

ISRAEL JOURNEY

'Meet the People...See the Land'

March 16 – 30, 2005

**Hosted by
Stewart & Jan Wilson
Living Tapestry**

This itinerary identifies many of the places that we shall visit and explore. As the tour progresses we shall introduce to you some very special people and ministries. We are keeping a few "surprises" for us all to enjoy!

WED. 16 MAR: - Canada to Israel.

This morning we depart on Air Canada from B.C to Toronto and connect with Austrian Airlines for our overnight flight to Tel Aviv, Israel. Complimentary in-flight services will be provided. (L,D)

THU. 17 MAR: - Tel Aviv.

This afternoon we will arrive at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv. **Roni Winter**, our tour manager, will meet us and will assist us with luggage and customs formalities. Our short transfer takes us to the **Hotel Tal** for 'Welcome Dinner' and overnight. (B,L,D)

FRI. 18 MAR: - Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Sea of Galilee.

After our first Israeli buffet breakfast we begin our journey by visiting the **Diaspora Museum**. This museum, at the Tel Aviv University, uniquely tells the story of the Jewish people from the time they were expelled from their homeland until their return over 1800 years later.

Independence Hall is next on our itinerary.- It was here in 1948 that Ben Gurion declared the Independence of the State of Israel. Leaving Tel Aviv we drive north along the **Via Maris** to the ancient Roman city of **Caesarea**. Built by King Herod to honor Caesar Augustus, this site was significant in

both Jewish and Christian history. This was where Simon Peter converted the Roman, Cornelius, the first non-Jew to believe in Jesus. Paul was also imprisoned there for two years. It was here that the Great Revolt of the Jews against Rome began in 66 AD. We will see the remains of the amphitheater, the aqueduct, and much more. Our final destination today is the **Kibbutz Maagan** (our resting place for the next four nights.) Situated on the southern shores of the Sea of Galilee it is the perfect location for touring Northern Israel. Tonight we will enjoy a Shabbat dinner! (B,D)

SAT. 19 MAR: - Tiberias, Sea of Galilee boat ride.

This morning we shall enjoy a **Messianic service in Tiberias**. After the service we take the short ride to **Nof Ginossar** to visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. This fishing boat, discovered by accident during the drought of 1986, existed at the time of Jesus. This afternoon we will take a **private boat ride** upon the **Sea of Galilee** before returning to Tiberias and visiting the **Galilee Experience**. Dinner tonight will be at the Kibbutz Maagan. (B,D)

SUN. 20 MAR: - Galilee, Golan Heights.

Today we begin by visiting the baptismal site of **Yardenit** on the Jordan River. Tour members will have an opportunity to be baptized if they wish. After Yardenit our day includes the following;

Tabgha - this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes.

The Mount of Beatitudes - Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount.

Capernaum - The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. We will visit the ancient synagogue and Peter's House.

Banias - Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, The city of Panias, named after Pan, the goat footed Greek God, was **SUN. 20 MAR: - Galilee, Golan Heights continued.**

later renamed Caesarea Philippi by the Romans. It was here that Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah.

From here we will travel along the Golan Heights to the **Mt. Bental** viewpoint overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Then we will visit the Golan Heights Winery, before arriving at Gamla, referred to as the "Masada of the north", destroyed in 68 AD by the Romans. Dinner, tonight, will be at the Kibbutz **(B,D)**

MON. 21 MAR: - Galilee.

After breakfast we visit the following;

Mt. Tabor - where Deborah and Baraks' armies staged before engaging the Canaanites.

Sepphoris - The capital of Galilee, during Herod's time, this city has some of the most magnificent mosaics in the country including "The Mona Lisa of Israel".

Megiddo - Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. H'ar Megiddo means the mountain of Megiddo, it has found prophetic significance for Christians as the place of **Armageddon**,

Safed- One of the four holy cities of Israel. In the 16th Century, Safed became the center of Jewish mysticism, (Kabbalah) and learning. Dinner will be at Kibbutz Maagan. **(B,D)**

TUE. 22 MAR: - Jordan Valley, Qumran.

This morning we leave Galilee and head south through the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea. On our journey we will visit:

Gideon Spring - This is the place where Gideon gathered his men before fighting the Midianites.

Bet She'an - The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Archeologists are still discovering ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This is also the place where King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls after losing the battle to the Philistines.

