

11-DAY "BIBLICAL ENCOUNTER" TOUR IN ISRAEL WITH OPTIONAL PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION

DAY 1: MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 - DEPART FOR TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Tour members depart from Seattle for our flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 - ARRIVAL INTO TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Tour group will be met at the Tel Aviv airport and assisted with arrival procedures as well as accessing the ground transfer to the group's hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.

Dinner

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024 - CAESAREA MARITIMA / MT. CARMEL / NAZARETH VILLAGE / MOUNT PRECIPICE / TIBERIAS (SEA OF GALILEE)

Today, we depart for the Sea of Galilee enjoying stops at the extensive ruins of Caesarea Maritima, an ancient port city built by King Herod and later becoming the seat of government of the Roman governors, and where Peter proclaimed the Good News to the Roman centurion (Acts 9 & 25) Paul was also imprisoned there before he went to Rome. We continue to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah prayed and God defeated 450 prophets of Baal with fire from heaven (1 Kings 18). Next we head to Nazareth to visit "Nazareth Village" – a re-created village offering detailed explanation of what life was like during the time of Jesus. We end our day with a stop at Mount Precipice, the site that tradition has it as where Jesus leaped from the hill after being chased away for the synagogue in Nazareth. We head to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee area for dinner and overnight.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 4: THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2014 - CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / PETER'S PRIMACY / MT. OF BEATITUDES / WINE TASTING AT THE SCOTS HOTEL WINE CELLAR

Following breakfast, we head to Capernaum (Mark 1: 31-38), the base of Jesus' early ministry, the home of Peter, and the site of many healings. We take a short ride to Tabgha, the traditional

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site of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and then a brief walk to Peter's Primacy - located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We end our day at the Mt. of Beatitudes, where we enjoy time for spiritual reflection and meditation, as we reflect on Jesus' teachings Beatitudes as we walk down the Mt. of Beatitudes. We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Following dinner, there will be a special wine tasting at the Scots Hotel Wine Cellar for individuals who want to taste wines from Israel.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 5: FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 - BOAT RIDE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE / BETHSAIDA / MAGDALA

After breakfast, we will take a short ride to the East side of the Sea of Galilee to Ein Gev where we board a replica of a "Jesus Boat". The boat ride will take us across the Sea of Galilee to the Museum at Nof Ginosar to see an ancient fishing boat of the kind used by the disciples of Jesus. We then head to a site originally believed to be Bethsaida, the possible location of an ancient city on the north side of the Sea of Galilee. Bethsaida is referred to as a "tale of two cities" – an Iron Age city of the land of Geshur, and a Roman City known as Julias. The area of Bethsaida was referred to in the New Testament in conjunction with two of Jesus miracles: healing of the blind man and the first feeding of the Multitude. It is also known as the birthplace of some of the Apostles (Andrew, Peter and Philip). From here we head to el-Araj, a newly excavated site that archeologist believe could be the actual site of Bethsaida. We end our day with a visit to Magdala, the birthplace of Mary Magdalene. Magdala is a first century city discovered in 2009 with a first century synagogue where it is certain Jesus taught. Here we head to the downstairs room for healing worship service. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 6: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 – MOUNT ARBEL / JERICHO / BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN / JERUSALEM

Today we depart early for a short ride to Mt. Arbel for an incredible panorama view of the Galilee area. We depart Mt. Arbel for our journey from Tiberias to Jerusalem. Along the way, we will enjoy a stop at Jericho to tour the ruins of the old Jericho. From Jericho, we head to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, believed to be the site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. This is the location where individuals will have the opportunity for a renewal of baptism. We then begin our ascent to the majestic city of Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 7: SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 – BETHLEHEM (TO ATTEND A WORSHIP SERVICE AT CHRISTMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH) / THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY / WESTERN (WAILING) WALL / WESTERN WALL TUNNEL / SOUTHERN STEPS

We begin our day with a visit to Bethlehem. Passing by Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem. We will make a stop at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem to participate in their Sunday morning worship service. Following the Sunday Service, we make a visit to the Church of Nativity. Following our visit to the Church of the Nativity, you will be given the

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opportunity to have lunch on your own before boarding the bus to head back to Jerusalem. We leave Bethlehem for a visit to the Western Wall, the most holy site of the Jewish people. Beyond the wall lies the 35-acre temple area purchased by King David (2 Samuel. 24:18-25). On this site now stands the Golden Dome of the Rock (the third holiest shrine in all Islam) and the El-Aksa Mosque. As we leave the Old City, we take a short walk to stand on the Original Southern Steps that Jesus walked as he entered the Temple area. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. Return to the Western Wall at dark to see it all lite up.

