

ISRAEL, IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

12 – 23 NOVEMBER, 2017



*Hosted by St. Andrew's & St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
Pastors Martin Baxter & Ross Lockhart*

*"Follow me, and I will send you out to fish for others."
(Mark 1:17)*



Tel Aviv, from the ancient port of Jaffa



Sea of Galilee, viewed from the Mount of Beatitudes



Boat Ride and Fellowship on the Sea of Galilee



Temple Mount, viewed from the Mount of Olives

**CHRISTIAN
JOURNEYS**

DAY 1. SUN. 12 NOV: Canada to Israel

Today, we depart from Vancouver on our flights to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

DAY 2. MON. 13 NOV: Israel, Tel Aviv

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport, we are met by our Israeli Tour guide, Shimon Zemer, who will assist us with luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach, we relax and enjoy the journey to the Judean desert and the Dead Sea.

Valley of Elah – This is the traditional site of the encounter between David & Goliath. The brook of Elah still exists to this day. (1 Samuel 17:1-58)

Tel Arad – Constructed during the time of King David and Solomon, this Canaanite city gives us a perfect example of a Judean Temple, with inner courtyards and a place for the Holy of Holies. Archeologists have found evidence of offerings brought by the people of Judea to the temple.

From Tel Arad, we travel towards our hotel located on the shores of the Dead Sea. Tonight, we will have our ‘welcome dinner’ in anticipation of a memorable journey. **(B, D)**

DAY 3. TUE. 14 NOV: Masada, Dead Sea

After breakfast, we stay in 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. (1 Samuel 24, Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

The remainder of the afternoon will be left open for you to enjoy the unique properties of 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!

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

DAY 4. WED. 15 NOV: Dead Sea Scrolls, Beth Shean

This morning, we shall leave the Dead Sea and head northwards to the Hula Valley in the upper Galilee. En-route, we shall visit:

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 view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947.

After Qumran, we head further north 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.

Harod’s Spring – It is here that Gideon gathered his men before fighting the Midianites. (Judges 7:1-8)

Bet She’an – The largest of Israel’s archeological digs. 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 another fascinating day, we make our way to the Sea of Galilee. Our home for the next three nights! Located by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar is the perfect location to experience the Galilee. **(B, D)**

DAY 5. THU. 16 NOV: Sea of Galilee

After another Israeli buffet breakfast, our full touring day involves visits to:

Kursi – The site of Gergesa (Kursi) was identified as the site of the ‘Miracle of The Swine’. (Luke 8:26-33; Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34)

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) We will take the scenic walk down the mount to the shores of the Galilee and 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. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

Church of the Primacy of Peter – It is here that Jesus appears to his disciples for the third time after his resurrection on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The night before, Peter and several other disciples had sailed out on the lake to fish but caught nothing. In the morning, a man appeared on the shore and called out to them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. Doing so, they caught so many fish they couldn’t drag the net back into the boat. At this point, Peter recognizes Jesus and promptly jumps out of the boat to wade to shore to meet him.

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)

Sea of Galilee Boat Ride – Today ends with boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.



Tonight, dinner will be at the kibbutz on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (B, D)

DAY 6. FRI. 17 NOV: Caesarea Philippi, Upper Galilee

After breakfast, we spend our day in the upper Galilee. Driving northward, our day includes the following:

Tel Dan – This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history!

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)

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.

This afternoon, we return to the Sea of Galilee and head to the top of Mt. Arbel. From here, we can view the entire panorama of the Sea of Galilee. The heart of Jesus' ministry!

Dinner will be at our kibbutz. (B, D)

DAY 7. SAT. 18 NOV: Nazareth, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea

Today, we visit Nazareth, capital city of the Galilee.

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; Matthew 2:23)

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 made his base. Here, we will tour the Roman aqueduct, restored theater and crusader city.

After another fascinating day, we shall travel 'up' to Jerusalem. The final resting place in our journey! (B, D)

DAY 8. SUN. 19 NOV: Jerusalem

After breakfast, we spend our first day in Jerusalem visiting the old city:

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)

House of Caiaphas – Located under the current St. Peter of Gallicantu church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

Upper Room – The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

Dinner will be back at our hotel. (B, D)

DAY 9. MON. 20 NOV: Bethlehem

After breakfast, our day in the Holy Land will include the following:

A morning visit to the outskirts of Jerusalem and the city of bread. 'Bethlehem,' where we shall visit: **Manger Square, the Church of the Nativity, Star of Bethlehem and Shepherd's Fields.**

Herodium – Located south from Jerusalem, this was one of Herod's favorite palaces and fortresses. Herodium is the location of the recently discovered site of Herod's tomb. From this vantage point, we can look across the Dead Sea to Mt. Nebo.

Dinner will be back at our hotel. (B, D)

DAY 10. TUE. 21 NOV: Jerusalem

Yad Vashem – The national museum and memorial 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.

Shrine of the Book museum – Here, we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

Dinner will be back at our hotel. (B, D)

DAY 11. WED. 22 NOV: Jerusalem

Our last full day in Israel is truly a memorable one as we visit:

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 Tunnels – Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews! Here, we can observe the Orthodox Jews as they 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.

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

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 last dinner together in Abu Gosh. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you! **(B, D)**

DAY 12. THU. 23 NOV: Israel to Canada

This morning, we depart for our flights back to Canada, arriving in Vancouver in the mid afternoon. Breakfast and complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. **(B, D)**

INCLUDED

Air travel: Round trip from Vancouver.

Hotels: Daniel Hotel, Dead Sea
Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar, Sea of Galilee
Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

Meals: Full breakfast and dinner, with tea and coffee.
(Some hotels charge for refreshments with dinner.)

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, Shimon Zemer 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.

Embarkation package: An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

Air Transportation Taxes: Currently \$728.

Travel Insurance:

Christian Journeys requires that you must have – “out of country”- emergency medical insurance equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please contact our office for policy details and premiums.

Gratuities: Equivalent to USD\$130.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Passport: Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport, not expiring before 23 May 2018. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

Inoculation: Not a current requirement.

Reservations: Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Deposit and final payment: A non-refundable deposit of \$400 is required along with the registration form. All cancellation charges are described on the registration form. Balance payments will be requested 60 days prior to departure.

Physical Fitness: All pilgrims need to be in sufficient physical fitness to be able to participate in all aspects of the tour. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

12 DAY JOURNEY PRICING

VANCOUVER PRICE: \$3299CAD
(Based on 30 paid passengers)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 899CAD

**Please add 3% surcharge
for payment by
credit card.**



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Travel Industry Council of Ontario

