

**THE HOLY LAND
& JORDAN
30 OCT – 13 NOV, 2010
hosted by
Rev. Bob Nightingale
STONEY CREEK
UNITED CHURCH**

SAT. OCT 30: Toronto to Jordan.

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

SUN. OCT 31: Jordan.

Upon arrival at Amman Airport we are met by our Jordanian Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach we take the short ride to our hotel, where we check-in and rest in anticipation of our journey ahead. (B,D)

MON. NOV 01: Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Bethany

This morning we spend our day in Jordan visiting:

Amman – We begin the day by touring through the capital city of Jordan. This is the same location as the Old Testament nation of the Ammonites.

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.

Madaba – The famed mosaic city of the middle east. Our main focus is the wonderful 6th century Byzantine mosaic of the Bible Lands, from the Nile to Mesopotamia.

From here we drive down the Kings Highway to Petra, where we check-in to our hotel, The Panorama, for overnight and dinner. (B,D)

TUE. NOV 02: Petra

After breakfast we begin drive down the Kings Highway and visit 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.

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

WED. NOV 03: Bethany, Israel crossing

This morning we have some free time after breakfast to enjoy the uniqueness of swimming in the Dead Sea.:

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)

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.

After visiting Bethany we shall cross the river Jordan (and the Jordan/Israeli border check points) into the Promised Land. Once in Israel we shall journey north to the Galilee.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Golden Tulip hotel, situated near the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (B,D)

THU. NOV 04: 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;

Caesarea Philippi - Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the city of Pnias (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 - 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 this evening. **(B,D)**

FRI NOV 05: 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, 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!

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

Dinner, tonight, will be at our hotel on the Sea of Galilee this evening. Free Time will be given so you can peruse the many shops of Tiberias. **(B,D)**

SAT. NOV 06: Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Beth She'an

Today we spend another memorable day visiting the following sites:

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,

Beth 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 Beth 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)

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

SUN. NOV 07: Megiddo, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Jaffa

After our first Israeli buffet breakfast we leave the Galilee and head towards the Mediterranean coast, 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. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; 1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16)

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)

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

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;)

Our final destination today is Jerusalem. Here we shall check-in to the Moriah Classic hotel for the remainder of our journey. Our dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

MON. NOV 08: 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)

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.

After our first full day in Jerusalem we return to our hotel for dinner. **(B,D)**

TUE. NOV 09: Masada, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea

After breakfast we leave Jordan cross into Israel and 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)

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

WED. NOV 10: Bethlehem

Today we shall drive to the outskirts of Jerusalem to Bethlehem with visits to the following, before returning to Jerusalem:

Bethlehem - Today we will visit **The Church of Nativity in Manger Square**. During our time in Bethlehem we shall also visit the **Milk Grotto Chapel** and **Sheppard's Fields** before returning to Jerusalem.

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

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

THU. NOV 11. Free day

Today has been left open for you to enjoy the streets of old Jerusalem. Whether you wish to peruse through the numerous shops, or re-visit some of the local sites, you can do so at your own pace. **(B,D)**

FRI NOV 12: Jerusalem,

After breakfast our day of final touring will include the following;;

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.

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. NOV 13: Arrival Home .

This morning we will have an early morning departure for Tel Aviv airport, where we say "goodbye" to our guide and driver. Our flight(s) will bring us back to Toronto in the afternoon. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard.

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

HOLY LAND & JORDAN JOURNEY

OCT 30 – NOV 13, 2010

INFORMATION

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Toronto. Fares from other cities available upon request. Toronto departures have a different departure tax structure.

Hotels:

4* throughout, as per itinerary

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.

NOT INCLUDED

Current Air transport taxes: CAD\$388

Lunches. (Unless in the itinerary.)

Comprehensive Travel Insurance:

Age, up to and including 59: \$245

60 – 64: \$300

65 – 69: \$360

70 + rates available on request.

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD130.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which should not expire before 13 May 2011. Christian Journeys will process the Jordan visa.

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.

Fuel surcharge: The fuel surcharge from Toronto is included in the current air transportation taxes of Cad\$388. This amount is dictated by the airline and is subject to change. This will be reassessed 90 days prior to departure.

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.

15 DAY JOURNEY

TORONTO PRICE: CAD\$3595

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: CAD\$985

Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.

For more information please call:

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