



Dispatches from Seraj

2022 TOUR



Jericho/Dead Sea/Ramallah

Friday, October 21

Traveling Back in Time

Exploring the World of Ancient Palestine

By Doris Cardenas



For the last few days, Seraj Tour participants have explored *modern Palestine*, but *today we explored its ancient past*. We began by making a brief stop at the **Nabi Mosa Mosque** which is believed to contain the tomb of Moses according to Islamic tradition. This stop was not on the itinerary, so it was an unexpected surprise and treat. The Imam was very welcoming and happily gave a tour of the mosque and shrine.

Afterwards we headed to Jericho, which **has the honor of being the oldest city in the world and dates back 10,000 yrs.** The group had the opportunity to view **Hisham's Palace**, an Islamic archaeological site built by the *Umayyad Dynasty* in the early 8th century. **The site's highlight is the bath complex** which contains extensive beautiful floor mosaics which are protected under a structure. Visitors can admire the mosaics from walkways suspended over the floor.

Following Hisham's Palace, Seraj Tour participants headed to the **Mount of Temptation**. Unfortunately the monastery situated at the top of the mountain was closed, but we still enjoyed a great view from below the monastery. We used the time to relax near a stream.

After having quite a busy morning and early afternoon, we made it to **the last destination of the day, the Dead Sea**. We were given ample time to float in the sea or simply relax and savor the ambience and weather. This was the perfect way to end the day.

As a first time traveler to the region, I appreciate the effort made by Laurie and her staff to show us different eras of Palestinian history. From ancient times to the present, ***we are constantly learning as to how this unique place has changed and continues to do so***, yet Palestinians always find a way to adapt.

We'll continue sending updates on our journey. Watch your email.

[See the full 2022 tour itinerary *HERE!*](#)

[See past tour Dispatches *HERE!*](#)



Hisham's Palace, built by the Umayyad Dynasty, 743 AD



Imam greeting us at the **Nabi Mosa Mosque**



Enjoying the reputed health benefits of the very salty **Dead Sea**



Monastery perched on a cliff at the top of **Mount of Temptation**

18 PEOPLE are exploring Palestine up close and personal with our SERAJ executive director, Laurie Salameh, and her dedicated staff. October 16 -25. We hope you enjoy these reports.

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