

ISRAEL JOURNEY
03 – 15 OCTOBER, 2005
hosted by
PASTOR GORD REEVE

MON. 03 OCTOBER. Canada to London

Tonight we depart from Vancouver on British Airways flight BA084 to London, England. 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. 04 OCTOBER. London to Israel.

Upon arrival at London Heathrow airport we have the option to hop on the 'Piccadilly Line' underground and visit central London for a few hours, or stay in the airport with its many shops and restaurants. Our late evening departure for Tel Aviv offers a light meal and complimentary in-flight service. **(B,D)**

WED. 05 OCTOBER. Jaffa, Biblical Gardens, Caesarea.

This morning we arrive at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv. 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 includes the following;

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. We will enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant.
(II Chronicles 2:15, Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42; X 10:5)

Neot Kedumim- These beautiful Biblical Gardens make for the perfect setting to understand life in Biblical times. From here we will journey along the Via Maris ('Way of the Sea') to 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.

Our final destination today is the Kibbutz Dor where we enjoy our 'Welcome Dinner' and overnight stay. **(B,D)**

THU. 06 OCTOBER. Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Druze Village, Me

After our Israeli buffet breakfast we drive 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:

Haifa – This beautiful city is also Israel's largest port. 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.

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 pass by 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.

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 Dor for dinner and overnight. **(B,D)**

FRI. 07 OCTOBER. Nazareth, Sepphoris, Mt. Tabor, Sea of Galilee.

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

Sepphoris-Birthplace of Mary and home to Joachim and Anna. Once the capital of Galilee, during Herod's time, this excavated city has some of the most magnificent mosaics in the country including "The Mona Lisa of Israel". (Luke 13:32)

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- Where Deborah and Barak's armies staged before engaging the Canaanites.

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)**

SAT. 08 OCTOBER. 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. Here we will preach, teach and Worship! (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. We will Worship and have a teaching here... (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)

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)

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 return to Kibbutz Maagan for dinner and overnight stay. **(B,D)**

SUN. 09 OCTOBER. Golan Heights, Upper Galilee.

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 BCE. (Joshua 11:10-14; Judges 4:2; 1 Kings 9:15)

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)

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)

Gamla-Our drive back to the Sea of Galilee takes us through the Golan Height vistas where we can view the cliff side city of Gamla.

Before returning to our Kibbutz we will re-visit Tiberias where, time permitting, we will peruse the shops and visit the Galilee Experience exhibit. Dinner will be at our Kibbutz. **(B,D)**

MON. 10 OCTOBER. Jordan Valley, Dead Sea.

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

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 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.

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)

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)

Our overnight stay is at The Kibbutz Kalia where we enjoy dinner. **(B,D)**

TUE. 11 OCTOBER. Masada, Jerusalem

From our Kibbutz we take the short drive further into the desert 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. 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)

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 Novotel** is our home for the remainder of the journey. Dinner will be at our hotel tonight. **(B,D)**

WED. 12 OCTOBER. 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)

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)

Jewish Quarter- Here we will walk through the Cardo Maxima then onto the Herodian quarter before visiting the **Temple Institute**.

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

THU. 13 OCTOBER. Jerusalem

Today is 'Yom Kippur'. After breakfast we will walk the streets of old Jerusalem city and visit 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- 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)

Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross)—Our route begins at the Pool of Bethesda. 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.

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

FRI. 14 OCTOBER. Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem to view the Knesset, The Menora and the Dead Sea Scrolls (located in the Israel Museum.) Then we will visit:

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.

Free Time- The afternoon has been left open for those who would like to peruse the shops on Ben Yehuda street. Those who may wish to visit Hezekiah's water tunnel may do so.

This evening we will enjoy our 'farewell dinner' at our hotel. A time to reflect, with others, on their thoughts of the last 12 days. **(B,D)**

SAT.15 OCTOBER. Israel to Canada.

Alas, this morning we check out from our hotel and take the early morning transfer to Tel Aviv airport. Here we will say goodbye to Roni and driver. Our return British Airway's flights will bring us back to Vancouver on flight BA087, in the late afternoon, via London. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Breakfast, lunch and complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B,L)**

Those enjoying the 3-day extension program to Jordan will depart for the border after breakfast.

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

The itinerary is subject to change.