



SAUDI ARABIA

THE UNSEEN KINGDOM

October 05 - October 18, 2024

Led by Professional Tour Manager, David William

As the birthplace of Islam, Saudi Arabia has been shielding itself from the eyes of the west for a long time, but time has come now that the Kingdom is moving in huge steps towards modernization and openness. However, this is also a land with a vibrant cultural pedigree, aside from its glitzy oil-rich modern cities. Amongst the rock-hewn splendors of Hegra, you will explore Nabatean heritage equal to what Petra offers. Most of the great empires of the ancient world traded with the Arabian Kingdoms that commanded the important spice trade routes in the peninsula. Colorful markets, desert landscapes, coral reefs, rock engravings, ancient monuments, traditional mud-brick cities, and imposing fortresses are abundant in a country that has so much to offer to those who choose to venture in it & explore its enigmatic and intriguing side.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Saturday, October 05

Arrive in Riyadh (SAUDI ARABIA)



Upon arrival **Riyadh**, meet and transfer to *Rosh Rayhaan* by *Rotana Hotel* or similar for check-in and overnight.

Note: Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm. if you arrive on October 04 or early morning of October 05, an extra hotel night needs to be booked.

Sunday, October 06

Riyadh



After breakfast, we will begin our tour that is dedicated to discovering the Saudi capital of **Riyadh**, along with the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Diriyah**, where the story of Saudi Kingdom began. Characterized by gleaming skyscrapers and multi-lane highways, the Saudi capital sprawls across the **Najdi plain** and has a very modern face; but it is also home to history, museums, art, and culture.

A thirty-minute drive from the center of Riyadh will bring you to **Wadi Hanifa** to the northwest of the Saudi capital. On arrival, you will step back in time and discover **Diriyah's** historic **At-Turaif** district where you will see stunning examples of traditional Najdi mudbrick architecture and get a sense of the way of life in the first Saudi capital some two hundred years ago. This beautifully preserved site was the capital of the first Saudi State until its destruction in 1818 by an Egyptian army. Within At-Turaif's distractive mudbrick walls you will discover sites including the imposing **royal Salwa Palace** with its **madrassa** and administrative units and four small and beautifully presented museums (Diriyah Museum, Arabian Horse Museum, Military Museum, Daily life Museum). The site commands fine views looking over the oasis of Wadi Hanifa towards Riyadh's skyscrapers.

After an opportunity to browse the on-site souq there will be a chance to sample some of Saudi Arabia's delicious cuisine at a Saudi restaurant built in the traditional Najdi architectural style. You will then have a crash course in Saudi history at the **National Museum**, where the galleries are laid out chronologically from pre-historic times and will take you on a journey through time from the dawn of human civilisation in Arabia until the unification of the Kingdom in the 1930s.

Sightseeing continues at the Al Masmak Fortress in the heart of old Riyadh. Built in 1865, this mudbrick citadel

turned museum witnessed the birth of the third Saudi State in 1902 when King Abdulaziz captured the fortress and took control of Riyadh (his ancestral home) after having lived in exile in Kuwait. From this fortress, Abdulaziz Al Saud conquered and united the different provinces that make up the Saudi nation, as we know it today. A short stroll will then take you past the Qasr Al Hoqm (Palace of Judgement) and the Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque to the bustling Souq Al Zal & Bisht souq where you can shop for rugs, traditional Saudi robes and headscarves, incense, and bric-a-brac while at the same time witnessing a way of life that has been unchanged for centuries. Return to the *Hotel* dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, October 07

Riyadh - Ushaiger - Unaizah



After breakfast, A journey of 200km northwest through the desert and red sands will bring you to the oasis of **Ushaiger** (2 hours, 30 min). This stunning example of traditional **mudbrick Najdi architecture** was once a stopping point on the Hajj pilgrim route. On arrival, stroll through the beautifully restored winding lanes of the village on foot and explore some of the renovated houses that have been turned into museums. Outside the village walls is a peaceful oasis of fields and date palms.

After lunch, your journey continues to Unaizah (2 hours) in neighboring **Al-Qassim** province - a verdant area of central Saudi Arabia that it's noted for its conservatism, extensive groves of date palms, and attractive vernacular architecture. For Saudis, Al Qassim is indelibly associated with the legendary love story of **Antarah Bin Shaddad and his cousin Abla Bint Malik** - an Arabian Romeo & Juliet - as well as being the home to both the world's largest date festival and camel market.

