

RCOA Missions 2019
Discovering the Promised Land Itinerary
March 17th – April 1st

Day 1 – Sunday, March 17: VANCOUVER/ TORONTO

Depart from Vancouver on Air Canada at 7:00am arriving in Toronto at 2:26pm, Connect with the Air Canada departing at 4:50pm.

Day 2 – Monday, March 18: TEL AVIV/ JAFFA

Arrive in Tel Aviv at 9:15am where our tour guide will meet you. We start by traveling to **Jaffa**, which affords us a breathtaking view of the city of Tel Aviv. At this picturesque port city of winding alleys, art galleries and crafts boutiques. Here King Solomon had the cedars of Lebanon rafted for the building of the First Temple in Jerusalem. After this tour we go to our hotel for check-in and the balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy Tel Aviv. **Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv.**

Day 3— Tuesday, March 19: CAESAREA/MT.CARMEL/MEGIDDO

We drive north along the Plain of Sharon, the Mediterranean and the old coastal road—the Via Maris that linked Egypt and Babylon as we journey towards Galilee. We stop at **Caesarea** the incredible fortress city built by King Herod the Great. Here, Pontius Pilate had his base; where Cornelius lived and was baptized (Acts 10); where Paul embarked to Tarsus (Acts 9:30) and where Philip preached (Acts 8:40). Visit the Roman Theatre, the Hippodrome, and the Crusader City. We then travel north towards Haifa and ascend **Mt. Carmel** the site where the prophet Elijah fought the 400 false prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:30). We will stop for an incredible panoramic view of **Haifa**. We turn inland and proceed to **Megiddo**, one of King Solomon’s walled fortified cities (1 Kings 9:15; 10:26), with ruins of 20 levels of civilization. From here the Books of Daniel and Revelation will come alive as we read about the final Battle of Armageddon, while viewing the Plains of Jezreel. Continue to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. **Dinner and overnight at Rimonim Nazareth Mary’s Well Hotel, Nazareth.**

Day 4 – Wednesday, March 20: NAZARETH

After breakfast volunteering at the Nazareth Baptist School.

Dinner and overnight at Rimonim Nazareth Mary’s Well Hotel, Nazareth.

Day 5---Thursday, March 21: NAZARETH

After breakfast volunteering at the Nazareth Baptist School.

Dinner and overnight at Rimonim Nazareth Mary’s Well Hotel, Nazareth.

Day 6---Friday, March 22: JESUS' MINISTRY IN THE GALILEE

We start the day with a **boat ride** on the Sea of Galilee. Visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** at Kibbutz Ginossar. Drive to **Capernaum**, the centre of Jesus' Galilean ministry and the site of many of his miracles (Mark 2:4; Matt.8:5; 14-7; 9; 1-7; 17:18). We will see the remains of Peter's house and the synagogue site where Jesus taught and worshipped (Mark 1:21; Luke 4:31). Drive to **Tabgha** and visit the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes. Continue to the **Mt. of Beatitudes** where Jesus delivered what is perhaps the most famous sermon ever preached – “The Sermon On The Mount” (Matt.5). Visit to **Magdala** the newly excavated site to see the 1st century synagogue where Jesus taught. Continue to **Bethsaida**- An ancient fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It is known as the birthplace of three Apostles Peter, Andrew and Philip. We finish the day at **Yardenit**- the Jordan River Baptismal site. **Dinner and overnight at Rimonim Nazareth Mary's Well Hotel, Nazareth.**

Day 7 – Saturday, March 23: GALILEE/ GOLAN HEIGHTS

We will drive north stopping at **Safed**, one of the 4 holiest cities in Israel. Visit the ancient synagogues and the artist colony. Continue to **Tel Dan** one of the most important sites for the archaeological and historical recovery of ancient Israel. The city of Dan represented the northern border of the biblical Kingdom of Israel. We drive to the **Golan Heights** and visit **Banias**, one of the sources of the Jordan River and the site of ancient “**Caesarea Philippi**”, where Peter made the confession of faith in Christ (Matt; 16:16). On the Golan Heights we will visit one of the bunkers from the Six Day War in 1967 at **Har Bental**. Return to your Guest House via the east side of the Sea of Galilee stopping at **Kursi** to see the place where the demons entered the swine and entered the Sea of Galilee. **Dinner and overnight at Rimonim Nazareth Mary's Well Hotel, Nazareth.**

