

## **ISRAEL AND JORDAN**

*Bringing context to our Faith*

**28 FEB. – 15 MAR. 2015**

Hosted by

**Pastor Jeff Germo**

*“I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it”:  
(2 Chronicles 9:6)*

### **SAT. 28 FEB.: Departure from Vancouver Island to Toronto**

Today, we begin our journey, by departing from Victoria to Toronto. Once in Toronto, we shall check-in to the airport hotel and relax.

### **SUN. 01 MAR.: Departure for Israel.**

Tonight we depart from Toronto on our EL AL flight to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

### **MON. 02 MAR.: Arrival in Israel.**

This morning we arrive in Tel Aviv. Welcome to Israel ! Here we are met and given assistance with clearing customs and baggage formalities before our journey begins. Our first day in The Holy Land has us travel through Jerusalem to the outskirts of Jericho and then crossing over into Jordan, where we shall unpack and rest before we begin our journey.

The Beit Zaman hotel, Petra is the perfect setting for our first night in Biblical Lands. **(B,D)**

### **TUE. 03 MAR.: Petra**

After breakfast we begin our visit of Petra. Petra was chosen as the capital of the Nabateans because it was located in a valley surrounded by sandstone mountains.

The main entrance to Petra is called the Siq, with sides as high as 200m. It was here that Christians escaped from the siege of Jerusalem by Titus in the 1st century. This gorge and the temple at the end of it (the Kazneh) were popularized in American culture in the movie, Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.

**The Kazneh** - Of the 800 carved tombs in Petra, the Kazneh is the most famous. Its name Kazneh means ‘treasure’ and comes from the Bedouin belief that the Pharaoh chasing the Israelites hid his treasures in the urn at the top of the Kazneh.

**Main Street** - As many as 30,000 people may have lived in Petra during the 1st century. It is a misconception that Petra was a city only for the dead. A large earthquake in 363 AD destroyed at least half of the city. Petra never recovered from this destruction.

Dinner and overnight stay will be at our hotel in Petra **(B,D)**

### **WED. 04 MAR.: Jordan**

This morning we leave the Petra mountains and travel up the King’s Highway to the Dead Sea. En-route, we shall visit;

**Mt. Nebo**- From here we can see across into the Promised Land, just as Moses did before being laid to rest. On a clear day we can see the hills of Jerusalem with Jericho in the foreground. Dinner and overnight stay will be at the Beit Zaman hotel overlooking Petra. **(B,D)**

**Bethany** - Extensive excavations of the surrounding area since 1996 have uncovered many sites. None more significant than the ruins of ‘Bethabara.’ Many believe this is the original site of John the Baptist’s ministry and the location of his baptism of Jesus. (John 1:28)

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

### **THU. 05 MAR.: Jordan**

Today we have a free day to relax by the shores of the Dead Sea and relax, before crossing back into Israel the next day.

**Dead Sea** - No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

**FRI. 06 MAR: Israel, Tel Aviv.**

This morning, we cross back into Israel and begin our journey.

The first place of interest for us today is **Jaffa**.

**Jaffa** - One of the oldest towns in Israel and considered one of the oldest ports in the world. Cedars of Lebanon sent by King Hiram of Tyre and destined for Solomon's Temple were unloaded at Jaffa. It is here that Peter brought Tabitha back from the dead and, when in the home of Simon the Tanner, he prophesied the vision of the pure and un-pure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15, Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42.)

Tonight, we shall enjoy our 'Welcome to Israel' dinner at our hotel. Located by the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, this is the perfect location to start our journey! **(B,D)**

**SAT. 07 MAR: Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo.**

After our first Israeli breakfast we head north along the 'via maris' towards the Galilee, stopping at the following:

**Caesarea**-The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate had his base.

**Mount Carmel**- Overlooking the city of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (1 Kings 2; 15:4,25, Isaiah 33:9; Zechariah 12:12)

**Megiddo**-Hebrew for **Armageddon**, Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; 1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16)

Our final destination today, is the beautiful setting of kibbutz Hagoshrim. Nestled in the upper Galilee this is a great location for our two nights stay. **(B,D)**

**SAT. 08 MAR: Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, Sea of Galilee.**

After breakfast we begin our day by travelling north to the Upper Galilee, which today includes;

**Tel Dan**- This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history.

**Caesarea Philippi**- Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the city of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat-footed god, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples His purpose,

His Church, and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah. (Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

**Golan Heights**- Today we have the opportunity to view Israel from both Mt. Bental and the Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee.

Dinner will be at our Kibbutz this evening. **(B,D)**

**MON. 09 MAR: Sea of Galilee Boat Ride.**

After our Israeli buffet breakfast our day involves visits to;

**The Mount of Beatitudes**- Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. (Matthew 5:1-8)

**Capernaum**-The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry. Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

**Tabgha**- Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21, 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

**Ginossar**- Here we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986 this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved it is a timeless reminder of life during that time. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride**- Our time at the Sea of Galilee ends with an unforgettable sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner will be at our hotel, overlooking the Sea of Galilee. **(B,D)**

**TUE. 10 MAR: Nazareth to the Dead Sea**

This morning we leave the Galilee and head south towards the Dead Sea. En-route we shall visit:

**Nazareth**- Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted to throw Jesus over the cliff. Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana, is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38, John 1:46; Matthew 2:23)

**Harod's Spring-** It is here that God turned Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 to fight the Midianites.

**Bet She'an-** The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are, today, still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7-8, Samuel 24: 1-23)

After Beth She'an we head further south and pass **GILGAL** ; where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover there after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

Dinner will be at our hotel, overlooking the shores of the Dead Sea. **(B,D)**

**WED. 11 MAR: Masada, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea**  
Today we will enjoy some free time to enjoy the unique experience of floating in the Dead Sea.

**Dead Sea-** No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!

From our hotel we take the short drive to our sites for the day, which include;

**Masada-** This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders.

**Ein Gedi-** This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (I Samuel 24, Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

**Qumran-** Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947.

This afternoon we travel "up to" Jerusalem. Our final destination for the journey! Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

**THU. 12 MAR: Jerusalem.**

After breakfast we will spend our first full day in Jerusalem visiting;

**Temple Mount** – Pending access to the site, we will see the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock

**Mount of Olives-** We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

**Garden of Gethsemane-** The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. -"*My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.*" (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

**House of Caiaphas-** Located under the current St. Peter of Gallicantu church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

**Yad Vashem-** The national museum and memorial to the holocaust.

**Shrine of the Book museum-** Here we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

**Scale Model of Jerusalem-** This fabulous reconstruction of the old city of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during King Herod's time.

Dinner is served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

**FRI. 13 MAR: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we will stay in the Old City and visit:

**Davidson Centre-** This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

**City of David -** We will be guided through the site and new excavations of the city of David. You will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's tunnel and re-surface at the pool of Siloam.

**Western Wall Tunnels-** Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews! Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews as they pray, relentlessly, along with many Christians. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

**Mount Zion-** Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-38; John 13-17)

**Upper Room-** The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

**Old City-** Here we will walk through the streets of the Armenian and Jewish quarters of old Jerusalem.

**Holy Sepulcher Church-** The Catholic tradition of stations X- XIV on the Via Dolorosa. This is the Catholic tradition site of the Crucifixion of Jesus and where he was laid to rest.

Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

### **SAT. 14 MAR: Jerusalem**

Our last day in Israel has us visiting the following places.

**Church of St. Anne-** Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple. (John 5, 1-9)

**Via Dolorosa-**The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill.

**Garden Tomb-** Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41)

*This evening we will enjoy our last evening dinner' at a beautiful restaurant in Abu Gosh. A wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you!. (B,D)*

### **SUN. 15 MAR: Israel to Canada.**

This morning we depart from Tel Aviv on our non-stop flight back to Toronto, then onto Victoria. Breakfast, lunch and complimentary in-flight service will be provided onboard. **(B,D)**

**B: Breakfast. L: Lunch. D: Dinner**