In **Unaizah** you will be able to admire the stunning traditional architecture of the **Souq Musawkaf** and wander through its two main squares that are ringed with shops selling food, handicrafts, clothes, and tea and coffee. The souq comes into its own after 4pm and is a popular place for Qassimis to meet friends and socialize. After time to explore you will be driven the short distance to *Malfa Hotel*- a property that has been inspired by the local Qassimi architecture and is set amongst the palms of a working date plantation. The restaurant at the Malfa

Resort is noted for its traditional Qassimi dishes that are prepared by local ladies. **(B,L,D)**

Tuesday, October 08

Unaizah - Hail



Have an early breakfast and start our early day by driving to nearby **Buraidah** (30 minutes) where we will witness one of Saudi Arabia's most colorful and photogenic spectacles - the Buraidah **Camel Market**. This is the largest camel market in the world where some 700 animals are traded daily (swelling to two thousand animals on Saturdays). The noise and theatre as dealers attract eager huddles of merchants and auction camels that can reach as much as one million US\$ is incredible! Baby camels (called ga'oud) charm the hearts of all who spy them. **Buraidah** is also known for its beautifully manicured date gardens,

Upon arriving in Buraidah, we visit the **Aloqilat museum-house**, which is a wonderful example of traditional Qassimi architecture and holds a collection of some 10,000 rare documents related to the first people who lived in the region, as well as commercial maps used to navigate the surrounding area. Another must stop on any tour of Buraidah is the grounds where the city's famous date festival is held every summer. During the 35-day economic carnival that is the annual Buraidah Date Festival (mid-August to mid-September), farmers and traders offer more than 45 varieties of Qassimi dates for sale - the produce of 8 million date palms - amidst an atmosphere of incredible excitement.

After lunch in a date garden, you will leave Al-Qassim behind you and enter **Ha'il** Province. Enroute, stop to see the scant ruins of the oasis city of **Fayd**, a settlement that was once an important stop on the Hajj caravan route from Baghdad to Mecca known as the **Darb Zubaydah**. The great Moroccan traveler **Ibn Battuta** visited Fayd in AD1327 and described it as: 'a large fortress in a simple land. It is surrounded by a wall and the Arabs live there along with the pilgrims thanks to the trade.'

A drive along minor country roads across a stony desert will then bring you to **Tabah** in the **Salma Mountains** where you will turn off the asphalt road to see the **Hutaymah Crater**. This hugely impressive vast cavity in the ground is known as a '**maar crater**' in geological terms and was formed millions of years ago by an enormous underground explosion caused by water coming into contact with molten rock. The final leg of today's drive brings you through the picturesque landscape of **Jabal Aja** to **Ha'il**. Drive to *Holiday Villa Hotel*, or similar, check-in dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

PS: Ha'il is cradled by the rugged mountains of the Jabal Shammar and was once the capital of an independent emirate that, under its Ibn Rashid leaders, vied for power with Ibn Saud for control of the Arabian Peninsula.

Wednesday, October 09

Ha'il - Jubbah - Sakaka



After breakfast, your first stop today will be a photo-op outside **Ha'il's Qishlah** Fortress (closed) an enormous mudbrick structure with eight distinctive square-sided towers that was once used as a barracks by the forces loyal to **Abdul Aziz ibn Saud**. We will also be able to view Ha'il's other notable fortification, the mudbrick **A'arif** castle (closed) that sits on a great stone rock with a commanding view over the city.

The journey then proceeds north through the red sands of the Great **Nefud Desert** to reach the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Jubbah** (1 hour, 30 minutes). Here, on the surface of **Jabal Umm Sinman** the finely accomplished rock art may be as much as 11,000 years-old and sheds light on human activities, hairstyles and clothing during the Palaeolithic period. Lady **Anne Blunt**, one of the first Europeans to witness Jubbah's rock art, wrote in 1879: '*Jubbah is one of the most curious places in the world, and to my mind one of the most beautiful.*'

After lunch, under the palm trees of the **Al Eydah Farm**, where you will be able to see a traditional 'swanee' camel drawn water-well and view the whitewashed 150-year-old-buildings, your scenic drive continues through the vast expanse of the **Nefud** - the second largest sandy expanse in the Arabian Desert - to **Sakaka** (3 hours) transfer to the *Al Nusl Hotel or similar*, dinner and overnight **(B,L,D)**

Note: Jubbah: The rock-art sites at Jubbah are spread out and require you to walk between them. Accessing some of the rock-art sites requires ascending as many as 70 steps via steel walkways and may be difficult for anyone with mobility challenges.

