

HOLY LAND "HOMECOMING"

19 – 30 MARCH, 2008

"For many are called, but few are chosen" -

Matthew 22:14

hosted by

Rob & Emily Smith, Eric Dellenbach and Erika Schacher

WED. 19 MARCH USA to London.

Tonight we depart from Los Angeles on British Airways to London, England. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. (D)

THU. 20 MARCH. London to Israel.

Upon arrival at London Heathrow airport we have the option to hop on the 'Piccadilly Line' underground and visit central London for a few hours, or stay in the airport with its many shops and restaurants. Special rates are available for those who may want a 'day-room' near Heathrow airport. Our late evening departure for Tel Aviv offers a light meal and complimentary in-flight service. (B,D)

FRI. 21 MARCH. Jaffa, Biblical Gardens, Jerusalem.

This morning we arrive at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv. Welcome to Israel! Here we are met by our Tour guide, Roni Winter. Once clearing customs and baggage formalities our journey begins. We will have breakfast and a day room for a few hours of sleep in the morning. Our first day in The Holy Land includes the following:

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)

Neot Kedumim- These beautiful Biblical Gardens make for the perfect setting to enjoy our breakfast. From here we will journey "up" to Jerusalem.

Upon arriving at Jerusalem we will visit;

Mount of Olives- We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with Mount Moriah in front of us and 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)

Today we find ourselves in Israel during the festival of *PURIM*. This Jewish holiday usually offers us the opportunity to witness joyous celebrations.

Our final destination today is the **Olive Tree Hotel** where we shall stay for 4 nights. Here we enjoy our 'Welcome to Israel Dinner'. (B,D)

SAT. 22 MARCH. Jerusalem

After our Israeli buffet breakfast we stay in Jerusalem and visit the following:

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)

David's Tomb- Visit the stone cenotaph laid by Crusaders in the Church of the Apostles.

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 before visiting the **Temple Institute**.

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.

Western Wall- 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)

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

SUN. 23 MARCH. Jerusalem

This morning we shall enjoy our Easter Sunday service in Jerusalem before we drive to the outskirts of Jerusalem and visit **Yad Vashem** Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

Free Time-This afternoon we have allotted some free time for you to walk the streets of Jerusalem or shop on Ben Yehuda street.

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

MON. 24 MARCH. Jerusalem

Our last full day in Jerusalem has us visiting the following:

Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) –Our route begins at the Pool of Bethesda. The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha/Calvary Hill.

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.

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. **Here we will enjoy Communion and a private service.** (John 19:41)

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

TUE 25 MARCH. Masada, Dead Sea, Bedouin Camp.

From Jerusalem we drive down to the Dead Sea where we will visit the following:

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.

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)

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 the view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947. (John 1; Luke 1:57-80; Isaiah 40)

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)

Our overnight stay will be truly memorable as we eat and sleep under the stars at our Bedouin camp. (B,D)

WED. 26 MARCH. Jordan Valley, Dead Sea.

Today we leave the Dead Sea and head north through the Jordan Valley to the Sea of Galilee. En-route we visit:

Our journey will bring us close to the oldest city in the world; **JERICHO**. This was the first city conquered by the returning Children of Israel under Joshua. Overlooking Jericho is the **Mount of Temptation**. Not far from Jericho is the Monastery of St. John, which recalls the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. (Joshua 4:5-6; II Kings 2:18-22; Mark 1:9-11)

After passing Jericho we head further north and pass **GILGAL**; where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover there after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

Gideon Spring- It is here that Gideon gathered his men before fighting the Midianites,

Bet She'an- 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 hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7)

Just a short drive from Bet She'an is the Sea of Galilee. Here we will unpack and stay at the Kibbutz Ein Gev. Situated on the eastern shores there is no better place to enjoy the Galilee. (B,D)

THU. 27 MARCH. Upper Galilee, Golan Heights.

From our kibbutz we travel north towards the Golan Heights visiting;

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

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)

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

Rafting- What better way to immerse yourself in the River Jordan. Enjoy the memorable fun of water rafting on the Jordan.

Before returning to our Kibbutz we will re-visit Tiberias where, time permitting, we will peruse the shops. Dinner will be at our Kibbutz. **(B,D)**

FRI. 28 MARCH. Galilee and Boat Ride.

After breakfast our day in the Galilee begins with a drive through Tiberias, built by Herod Antipas in honor of Tiberias.

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. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

Boat Ride- Our journey on the Sea of Galilee will finish at Capernaum.

Capernaum-The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture.

(Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

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)

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)

After a truly wonderful day we return to Kibbutz Maagan for dinner and overnight stay. **(B,D)**

SAT 29 MARCH. Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea and Tel Aviv.

Today we leave the Galilee and head for the Mediterranean coastline, visiting;

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. 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)

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. With over 20 layers of civilization Megiddo is a truly fascinating site. From our vantage point we can view the beauty of the Jezreel Valley, where John envisioned that the final war would take place on the Plains of Abraham. (Judges 1:27; 5:19;1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:12)

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.

Tonight is our last evening, where we shall enjoy a 'Farewell Dinner' and reflect with others on this memorable journey together.

Overnight will be at the Grand Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv **(B,D)**

SUN 30 MARCH. Israel to USA.

This morning we check out from our hotel and take our flight(s) from Israel to USA. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B,L)**

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

The itinerary is subject to alteration by the group leaders.

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INFORMATION

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Los Angeles.

Hotels: Olive Tree Hotel, Jerusalem
Kfar Hanokdim, Bedouin Camp
Kibbutz Maagan, Sea of Galilee
Grand Beach Hotel, Tel Aviv

Meals: Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily with refreshments, 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 guide Roni Winter will accompany the group throughout Israel.

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

All local taxes and service fees.

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

NOT INCLUDED

Departure taxes & Fuel Costs: Currently USD\$305.

Gratuities: Recommended total gratuity is USD\$90.

Lunches. (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Christian Journeys highly recommends the purchase of travel insurance when traveling outside the USA. Policy premium options will be mailed to you along with your deposit receipt.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport with at least 6 months validity. USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

Inoculation: Not a current requirement.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests 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 \$300 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment.

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: The amount shown is valid at time of print. Fuel surcharges can fluctuate before departure.

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 TOUR PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES PRICE: \$2385USD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 399USD

**Balance payment by credit card is available
but carries a 3% surcharge.**

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