

**ISRAEL, A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND  
12 MARCH– 26 MARCH 2020**

**Hosted by Regent Christian Online Academy**

*“Arise walk through the land in its length and in its breadth; for I will give it to you.”* (Genesis 13:15)

**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner**

**DAY 1: THU. 12 MARCH: Canada to Tel Aviv**

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

**DAY 2: FRI. 13 MARCH: Arrive Israel**

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we are met by our Israeli Tour Manager who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach, we begin our journey by taking the short drive to the Mediterranean Sea and Tel Aviv. Here, we shall visit the beach and boardwalk of the Mediterranean Sea.

This afternoon, we check into our Netanya hotel, located on the Mediterranean coastline, where we rest and enjoy our ‘Welcome to Israel’ dinner.

**DAY 3: SAT. 14 MARCH: Caesarea, Mt. Carmel and Megiddo**

From Netanya, we spend our day in and around Samaria, visiting.

**Caesarea** – Here, we take in this ancient Roman seaport where Pontius Pilate made his base. We will tour the Roman aqueduct, restored theatre and crusader city. It was here that Cornelius the centurion called for Simon Peter and was converted to Christianity.

**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 18:18-45; Isaiah 33:9)

**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)

From here, we travel to Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner will be at our Tiberius hotel this evening.

**DAY 4: SUN. 15 MARCH: Sea of Galilee**

This morning, we stay around the Sea of Galilee, the centre of Jesus’ Ministry!

**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. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride** – We end our day with a memorable time on our private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

**Magdala** – Located within one kilometer from our hotel, we have one of the latest Biblical excavation digs. We have the chance to visit what has been unearthed so far for the ancient seaside town of Magdala. (Luke 8:1-3)

**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.

**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 centre of Jesus’ Galilee, this is where Jesus lived 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 create an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

Dinner will be at our hotel.

**DAY 5: MON. 16 MARCH: Upper Galilee to Nazareth**

This morning, we travel to the upper Galilee and visit the following Biblical sights:

**Tel Dan** – This national park and archeological site offers 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** – From the Peace Outlook vantage point, we can see the full panorama of the Sea of Galilee before our very eyes.

Dinner will be at our Nazareth hotel this evening.

**DAY 6: TUE. 17 MARCH: Nazareth**

**Nazareth Baptist School** - After breakfast, we will spend the day at Nazareth Baptist School, a Christian K-12 school in the heart of Nazareth. We will have an opportunity to build relationships with Arab and Israeli Christian students at Nazareth Baptist School and serve the local community through various volunteer service projects

**We would offer a visit to the Nazareth Biblical village if you wish to walk to it.**

**Dinner at hotel.**

**DAY 7: WED. 18 MARCH: Nazareth (no services)**

**Nazareth Biblical Village** - After breakfast, we will visit the Nazareth Biblical Village where we will tour through a first-century farm and village presenting the life, times and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Nazareth Village preserves the fields worked by Jesus' friends and family.

**Nazareth Baptist School** – After lunch we will join with our new friends at NBS for one last day of service.

**Dinner at hotel.**

**DAY 8: THU. 19 MARCH: Bet She'an, Bethany by the Jordan, Jericho**

After breakfast, we leave the Galilee and head towards the Judean wilderness along the Jordan Valley. En-route we will visit;

**Bet She'an** – The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its' initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are today still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. It is here that Jesus heals a deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31.)

**Bethany by the Jordan** – Extensive excavations of the surrounding area since 1996 have uncovered many sites, none more significant than the ruins of 'Bethabara'. Many believe this is the original site of John the Baptist's Ministry and the location of his baptism of Jesus.

After Bethany by the Jordan, we head further south and pass **Gilgal** where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover here after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

**Jericho** – We visit Old Testament **Jericho**, home of Zacchaeus and the Sycamore tree (Luke 19:1-8) where the walls came tumbling down. In the New Testament, Jericho is close to where **Jesus healed Bartimaeus**.

**Qumran** – The Dead Sea Scrolls were written here almost two thousand years ago by the the ancient Essenes. We will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947.

Our day ends by arriving at our kibbutz near the, Dead Sea, Dinner will be at our kibbutz. **(B, D)**

**DAY 9: FRI. 20 MARCH: Masada, Ein Gedi, Swim**

After our Israeli breakfast, we stay in the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit:

**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!

**Masada** – This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountaintop palace and fortress. Here, we ascend 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)

After this fascinating day, we make our way "UP TO" Jerusalem. Home or the remainder of the journey (**B, D**)

**DAY 10: SAT. 21 MARCH: Jerusalem, Bethlehem**

Today, we spend our first day in Jerusalem visiting:

**Mount of Olives** – We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here, we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

**Garden of Gethsemane** – Here, we find the site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony, "*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, this is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

An afternoon 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.**

Dinner is at our hotel this evening.

**DAY 11 SUN. 22 MARCH: Jerusalem**

This morning, we go to west Jerusalem and visit:

**Temple Mount** – Pending access to the site, we will see the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

**Western Wall Tunnels** – Here, we will visit 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.

**Davidson Centre** – This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life and will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

**City of David** – After being 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.

**Church of St. Anne** – Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple, this ancient Byzantine church offers remarkable acoustics. (John 5:1-9)

**Garden Tomb** – Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association, these beautiful gardens surround a traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea.  
(John 19:41)

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening.

**DAY 12: MON. 23 MARCH: Jerusalem and Bridges For Peace**

**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.

**DAY 13- DAY 14: TUE – WED. 24 MARCH & 25 MARCH: Jerusalem Bridges For Peace**

## **Dinner at hotel 24<sup>th</sup>.**

On the last night we will have our 'Farewell Dinner', a wonderful time to share and reflect on a truly inspirational journey!

## **DAY 15: THU. 26 MARCH: Journey Home**

This morning, we depart for Tel Aviv Airport and our flights to Canada. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B, L)**

*Though we have left the Holy Land, it shall never leave us!*

## **\$5999 per person INCLUDES the following:**

**Air travel:** Return air travel from Vancouver.

### **Hotels:**

Netanya Hotel 1 night

Tiberius Hotel 2 nights

Nazareth Hotel 3 nights

Dead Sea kibbutz 1 night

Jerusalem Hotel, 6 nights

**Meals:** Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily with refreshments, tea and coffee. Lunch in local areas.

**Transportation:** Air conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

### **RCOA Chaperones**

**Sightseeing:** Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

**Tour Guide:** Government licensed Tour Manager will accompany the group.

**Porterage:** One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

**Bottled water:** (2 per person per day)

### **Whisper Head Sets**

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

**Departure taxes and fuel charges:** Currently \$698 (subject to change)

**Gratuities:** Equivalent to USD \$120

### **Travel Insurance:**

"Out of country"- emergency medical insurance, equivalent to (or greater than) Cad\$250,000.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which does not expire before 26 Sep 2020. Canada and US passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

**Fuel surcharge:** At time of print, the airline still implements a fuel surcharge on all of its flights. We have included this amount in the pricing. The airline fuel is subject to change and will be re-assessed 90 days prior to departure.

**Currency surcharge:** Christian Journeys reserves the right to introduce a currency surcharge. If applicable, this would be assessed 90 days prior to departure. An increase greater than 7% of the base journey cost would allow participants to cancel without a penalty.

**Travel Insurance:** The Deluxe/Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against all monies paid, except the insurance premium.

**General Health:** All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.