



Israel and Jordan Tour

A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary

April 30 - May 10, 2024

*The tour is hosted by Rev. Mike Tuffnell,
Rev. Ralph Goldenberg & Rev. Andrew Corke*



In the steps of the ancient people of Israel and Jesus the Messiah, we'll travel through along the ancient Way of the Sea to the heartland of Israel, explore the land of Galilee, staying on the Lake itself. Then we will travel up to Jerusalem to explore Israel's ancient capital. We'll visit Bethlehem and the Desert fortresses of Masada and Ein Gedi followed by a dip in the Dead Sea. Then after four nights staying inside the Old City of Jerusalem we will travel across the River Jordan to explore the fascinating sights of the other part of the Holy Land, the kingdom of Jordan, including a whole day in Petra.

This tour is designed both for those who are new to Israel and Jordan and those who have been before, and includes optional excursions for returning travellers giving the opportunity to explore different parts of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel

Day 1 - Tuesday, 30 April:

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

Fly out of Luton on El Al flight to arrive at Ben Gurion about 15.00. We meet our guide (Elin Elkouby) and travel to Netanya on the Mediterranean Coast where we are spending our first night in Israel. Later we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and worship.

Overnight - Seasons Hotel, Netanya

Day 2 - Wednesday, 1 May: A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - JEWS, GENTILES AND THE MESSIAH



We drive along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and where Paul set sail on his journey to Rome. We move on to **Mount Carmel**, with its spectacular view over the North of Israel, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. Our final stop of the day is Nazareth where we hope to visit the **Convent of the Sisters of Nazareth** (the possible site of Jesus' childhood home), the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, the **Synagogue Church** and the **Greek Catholic Church** (our driver Bishara's home church). We'll;

conclude with a visit to Bishara's favourite baklava shop! Our hotel overnight is right on north shore of the **Sea of Galilee**. There should be time for a dip in the Lake before dinner.

Overnight - Nof Ginosar Hotel, by the Sea of Galilee

Day 3 – Thursday, 2 May : AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE – DAILY LIFE AND RELIGION IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Today will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century and seek to understand better the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at the **Katzrin Museum of rural life** which recreates a typical Galilean village, where we will study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus’ teachings. After a short drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. At lovely **Tabgha**, with its famous mosaic which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and near to where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. We will have the opportunity to purchase a lunch of ‘St Peter’s fish’ at one of the fish restaurants beside the Sea. Later in the afternoon we will return to Kibbutz Ginosar where we will see the famous “**Jesus Boat**”, a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, and share communion. After dinner we will meet with a local believer.



Overnight – Nof Ginosar Hotel, by the Sea of Galilee

Day 4 – Friday, 3 May: Down the Jordan Valley – SEEKING REFUGE IN THE WILDERNESS



Our theme today is the Wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites and to believers in the time of Jesus. We travel down the Jordan Valley and visit the **Baptismal Site** at Bethany beyond the Jordan, the most likely site of Jesus’ baptism, where there will be an opportunity to reaffirm our baptism. We then drive on to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth. Most of us will visit **Masada**, Herod the Great’s magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. For those who have visited Masada before, there will be the option of taking a walk up the beautiful **Wadi David at Ein Gedi**, where David sought refuge from Saul. In the afternoon we’ll take a dip in the waters of the Dead Sea at a spa on the shores of the Lake before starting our ascent to Jerusalem only 45 minutes

away. (If time permits we will call into **Qumran**, the location of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel, the **Dead Sea Scrolls**).

After dinner those who wish can take a short, guided walk over the rooftops of the **Old City**.

Overnight – Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 5 – Saturday, 4 May: IN THE STEPS OF JESUS – CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with the famous panorama of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**, the site of Jesus’ ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**.



Next we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen’s Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda and St Anne’s church** (known as ‘the singing church’

because of its stunning acoustics). From here we walk up the **Via Dolorosa** (the traditional walk taken by Jesus to his crucifixion) to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. After lunch in the Old City we end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb** where we will share communion. The rest of the afternoon is free though there will be an optional walk down to the peaceful garden of the Austrian Convent for tea and *Sachertorte* (Viennese chocolate cake).

