

ISRAEL & JORDAN JOURNEY
18 NOVEMBER – 02 DECEMBER, 2009
hosted by
PASTOR GORD REEVE
&
GLEND A WEGLO

WED. 18 NOVEMBER: Departure for Israel.

Tonight we depart from Vancouver on our British Airways flight to London. 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. 19 NOVEMBER:

Upon arrival at London Heathrow airport we shall check-in to our overnight airport hotel and dinner.
(B,D)

FRI.20 NOVEMBER: Arrival in Israel.

This morning we take our onward flight to Tel Aviv, where we shall arrive in the afternoon. Welcome to Israel ! Here we are met by our Tour Manager, Roni Winter. Once clearing customs and baggage formalities our journey begins. Our first day in The Holy Land has us travel northwards along the via Maris to our kibbutz. Here we shall unpack, rest and enjoy the tranquility of our location overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Kibbutz Nahsholim, provides the perfect setting for our first night in the Holy Land (B,D)

SAT. 21 NOVEMBER: Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Druze Village, Megiddo

After our Israeli buffet breakfast we take the short drive to Caesarea then onward 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:

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.

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 have lunch at 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 Muslims, Jews, or members of any other religions. However, these rules are often disregarded in modern day societies.

Haifa – En-route to Akko we shall pass by Haifa, Israel's largest port city. 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.

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)

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

SUN. 22 NOVEMBER: Nazareth, Sea of Galilee.

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

Mt. Tabor- Located over 1800 ft high, this location has been considered as the place where the Transfiguration occurred. It is here where Deborah and Barak were victorious against the Canaanites.

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 4:7-8)

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

MON. 23 NOVEMBER: Tiberias, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Kursi, Boat Ride.

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)

Kursi- The site of Gergesa (Kursi.) identified as the site of the 'Miracle of The Swine'. (Luke 8:26-33, 8; Mark 5:1; Matthew 8:28-34, 15:29-34)

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

TUE. 24 NOVEMBER: Golan Heights, Upper Galilee.

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)

Hazor- Once the largest cities in all of Canaan. The multi layered Tel of Hazor is a fascinating site that offers intrigue and insight into five thousand years of civilization. It was here that Deborah and Barak fought against Sisera. Captured by Joshua and raised to the ground this city was eventually rebuilt by Solomon in the 10th century BC.(Joshua 11:10-14; Judges 4:2; 1 Kings 9:15)

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

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)

Golan Heights- From Mt. Bental we can see Mt. Hermon, Lebanon and also across into Syria.

Dinner will be at our Kibbutz. **(B,D)**

WED. 25 NOVEMBER: Jordan

This morning we leave the Galilee and cross the border into Jordan. Today we travel south, through the Jordan valley, visiting the following;

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. Here we shall have lunch before continuing on our journey.

Mt. Nebo- From here we can see across into the Promised Land, just as Moses did before being laid to rest. On a clear day we can see the hills of Jerusalem with Jericho in the foreground.

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.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Grand View hotel overlooking Petra. **(B,D)**

THU. 26 NOVEMBER: Petra, Dead Sea

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 1st 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.

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.

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)

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Dead Sea Spa hotel, situated on the shores of the Dead Sea. **(B,D)**

FRI. 27 NOVEMBER: Masada, Jerusalem.

From our Jordan hotel we cross the border back into Israel 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. Wade 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 the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. 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 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 Moriah Classic will be our hotel for the remainder of the journey. Dinner will be at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**

SAT. 28 NOVEMBER: Jerusalem.

During our time in Jerusalem we shall visit the following sites mentioned in the itinerary. The order of our sites in Jerusalem may change between now and the time when we arrive.

Our first full day in Jerusalem includes visits to;

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 Caiaphas- Located under the current St. Peter of Gallicantu church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

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.

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 walk through the Cardo Maxima then onto the Herodian quarter.

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

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)

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

SUN. 29 NOVEMBER: Jerusalem.

After breakfast we will drive west towards the Mediterranean Sea and visit;

Neot Kedumim- This 625 acres of Biblical landscape brings stories from the Bible alive in their natural surroundings.

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)

Upon arrival back to Jerusalem we shall visit;

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.

Burnt house- Here we see the excavations of a 1st century wealthy residence, which were partially destroyed by the Romans in 70AD.

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.

This afternoon we shall join King of Kings Community at the Prayer Pavilion for Sunday worship.

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

MON.30 NOVEMBER: Free time.

Free Time- Today has been left open for those who would like to peruse the shops on Ben Yehuda street. Pastor Gord will gladly take people to the following places during the day.

Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) 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.

Gord will also arrange a visit to Yad Vashem for those who are interested.

Yad Vashem- The national museum and memorial to the holocaust.

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

TUE.01 DECEMBER: Jerusalem.

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem to view the Knesset, plus the Menora.

Then we will visit:

Ramat Rachel- From this location we can see across the Shepherd's Fields and the town of Bethlehem.

Herodium- Located south from Jerusalem this was one of Herod's favorite palaces and fortresses. Herodium is the location of the recently discovered site of Herod's tomb. From this vantage point we can look across the Dead Sea to Mt. Nebo.

Shrine of the Book museum- Here we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

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.

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 'farewell dinner' will be at our hotel this evening **(B,D)**

WED.02 DECEMBER: Depart for home.

Alas we must return home! This morning we arrive at Ben Gurion airport and check-in for our return flights back to Vancouver, via London. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B, L)**

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

The itinerary is subject to alteration by your group leadership.