Day 8 – Sunday, March 24: GALILEE/ JORDAN VALLEY// JERUSALEM

Drive to **Nazareth**, the boyhood town of Jesus. We will visit **Nazareth Village** depicting a village from the time of Jesus. We drive southward to **Beit Shean**, where we will walk through the incredible excavations of the largest ongoing archaeological dig in the land of Israel with its Roman theatre, colonnaded Roman streets, mosaics and Roman bathhouses. It is also the city where the body of King Saul and his sons were nailed to the walls by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10). We then drive through the lush Jordan Valley. We make our ascent to Jerusalem through the Judean Wilderness.

Dinner and overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9—Monday, March 25: BRIDGES FOR PEACE PROJECTS

After breakfast volunteering for Bridges for Peace projects.

Dinner and overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 10—Tuesday, March 26: BRIDGES FOR PEACE PROJECTS

After breakfast volunteering for Bridges for Peace projects.

Dinner and overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 11: Wednesday, March 27: BRIDGES FOR PEACE PROJECTS

After breakfast volunteering for Bridges for Peace projects.

Dinner and overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 12—Thursday, March 28 JERUSALEM/ BETHLEHEM

We start the day at the **Mount of Olives**, for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. Walk down to the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the Church of All Nations. From here, we proceed by bus across the Kidron Valley, past the Tombs of Absalom, Zechariah and James and proceed to **Mt Zion** to visit the traditional site of the **Upper Room** (Room of the Last Supper) and the Church of **St. Peter's in Gallicantu**, built on top of the High Priest Caiaphas' house. We walk to the Zion Gate and enter the Old City of Jerusalem through this gate and walk through the Armenian Quarter to the **Jewish Quarter**. Visit the **Western Wall**, Judaism's holiest spot. We continue our walk along the **Via Dolorosa** to visit the Pools of Bethesda & St. Anne's Church; we pass through the colourful bazaars, alleyways and market places and reach the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** for a brief visit. We finish the day in **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus.

Dinner and overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 13—Friday, March 29: JERUSALEM

We begin the day at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust commemorating the six million Jews who perished. Visit and walk through the Museum, visit the Children's Memorial, walk along the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles for those who risked their lives to save Jewish lives. Continue to the **Israel Museum** to the Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest manuscripts of the Bible ever found. Drive to the excavated **City of David** to see remains of Jerusalem from the time of King David. See the **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and visit the **Pool of Siloam**. Continue to the **Davidson Center** to start at the facility using the state of art technology and film showing what the Temple Mount was like from the time of Jesus. You will continue to the **Southern Wall Excavations** and see the walls from the time of King Herod and walk on the same steps Jesus walked on going up to the Temple. Visit the Western Wall Tunnels and the excavations along the length of the Western Wall from the time of the Second Temple. We finish the day at the **Garden Tomb**-preserved by the Garden Tomb Association these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of the Garden Tomb.

Dinner & overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 14 – Saturday, March 30: MASADA/DEAD SEA/EIN GEDI/ QUMRAN

This morning we drive to the lowest point on earth the Dead Sea and to **Masada**. You will take a cable car to the summit of this magnificent fortress built by King Herod the Great and the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots. Visit the historic ruins and see the palaces, bathhouses, swimming pool, and the oldest synagogue in the world on this mountain in the middle of the desert. We stop on the shores of the Dead Sea for a chance to float in the saltiest body of water in the world. Continue to the oasis of **Ein Gedi** and walk through the nature park to see the waterfalls in the desert. We will stop at **Qumran**, where a young shepherd boy discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 in the cave that you will see. These scrolls are the oldest scriptures of the Bible ever found. You will see where the Essenes who wrote these scrolls lived and wrote these scrolls. Return to Jerusalem

Dinner & overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 15 – Sunday, March 31: JERUSALEM

We start the day visiting the **Jerusalem Assistance Centre-Bridges for Peace**.

Dinner & overnight at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 16---Monday, April 1: CANADA

Depart Tel Aviv on

Depart Tel Aviv on Air Canada at 11:45am, arriving in Toronto at 6:25pm. Connect to your Air Canada flight departing Toronto at 6:00pm and arriving in Vancouver at 7:50pm