

February 23, 2011

POV subscribers and other opera lovers

Your date with Aida under the desert sky is on!

The **KNOW JORDAN and ISRAEL Opera Tour** for which you received a brochure **is going ahead**. Travel to Jordan and Israel is confirmed and your seats for four opera performances are reserved. The tour highlight is an **Aida** performance in an outdoor theatre at the base of the mountain at the fortress of **Masada**. The tour package also includes tickets for Verdi's Requiem Mass at Masada and an Opera Gala and Verdi's Jerusalem in Jerusalem.

We're going ahead with full knowledge of the security situation in these countries. Both **Tour Director Michael Morres**, Past President of POV, and **Bill Nobleman**, Managing Director of KNOW THE WORLD Tour Organizers, the tour planner, have held senior positions with the Department of National Defence. They are **very security conscious**. They would never put a group into a situation which they felt was dangerous. KNOW THE WORLD did not send groups to Israel for ten years because of security concerns.

We have **good contacts** in both **Jordan and Israel** and all of them including the Canadian Embassies describe the situations in **these countries as stable**. There have been a few minor demonstrations in Jordan but they have been small and mainly about food prices, not politics or governance. There's been no violence nor any need for it.

The tour will leave May 26, 2011, and will return June 10. Flights to Amman from Montreal are on Royal Jordanian Airlines which has excellent service. Connecting flights from Victoria to Montreal are available.

In **Jordan** visits include Amman, the extensive Roman ruins at Jerash, Crusader and Arabic castles, Madaba with a 6th C map of the Middle East, the famous "lost city" of Petra, souks (bazaars) and a recreated caravan stop. Your 5 star hotels include a unique one built on the remains of an abandoned Arab Village.

In **Israel**, in addition to the opera performances you'll tour the Old City's holy and archeological sites and New Jerusalem's important sites; Masada; spend two days at the Dead Sea; the Roman capital, Caesarea; a World Heritage Site at Akko (Acre); Nazareth and other Biblical sites; and the Golan Heights, taken from Syria by Israel in 1967. You'll stay in 5 star hotels each night.

The cost of the two week tour including 2nd level opera tickets (upgrades to 1st level are reasonably priced) without air taxes (about \$245) is just **\$5850**. Compare this price to that of other opera tours. We have an extension on the early booking date to March 15 but early booking is advisable, especially if you want to upgrade opera tickets.

Given the recent news from **Egypt**, we now hope we can do the optional Egypt tour we offered which will go from May 18 to 27, 2011. It includes a 5 day Nile Cruise on a 5 star ship and 2 days in Cairo in a 5 star hotel right at the Pyramids. On the Nile Cruise included shore excursions go to the major temples including Luxor, Karnak, Queen Hatsheput's, those at Edfu and Kom Ombo and ancient sites at Aswan. An optional excursion to Abu Simbel is available. The early booking price is just **\$1975**.

and, we've got you covered

If we can't go to Egypt, we have an alternative tour to **Turkey** arranged for the same dates and same price. The tour will go to Istanbul to see palaces, mosques, an ancient racecourse, an unusual water storage site and the Grand Bazaar. At Pamukkale, there's a unique natural phenomenon and two famous ancient sites. From Izmir, Turkey's second city you'll visit famous sites at Pergamon and Ephesus. You'll also tour interesting Izmir.

If you can't find your brochure, you may download it from <http://www.pov.bc.ca/boheme.html> . If you'd like more information, call or write Michael Morres at 250-592-8897 or mfmorres@telus.net or Bill Nobleman at 1-800-554-9754 or ktwtours@rogers.com .

We look forward to welcoming you to the tours and the performances.