

HOLY LAND JOURNEY

20 OCT – 04 NOV, 2008

Hosted by
Pastors Don Fitchett & Bob Howes
Orangeville Evangelical
Christian Journeys and Tours

Day 1: MON. 20 OCT. Departure

Tonight we depart on our overnight flight from Toronto international airport to Athens. Complimentary in-flight service is provided en-route. **(D)**

Day 2: TUE. 21 OCT. Athens, Israel

Upon arrival at Athens Airport we are met by our guide, waiting for us after immigration formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach take a panoramic tour of Athens, including the **Acropolis** and **Mars Hill**. From here we return to our airport hotel for relaxation and dinner before boarding our ongoing flight to Israel. **(B,D)**

Day 3: WED. 22 OCT. Israel

Arriving in the morning we are met by our guide, Isaac Dorenbusch, who will take us to our hotel, where we check-in and rest until noon. Breakfast will be available throughout the morning.

This afternoon we take the short drive along the Mediterranean coast to the port city of Caesarea.

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.

Returning to Tel Aviv we visit Jaffa:

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)

Tonight we enjoy our first Israeli buffet dinner.

This evening take a stroll along the promenade or the beaches by the Mediterranean Sea. You are home!

Day 4: THU 23 OCT. Megiddo, Nazareth

Today we leave Tel Aviv and head north towards the upper Galilee, visiting:

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)

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)

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. No visit to Nazareth is complete without a visit to the Biblical village.

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)

Our final detination is the kibbutz Hagoshrim. Nestled in the upper Galilee there is no more peaceful setting in all of Israel. A wonderful place to stay for the next two nights! **(B,D)**

Day 5: FRI. 24 OCT. Upper Galilee, Golan Heights

Today we travel north into the beautiful upper Galilee region, visiting:

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)

Nimrod Castle- This stunning Crusader castle offers awe inspiring views of the plains of Lebanon and the upper Galilee.

Golan Heights- Today we view Israel from 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 this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 6: SAT. 25 OCT. Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha

After breakfast our we leave Hagoshrim and drive towards the Sea of Galilee. Today we shall visit:

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)

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)

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)

After a truly wonderful day we arrive at our favourite kibbutz. En Gev is located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and faces west towards Tiberias. **(B,D)**

Day 7: SUN. 26 OCT. Sea of Galilee, Tiberias

Boat Ride- There is no better location to hold our Sunday service than in a private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

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.

Mt. Arbel- This vantage point allows to see the Sea of Galilee in its entirety. In one snapshot we can see the place where Jesus spent most of his time.

Free time- Whether you wish to relax at the kibbutz or walk the streets of Tiberias, the remainder of the day has been left open for you to choose.

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

Day 8: MON. 27 OCT. Jordan Valley, Dead Sea

Today we leave the Galilee and head south through the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea. En-route we visit:

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)

Our journey will bring us close to the oldest city in the world; **JERICHO**. This was the first city conquered by the returning Children of Israel under Joshua. Overlooking Jericho is the **Mount of Temptation**. Not far from Jericho is the Monastery of St. John, which recalls the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.(Joshua 4:5-6; II Kings 2:18-22; Mark 1:9-11)

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)

Ein Gedi- This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. Swim 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)

Dead Sea- With our hotel located on the southern shores of the Dead Sea we can float and relax for the remainder of the afternoon. **(B,D)**

Day 9: TUE. 28 OCT. Massada, Eilat

From our hotel we take the short drive to Masada:

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.

Our fascinating day continues as we leave the lowest geographical place on Earth and take the drive through the Negev desert to the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

Here we have the chance to relax and unwind. Dinner will be at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**

Day 10: WED. 29 OCT. Petra

After breakfast we cross the border into Jordan and begin our visit of Petra. 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 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 return to Eilat for our overnight and dinner. **(B,D)**

Day 11: THU. 30 OCT. Negev, Bethlehem

This morning we leave the Red Sea and head north to Bethlehem and onto Jerusalem.

En route to Bethlehem we shall drive through the **Ramon Crater** and the burial site of Ben Gurion, before passing **Beersheva**.

Upon arrival at **Bethlehem** we shall visit the **Church of the Nativity** and **Shepherd's Field**.

Our final destination today is Jerusalem. **(B,D)**

Day 12: FRI. 31 OCT. Jerusalem

Our first full day in Jerusalem includes the following:

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)

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 through the Cardo Maxima then onto the Herodian quarter as we walk through the Jewish quarter.

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

Day 13: SAT. 01 NOV. Jerusalem

After breakfast we will visit the following:

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)

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

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

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.

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

Day 14: SUN. 02 NOV. Jerusalem, Free Time

Free Time- Today the day has been left open for those who would like to peruse the shops on Ben Yehuda street. There is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship at the King of Kings Community Church. Those who may wish to re-visit some Jerusalem sights may do so. Dinner will be at our hotel tonight **(B,D)**

Day 15: MON. 03 NOV. Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem to view the Knesset, The Menora and visits to the following:

Yad Vashem- Israel's national monument, memorial and museum, to the Holocaust.

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.

The Israel Museum- Home to some of the Dead Sea scrolls such as the well preserved great *Isaiah scroll*.

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)

Tonight is our 'Farewell dinner'. A wonderful time to share and reflect on a, truly, inspirational journey. **(B,D)**

Day 16: TUE. 04 NOV. Journey Home

This morning we depart for Tel Aviv airport and our early morning departure to Athens and onward connection to Toronto. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B,L)**