

HOLY LAND JOURNEY

9 DAY ITINERARY

Day to day overview

MON. 30 AUG: Departure

Tonight we depart on our overnight, non-stop, flight from Toronto airport to Tel Aviv. Complimentary in-flight service is provided en-route. **(D)**

TUE. 31 AUG: Israel

Arriving in Israel, we are met by our guide, Shimon Zemer, who will take us to our hotel, but not before visiting Jaffa:

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; X 10:5)

Tonight we enjoy our first Israeli buffet dinner. **(B,D)**

WED. 01 SEP: Megiddo, Nazareth

Today we leave Tel Aviv and head north towards the upper Galilee, visiting:

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.

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 18:16-45; Isaiah 33:9)

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. No visit to Nazareth is complete without a visit to the Biblical village.

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, 4:16,4:28, John 1:46; Matthew 2:23)

Our final destination is Tiberias. A wonderful place to stay for the next three nights! **(B,D)**

THU. 02 SEP: Upper Galilee, Sea of Galilee

Today we travel north into the beautiful upper Galilee region, visiting:

Tel Dan- This beautiful Biblical site will allow us a short walk around one of the rivers feeding the Jordan.

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 view Israel from The Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee

After a truly wonderful day we return to our hotel in Tiberias. **(B,D)**

FRI. 03 SEP: Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem

This morning we journey around the Sea of Galilee before heading south through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem.

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. (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. 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)

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.

Boat Ride- There is no better location to experience fellowship than in a private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

Our journey will bring us close to the oldest city in the world; **JERICHO**. Overlooking Jericho is the **Mount of Temptation**. (Joshua 4:5-6; II Kings 2:18-22; Mark 1:9-11)

Dinner will be at our hotel in Jerusalem **(B,D)**

SAT. 04 SEP: Jerusalem, Valleys of Ajalon and Elah

Our first day in Jerusalem sees us visiting the following:

Mount of Olives- We begin our Jerusalem visit 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)

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

Holy Sepulcher Church- Stations X- XIV on The Via Dolorosa.

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)

Valley of Ajalon – It is in this valley that Samson fought the lion (Judges 14: 1-7) and where Joshua commanded the sun to halt. (Joshua 10:12)

Valley of Elah – This is the traditional site of the encounter between David & Goliath. (I Samuel 17:1-58)

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

SUN. 05 SEP: Masada, Dead Sea

From our hotel we take the short drive to down to the lowest point below sea level on land; The Dead Sea.

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.

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.

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)

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)

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

MON. 06 SEP: Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem with visits to the following:

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.

The Israel Museum- Home to some of the Dead Sea scrolls such as the well preserved great *Isaiah scroll.*

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)

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

St. Peter's of Gallicantu- This church sits on the site of the house of Caiaphas. (Matthew 26: 57-66)

City of David- This afternoon we will be guided through the site and new excavations of the city of David. You will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's tunnel and re-surface at the pool of Siloam.

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.

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)

Tonight is our 'Farewell dinner'. A wonderful time to share and reflect on a, truly, inspirational journey before departing to Tel Aviv airport and our overnight non-stop flight to Toronto. **(B,D)**

TUE. 7SEP: Journey Home

This morning we arrive back to Toronto airport in the morning. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B,L)**

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

