

# Egypt, Jordan and Israel Journey

11<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008

Hosted by

Rev. David Saffrey

THE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTRE

## TUE. 11 NOV: Canada to Athens.

Today we depart from Canada on our overnight flight to Athens. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. (D)

## WED. 12 NOV: Athens.

Upon arrival in Athens we will enjoy a visit to this ancient city. **Mars Hill** and the **Acropolis** are two of the sites we shall see today before returning to the airport, resting at our airport hotel, before taking our onward flight to Cairo.

## THU. 13NOV: Cairo.

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport we are met by our Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. From the airport we take the short drive to our hotel where we can unpack and relax. This morning we will have a brunch before beginning our afternoon of site-seeing, which will include:

**Pyramids of Giza-** Truly magnificent! Not only can you stand on these great testaments to ancient engineering but you can walk through the passageways of the Great Pyramid to its inner core, the Great Chamber.

**Great Sphinx-** To this day, there is much debate over who built this large monument and in whose name was it dedicated to. Regardless, the Great Sphinx has stood the test of time and is a wonder to see.

Once back at our hotel we will enjoy our 'Welcome Dinner'. (B,D)

## FRI. 14NOV: Cairo

After our buffet breakfast we begin our journey by visiting:

**Egypt Museum-** Host to over 120,000 artifacts there is much to see, including the famous Tutankhamon collection.

**Grand Bazaar-** Enjoy the sounds and smells of the world renowned bazaar! A chance to purchase local merchandise.

**Felucca Ride-** An enjoyable ride on the river Nile on the small Felucca boats, before returning to our hotel.

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

## SAT 15 NOV: Cairo to Mt. Sinai.

This morning we embark on a symbolic voyage as we head towards the Promised Land, traveling across the Sinai desert, arriving at the foot of Mt. Sinai by late afternoon.

Here we find St. Catherine's Monastery, built upon the traditional site of Moses' encounter with the Burning Bush.

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

## SUN. 16 NOV: Mt. Sinai, Red Sea, Jordan

For those of you who wish to do so, you can ascend Mt. Sinai for sunrise. A truly unique and spectacular moment!

For those less energetic we tour the monastery and surrounding area.

This afternoon we leave Egypt, by ferry, across the beautiful waters of the Red Sea. Arriving at the port of Aquaba, we enter Jordan and make our way to our eventual resting place, Petra.

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

## MON. 17 NOV: Petra, Jordan

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 depart north towards our overnight stay by the shores of the Dead Sea.

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

### **TUE. 18 NOV: Mt. Nebo, Bethany by the Jordan, Crossing into Israel.**

After breakfast we have two more places to visit before crossing into Israel, The Holy Land.

**Mt. Nebo-** One of the Holiest sites in all of Jordan, Mt. Nebo is the supposed location where Moses was laid to rest. For those inclined you can climb Pisgah and admire the dazzling view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, to the rooftops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

**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.

Later this afternoon we cross the Jordan river and enter into Israel. Not far from our border crossing point is the Sea of Galilee. The heart of Jesus' ministry!

**Bet She'an-** The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after it's 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 4:7-8)

Here we check-in to our hotel for the next two nights. **(B,D)**

### **WED. 19 NOV: Sea of Galilee and Boat Ride.**

After our Israeli buffet breakfast our full touring day involves visits to;

**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. The Greek Orthodox Church, Fransiscan monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (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. 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)

**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!

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride-** Our day ends with an unforgettable sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner, tonight, will be at our hotel near the shores of on the Sea of Galilee this evening. **(B,D)**

### **THU 20 NOV: Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, Upper Galilee**

After breakfast we begin our day by setting off into the Upper Gailiee, which today includes;

**Tel Dan-** This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history.

**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)

**Naot Shoe Factory-** Here we have an opportunity to visit the world famous sandal manufacturer and perhaps make a purchase, or two.

**Golan Heights-** Today we have the opportunity to view Israel from both Mt. Bental and 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 our hotel. **(B,D)**

**FRI 21 NOV: Nazareth, Jerusalem.**

And then leaving Galilee and travel southwards through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. This was the route followed by Jesus and his disciples as they traversed the dusty roads towards Jerusalem for the last time. Our first stop today is;

**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)

After Beth She'an we head further south 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.

This afternoon we shall arrive at our hotel for the remainder of the day and dinner. **(B,D)**

**SAT 22 NOV: Masada, Ein Gedi., Jerusalem.**

After breakfast we will head into the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit;

**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. (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)

After another fascinating day we make our way 'up' to Jerusalem. Dinner will be served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

**SUN 23 NOV: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast we will spend our first full day in Jerusalem visiting;

**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; Luke 22:7-38; John 13-17)

**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)

**Old City-** Here we will walk through the streets of the Armenian and Jewish quarters of old Jerusalem

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

**MON. 24 NOV: Jerusalem,**

After breakfast we will enjoy a relaxing day with opportunities to shop. After breakfast our day of touring will include the following:

**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 Tunnels-** Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews! Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews as they 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)

**Via Dolorosa-**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.

**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)

*This evening we will enjoy our 'Farewell Dinner' at our hotel in Jerusalem. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you!. (B,D)*

**TUE. 25 NOV: Israel to Toronto.**

This morning we check out from our hotel and transfer back to the airport and our flight(s) back to Canada. Breakfast, lunch and complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. (B,D)

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

**B = Breakfast. L = Lunch. D = Dinner.**

**CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS**  
**www.Christian-Journeys.com**

# EGYPT, JORDAN & ISRAEL

## November, 2008

### INFORMATION

#### **INCLUDED**

**Air travel:** Round trip from Toronto. Fares from other cities available upon request.

**Hotels:** First class hotels and Galilee kibbutz.

**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 guide, will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational/spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

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

**Air Transportation Taxes:** Currently \$385.

**Egypt, Jordan, Israel border taxes:** \$41

**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: \$197

60 – 64: \$239

65 – 69: \$279

70 + rates available on request.

**Gratuities:** Equivalent to USD120.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which should not expire before 25 May, 2009. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel. Egypt and Jordan visa is taken care of by Christian Journeys.

**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 deposit of \$400 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable.

**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.

**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.

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#### **15 DAY TOUR PROGRAM**

**TORONTO PRICE:** \$3295 CAD  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$ 490 CAD

**Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.**

**For more information please call:**

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