Our final destination today is **Qumran**; home of the ancient Essenes.) It is here that the Dead Sea Scrolls were written almost two thousand years ago. We will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where the Scrolls were discovered in 1947.

Our resting place this evening is the **Kibbutz Kalia** where we will enjoy dinner. **(B,D)**

WED. 23 MAR: - En-Gedi, Masada, Be'er Sheva.

This morning we take the short drive along the shores of **the Dead Sea to En Gedi**. We will hike to the caves where David hid from Saul and his army and swim in the pool where David and his army refreshed themselves.

Further south is the **UNESCO World Heritage** site of **Masada**, King Herod's fortress. We will take the cable car to the

top to explore and learn about the last stand in the Great Revolt against the Romans. In the afternoon there will be time to “float” in the Dead Sea and to cover yourself in the therapeutically soothing Dead Sea mud - always fun and a great photo opportunity. Dinner tonight will be at the Hotel Paradise in Beer Sheva with special guests **Avner & Rachel Boskey. (B,D)**

THU. 24 MAR: - Negev Museum, Bet Jubrin, Jerusalem.

After breakfast we will visit the **Negev Museum**. The museum’s exhibits include the history of Be’er Sheva and a series of archaeological artifacts from the whole Negev region. Camelriding anyone ?

From Be’er Sheva we head towards Jerusalem but not before visiting **Bet Jubrin**. Here we will visit the caves and ruins of this fascinating place.

THU. 24 MAR: - Negev Museum, Bet Jubrin, Jerusalem continued

Upon arriving at **Jerusalem** we will go to **Mt. Scopus** to receive the Pilgrim’s blessing and to view this beautiful city and it’s surroundings.

The Olive Tree Hotel is home for the remainder of our time in Israel. **(B,D)**

FRI. 25 MAR: - Jerusalem – Good Friday

Our first day in Jerusalem begins with a visit **Yad Vashem**, The Holocaust Museum. The remainder of the day will be spent visiting the **Western Wall** and **Mt. Zion** and in the **Jewish quarter** visiting the **Temple Institute** and **The Cardo**.

Tonight we will enjoy a special Passover dinner at the Biblical Resource Centre. **(B,D)**

SAT. 26 MAR: - Jerusalem, Ein Karem.

Our day begins on the **Mt. of Olives** where we view the Old City. We then walk down the **Palm Sunday** avenue to the **Garden of Gethsemane**. We will then make our way to the **Israel Vision** studio for time with **Jay & Meridel Rawlings**. After lunch we travel to **Ein Karem**, birthplace of John the Baptist and visit the Baptist’s cave and the **Hadassah Hospital. (B,D)**

SUN. 27 MAR: - Jerusalem - Easter Sunday.

Today we begin with an early morning sunrise service at **The Garden Tomb** followed by a visit to the **Western Wall** tunnels and **The Temple Mount**.

This afternoon we shall visit **The Knesset**, the **Israel Museum** (home to the Dead Sea Scrolls), the **Jerusalem scale model exhibit** and finally the **Hass Promenade**, where we can see Jerusalem in all Her glory. Dinner, tonight, will be at our hotel. **(B,D)**

MON. 28 MAR: - Jerusalem - Free Day.

A relaxing day lies ahead where you may want to visit certain sites or enjoy the marketplaces and shops of Jerusalem, such as the **Mahane Yehuda Market** and **Ben Yehuda Street**, before returning to the hotel for ‘Farewell Dinner’. A wonderful time to reflect on our memorable journey. **(B,D)**

TUE. 29 MAR: -Tree Planting, Jaffa, Vienna.

This morning we leave Jerusalem and make our way to the old Mediterranean Sea port of **Jaffa**. Before arriving at Jaffa we will visit the Biblical landscape reserve of **Neot Kedumim** where we will plant a tree. This ceremony symbolizes that we are planted in Israel...*This IS your home!*

After our visit to Jaffa we take the short drive to Tel Aviv airport and our afternoon flight to **Vienna**. Here we say goodbye and show our gratitude to Roni and our coach driver. Once we depart Israel we will arrive in Vienna and take our transfer to our hotel for the evening. The evening has been left free for you to enjoy this city. **(B,L)**

Though we have left the Holy Land it shall never leave us!

WED. 30 MAR: - Vienna to Canada.

After continental breakfast at our airport hotel we depart on Austrian Airlines for Toronto and our onward connecting flights to B.C. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B,L)**

Welcome home !

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner