



## CUSTOMIZED TOUR OF ISRAEL & PETRA

OCT 1 THRU OCT 15, 2016

Saturday, October 1

This is a travel day. It is a long trip and multiple meals will be served in flight. Try to sleep.

Sunday, October 2

We arrive in **Amman Jordan** losing about 10 hours in flight. We will check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Monday, October 3

After our Jordanian breakfast in the hotel we will take a tour of **Amman** and then go to **Mt Nebo** where Moses looked over the Promised Land, died and was buried by God. Dinner and overnight in Amman.

Tuesday, October 4

After this breakfast this morning we will drive 3 hours to **Petra** and spend about 4 hours exploring this fascinating World Heritage Site. It is considered one of the 7 Man Made Wonders of the World. We will have dinner and overnight near Petra.

Wednesday, October 5

This morning we will drive 1½ hours to the border and cross over where we will meet up with our Israeli bus. After a 2 hour drive we will visit the desert stronghold of **Masada**, built by Herod the Great. This is famous as the last holdout of the Jews before they were crushed by the Romans. For years the soldiers of the Israeli Army took their oath of office stating that "Masada will never fall again." We will then get to relax with a swim in the **Dead Sea**. A note of caution – **do not shave anything for at least 24 hours before going into the water**. We will have dinner and overnight at the Dead Sea.

Thursday, October 6

After our Israeli breakfast we will head north to **Qumran** to visit the museums and see the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Many people believe the discovery of the Scrolls was the greatest historical discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will then continue north to **Jericho** to see the Mount of Temptation and a 2000 year old Sycamore tree. We then travel north to the Sea of Galilee where we will have dinner and overnight in a kibbutz hotel.

Friday, October 7

After a large Israeli breakfast our introduction to the land of Jesus begins with a visit to the **Mount of the Beatitudes**. Here we will read portions of the Sermon on the Mount as we begin to explore the deeper meanings of the life of the Messiah. (Matthew 5-7) We will then visit **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter gave his great confession of faith in the shadow of a heathen worship center. (Matthew 16:13). We also have the opportunity to visit **Banyas Falls**. A visit to **Dan** including a 4000 year old Canaanite gate, and the site where the Israelites worshiped a golden calf. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight at the kibbutz.

Saturday, October 8

After our full breakfast, this morning we start out with a boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee** and remember all the activities of Jesus ministry which took place here. This will be followed by a visit to the 2000 year old "Jesus" boat at the **Ancient Boat Museum**. Among the stops scheduled for the day are visits to **Capernaum**, **Tabgha** where Jesus fed the 5000 (Matthew 14:15), the country of the Gadaraes on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee (Mark 5) and the **Church of Peters Primacy** (John 21). . We will then visit the fabulous ruins of **Bet She'an**. Here you can see the ruins of the large Greco-Roman city and also climb the Tel to see the ruins of the old Canaanite city where the body of Saul was hung on the walls. (1 Sam 21:10). At the southern end of the Sea where the **Jordan River** continues we have the opportunity to remember our baptisms. This evening, after dinner, we will drive into Tiberius to visit the town along the shore. Overnight at the kibbutz.

Sunday, October 9

This morning we say goodbye to Galilee and head out for a day of viewing ruins. We will take a trip back in time when we visit the **Nazareth Village** that brings to life the farm and village life in the time of Jesus. We will also visit the **Church of the Nativity** in Nazareth itself . Our next visit will give us a chance to see all of the **Jezereel Valley** as we visit the Tel of **Megiddo**. Then we take the highway all the way to the Mediterranean Sea where we visit **Mount Carmel** and remember all the Elijah stories. We will then visit Caesarea by the Sea. We continue on until we reach our hotel in Jerusalem, our home for the balance of the trip.

Monday, October 10

After a huge Israeli breakfast this morning we drive up to the **Mount of Olives** with the magnificent view of the city. The church of **Pater Noster** may be the location of the Ascension of Jesus. From the Mount of Olives we will walk down the **Palm Sunday Road** to the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of All Nations** then continue to **Mount Zion** and visit **King David's Tomb** and the **Upper Room**. In the afternoon we will visit the **Church of the Nativity** and the **Shepherd's Field** in Bethlehem including a stop at an olive wood factory. We return to the kibbutz for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, October 11

We start today off with a ride to Mt Scopus to participate in the **Sifting Project**. **Yom Kippur starts at 3:00** today so we will have to be back at our hotel by about that time.

Wednesday, October 12

Free day – **Yom Kippur ends at sundown**. This evening we may be able to enjoy some ice cream on Ben Yahuda Street . We may do a walking tour of the Christian sites in the **Old City**. All Jewish operated sites will be closed.

Thursday, October 13

Today will be both fun and somber. Be sure to take your walking shoes and your water shoes. We will visit the ancient **City of David**—that area of Jerusalem that was inhabited by David around 1000 BC. We will see the **Gihon Spring**, the **Stepped Stone Structure** and the ruins of a typical four room Israelite house. Then it is off to walk in water up to our knees single file thru **Hezekiah's Tunnel**. (Read Hezekiah's story in 2 Kings 18 thru 21 and 2 Chronicles 29 through 32). There is also a dry 3000 year old Canaanite tunnel for those who do not choose to get wet. We will visit the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** (gallicantu means cock crow) where Jesus spent the night before his crucifixion. We will again visit the Old City and see the **Western Wall**, continue up to the Temple Mount to the **Dome of the Rock**. After, we visit the **Davidson Center** and walk on the 1<sup>st</sup> century stones around the Temple Mount we will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight

Friday, October 13

This morning after breakfast we will have our bus pick us up for our visit to **Bethany**, the home of Mary and Martha and the tomb where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. We will then visit the haunting **Holocaust Museum**. You will never forget this, especially the children's section. From there we will go to the **Israeli Museum**. This is the location of the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed and also the model city built to scale of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. Following this we will head to the **Garden Tomb** where we will have a Communion Service. We will have dinner and head to the airport for our flight back to the US.

Saturday, October 14

Arrive home. Your Bible reading will never be the same again!

PS

The itinerary may be adjusted due to events that are not currently scheduled. Sometime, while in Jerusalem, we will be going thru the **Rabbinic Tunnel**. It has to be scheduled and everything works around that.

Shopping opportunities will be worked into the schedule at various stops. If you see something and you like it, BUY IT. Don't plan on getting back to that spot or finding something like it at a lower price. In many shops bargaining is essential.