Breakfast, dinner (Lunch is on your own)

DAY 8: MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024 - MT. OF OLIVES / PALM SUNDAY ROAD TO GETHSEMANE / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE / COMMUNION IN THE GARDEN / CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS / OLD CITY / VIA DOLOROSA / ST. ANNE'S CHURCH / POOLS OF BETHESDA / CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER / CHURCH OF ST. PETER IN GALLICANTU AND CAIAPHAS HOUSE

We begin our day on the beautiful Mt. of Olives to behold the breathtaking panorama of the Holy City. Our pilgrimage will proceed down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive grove, and the Church of All Nations, where tradition holds that Jesus prayed on the night of His betrayal (Matt. 26:36, John 18:1). Before continuing our walk to the Old City, we will spend some time in a special, private area of the Garden of Gethsemane where we will enjoy teaching by Pastor Crabtree and service of Holy Communion among the ancient olive trees. From here, we enter the Old City of Jerusalem and make our way along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross), the road which Jesus walked after being sentenced by Pontius Pilate, including St. Anne's Crusader Church, Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a paralytic (John 5:1-15), the Pavement (where Jesus stood while being tried by Pilate), Ecce Homo Arch, and the ancient Cardo, reaching the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We end our day with a visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu and Caiaphas House. We head back to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 9: TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 - MASADA / EIN GEDI / QUMRAN / DEAD SEA

Leaving Jerusalem this morning, we meander through the Judean desert and along the western shore of the Dead Sea. Our first visit is Masada, the fortress built by King Herod and site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Ascending Masada by cable car, we will be able to survey the ruins of the fortifications, waterworks, synagogue, temples and palaces. Continuing along the Dead Sea, we pass by the lovely Ein Gedi, the area where David hid from King Saul (1 Sam. 24: 1-7). We continue north along the Dead Sea for a visit to Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were written over 2000 years ago and discovered in 1947. We conclude the day with a relaxing float in the healing waters of the Dead Sea (the lowest spot on earth) at a special location. **Please be sure to bring swimsuit, towel (from the hotel), and water shoes as the bottom surface can be rough. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 - CITY OF DAVID INCLUDING HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL / ISRAEL MUSEUM TO VISIT THE SHRINE OF THE BOOK AND THE MODEL OF JERUSALEM AS IT WAS IN THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD / YAD VASHEM / COMMUNION AT GARDEN TOMB

Following breakfast, we head to the City of David to see the archeological remains of David's period and that of the Kings of Judah (2 Samuel 5: 8-10). We will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel, the 2,700-year old tunnel dug during the reign of King Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:30) and remaining as one of the wonders of early engineering. Our next stop will be at the Israel Museum, where we will see the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed and to see the 1:50 scale model of Jerusalem showing how Jerusalem would have appeared in Jesus' time. Next, we head to Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum). We end our day with a visit to the Garden Tomb for a time of reflection and Communion. Return to the hotel for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight in Jerusalem.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 11: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 - DEPART FOR THE USA

We check out of the hotel and transfer the Tel Aviv airport for our light back to the USA.

Breakfast

OPTIONAL PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION

DAY 11: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 - JORDAN: MT. NEBO / MACHAERUS (MUKAWIR) / PETRA, JORDAN

This morning we depart Israel for Jordan via the Allenby Bridge. We will be met and assisted through the border crossing. We travel to Mt. Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land and where today we enjoy a breath-taking view of Israel and the Jordan River. Following this visit we continue to Machaerus (Mukawir) where we view the ruins of the fortress of Herod the Great and where John the Baptist was beheaded by his successor Herod Antipas. The rest of the day we will drive through Jordan arriving in Petra for dinner and overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12: FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024 - PETRA

After breakfast, we walk to the entrance to Petra, a 2000-year-old Nabatean city. We will walk a short distance through the narrow passageway with cliffs on either side called the "Siq". At the end of the Siq, in the towering brightness, appears Petra's most impressive monument, the Treasury. The "Rose City" is a honeycomb of hand-hewn caves, temples, and tombs carved from blushing pink sandstone in the high desert of <u>Jordan</u> some 2,000 years ago. After a time of guided explanation, you are free to explore this amazing ancient city on your own. Return to the hotel at your leisure. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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DAY 13: SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 – DEPART PETRA / TEL AVIV

Today, we have an early departure for Tel Aviv as we must cross the border into Israel by 12:00 noon. After crossing the border between Jordan and Israel, we continue our drive to Tel Aviv. There will be free time this afternoon to relax at the Tel Aviv hotel. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14: SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 - DEPART ISRAEL FOR U.S.A.

We check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our morning flight back to the USA.

Breakfast