Thursday, October 10

Sakaka (Al Jawf)



Our destination today will be to the remote oasis of **Al Jawf** (Al Jouf), one of Saudi Arabia's greatest archaeological treasures. Located at the crossroads of one of the Middle East's oldest trade routes, Al Jawf is the Kingdom's most fertile region, and has been inhabited for at least 750,000 years.

After breakfast, a short drive will take us to Sakaka's imposing mudbrick **Qasr Al Za'abal** - a castle built during Ottoman period that sits on a tall rock with vertical sides in the center of the city. Climb up to the castle to admire the view, visit the small local museum, and see the Nabataean period **Sisra Well**.

Our sightseeing continues a little way outside town where we will discover the standing stones of **Al Rajajil** - Saudi Arabia's 'Stonehenge.' This 6,000-year-old stele carved from sandstone - some of which are as tall as three meters and weigh as much as five tons - are an enigma to archaeologists. Speculation concerning use ranges from a temple to a meeting place, and an astronomical function. Continue to the '**Camel Site**' where three outcrops of rock

depict at least 20 camels of unprecedented size that were carved in both high and low relief some 2,000-years-ago.

In the afternoon, you will visit the **Al Majidia Horse Farm** where you will learn about the famed Arabian horse breeds that come from this region of Saudi Arabia. With a distinctive head shape and high tail carriage, the Arabian horse is one of the most easily recognizable horse breeds in the world. The highly prized Arabian horse developed in the deserts of Arabia and was selectively bred by the Bedouin people. Return to the *Hotel*, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, October 11

Sakaka - Tabuk



After breakfast, we will drive to **Domat Al Jandal**, an outstanding example of an early Islamic town, that was already an important commercial center in the 9th century BC when it was referred to in Assyrian texts as '**Adummatu.**' **Domat Al Jandal** is dominated by the **Al Marid castle**, a vast circular walled fortress with foundations dating back to the 1st century AD. The castle is said to have once been connected by a tunnel to the 7th century Umar Ibn al-Khattab Mosque - one of the oldest intact mosques in the world - that may resemble the Prophet's Mosque in Medina in its early stages. Then, explore the well-preserved **Al-Der** residential quarter with its long alleys and impressive stone architecture to see a rare early example of town planning.

A short distance away you will stretch your legs at **Domat Al Jandal Lake**, a picturesque shimmering body of blue water surrounded by the yellow sands of the Nefud, where locals come to picnic at weekends. Later we will have a long drive, that will take us past olive farms and along the northern edge of the Nefud desert will bring us to the important northern center of **Tabuk**. Upon arrival in Tabuk, you will be transferred to the Swiss Inn *hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, October 12

Tabuk (Moses Trail & Neom)



Today's full day excursion will take you down to the Gulf of Aqaba, into the biblical land of Midian, and follow in the footsteps of Moses. Next, we drive through the coastal mountains to the Gulf of Aqaba. This virgin region is the future location for **Neom**, the US\$500 billion utopian project that may include a huge artificial moon, beaches that glow in the dark, and flying drone-powered taxis. On arrival, at the pretty seaside village of Magna, you will visit the **Springs of Moses**. The natural springs at this local beauty spot are surrounded by an oasis of palm trees and overlook the Red Sea—a stunning view!

The journey then continues along a stunning cliff-girt coastal road to **Wadi Tayyib Al Ism** (*visit subject to permission*) - one of Saudi Arabia's great natural wonders. Carved into the granite and sedimentary rock over millions of years, the narrow chasm winds its way through an ancient mountain range that plunges into the

sea. The best way to appreciate **Wadi Tayyib Al Ism** is to walk in through its palm tree lined mouth and explore deeper into the canyon where you will find a spring-fed stream that flows year-round. Some people believe that this is the spot where Moses and the Israelites landed having escaped from the Egyptian armies and crossed the Red Sea.

