

## **Holy Land Tour**

### **Sample**

#### **10 days/ 9 nights**

##### **Day one:**

Upon arrival at Tel Aviv airport, we meet with our Guide and Driver, orientation and assistant. We go to our hotel in Nazareth or Tiberius for dinner and over night.

##### **Day Two:**

After breakfast, we drive to Caesarea Maritima, the city which was built by Herod the Great on the Mediterranean coast. After that, we continue north to Megiddo, one of the chariot cities of King Solomon and the battle field of many important battles throughout history and the site where the book of revelation places the final battle. We continue to Mount Carmel to visit the church of Stella Maris (Star of the Sea), one of the hiding places of Prophet Elijah from the anger of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel after the killing of the 450 priests of Baal. Then, we will visit Haifa and the Baha'i wonderful gardens and temple (a faith that was established in Persia in the 19th century). Then, we continue to Nazareth for dinner and overnight.

##### **Day Three:**

We start our day by visiting the church of the Annunciation and the well of Mary; we proceed to the nearby village of Cana, the site of the first miracle of Jesus. We go to Mount Tabor, the transfiguration of Jesus and to have a panoramic view over the Jezrael valley, the bread basket of the country. Back to hotel for dinner and overnight.

##### **Day Four:**

This day, we will visit different sites around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus spent a lot of his time and did a lot of miracles. We start by visiting Mount of Beatitudes the site of the Sermon on the Mount and spend some time there for reflection and meditation. We continue to Tabgha, the church of Multiplication of loaves and fishes. Then, we go to St. Peter Primacy and the church of Mensa Christi (The table of the Lord) where Jesus had breakfast with his disciples after his resurrection and where Peter manifested his love to Jesus. After that, we visit Capernaum (the town of Jesus) where Jesus did a lot of miracles and to see the ancient synagogue. Today, we will have a special lunch of St. Peter fish (Tilapia). After lunch, we will do a sailing by one of the boats in the Sea of Galilee and then visit the Galilee boat museum (an ancient boat that was discovered in 1985). At the end of the day, we will go to the Jordan River to see a baptismal site where we will renew our baptismal promises. Then, we go back to hotel for dinner and overnight.

##### **Day Five:**

We will start the day by a visit to the church of Multiplication then we drive north to the Golan Height to visit Mt. Bental overlooking the Syrian territories. (Or possible go to Majdal Shams (Tower of the Sun) a Syrian village just at the bottom of Mount Hermon, the highest mountain in the country, on the way we pass by Nimrod Fortress). After that we continue to visit Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas) one source of the Jordan River and where Jesus confirmed Peter as the Rock and granted him the keys to Heaven. Then, we will drive all the way south to Bethlehem for Dinner & overnight.

##### **Day Six:**

We will go to the church of the Nativity, the birth place of Jesus, we will visit the oldest church in the Holy Land and the cave where Jesus was born and the church of St. Catherine and St. Jerome caves where he translated the Old Testament. Then, we go visit the Shepherds field where the angel declared for the Shepherds the birth of the Savior and the place where the story of Ruth and Boaz took place. After lunch, we go to visit Herodium, a volcano look like palace that was built by Herod the Great and where he was buried and just in 2007 his tomb was

discovered. We continue from there to visit Solomon pools, three huge pools that believed to be built by Solomon.) Tonight we will have a special dinner in a local Restaurant. Overnight at the Hotel.

#### **Day Seven.**

This day, we will start by driving through the Judean wilderness passing by the Good Samaritan Inn to the Dead Sea area to visit Masada, a fortress that was built by Herod the great and later where the Jews preferred to commit suicide rather than to surrender to the Romans. After that, we go to Qumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered and to learn more about the Essene community. We will have lunch there and then go to the Dead Sea which is very rich of minerals for some floating. Then, we will visit Jericho, the oldest and lowest city on earth to visit the Sycamore tree that Zacchaeus climbed to see Jesus and to view the Mount of temptation where the first and third temptations of Jesus by Satan took place and to see Tel Jericho, the city that was destroyed by the Israelites under Joshua when they first entered the Promised land. Continue to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

#### **Day eight.**

We will start the day at the Mount of Olives to have a wonderful panoramic view over the old city of Jerusalem and then walk down part of the palm Sunday walk to visit Dominus Flevit (The lord wept) the place where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem and prophesized its destruction. After that, we continue to the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was betrayed and arrested. We will cross the Kidron valley to enter the old city of Jerusalem from the Lion's gate (St. Stephan gate) and visit the church of St. Ann and the pools of Bethesda. Then, we will walk the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) all the way to the Holy Sepulcher church, Golgotha, the place of crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. After lunch, we will walk to Mt. Zion passing by the Cardo in the Jewish quarter to exit the old city of Jerusalem to Mt. Zion to visit the Last supper room and the church of Dormition and king David tomb. Back to hotel for dinner and over night.

#### **Day nine.**

This day we start by visiting the Israeli museum and the shrine of the book to have a look on the Dead Sea manuscripts that were discovered at Qumran and to see a model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus.

After that, we will go to Ein Karem to visit the church of John the Baptist where he was born and the church of visitation where Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. You will have free time in the old city of Jerusalem and a chance to walk on the walls of the city. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

#### **Day ten.**

We leave Bethlehem toward Tel Aviv and on the way, we visit Abu Gosh, one of the traditional sites of Emmaus where Jesus appeared to two disciples. We celebrate a mass/service at the church of Our Lady of The Ark. Then, we continue to Jaffa (Joppa) the city of Jonah to visit the church of St. Peter where he raised from the death a girl (Tabitha), and where he had his famous vision to convert also Gentiles.

Then we spend some free time in the beautiful old city of Jaffa before we head to the airport to depart.