

**STONEY CREEK
UNITED CHURCH
HOLY LAND JOURNEY
21 FEB – 04 MAR, 2010
Hosted by
Rev. Bob Nightingale**

Day 1: SUN. 21 FEB. Departure

Tonight we depart on our overnight flight from Toronto international airport to Tel Aviv. Complimentary in-flight service is provided en-route. **(D)**

Day 2: MON. 22 FEB. Israel

Arriving in Israel, we are met by our guide, who will take us to our hotel, but not before visiting Jaffa:

Jaffa- One of the oldest towns in Israel and considered one of the oldest ports in the world. Cedars of Lebanon sent by King Hiram of Tyre and destined for Solomon's Temple were unloaded at Jaffa. It is here that Peter brought Tabitha back from the dead and, when in the home of Simon the Tanner, he prophesied the vision of the pure and un-pure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15, Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42; X 10:5)

Tonight we enjoy our first Israeli buffet dinner. **(B,D)**

Day 3: TUE. 23 FEB. Megiddo, Nazareth

Today we leave Tel Aviv and head north towards the upper Galilee, visiting:

Caesarea - The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel, where Pontius Pilate made his base. Here we will tour the Roman aqueduct, restored theater and crusader city.

Mount Carmel- Overlooking the city of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 2; 15:4,25, Isaiah 33:9; Zechariah 12:12)

Megiddo - Hebrew for **Armageddon**. Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here King Solomon built a giant fortress and city (Judges 1:27, 5:19; I Kings 4:12, 9:15; II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16).

Nazareth- Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted to throw Jesus over the cliff. No visit to Nazareth is complete without a visit to the Biblical village.

Now a suburb of Nazareth, **Cana**, is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38, John 1:46;2:45-46; Matthew 2:23)

Our final destination is Hagoshrim. A wonderful place to stay for the next two nights! **(B,D)**

Day 4: WED. 24 FEB. Upper Galilee, Golan Heights

Today we travel north into the beautiful upper Galilee region, visiting:

Tel Dan- This beautiful Biblical site will allow us a short walk around one of the rivers feeding the Jordan.

Caesarea Philippi- Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River the city of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat footed god, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples His purpose, His Church and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah.(Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

Nimrod Castle- This stunning Crusader castle offers awe inspiring views of the plains of Lebanon and the upper Galilee.

Golan Heights- Today we view Israel from The Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee

Dinner will be at Hagoshrim this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 5: THU. 25 FEB. Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha

After breakfast we drive along the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Today we shall visit:

Korazin- Location of Galilee's most intact ancient synagogues, Korazin was a very important Jewish town. Jesus rebuked the people of Korazin for their lack of faith and for spurning his 'miracles'. (Matthew 11:2; Luke 10:13)

The Mount of Beatitudes- Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. (Matthew 5:1-8)

Capernaum-The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

Tabgha- Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21,16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

Bethsaida-Also known as 'The House of The Fisherman' this is the home of Peter, Philip and Andrew and also the place where Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the blind man. Here we will see recent excavations of this old city. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1)

Ginossar- Here we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986 this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved it is a timeless reminder of life during that time.

Boat Ride- There is no better location to experience fellowship than in a private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

After a truly wonderful day we will overnight at the Sea of Galilee this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 6: FRI. 26 FEB. Jordan

This morning we leave the Galilee and head toward Jordan. Before crossing the border we shall visit:

Bet She'an - This is the largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are today still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hanged from the city walls (Judges 4:7-8).

Once we have entered Jordan we shall visit Mt. Nebo before heading towards our hotel in Petra.

Mt. Nebo- From here we can see across into the Promised Land, just as Moses did before being laid to rest. On a clear day we can see the hills of Jerusalem with Jericho in the foreground.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Grand View hotel overlooking Petra. **(B,D)**

Day 7: SAT. 27 FEB. Petra, Dead Sea

After breakfast we begin our visit of Petra. Petra was chosen as the capital of the Nabateans because it was located in a valley surrounded by sandstone mountains. The main entrance to Petra is called the Siq, with sides as high as 200m. It was here that Christians escaped from the siege of Jerusalem by Titus in the 1st century. This gorge and the temple at the end of it (the Kazneh) were popularized in American culture in the movie, Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.

The Kazneh- Of the 800 carved tombs in Petra, the Kazneh is the most famous. Its name Kazneh means 'treasure' and comes from the Bedouin belief that the Pharaoh chasing the Israelites hid his treasures in the urn at the top of the Kazneh.

