

Day 1**WELCOME TO ISRAEL**

Arrival in Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv. Meet, assist and transfer by special motor coach to our hotel in Tel Aviv stopping on our way for a short visit to Old Jaffa (New Testament Joppa) where the Apostle Peter received God's command to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2

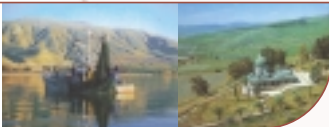
"Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34)



We begin our day after checking out of our hotel and driving northwards to the ruins of the ancient city of Caesarea Maritima which was built by King Herod and later became the seat of government of the Roman governors including Pontius Pilate who sat in judgement on Jesus Christ and sentenced him to be crucified. Visit the extensive excavations of the site, including the harbour, the Crusader City, the theatre, the hippodrome and the Roman aqueduct. We continue and drive by Mt. Carmel, where the Prophet Elijah challenged the Priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our next stop is at Megiddo, the Harmageddon of the Book of Revelation. Megiddo was one of the chariot cities of King Solomon and guarded one of the most important caravan routes of the ancient world, the "Via Maris". Christian tradition has it that the final great battle of the world will be fought here. Next we continue to Nazareth, a town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew to manhood. Here we shall visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Synagogue Church. We continue our drive through the beautiful landscape of Lower Galilee, the scene of much of Christ's ministry, and the home of many of his disciples and visit Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). We arrive in our hotel in the late afternoon and check in for dinner and overnight.

Day 3

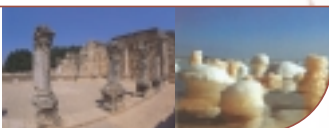
"He was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret" (Luke 5:1)



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 from Nof Ginosar to Capernaum, where Jesus dwelt after he left Nazareth and did many signs and wonders, to visit the ancient synagogue and the nearby House of Peter. We drive on around the shores of the Sea of Galilee to visit the Mt. of Beatitudes and Korazim (or Corozaim), which was a small Jewish town, which Jesus used to visit and to preach to its inhabitants who refused to listen (Mat. 11,21). Next this day we drive to the foot of Mt. Tabor, the Mount of the Transfiguration (Matth. 17:1-8) and drive up the Mount by special cars. From the top of the Mount there is a wonderful panoramic view which extends from Mt. Hermon in the north to the Hills of Samaria in the south. We end this memorable day with a visit to a traditional Baptismal site at Yardenit by the River Jordan. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4

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



This morning we depart the Sea of Galilee and drive southwards along the Jordan Valley passing by the ancient Israelite city of Beit Shean. In New Testament times it became one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. Next we visit the Tel of Jericho, the most ancient city in the world. We also stop at a Sycamore tree of the kind Zaccheus climbed in-order to see Jesus. Leaving Jericho, we pass by the Mt. of Temptations and arrive at the Dead Sea – the lowest spot on the

face of Earth, here will be an opportunity to bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea followed by a visit to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2000 years ago. Finally this day we begin making our way up through the Judean Hills to Jerusalem. Before checking into our hotel we stop at the "Tayelet" promenade for a breathtaking view over the Old City of Jerusalem, Mt. Zion and the Mt. of Olives. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5

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



We begin this day after breakfast, driving to the top of the Mount of Olives, for a majestic view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem, the center of the biblical world. We visit the Chapel of the Ascension, the Paternoster Church and the Chapel of Dominus Flevit (Jesus wept) before walking down the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed on the night of His betrayal (Luke 22:40-46). Next this day we visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (Palace of Caiaphas), the Upper Room, the Dormition Abbey and the Tomb of King David on Mount Zion. Finally this day we visit Bethlehem, city of David, to visit the birthplace of Jesus which is marked by the Basilica of the Nativity and to kneel at the place of his birth in the Grotto of the Nativity. We visit also the Field of the Shepherds where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the good news of the birth of the Saviour (Luke 2:8-18) and drive to Jerusalem passing Rachel's Tomb enroute. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6

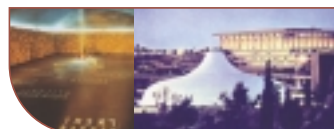
"Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city" (Zech. 8:3)



Today is a walking tour within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, visiting the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the man who had been crippled for 38 years (John 5:2-9), and the Church of St. Anne where there is an opportunity to sing a hymn before walking along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) from Pilate's Judgment Hall to the empty tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Next we walk over the Temple Mount and visit the Western (Wailing) Wall – the most holy shrine for the Jewish people. We end the day with a visit to the Tower of David Museum. Dinner and overnight.

Day 7

"Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to the city of Judah (Luke 1:39)



We start our day driving through the new city of Jerusalem via the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) to visit the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book. Next we visit the Yad Vashem memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Our next stop is at Ein Karem, the city in the hills of Juda to visit the Church of the Visitation, which by tradition is built over the House of Zacharias, where the virgin Mary came to visit Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-80). Here John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ was born. We return to Jerusalem and enjoy the rest of this day at leisure with an opportunity to visit the market place in the Old City. Dinner and overnight.

Day 8**SHALOM**

After breakfast, we set off from our hotel and drive to the Valley of Ellah and on to Latrun (next to the ruins of Emmaus), which looks over the Valley of Ayalon, known in history as one of the major battlefields of the Near East (Josh 10,12). Next we arrive at Ben Gurion Airport for our homebound flight.



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