

ISRAEL & JORDAN

'ROAD OF THE PATRIARCH'S'

17th – 29th November, 2008

*hosted by
River of Life Christian Church*

MON: 17 NOV. N. America to Israel.

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

TUE: 18 NOV. Arrival, Tel Aviv.

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport we are met by our Israeli Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach we relax and enjoy the short journey to our kibbutz beside the Dead Sea..

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

WED: 19 NOV. Jordan

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, Beyond the Jordan- 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.

Amman- Visit and experience the hustle and bustle of the capital city of Jordan.

Madaba- Driving along the King's Highway we arrive at Madaba; The city of Mosaics! See the Byzantine mosaic depictions of Jerusalem.

Mt Nebo- The site's other name is Pisgah: "*And Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah which is opposite Jericho*". From the mountaintop, which is the highest point in the Moabite range, rising to about 800 meters at its apex, you can admire the dazzling view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, to the rooftops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

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

THU: 20 NOV. Petra, Jordan

Today our journey is focused on the wonderful site of Petra. This Nabatean site was just named amongst the new Seven Wonders of the World.

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.

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 head to the Dead Sea and our overnight stay. **(B,D)**

FRI: 21 NOV. Jordan Sea of Galilee

Today we start a leisurely morning at the Jordan Dead Sea. We begin traveling north to the Jabbok river where we will see where the Patriarch Jacob met the Angel of the Lord at Penuel before he met his brother Esau.

Continuing to move north we pass through the area of Elijah the Prophet's home town and other significant ancient sites. Today we cross over the Jordan to Beit Shean, Israel at King Hussein Bridge.

We continue to the Sea of Galilee and our overnight stay. **(B,D)**

SAT: 22 NOV. Upper Galilee

After breakfast we begin our day with the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the tributary waters of the **River Jordan** before heading out on our journey, 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 Pania (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 Sea of Galilee. **(B,D)**

SAT: 23 NOV. Sea of Galilee

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, Franciscan 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 Kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee this evening. **(B,D)**

MON: 24 NOV. Galilee to Samaria

After breakfast we will move into Samaria to view more of the Patriarch's Road.

We will pass Nablus (ancient **Shechem**) on our way to view the mountains of "Blessing & Cursing" **Mt. Gerizim & Mt. Ebal**. The beautiful valley where Joshua divided the land to the tribes of Israel is on the way. Later we will be at the Biblical site of Shiloh where the "Tent of Meeting stood for 400 years. We will see and visit some Jewish Settlements and meet the people living there.

Dinner will be at the Ariel hotel tonight (D,B).

TUE: 25 NOV. GushEtzion, Hebron, Beersheba, Arad, Bedouin camp

We begin the day travelling down the "Road of the Patriarch's" from Ariel. This is the Biblical Heartland of Israel.

Today we pass through **Bethel**(Ai) where Abraham set up an altar to call on the Name of the Lord. As we continue the "Road" we have an exciting path up the mountain to "Jerusalem". We will only pass through the city as we continue on the "Road" south to Gush Etzion.

The Community of **Gush Etzion** located South of Jerusalem. This Jewish Settlement played a big role in Israel's War of Independence. Gush Etzion was under siege for 5 months. They had knowledge that their defense was helping besieged Jerusalem. On May 12, 1948 The Arab Legion supported by thousands of local Arabs, launches a carefully planned attack on Gush Etzion which finds itself divided. May 13, 1948 all but 4 defenders were massacred by the Arabs. May 14, 1948 surrender to the Arab Legion. Members are taken as prisoners of war and the State of Israel is declared.

Hebron – A city of the Patriarchs. South of Jerusalem in the Judean Hills. 4 was conquered by Caleb son of Jephunneh (Josh. 15:13). Abraham bought the cave of Macphelah to bury his wife Sarah. Abner was buried there (I Samuel 3:32), David made it the Royal City. David was made King over all Israel here.

Beersheba- A Biblical place where God met with several Patriarch's. Abraham lived here with his wife Sarah. Isaac was born and circumcised here. Hagar wandered in the desert here and was met by an Angel of the Lord. The Prophet Elijah fled here from Jezebel. The "Well of Oath" was in this ancient place.

Arad Has a diverse population: some are native born Israeli's (Sabras), some are American Jews who have immigrated, some are Jewish Immigrants from Russia, and others are Bedouin Arabs who are citizens and support the State of Israel. We plan to visit some of these people.

Tonight we will enjoy a very unique and enjoyable experience as we are hosted, dined and entertained at our Bedouin Camp.

WED: 26 NOV. Masada, Jerusalem

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

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)

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

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

THU: 27 NOV. Jerusalem

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)

House of Caiphas- Visit the house, where, outside, Peter denied Jesus three times.

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)

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

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 is at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**

FRI: 28 NOV. Jerusalem, Depart Israel.

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)

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)***

SAT: 29 NOV. Arrival home.

This morning we arrive back on N. American soil and transfer to our onward flight back home. Breakfast and complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. **(B,D)**

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

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HOLY LAND JOURNEY

November, 2008

INFORMATION

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from San Francisco. Fares from other cities available upon request.

Hotels: First class hotels, kibbutz and Bedouin camp.

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.

Complimentary Bottled Water: 2 per day.

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

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches. (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

Air Transportation Taxes: Currently \$306.

Jordan/Israel border taxes: \$41

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Age, up to and including 59: \$179

60 – 64: \$224

65 – 69: \$259

70 + rates available on request.

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD90.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport with at least 6 months validity. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel. 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 \$300 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.

13 DAY TOUR PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO PRICE: \$2795USD
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 390USD

Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.

For more information please call:

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