caravanserai of Sultanhanı before driving to Turkey's most religious city, Konya, which was once the home of the mystic sect of Whirling Dervishes (see picture below) and the old capital of the Anatolian Seljuk Empire. Visit the Mevlana Museum, with its beautiful fluted turquoise dome, and see the Karatay Medrese and Ince Minaret.

Hotel: Dedeman.



Saturday 20 March

KONYA – ANTALYA

Descend the Taurus mountains and drive to Aspendos to visit what is considered the best preserved Roman Theatre anywhere in the world. Drive to the Hellenistic or Roman city of Perge to visit the extensive ruins, including the great Theatre, the Stadium, and the gate-towers leading into a street where ancient chariot ruts can still be seen. As night falls, enjoy a walking tour of Antalya's Old Town.

Hotel: Sheraton Voyager.

Sunday 21 March

ANTALYA AT LEISURE

The day is set aside for you to relax and enjoy the leisure facilities of the hotel. Alternatively, you can explore Antalya at your own pace. Other suggestions include a stroll around the harbour area or taking a boat trip off the coast.

Monday 22 March

ANTALYA – PAMUKKALE

Pass pine forests and cross the Taurus mountains on your way to Pamukkale. On arrival, visit the ruins of Hierapolis and the beautiful 'Cotton Castle' – an apt description of its dazzling white limestone terraces.

Hotel: Colossae Thermal.

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Tuesday 23 March

PAMUKKALE – KUSADASI

Visit the Temple of Aphrodite at amazing Aphrodisias before following the Maeander River valley, (so full of twists and turns it gives us the word 'meander') to your beautiful beach-front hotel in the lively coastal town of Kusadasi.

Hotel: Korumar/Charisma.

Wednesday 24 March

KUSADASI – IZMIR

Tour one of the world's finest archaeological sites, Ephesus. Visit the Amphitheatre (see the picture below) and walk along the Arcadian Way to view the splendid facade of the Library of Celsus. Visit the House of the Virgin Mary, situated above the ruins, before continuing to the Selcuk archaeological museum, where many artefacts from Ephesus are displayed. Stay overnight in the Aegean port of Izmir.

Hotel: Hilton.



Thursday 25 March

IZMIR – ÇANAKKALE

Stop in Pergamon, the impressive site of an ancient kingdom, to visit the Acropolis, the Temple of Athena and library, before viewing the Red Courtyard and the ruins of the Asklepion. Drive to Homer's Troy to see the ruins of nine cities built on top of each other, and an enormous reconstruction of the famous wooden horse. The evening is spent in Çanakkale.

Hotel: Kolin.

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Friday 26 March

CANAKKALE – ISTANBUL

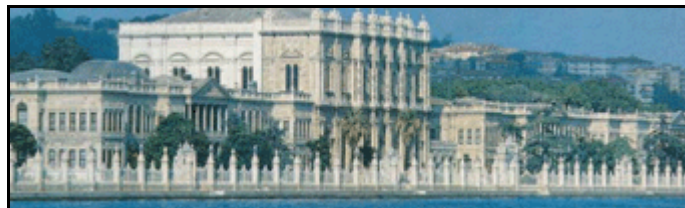
Cross the Dardanelle Straits by ferry and continue to the Gallipoli Peninsula, scene of fierce fighting in World War One. Pay your respects at Anzac Cove and visit the emotive Lone Pine Cemetery before returning to Istanbul.

Hotel: Conrad.

Saturday 27 March

ISTANBUL SIGHTSEEING

Visit the Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome, where Roman chariot races were held. Also visit St Sophia, a former cathedral and a mosque which is now a magnificent museum. The afternoon is dedicated to the Topkapi Palace, a walled city perched above the Bosphorous and the Golden Horn. Test your haggling skills now as you visit the glittering Grand Bazaar. Don't worry, your guide will give you a full explanation of the time-honoured ritual of bargaining! Consider an evening of dinner and belly-dancing.



Sunday 28 March

ISTANBUL

The tour ends after breakfast with transfers to the airport.

Back to Dubai Again...

Sunday 28 March

Emirates Flight EK124

Departs Istanbul at 4.30pm

Arrives Dubai at 9.45pm

Accommodation at the Arabian Park Hotel

28–31 March (3 nights)

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And back home to New Zealand...

Wednesday 31 March

Emirates Flight EK412

Departs Dubai at 10.15am

Arrives Auckland on 1 April at 1.50pm

Thursday 1 April

Karla takes Virgin Blue Flight DJ3044

Departs Auckland at 4.45pm

Arrives Wellington at 5.45pm

Neil and Sandra take Air NZ Flight NZ8809

Departs Auckland at 4.30pm

Arrives in New Plymouth at 5.15pm