

THE HOLY LAND

22 November -01 December 2009

hosted by
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“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” Isaiah 2:3

DAY 1: SUN. 22NOV. N. America to Israel.

Today we depart from Toronto or New York on our, non-stop, overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

DAY 2: MON. 23NOV. 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 Tel Aviv.
(B,D)

DAY 3: TUE. 24NOV. Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo

After breakfast we head north along the ‘Via Maris’ towards the Galilee, stopping at the following:

Caesarea-The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate had his base.

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)

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. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; 1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16)

Our welcome dinner will be at our kibbutz.. **(B,D)**

DAY 4: WED. 25NOV. Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, 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 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 Kibbutz. **(B,D)**

DAY 5: THU. 26NOV. Sea of Galilee and Boat Ride.

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

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)

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!
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. (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!

Dinner will be back at our kibbutz tonight **(B,D)**

DAY 6: FRI. 27NOV. Beth She'an, Dead Sea.

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)

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)

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.

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 view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947. (John 1; Luke 1:57-80; Isaiah 40)

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

DAY 8: SAT 28NOV. 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)

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)**

DAY 9: SUN 29NOV. 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)

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)**

DAY 10: MON 30NOV. Jerusalem,

After breakfast we will enjoy a full day visiting 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. (1 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- X1V 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)

DAY 11: TUE 01DEC Israel to N. America.

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

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

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

