

Day 1

WELCOME TO ISRAEL !



Arrival in Ben Gurion Airport, near Tel Aviv. Meet, assist and transfer by special motorcoach to our hotel in the city. Before checking into our hotel in Tel Aviv stop for a short visit to ancient Jaffa (New Testament Joppa) where the Apostle Peter received God's command to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Day 2

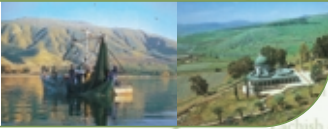
"Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5)



We begin this first day of our tour driving northwards to the ruins of the ancient city of Caesarea Maritima, a city built by King Herod and which later became the seat of government of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, who sat in judgment on Jesus and sentenced him to be crucified. We visit the extensive excavations of the site including the harbor, the Crusader City, the Amphitheatre, the Hippodrome and the Roman Aqua duct. Then we continue our drive over the crest of Mt. Carmel, where the Prophet Elijah challenged the Priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our next stop is at Megiddo, the Harnageddon of the Book of Revelations which by Christian tradition is the site where the final great battle of the world will be fought. Next we continue our drive to Sephoris, the most important city in Galilee during the first 4 centuries AD before driving on to Nazareth, a town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew to manhood. We make another short stop in Cana in Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11) and arrive at our hotel for this night in the late afternoon.

Day 3

"He was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret" (Luke 5:1)



The Sea of Galilee is rich in memories of the three years of Jesus' ministry around its shores. We begin this day with a visit to the so-called "Jesus Boat" a fishing boat of the kind used by the disciples of Jesus. We then take a boat ride over the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, where Jesus dwelt after he left Nazareth and did many signs and wonders. We visit the ancient synagogue and the "House of Peter". Then we stop for a while on the Mt. of Beatitudes, the scene of the Sermon on the Mount, and the nearby ruins of Chorazim which was one of the small Jewish cities which Jesus visited but its inhabitants did not listen to him (Matth. 11:21). Next we drive around the shores of the Sea of Galilee to visit Kursi, in the "Land of the Gardarenes" Mat. (8:28-32) before ending this day with a stop at a baptismal site on the banks of the River Jordan at Yardenit.

Day 4

"Who do men say that the son of man is?" (Mat. 16:13)



This morning we drive up to the Golan Heights via the "town of the Golan", Katzrin, a town which was established in the year 1974. From the top of Mt. Bental there is an observation point of the Syrian border with the ghost town of Kuneitra and the "Road to Damascus". Our next stop is at one of the sources of the River Jordan at Banias, the site of Caesarea Philippi, where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Then we continue our drive to Tel Dan, the ruins of the northernmost town in biblical Israel (hence the saying "from Dan to Beersheba") and finally return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 5

"Whoever is fearful and trembling let him return home" (Judges 7:3)



This morning we drive southwards to the spring of Ein Harod, driving along the slopes of Mt. Gilboa, where Israel's first king, Saul, and his son Jonathan fell in battle with the Phillistines in about the year 1010 BC. It was at the waters of Ein Harod that Gideon collected his people, in accordance with God's command as we find written in the Book of Judges chapter 7, verse 7. Next we shall visit the extensive excavations of the ancient Israelite city of Beit Shean. In New Testament times the city became one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. Then we continue our tour southwards driving along the Jordan Valley via the ancient city of Jericho and up through the Judean Wilderness to Jerusalem, the City of God. Before checking into our hotel we shall stop at an observation point to take a first glimpse over the City of Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 6

"On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zechariah 14:4)



We begin this first day of our stay in Jerusalem with a drive to the top of the Mount of Olives to enjoy a majestic view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem, the center of the biblical world. We walk down the "Palm Sunday Road", via the Chapel of Dominus Flevit where Jesus wept over Jerusalem, to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed on the night of his betrayal (Lk. 22:40-46). Next we shall enter within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, walking from the Pools of Bethesda and along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We walk past the Temple Mount and stop at the Western (Wailing) Wall, the most holy shrine of the Jewish people. A visit to the Temple Institute is also on our program and we walk on through the Jewish Quarter of the city to Mt. Zion for a visit to the Upper Room, the Tomb of King David and the Church of St. Peter-in-Gallicantu, the House of Caiaphas, where Jesus was interrogated by the High Priest. Lastly this day we shall take a walk through the Western Wall Tunnel which starts at the Warren Shaft and continues under the Old City to reveal the city at the level it was 2000 years ago. Dinner and overnight.

Day 7

"The wilderness becomes a fruitful field" (Es. 32:5)



This day is a full day excursion from Jerusalem which takes us down to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on the face of the Earth. We drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to the Mountain Fortress of Massada, the scene of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73AD. Ascent and descent by cable car. A visit to a Bedouin encampment is planned for this day followed by a bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea before finally returning to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Day 8

"Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city" (Zech. 8:3)



After breakfast we shall visit some of the archaeological sites in the Old City of Jerusalem including the Garden of Ophel which has revealed many remains from the Herodian period including the Hulda Steps which led up into the Temple Court. Next are the excavations of the City of David followed by a visit to the Wohl Archaeological Museum. Afternoon drive to Bethlehem, the royal city of David, where Jesus was born. We visit the Basilica of the Nativity and the Field of the Shepherds, where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the birth of the Saviour. We end this memorable day with a visit to the Garden Tomb and Gordons' Golgotha.

Day 9+10

"Sun, Stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou, Moon in the valley of Ayalon" (Josh 10:12).



We start this day with a visit to the Yad Vashem Memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. This will be followed by a visit to the Holy Land Model of ancient Jerusalem which gives an excellent view in miniature of the Jerusalem of Jesus' day. Next we shall drive into the "Land of Benjamin" to visit the Tomb of the Prophet Samuel and continue via the Valley of Ayalon, known in history as one of the major battlefields of the Near East. It was here that Joshua commanded the sun and the moon to stand still whilst he battled against the Kings of the Amorites (Joshua 10:12). We stop for a moment at the ruins of a basilica which claims to be the site of Emmaus, where Jesus made himself known to the two disciples on that first Easter Sunday. Then we drive on to Beit Shemesh where the Ark of the Covenant came to rest when the Phillistines sent it away because of the much havoc which it caused among them. We stop for a short pause in the Valley of Elah where David defeated Goliath, the Phillistine giant, in single combat. Finally this day we shall visit the Caves of Beit Guvrin before returning to our hotel in Jerusalem for a special farewell dinner.

on day 10 - Shalom  
After breakfast we say farewell to Jerusalem and set off from our hotel for the drive to Ben Gurion Airport and the homebound flight.



4 Ben Gurion St.,  
P.O. Box 468 Nes-Ziona  
70400, ISRAEL  
Tel: +972-8-9404941,  
+972-8-9405123  
Fax: +972-8-9403550

E-mail:  
inmanuel@immanuel-tours.com

