

# Highlights *of* Esther Chiu's Return to The Holy Land

**F**or 17 days in November 2005, Esther Chiu took a Bible Land Discovery Tour with her friend, retired Notary Susanna Gordon.

In one afternoon, they travelled through customs in three countries: Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

From Cairo, they went to Mount Sinai and the wilderness of South Sinai. A jeep sped them through the stunning desert-scapes of red sand, where many scenes from *Lawrence of Arabia* were shot.

They visited the rose-red City of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where scenes from the Indiana Jones movie *The Last Crusade* were filmed. *National Geographic* says Petra is one of the "50 places of a lifetime" to see.



The tour visited tombs of former kings and Roman soldiers and the Urn Tomb, an archaeological wonder high up in one of the pink mountains.



From the King's Highway to Kerak and Mount Nebo, they enjoyed a spectacular view of the Jordan Valley, Jericho, and the Dead Sea, with Jerusalem barely visible in the distance.



Other highlights included Madaba—City of Mosaics—and the walled village of Kan Zaman, a preserved 19th Century settlement on the outskirts of Amman, capital of Jordan. Three American hotels in Amman were bombed just before Esther's tour entered the city.

From the Ancient Roman City of Jerash, they crossed over to Israel to visit the baptismal site at River Jordan; Sea of Galilee; Nazareth; Bethlehem; Megiddo, Israel's cradle of archaeology; and Caesarea on the Mediterranean.



They loved the Holy City of Jerusalem, especially their walk on Via Dolorosa; the Dead Sea region; Masada; and Jericho, the second-biggest oasis in the Middle East.





From the Mount of Olives, the view was incredible over the Kidron Valley toward the Old City of Jerusalem and the Golden Dome of Rock. ▲