Continue to **Al Bad** where we will visit the site of the necropolis of **Mughair Shuaib**. The weathered rock cut tombs here date back to Nabataean times and have similarities with those of Hegra in Al Ula. Some scholars believe that this is the site of the ancient town of **Midian**, a settlement where Moses is said to have lived for ten years before he become a prophet of God. Drive back to Tabuk through **Wadi Zeeta**, which is incredibly scenic. Return to the *Hotel*, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, October 13

Tabuk - Qalaat Muaza'am - Al Ula



After breakfast, we leave Tabuk and follow the route of the former **Hijaz Railway** south towards Al Ula (about 3 hours, 30-minutes) travelling through a landscape that contrasts the utter desolation of a waterless desert with the stark natural beauty of sun-scorched mountains and rocky crags.

On the way, we will stop to see the extensive buildings of the former Ottoman Railway Station at **Qalaat Muazzam** (fenced) with its administration buildings, water tower and fort. A walk of a hundred meters to the west of the road will bring you to a splendid pilgrim castle built in 1622. The British explorer **Charles Doughty** passed by in 1876 and described the structure as being: 'the fairest and greatest in the entire road, with the greatest cistern; a benefaction of the same Sultan Salim.'

Then, drive to **Al Ula**, an oasis that has been called one of the world's great natural masterpieces. This historically rich valley at the crossroads of the Silk Road and the Incense Route is one of the world's largest living museums and is a place of extraordinary beauty.

The discovery of Al Ula's heritage starts with a tour of the archaeological site of **Dadan** where you will join a '*rawi*' (*storyteller*) on a shared excursion to see the famous **Lion Tombs** that are chiseled into the cliff-face. The ancient Kingdom of Dadan was one of the most developed in the Arabian Peninsula during the 1st millennium BC. This site was the capital of the **Dadanite** and then the **Lihyanite** kingdoms and one of the most important centers of the caravan trade. Across the valley at **Jabal Ikmah**, you will see the rock-art that tells the stories of travellers you have passed by the spot for millennia.

As the sun nears the horizon, the day's sightseeing will conclude at **Elephant Rock**. Where you will take a comfortable sunken seat and sit back to enjoy the sight of Al Ula's most famous geological rock formation as she looms over you. An onsite café offers delicious sweets and

warm beverages. Later you will be transferred to *Shaden camp resort* or similar Check in dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, October 14

Al Ula (Madakhil Desert & Hegra "Madain Saleh") 

After breakfast, a 4WD adventure through the desert canyons and magnificently weathered terracotta hued mountains of the north **Madakhil** region awaits this morning. The wonderful scenery will present panoramic vistas at almost every turn and includes the great span of the **Madakhil Rock Arch** (also known as 'Rainbow Arch'). On returning to Al Ula, the yellows and browns of the desert are contrasted with the almost elysian fields-like greens and shade provided by the tens of thousands of date palms that form the life-giving oasis. A healthy lunch will be provided at Pink Camel, a casual restaurant tucked away among date palms and citrus trees.

The remarkable rock-hewn tombs of ancient **Hegra** (formerly known as *Madain Saleh*) will be visited this afternoon. Once 'lost' to the world until **Charles Montagu Doughty's** 'rediscovery' in 1876, Hegra's tombs are now Saudi Arabia's premier cultural tourist attraction. Your guide will drop you at the Hegra Welcome Center where you will join the shared 2-hour long coach tour around the site. Built by the Nabataean Arabs as their southernmost city, Hegra is set in a spectacular desert landscape studded with sandstone monoliths a short drive from modern Al Ula. The city was constructed around the 1st century AD to protect the Nabataean's lucrative long distance camel caravans bringing precious trade goods from south Arabia to their capital of Petra (in Jordan). This magical UNESCO World Heritage site has a total of 111 monumental tombs (94 of which are decorated) carved into its perpendicular cliffs.

