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## Optional Extension to Israel Tour 4-Day Tour ~ Negev Desert and Petra

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– After your farewell dinner, those returning home will depart for the airport and the Extension tour members will return to the hotel in Jerusalem for overnight.

**Day 1** – The optional extension tour takes us through the Negev Desert, where we will visit the Nabatean City, Avdat and see archeological remains of this ancient city along the “spice route.” We stop at Lachish, a city generally regarded as the second most important city in the southern kingdom of Judah. It enters the biblical narrative in the battle accounts of Joshua, Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar. We will also visit Tel Beer Sheba, the place where Abraham settled coming from Ur of the Chaldeans. Extensive excavations have been conducted on the site revealing the ancient city. We continue south and visit the Ramon Crater which contains geological formations unparalleled elsewhere in the world. We continue to the resort area of Eilat located on the Red Sea for overnight.

**Day 2**– Today we leave Israel and cross into Jordan on a full day tour to explore the Rose Red City, Petra. This unique Nabatean city was carved entirely into the naturally pink rocks, and includes temples, theaters, monasteries, houses and roads. We return to Eilat for dinner and overnight.

**Day 3** – Enjoy a morning of leisure, rest, shopping, or one of the suggested activities such as a glass bottom boat tour on the Red Sea, or visit the underwater observatory. In the afternoon we travel north to Tel Aviv, but first visit Timna Park and see the Exodus Tabernacle replica, which was meticulously constructed to the specifications found in the Book of Exodus and time permitting; we will see Solomon’s Pillars of Timna. Enjoy a farewell dinner and transfer to the airport for our late night departure to the U.S.

**Day 4** – Arrive home.