

**ISRAEL & JORDAN JOURNEY**  
**29 MARCH - 13 APRIL, 2008**  
hosted by  
**PASTOR GORD REEVE**

**SAT. 29 MARCH Canada to London.**

Tonight we depart from Vancouver 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)

**SUN. 30 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)

**MON. 31 MARCH. Jaffa, Caesarea, Megiddo.**

This morning we arrive at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv. Welcome to Israel ! Here we are met by our Tour Manager, 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)

From here we will journey along the Via Maris ('Way of the Sea') and check-in to our accommodation for a light brunch and rest, before visiting Caesarea.

**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.

**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

Jezebel 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)

Once back at the **Kibbutz Nascholim** we will enjoy our 'Welcome Dinner' and overnight stay, on the beach at the Mediterranean. (B,D)

**TUE. 01 APRIL. Mt. Carmel, Druze Village, Haifa**

After our Israeli buffet breakfast we drive through the Carmel forest to Mt. Carmel. En-route we will stop and look at a great example of rolling stone tombs. Our day will include the following:

**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)

**Druze Village** -Today we pass by a Druze village. The Israeli Druze have official recognition as a separate religious community with its own religious court system. Individual prayer, as in Islam, does not exist. Smoking, alcohol, and the eating of pork are banned. The Druze are not allowed to intermarry with members of any other religions.

**Haifa** - This beautiful city is also Israel's largest port. With more than two thousand years of history Haifa has endured many occupations from the early Romans to the Turks.

**Akko**- This picturesque crusader port was a strategic location for both the Canaanites and Phoenicians and is also mentioned in Egyptian records.

Today's journey ends with our return to the Kibbutz for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**WED. 02 APRIL. Nazareth, Sepphoris, Sea of Galilee.**

This morning we leave our Kibbutz and head towards Galilee but not before visiting:

**Sepphoris**-Birthplace of Mary and home to Joachim and Anna. Once the capital of Galilee. This excavated city has some of the most magnificent mosaics in the country including "The Mona Lisa of Israel".

**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, we drive through Cana, 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)

**Safed-** One of the four holiest cities in Judaism with beautiful views from its vantage point, 900m above sea level.

Our last stop is at our Kibbutz, our resting place for the next three days, which is situated on the southern shores of the Sea of Galilee. (B,D)

### **THU. 03 APRIL. Tiberias, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha,**

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

**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. Here we will enjoy private worship and intercession by the shores of the Galilee. (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)

### **FRI. 04 APRIL. Golan Heights, Upper Galilee. Boat Ride.**

Today we travel north into the beautiful upper Galilee region, 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.

**Gamla-**Our drive back to the Sea of Galilee takes us through the Golan Height vistas where we can view the cliff side city of Gamla.

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)

### **SAT. 05 APRIL. Jordan Valley, Dead Sea.**

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

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4:7-8)

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)

**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 is at The **Kibbutz Kalia** where we enjoy dinner. (B,D)

## **SUN. 06 APRIL. Massada, Ein Gedi, Jerusalem.**

From our Kibbutz we take the short drive further into the desert 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. Teaching " Standing in the Gap for Israel" Prayer and Intercession

**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)

After a fascinating day we leave the lowest geographical place on Earth and take the drive up to Jerusalem. Once at Jerusalem we will watch the sunset over Her from Mt. Skopus. **The Novotel Jerusalem hotel** is our home for the next five nights. Dinner will be at our hotel. (B,D)

## **MON. 07 APRIL. 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)

**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 as we walk through the Jewish quarter.

**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 this evening. (B,D)

## **TUE. 08 APRIL. Jerusalem.**

After breakfast we will visit the following:

**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)

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

**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.

**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.

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

## **WED. 09 APRIL. Jerusalem.**

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

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

**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.*

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

## **THU. 10 APRIL. Jerusalem, Free Time**

**Free Time-** Today the day has been left open for those who would like to peruse the shops on Ben Yehuda street. Those who may wish to re-visit some Jerusalem sights may do so. Dinner will be at our hotel tonight (B,D)

## **FRI. 11 APRIL. Bethany, Jerash**

After breakfast we depart for Jordan. Once through border formalities we meet our guide and driver for the next three days. Prior to our arrival in Petra we will visit the following sites:

**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.

**Jerash-** Overshadowed by Petra, the ancient of Jerash is acknowledged internationally as one of the largest and best preserved sites of Roman architecture outside of Italy.

Our day ends with a drive southwards to the ancient site of Petra. Here we check-in to the Marriott hotel for dinner and overnight stay. **(B,L,D)**

## **SAT. 12 APRIL. Petra**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Knowledge of Petra was lost to the western world until an archeologist tricked his Bedouin guides into leading him there in 1812.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**The Monastery-** The Monastery is the largest tomb façade in Petra, measuring 50m wide and 45m high. Despite its name, it was built as a tomb monument and may have acquired its name from the crosses inscribed inside. Like the Kazneh, the structure consists of two stories topped by a magnificent urn.

**Monastery Top-** Scholars debate, over who built and designed the tombs of Petra. They were probably the product of local workers and artisans brought in from Alexandria and Rome. The monuments are Nabatean in style, but they incorporate classical, Egyptian and Mesopotamian elements.

After visiting Petra we return to Amman for our overnight and farewell dinner at the Marriott hotel. A wonderful opportunity to reflect on a wonderful journey! **(B,D)**

## **SUN. 13 APRIL. Journey Home**

This morning we depart for Amman airport and our early morning departure to London and onward connection to Vancouver. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B,L)**

**B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner**

**The itinerary is subject to slight alterations at anytime by the discretion of the group leaders and guides.**