The Hegra tour starts at the **Railway Station** on the Ottoman built Hijaz Railway where you will see a German-built steam locomotive and numerous buildings that date to the early 20th century. Like Doughty, your first sight of ancient Hegra's tombs will be a breath-taking panoramic view of the rock outcrop called **Qasr Al-Bint** where two of the site's finest tombs are located. Further on, you will reach **Jebel Ithlib** where the cave-like Diwan (*a cult center*) is situated next to a narrow gorge (Siq) leading to a magnificent amphitheater of rock. Continue your journey of discovery at **Jabal Al Ahmar**, home to 18 tombs, some of which have been recently excavated. The name refers to the unique red color of the rock. The last stop of the tour is the monolithic **Tomb of Lihyan** Son of Kuza, Hegra's largest tomb, measuring about 72 feet tall. Left unfinished, with rough, unsmoothed chisel marks skirting its lower third, it is at times referred to as Qasr al-Farid by the locals, meaning the "*Lonely Castle*" in English, because of its distant position in relation to the other tombs. Return to the *Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Note: Al Ula sightseeing: the Royal Commission manages the heritage sites in Al Ula for Al Ula (RCU).

Visits to the RCU sites have fixed timings. Independent visits with a private guide are not permitted. The RCU 'rawis' have room for improvement. The tour is offered on a hop-on, hop-off basis with regular shuttles travelling between the drop-off points. At each stop, a local 'rawi' will meet the shuttle and led the visitors on a short, guided tour.

Tuesday, October 15

AL Ula - AL Medina 

After breakfast, we continue Al Ula sightseeing this morning. Our first stop will be at the giant mirrored cube that is the **Maraya Concert Hall** (permission required). Here, you will view this spectacular 500-seat venue that reflects the surrounding desertscape and is the largest mirror-clad building in the world. Maraya, meaning mirror or reflection in Arabic, celebrates Al Ula's significant role in history as a crossroad of cultures for centuries.

Continue to Old **Al Ula** village where you will join a shared tour with a '**rawi**' guide. Old Al Ulla was founded before the 12th century AD and was occupied until as recently as the early 1980s. Its atmospheric mudbrick ruins are comprised of over 900 houses, 500 shops, 5 town squares, and a fortified citadel with ruins that are more than a thousand years old. In the course of your hour-long walking tour, you will visit **Tantora Square**, climb up to the castle, and learn about the Old Town's settlers and pilgrims, as well as their motives and methods in the settlement's construction.

After lunch in Al Ula Old town, there will be an opportunity to browse in the shops that line the former main street. Later we drive south through a landscape of desert and mountains to Islam's second holiest city – **Medina** (3 hours, 45 minutes). Upon arrival in Medina, transfer to the *Meridien Hotel* or Similar for dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, October 16

Al Medina - Jeddah  

After breakfast, we will explore Medina and tease out the secrets of Islam's second most holy city. Anciently known as **Yathrib**, the city was renamed Al Medina by the Prophet Mohammad after he and his followers were welcomed following their flight from Mecca – an event known as the '**Hijrah**'. Pilgrims recreate this journey every year as part of the *Hajj*. Non-Muslims are not permitted to enter city's mosques – but can now visit some of the central 'Haram' area where the main places of pilgrimage are located.

Our visit to **Medina** will include visiting the early battlefield site of **Jabal Uhud**, viewing the **Qiblatain Mosque**, seeing the location of the '**Battle of the Trench**' and a visit to Medina's attractive Ottoman Railway Station (currently closed) to see the Hijaz Railway memorabilia and early 20th century locomotives. A highlight of your Medina sightseeing will be lunch at a hotel with a view of

the exterior of the vast **Masjid al-Nabawi** (*The Prophet's Mosque*) where the tombs of the Prophet, as well as his daughter Fatima, and the first caliph Abu Bakr are to be found.

In the late afternoon you will be dropped off at Medina's **Haramain High-Speed Train Station** from where you will travel to Jeddah on the Red Sea coast.

On arrival at Jeddah's Central Railway Station, meet assist and transfer to the *Radisson Blu Corniche Hotel* or similar. Check in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Note: The ability for non-Muslims to visit the center of Medina is still very new. Guests are reminded that this holy city is a place of prayer and pilgrimage for Muslims. We request that guests dress 'modestly' today. A headscarf along with long skirts or loose trousers and a blouse with full-length sleeves for ladies and trousers and a shirt with full-length sleeves for men.

Thursday, October 17

Jeddah



After breakfast, we will explore **Jeddah**, the 'bride of the Red Sea'; a historic city that for centuries has been a gateway for the annual Hajj pilgrimage. This buzzing hub of commerce and melting pot of **peoples**, where, according to local lore, Eve is buried, is one of the most liberal cities in Saudi Arabia and has a notably different tempo from the rest of the country. As the city's motto proclaims: "Jeddah *ghair*", or "Jeddah is different".

