



Biblical Tour of Israel ~ March 21-30, 2014



Hosted by Crossroads Fellowship

And by Ancient Tours, LLC

Friday, March 21

Leave the Indianapolis International Airport for Tel Aviv.

Saturday, March 22

Arrive at the Ben Gurion Airport in **Tel Aviv**. Take a bus transfer to the hotel in **Jerusalem**. After settling into our hotel, we will have an introduction to the city. After dinner at the hotel, we will have an evening tour of the wailing (Western) wall, the holiest site to modern Judaism and we will travel underground as we walk through **Western Tunnel**, a tunnel that exposes the Western Wall of the temple complex at the time of Jesus. *Dinner included.*

Sunday, March 23



Our focus on this day will primarily be New Testament Jerusalem. The bus will take us to the top of the **Mount of Olives**—the location where our Lord ascended into Heaven. From the Mount of Olives, we will take in a breathtaking view of the city across the **Kidron Valley** to the Eastern (Golden) Gate where Jesus will enter in the future. As we take the Palm Sunday Road, we will pass by the **Pater Noster Church** and visit **Dominus Flevit** where “the Lord wept” as he beheld the city. We will then stop at the **Garden of Gethsemane** for a time of reflection. We will then walk through the Kidron Valley and stop at the Western Wall and visit the **North Excavations (Ophel)**. Here we will sit upon the very steps Jesus would have walked when entering the Temple Mount! We will also visit the **Burnt House** (house destroyed in the Jewish War in 70AD) and the **Herodian Villa** (a luxurious 1st century home). In the afternoon, we will visit **St. Anne Church**, the **Pool of Bethesda** and the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.*

Monday, March 24

Our focus in the morning will primarily be Old Testament Jerusalem. We will visit **Hezekiah’s wall**, the **Canaanite Tower**, and the Old Testament diorama. We will then walk to the **City of David** and view **David’s Palace** (and Area G). We will then walk through the Canaanite tunnel OR wade through **Hezekiah’s tunnel** and then visit the **Pool of Siloam**. After lunch, we will visit the beautiful **Garden Tomb**. Here we will celebrate the Lord’s victory over death through a very special communion service. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.*

Tuesday, March 25

We will leave in the morning to travel through the south-central region of Israel. This territory, known as the **Shephelah**, is where the majority of the battles in the OT transpired. We will be certain to stop at the **Ajalon Valley**, where the sun stood still, the **Sorok Valley**, where Samson courted Delilah, and the **Elah Valley**, where David defeated Goliath. After lunch, we will return to Jerusalem for a free half-day of shopping, personal reflection, and soaking in the culture. For those who wish, we will have an optional, free excursion to the **Israel Museum**, the largest exhibit of biblical artifacts in the world, and the **Shrine of the Book**, the home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will also have an opportunity to see the **Second Temple Model** on display at the Israel Museum. *Breakfast included.*

Wednesday, March 26

After an early breakfast, we will head north from Jerusalem to the **Sea of Galilee**. We will visit important sites as we make our scenic trip along the beautiful coast of the **Mediterranean Sea**. The first key site is **Caesarea Maritime**. This city was the center of the early Christians. Here Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized, and it was also here where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome. Another important site is **Mount Carmel**. This site is where Elijah issued his challenge to the false prophets of Baal. This mount also provides a fantastic view of the **Jezreel Valley**. We will also visit the site of **Megiddo**. We will then cross the Jezreel valley, passing through the town of **Nazareth**. We will stop for an unforgettable view from the top of **Mount Precipice** and drive via **Cana** of Galilee and the lower Galilee region to the Sea of Galilee. We will also take time to stop and catch a breathtaking view of the region from the **Arbel**. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.*



Thursday, March 27

We will spend this day exploring the **Sea of Galilee** and the **Golan Heights**. We will then visit **Hazor**, the city burned by Joshua, **Dan**, the place of early apostasy in Israel, and a reconstructed first-century village of **Quatzien** in the Golan Heights. After which, we will visit **Banias**, or ancient **Caesarea Philippi**, the site of Peter's Confession. We will also have the opportunity to visit a modern olive oil factory located in the area. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.*

Friday, March 28

We will travel around the Sea of Galilee, visiting the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will have our Sunday service reflecting on Christ's words in Matthew 5-7. From there we will proceed to **Tabgha**, the site of the feeding of the 5,000. Here we will visit the **Church of the Multiplication** with its 4th century mosaic floor. We will then proceed to **Capernaum**, the city where Jesus spent most of his Galilean ministry and the home of Peter's mother-in-law. We will be sure to explore the synagogue and other relevant first-century artifacts. From here, we will visit **Bethsaida**, the hometown of Peter, Andrew, and Philip, and **Kurzi**, the traditional site of the casting out of the legion of demons into the swine. We will also observe **Hippus**, the most likely spot for Jesus' illustration of the light on a hill. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.*

Saturday, March 29

In the morning, we will board a wooden boat for a ride on the Sea itself. We will have a brief servicewhile out on the Sea. We will then visit the **Kibbutz Nof Geonsar** and see the "Jesus Boat"—a 2,000 year-old fishing boat discovered in 1986. We will then return to our hotel for packing and "refreshing" before departing for Tel Aviv. Before arriving at the Tel Aviv airport, we will stop to have a memorable farewell dinner. *Breakfast and dinner included.*

Sunday, March 30

Arrive in Indianapolis late morning.

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For information, contact *Dr. Richard Blumenstock* or *Dr. David Hoffeditz* at . . .



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