Main Street- As many as 30,000 people may have lived in Petra during the 1st century. It is a misconception that Petra was a city only for the dead. A large earthquake in 363 AD destroyed at least half of the city. Petra never recovered from this destruction.

Dead Sea- No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!(Genesis 14:3;Deuteronomy 3:17 4:49; Joshua 3:16;12:3;15:2,5)

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Dead Sea Spa hotel, situated on the shores of the Dead Sea. **(B,D)**

Day 8: SUN. 28 FEB. Masada, Dead Sea

From our Jordanian hotel we take the short drive to the border and cross into down to the lowest point below sea level on land; The Dead Sea.

Bethany- Extensive excavations of the surrounding area since 1996 have uncovered many sites. None more significant than the ruins of 'Bethabara.' Many believe this is the original site of John the Baptist's ministry and the location of his baptism of Jesus.

Masada- This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders.

Qumran- Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947. (John 1; Luke 1:57-80; Isaiah 40)

Ein Gedi- This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. Swim in the pool where David and his army refreshed themselves in the "*Springs of Living Water*."(I Samuel 24, Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

Dinner will be back at our hotel Jerusalem hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 9: MON. 01 MAR. Jerusalem

Our first full day in Jerusalem includes the following:

Mount of Olives- We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday

Garden of Gethsemane- The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. -"*My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.*"(Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

Mount Zion- Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25)

St Peter in Gallicantu- Gallicantu means "cockcrow" and this lovely modern church recalls the arrest of Jesus and his warning to Peter that he would deny him three times before the cock crow (Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54)

Upper Room- The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

Jewish Quarter- Here we will through the Cardo Maxima then onto the Herodian quarter as we walk through the Jewish quarter.

Yad Vashem- Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 10: TUE. 02 MAR. Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem to view the Knesset, The Menora and visits to the following:

Scale Model of Jerusalem- This fabulous reconstruction of the old city of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during Herodian times.

The Israel Museum- Home to some of the Dead Sea scrolls such as the well preserved great *Isaiah scroll*.

City of David- This afternoon we will be guided through the site and new excavations of the city of David. You will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's tunnel and re-surface at the pool of Siloam.

Holy Sepulcher Church- Stations X- XIV on The Via Dolorosa. This is the site of the Crucifixion of Jesus and where he was laid to rest in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea

Dinner will be at our hotel in Jerusalem this evening. **(B,D)**

DAY 11: WED. 03MAR. Jerusalem

Today we shall visit;

Western Wall and Tunnels- Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews. Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews pray relentlessly along with many Christians.

Some of us may wish to leave a hand written note placed in the crevices of the Western Wall. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

Davidson Centre- This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

Church of St. Anne- Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple. (John 5, 1-9)

Garden Tomb- Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41)

Tonight is our 'Farewell dinner'. A wonderful time to share and reflect on a, truly, inspirational journey. **(B,D)**

Day 11: THU. 04 MAR. Journey Home

This morning we depart from Tel Aviv on our morning departure to Toronto. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B,L)**

B:-Breakfast. L:-Lunch. D:-Dinner

HOLY LAND JOURNEY

21 February – 04 March, 2010

INFORMATION

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Toronto (fares from other cities available upon request)

Hotels: 4* hotels and kibbutz

TBA

TBA

TBA

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner daily with tea and coffee

Transportation: Air-conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour

Sightseeing: Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees

Tour Guide: Government-licensed Tour Manager will accompany the group and work harmoniously with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

Porterage: One large suitcase per person is allowed. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

Gratuities: This will be collected at time of full payment. Equivalent to USD\$100

Air Transportation Taxes: Currently \$92

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches (unless mentioned in the itinerary)

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Age, up to and including 59: \$TBA

60 – 64: \$TBA

65 – 69: \$TBA

70+: Rates on request

All rates based upon twin accommodation

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a passport valid until 04 Sep, 2010. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel. Christian Journeys will process your Jordanian visa.

Reservations: Reservations by telephone and email will be taken, but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A non-refundable deposit of \$400 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment. Cancellation within 60 days before departure incurs 100% cancellation charge.

Travel Insurance: Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against the cancellation penalties. Conditions apply so please ask for more details.

Fuel surcharges- At time of print airlines still implement fuel surcharges. Any such charges would be assessed at time of final billing.

General Health: All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

12 DAY JOURNEY COST

TORONTO PRICE: \$3695CAD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 615CAD

Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card

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