Your sightseeing will start at the **Tayebat Museum**, a landmark building built in the traditional Hijazi (western Saudi Arabia) architectural style that houses a vast eclectic collection of ethnographic items. Then, enjoy a stroll along Jeddah's beautiful manicured modern seafront Corniche before arriving at Jeddah's much-photographed **Al Rahma 'floating' Mosque**. After lunch, you will view the partially built Jeddah Tower, which is expected to be the tallest building in the world, then continue to the city's UNESCO World Heritage listed Old Town of **Al Balad** which you will discover on foot.

upon passing through the Mecca Gate into Al Balad, you will be immersed by the lively incense-scented souqs, multi-story houses built of coral stone with their distinctive '**roshan**' wooden windows, art-galleries, and antique mosques that include the **Shafi Masjid** – the oldest in Jeddah. There is nothing quite like it in Saudi Arabia! Al Balad was founded in the 7th century AD and has a good claim to be considered as one of the finest surviving Old Town's in the Middle East. Return to the *Hotel* dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Friday, October 18

Jeddah - USA



Transfer in the early morning to the airport for your flight back to the US.

Note: Standard check out time is 11:00 AM, so for any late check outs due to a later flight departure, you can choose either leaving your luggage at the concierge or you can pay a day use room to keep it till your check out time

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Special Trip Remarks:

Saudi Arabia is a dry country. Alcohol is absolutely forbidden (as are narcotics and pornographic materials). Dress is modest and women do not need to cover their heads. The wearing of abayas for ladies has been recently easing up and is no longer mandatory. Be advised that you will be fingerprinted and undergo a retinal scan upon arrival in the country. In addition, sometimes sites can be closed for no foreseen reasons or authorities can also deny visit of certain places without prior notice and we (STS) are not responsible for any such events/acts. Some of the drives can be long and monotonous crossing vast expanses of desert with nothing much to observe along the way but it is necessary to cover the territory. Bus discussions will enliven the drives.

Note: Madain Saleh (Al Hgera) tours are conducted by a third-party government agency rather than by our own guides, and hence we are bound by the decision of what tombs they open for us and how many can be visited, and they rotate the tombs on a regular basis, and we don't have a say to which ones they choose.



Tour cost (Land only): \$8,995.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,595.00

Price based on group size minimum of 8 participants and maximum of 14 participants

Trip Grade: III Lodging Level: **_*******

About your Lecturer... David William, for as long as I can remember, I have always had a deep-rooted need to travel. After graduating from university with a degree in hospitality & tourism management that included two years abroad - one in Oxford, England and the other at École Hôtelière in Lausanne, Switzerland - my career as a hôtelier was on a successful track, but I longed to get away. Twenty years ago, I finally found my niche as a travel consultant and tour leader. During the last two decades, I have had the opportunity to



organize and lead groups worldwide. I have organized every imaginable tour from remote, rugged expeditions to overland African journeys to luxury yachts in the Mediterranean. Leading groups and experiencing their excitement as we travel together is the best part of my job. This path has given me the opportunity to visit 50 States and over 160 countries on all seven continents. My passion for travel, my tour leading skills and my love of Africa are the perfect mix that equips me to share this special tour with you. I look forward to meeting you.

Tour Includes:

- Escorted lecturer based on the required minimum participants.
- All transfers with assistance and luggage portorage.
- Transportation within country using A/C motor coach.
- All mentioned accommodations in 4* and 5* hotels
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- All entrance fees to visited sites as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Train tickets between Al Medina- Jeddah
- Service of professional English-speaking tour guide along some local guides at various cities and sites.
- Bottled water on bus during touring days.
- All gratuities to guide, porters, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff, (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Saudi Arabia VAT%15

Tour does not include:

- International air USA - Riyadh - USA.
- Saudi Arabia Visa (E-visa \$150.00-subject to change).
- Beverages with or without meals.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

Trip Grade:

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides and extensive drives.

Lodging Level:

******_***** Superior:** In large cities 5 stars' hotels and in some smaller towns, lodges and hotels with limited amenities, average service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards. (3 or 4 stars).