In the evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, led by Ralph, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 6 - Sunday, 5 May:

JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JESUS - THE TEMPLE AT THE CENTRE



Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the centre of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. An early start will take us up to the **Temple Mount** (conditions permitting), where we'll consider some of Jesus' activities there, as well as the claims of Islam. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. The rest of the afternoon is free. However, for those who wish there will be the opportunity to take the short walk to the church of **St Peter in Gallicantu**, reputedly the site of the house of Cairphas, high priest at the time of the Jesus, with its atmospheric cistern in which Jesus may have been imprisoned overnight before his trial.

For those who have been to Jerusalem before there is an alternative itinerary for the day with the option to visit the sites in West Jerusalem. We will visit the Shrine of the Book (housing the Dead Sea Scrolls), look at the famous model of Jerusalem in the First Century and the Israel Museum containing thousands of biblical artifacts. There may also be an opportunity to visit the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament building. After lunch we will walk to the Ben Yehuda market and through Mea Shearim, the ultra-orthodox district of West Jerusalem before returning to Christchurch.

After dinner we will have a talk at Christchurch about the work of CMJ then we will walk over to the Tower of David Museum (just opposite Christchurch) for the amazing '*Night Spectacular*' sound and light show.

Overnight - Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 7 - Monday, 6 May :

MORNING IN BETHLEHEM, OPTIONS FOR THE AFTERNOON

In the morning, we take the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the "**Shepherd's Fields**" where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. We will also visit the gift shop owned by local Christians which is great for some last-minute shopping.

In the afternoon there are two options. We can visit the **City of David**, the place where it all begun and to take a walk through Hezekiah's tunnel to the **Pool of Shiloam**. The other option is to travel to **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people.

Evening - we join together for a farewell dinner at the 'Panorama' Restaurant with its spectacular views over the Old City

Overnight - Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City Jerusalem

Day 8 - Tuesday, 7 May:

CROSSING THE JORDAN AND THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Those not travelling to Jordan will depart for Ben Gurion airport after breakfast. We will visit the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and the location of Simon the Tanner's house for a stroll round the ancient port. If possible we will visit Beit Immanuel (CMJ's guesthouse in Jaffa) for lunch.

From there it is just a short ride from **Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv** for a late afternoon flight.

For those travelling on to Jordan

CROSSING THE JORDAN

We take an early morning journey to the Jordanian border and cross the King Hussein Bridge. We meet our guide, Fadi Abu Jaber, and then drive to the spectacular **Wadi Rum** (where '*Lawrence of Arabia*' was filmed) where we will experience a **jeep safari** and drink Bedouin tea in a desert tent (there will also be the opportunity for a camel ride) . We then travel on to **Petra** for the night.

Overnight - Hyatt Zeman, Petra



Day 9 - Wednesday, 8 May:

'THE ROSE RED CITY, HALF AS OLD AS TIME'



Today is devoted to exploring **Petra**, one of the most remarkable places on earth. We'll discuss the mysteries of the Nabataean traders and their strategic location along the silk and spice trade routes between the east and west. We enter the city through the Siq, a narrow slit in the mountains, with walls towering 80 meters on each side. We will spend the whole day walking around the twists and turns of this magnificent gorge city, including the famous **Treasury**, the **Monastery**, the **Temple** and **early church remains** and the spectacular **rock tombs** of the Nabatean

civilisation.

Overnight - Hyatt Zeman, Petra

Day 10 - Thursday, 9 May:

THE DESERT HIGHWAY

Saying goodbye to Petra, we turn north up the Desert Highway parallel to the Israelites' route when they made their wilderness journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. We stop first at the magnificent Crusader castle of **Karak**, built on the location of the ancient Moabite capital, Kir Hareseth. We continue to **Madaba**, known as the City of Mosaics dating to the Byzantine and



Umayyad eras and home to the **famous 6th century mosaic map** of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. After the opportunity to enjoy lunch at a traditional Jordanian restaurant, we will stop at **Mt. Nebo**, burial site of Moses overlooking the Jordan Valley with spectacular views towards Jerusalem.
Overnight: Movenpick, Dead Sea, Jordan

Day 11 - Friday, 10 May 'To the ends of the Earth' "TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH"

We say farewell to **Jordan** and return back over the border via the Allenby Bridge, descending through the mountains of Judea to the coast. We will visit the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and the location of Simon the Tanner's house for a stroll round the ancient port. If possible we will visit Beit Immanuel (CMJ's guesthouse in Jaffa) for lunch.

From there it is just a short ride from **Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv** for a late afternoon flight.

