

Updated May, 12, 2016

June 4 – June 14, 2017 – Israel

Sunday, June 4

Group departs from Home City.

Monday, June 5

Arrive at Ben Gurion airport.

Rest of the day free to explore the Old City of Jerusalem.

Tuesday, June 6

We will begin our day at the lookout from the Mount of Olives and have a breathtaking panoramic view of the Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem. Then we will walk down to the site where Jesus wept (*Dominus Flevit*) **Rusian Orthodox** church to discuss the events of that night in the Garden of Gethsemane before Jesus' crucifixion. Then we walk a little further to the actual Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed and was arrested. We'll see some very ancient olive trees.

We will then drive to the Zion Gate and walk through the Jewish Quarter to visit the Cardo (a Roman street) and the **excavated Herodian Quarter.? Burnt House?** After lunch in the Jewish Quarter, we will walk to the Western Wall – the holiest place for the Jews. We will continue on to visit the Pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the lame man. Then we'll proceed to the Lithostratos or "Pavement" in the Ecce Homo Convent.

We will end our day at the Garden Tomb, a traditional site for Jesus' resurrection.

Overnight: ? Hotel, East Jerusalem (B, D) - <http://stgeorgehoteljerusalem.com/>

Wednesday, June 7

Our morning begins early with a visit to the Temple Mount. Next we will walk to the Southern Wall Excavations. Then we will view a 3D model of the first-century temple. Afterwards, we will either walk through Herod the Great's ancient sewer system to reach the excavation of the Pool of Siloam or drive to it.

HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL

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Our next visit will be to the Israel Museum and see where the Dead Sea scrolls are kept and view a model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of the Second Temple.

We'll end the day at Abu Ghosh, one of the traditional sites for Emmaus.

Overnight: ? Hotel, East Jerusalem (B, D) - <http://stgeorgehoteljerusalem.com/>

Thursday, June 8

Drive to the Dead Sea for a swim near Qumran. Our next stop is the Wadi Kelt – a valley running west to east across the Judean desert – near Jericho and the Dead Sea. It is home to the Greek Orthodox Monastery Saint George, where tradition holds that Elijah was fed by ravens.

Then we travel on to the ancient site of Tel Shiloh where the Tabernacle was housed for 369 years.

Overnight: ? Hotel, East Jerusalem.

Friday, June 9

As we begin our drive north to Galilee we will visit the site of Qasr el Yahud, one of the more probable areas for John's baptisms. We continue our drive up the Jordan Valley stop at the Spring of Harod where Gideon chose his men. Our final stop of the day will be at Kursi, one of the traditional sites where Jesus healed the insane man.

Overnight: Ramot Resort, Galilee (B, D)

Saturday, June 10

Our morning starts with exploring the site of Capernaum – the center of Jesus' ministry where more healings by Jesus occurred than any other location in Israel. Next is a visit to Bethsaida. Near the town is the likely place where the feeding of the 5,000 took place. It was also the home town of Philip, Andrew, and Peter according to John 1:44. Driving past the abandoned town of Chorazin, we will make our way to the Mount of Beatitudes – the traditional site for Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Near here we will contemplate those important teachings.

We will then walk to Tabgha which contains a beautiful mosaic of the loaves and fishes.

We will make a short visit to the Yigal Allon Museum which houses the first-century fishing boat discovered in 1986 in the Sea of Galilee. Here we will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight: Ramot Resort, Galilee (B, D)

Sunday, June 11

We start today by heading north to Tel Dan. Dan was the northernmost city of the Kingdom of Israel – known as Laish prior to the conquest by the Tribe of Dan. The finds date back to 4500 B.C. We will stand in the temple built by Jeroboam and behold the “Arch of Abraham.”

Our next stop is Banias Falls. Then we drive to the site of Caesarea Philippi at the base of Mt. Hermon where Jesus asked his disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matt. 16:13).

Free Afternoon.

Overnight: Ramot Resort, Galilee (B, D)

Monday, June 12

We will start early this morning and depart to Mount Tabor, which rises dome-like from the Plain of Jezreel. This is the mountain where Christian tradition places the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Then we return north and drive to the Brow of the Hill near Nazareth. It is a beautiful place to look out over the Jezreel Valley. Next we go to Nazareth Village. Here we will tour a re-created first-century Galilean village and farm. After our tour, we will have a biblical lunch prepared by our Nazareth Village friends.

As we head back to Galilee, we will stop first at the Mt. Arbel pass and walk partway on the route Jesus probably used as he traveled back and forth from Cana or Nazareth to Galilee. Next we will view the excavations at the newly uncovered first-century city of Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene.

Overnight: Ramot Resort, Galilee (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 13

We’ll begin our day with a sunrise talk by the Sea of Galilee on John, chapter 21, known as “the Morning Meal.” Next is a drive to Mt. Carmel. Here we have a spectacular 360 degree view of the surrounding area. This is a traditional area where Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal. Mt. Carmel is also where the woman of Shunem came to Elisha after her son had passed on.

We continue on to Tel Megiddo which sits on a strategic location at the head of a pass through the Carmel Range which overlooks the Valley of Jezreel.

Overnight: Dan Caesarea Hotel, Caesarea Maritima (B, D)

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Wednesday, June 14

Morning at leisure. Then we visit the ancient site of Caesarea Maritima where we will see the ruins of this ancient Roman port built by Herod the Great to honor the Emperor Augustus Caesar. It's also where Cornelius was baptized by Peter, and where Paul left for his final missionary journey.

Farewell lunch or dinner.

Transfer to Airport for overnight flights home. (B, D)