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ISRAEL

Land of the Bible

10 days / 9 nights

Travel in the footsteps of Jesus using Israel as your classroom and the Bible as your guide. Visit the historical sites in Galilee and Jerusalem, exploring the roots of Christianity, as well as the modern State of Israel.

This program can be adapted for Groups and Independent Travelers.

Day 1 Arrival

Welcome to Israel!

Arrival at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport. You will be met by a Travex representative to assist you through airport formalities.

Transfer to **Tel Aviv**. Check in to hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 2 - Jaffa / Caesarea / Mount Carmel / Haifa / Galilee

Breakfast at hotel

Begin the day with a visit to **Old Jaffa**. Walk through the cobblestoned alleyways and visit the **home of Simon the Tanner**. We drive north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea** to visit the Crusader Fortress built upon the ancient city of Caesarea, named after Augustus Caesar, who imposed the tax that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. We continue to **Mount Carmel** where Elijah issued his challenge to the False Prophets. We drive through the Carmel Mountains to **Haifa** for a panoramic view of the bay and the Baha'i Gardens. Continue to your Galilee hotel.

Overnight in Galilee

Day 3: Sea of Galilee / Mt of Beatitudes / Capernaum / Tabgha

Breakfast at hotel.

Board our boat for a **cruise** on the **Sea of Galilee**. Continue to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount. We then proceed to visit **Tabgha** where 5,000 were fed by Jesus who performed the miracle of the multiplication of fish and loaves. Visit **Capernaum** before returning to Tiberias.

Overnight in Galilee

Day 4 - Hula Valley / Banias / Mt. Bental / Yardenit

Breakfast at hotel.

We drive north through the **Hula Valley** to the Golan Heights to visit **Banias** (Caesarea Philippi). Stop at **Mount Bental** for a panoramic view of the Golan and Syria. End the day at Yardenit – the traditional Baptism site on the Jordan River.

Overnight in Galilee

Day 5 - Nazareth / Megiddo (Armageddon) / Zippori

Breakfast at hotel.

We begin the day at **Nazareth** where Jesus spent his boyhood. **Visit the Church of the Annunciation** and **Mary's Well**. Continue to **Nazareth Village**, a reenacted village from the time of Jesus. Drive through the Jezreel Valley to **Megiddo**, identified as the site of Armageddon; visit the archaeological excavations including the well preserved water supply system. Continue to **Zippori** (Sephoris) to view the famed mosaics include the "Mona Lisa" of the Galilee Nile Mosaic. End the day in Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6 - Mt. of Olives / Garden of Gethsemane / Mt. Zion / City of David

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning we start the day at **Mt. of Olives** for an introduction to Jerusalem. Ascend the mountains of Jerusalem from Scopus to Mt of Olives for an outstanding breathtaking view of the city across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate; see Chapel of Ascension, Dominos Flevit. Walk the Palm Sunday Road. Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Drive to Mount Zion. Visit **Caiphus House**. Continue to the **Upper Room** and **Tomb of King David**. See the Ancient **Cardo Maximus** and the reconstructed Jewish Quarter. Continue to the **City of David** and the Pools of Siloam.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7 - Old City / Via Dolorosa / Pools of Bethesda / Southern Steps / Garden Tomb

Breakfast at hotel.

Enter the Old City from Jaffa Gate. Walk through the oriental bazaars to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Continue along the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at **St. Anne's Church** and the **Pools of Bethesda**. Walk through the marketplace to the **Western Wall** and view the Temple Mount. Proceed to **Davidson Center** and tour the archeological Garden and the Southern Steps excavation. Drive to the **Garden Tomb** for a tour.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8 - Qumran / Dead Sea / Masada

Breakfast at hotel.

Descend through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea basin, lowest spot on earth and visit the ancient caves of **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Drive by Ein Gedi, David's hideout from Saul, to the fortress **Masada**, last stronghold and stand of the zealots against Rome, on the edge of the barren Negev Desert. Ascend and descend the site by cable car. Enjoy lunch at a hotel at the **Dead Sea**. Have time to "swim" in the waters of the Dead Sea and relax on its shore before returning to Jerusalem

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9 - New Jerusalem / Scale Model of Biblical Jerusalem / Yad Vashem / Bethlehem

Breakfast at hotel.

Begin the day in the new part of Jerusalem and visit a scale model of the city set in New Testament times, including the Second Temple model and also the Dead Sea scrolls, both at the **Israeli Museum**. Visit **Yad Vashem** – the Holocaust Museum in memory of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis. Continue to the **Knesset** (the Israeli Parliament) to view the Menorah. Afternoon visit to **Bethlehem**, birthplace of Jesus, including the **Church of the Nativity**, **Manger Square** and **Shepherd's Field**. Conclude the tour with a visit to the **Haas Promenade** with its panoramic view of the city and the Kidron Valley. This is where it is said that God showed Abraham where his descendants would one day build the Holy City.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10 - Departure

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your return flight to the USA.
VIP assistance through departure procedures.

Program sites and sequence subject to change due to scheduling and availability.