JORDAN & ISRAEL JOURNEY
Exploring Our Spiritual Roots
29 January – 11 February, 2018

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Barry and Ferne Thiessen with Rev. Edward and Brenda Grant

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ and that believing you will have life through his name.”
(John 20:31)

The Treasury at Petra

Sea of Galilee, viewed from the Mount of Beatitudes

Tel Aviv, from the ancient port of Jaffa

Temple Mount, viewed from the Mount of Olives
MON. 29 JAN.: Departure for Jordan  
Tonight, we depart from Winnipeg on our flight to Toronto then overnight flights to Amman, Jordan. 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. 30 JAN.: Arrival in Jordan  
This afternoon, we arrive in Amman. Welcome to Jordan! Here, we are met and given assistance with clearing customs and baggage formalities before our journey begins. Our resting place will be in the ancient city of Amman for tonight. (B, D)

WED. 31 JAN.: Jerash, Mt Nebo, Madaba  
After breakfast, we leave the hotel. Our journey to Petra includes visits to:

- Jerash – Overshadowed by Petra, the ancient City of Jerash is acknowledged internationally as one of the largest and best preserved sites of Roman architecture outside of Italy. Here, we shall have lunch before continuing on our journey.

- Mt. Nebo – From here, we can see across into the Promised Land just as Moses did before being laid to rest. On a clear day, we can see the hills of Jerusalem with Jericho in the foreground.

- Madaba – The “mosaic” city of the middle east. Here, we see the wonderful mosaic of the Bible Lands dating back to the 7th century.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at Petra, home for the next two nights. (B, D)

THU. 01 FEB.: Petra  
After breakfast, we begin our visit of Petra. Petra was chosen as the capital of the Nabateans because it was located in a valley surrounded by sandstone mountains.

The main entrance to Petra is called the Siq, with sides as high as 200m. It was here that Christians escaped from the siege of Jerusalem by Titus in the 1st century. This gorge and the temple at the end of it (the Kazneh) were popularized in American culture in the movie, Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.

- The Kazneh – Of the 800 carved tombs in Petra, the Kazneh is the most famous. Its name Kazneh means ‘treasure’ and comes from the Bedouin belief that the Pharaoh chasing the Israelites hid his treasures in the urn at the top of the Kazneh.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at our hotel in Petra. (B, D)

FRI. 02 FEB.: Crossing into Israel  
This morning, we leave from Petra and a short drive to the Israeli border crossing. Once through customs formalities, we enter Israel and into the Negev desert.

- Timna Valley – This unique area of geological formations is rich in copper. Experts believe that this is the area where Solomon mined for copper.

Whilst here, we shall visit the Wilderness Tabernacle Model. This full-scale reproduction is accurate in every way to the dimensions described in the bible. Don’t look for any gold, silver or bronze as those materials are not used in this exhibit!

This afternoon, we arrive at the Daniel Hotel located on the shores of the Dead Sea. Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

SAT. 03 FEB.: 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. (I 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)

SUN. 04 FEB.: Dead Sea Scrolls  
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.

- 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.

After another fascinating day, we make our way to the upper Galilee. Our home for the next two nights! Located by the foot of Mt. Hermon, Kibbutz Hagoshrim is the perfect location to experience this lovely part of Israel. (B, D)

MON. 05 FEB.: 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)

- Nimrod Castle – This stunning Crusader castle offers awe-inspiring views of the plains of Lebanon and the upper Galilee.

- 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)

**TUE. 06 FEB.: 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 our Tiberius Hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (B, D)

**WED. 07 FEB: Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Jaffa**

Today, we leave the Galilee and head towards Jerusalem but not before visiting:

- **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. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; I Kings 4:12; 9:15; II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12; Revelation 16:16)
- **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. (I 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.

- **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 impure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15; Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42)

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

**THU. 08 FEB.: Jerusalem**

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

- **Temple Mount** – Pending access to the site, we will see the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.
- **Burnt house** – Here, we see the excavations of a 1st century wealthy residence which were partially destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
- **City of David** – 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.
- **Old City** – Here, we will walk through the streets of the Armenian and Jewish quarters of old Jerusalem.
- **Yad Vashem** – The national museum and memorial to the holocaust!

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

**FRI. 09 FEB.: Jerusalem**

Today, we remain in the old city and enjoy visiting:

- **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.
- **Western Wall Tunnels** – 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** – 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.

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

**SAT. 10 FEB.: Bethlehem, Jerusalem**
Our day, in and around Jerusalem, is truly a memorable one as we visit:

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.**

**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, ending up at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

**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 “farewell” dinner together. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you! **(B, D)**

**SUN. 11 FEB.: Israel to Canada**

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

**INCLUDED**

- **Air travel:** Round trip from Winnipeg.
- **Hotels:**
  - Bristol Hotel, Amman
  - Marriott Hotel, Petra
  - Daniel Hotel, Dead Sea
  - Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Upper Galilee
  - Caesar Hotel, Tiberius, 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 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.
- **Air Taxes/Fuel Charges:** Currently $738.
- **Gratuities:** Equivalent to USDS$120.

**NOT INCLUDED**

- **Lunches** (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)
- **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.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport not expiring before 11 August 2018. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel. Your Jordan visa is organized by Christian Journeys.
- **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 cancellations charges are described on the registration form. Balance payments will be requested 60 days prior to departure.
- **General Health:** All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

**14 DAY JOURNEY PRICING**

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(Based on 40 paid passengers)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** $999CAD

Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.

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**for more information please contact:**

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