

Israel – March 27 – April 8, 2020

March 27 – Friday - depart USA

March 28 – Saturday - arrive Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.

Rest of the day free.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (D)

March 29 – Sunday – Shechem, Shiloh, Herodium, Bethany, Jerusalem

Today, we will drive to **Jacob's Well**, near ancient **Shechem**, and see one of the oldest and deepest wells in the Middle East. It is often considered one of the most authentic sites in the Holy Land. Jesus probably spoke to the Samaritan woman at this well. Today, the well lies within the complex of an Eastern Orthodox monastery. The next stop is **Shiloh** which was the religious capital of Israel during the time of the Judges. It is mentioned in the Bible as a place of assembly for the people of Israel and where the Ark of the Covenant was placed until it was taken by the Philistines.

If time, we will drive to the hilltop palace of **Herodium**, built by Herod the Great. We will have a spectacular view of the Judean hills. It is said that that Herod is buried here, along with his treasures.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

March 30 – Monday – Jerusalem: Israel Museum, Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, St. Peter en Gallicantu

We begin our day with a visit to the **Israel Museum** to view some of the Dead Sea scrolls. We will also see a 50:1 scale **model of Jerusalem**, a reconstruction of Jerusalem in the year 66 CE, the time of the Second Temple. The model covers nearly one acre and illustrates one of the most formative periods in the history of the Jewish people.

Then we will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**. Then we will walk down to the site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem: **Dominus Flevit**.

A little further down the mount is the site known as the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed and was arrested. Here, we will see some very ancient olive trees which have survived the centuries. Next we will take a short bus drive to **St. Peter en Gallicantu**, the traditional site of Peter's denials of Jesus during his trial with the high priest.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

March 31 – Tuesday – Jerusalem: Western Wall, City of David

Today we begin with a visit to the **Western Wall**, and then take a virtual reality tour of the Temple. Next, we will go to the **Southern Wall Excavations** and walk up the 1st-century steps of the Temple Mount. Afterwards, we will head to the **City of David** and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to reach the ruins of the **Pool of Siloam**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

April 1 – Wednesday – Jerusalem

We will arrive early on the **Temple Mount**, a site sacred to three religions. Here, Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac; it is also the location where Solomon built the first temple and the place where Herod the Great built the second temple. We will walk through the Old City to the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the lame man.

We will view the **Pavement at Antonia Fortress** known at *Lithostrotos* or *Gabbatha*. This is where one tradition places Jesus' trial before Pilate.

Free time to shop in the Old City.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

April 2 – Thursday – Dead Sea, Baptismal site, Bethany, Jerusalem

Early morning drive to the **Wadi Kelt**, a valley running west to east across the Judean Desert, near Jericho and the Dead Sea. It is home to the Greek Orthodox Monastery, Saint George, where tradition holds that Elijah was fed by ravens. Then we visit **Qasr el Yahud**, one of the more probable areas where John the Baptist conducted most of his baptizing. Next is the **Dead Sea** for a swim before lunch.

After lunch we head back north for a short visit to **Lazarus' Tomb** in **Bethany**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

April 3 – Friday – Garden Tomb, Emmaus, Caesarea Maritima

We will begin our day at the Protestant site for Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection: **The Garden Tomb**. Then, we will drive to **Abu Ghosh**, a traditional site for **Emmaus**. It is about 6 miles west of Jerusalem on the main road to Joppa. Crusaders built a church here in 1140 and called the place "Castellum Emmaus." It was not identified with Luke's Emmaus until the 12th century.

Next is a drive to the ancient site of **Caesarea Maritima**, on the Mediterranean Sea, where we will see the ruins of this ancient Roman port built by Herod the Great to honor the Emperor Augustus Caesar. We will explore the Roman Theater, the Governor's Palace, the Hippodrome, and the Roman Aqueduct. Caesarea was the home of Pontius Pilate, the site of Cornelius' baptism by Peter, the location of Paul's imprisonment, and the port where Paul left for his final missionary journey.

Overnight: Dan Caesarea Maritima Hotel, Caesarea Maritima

April 4 – Saturday – Mount Carmel, Brow of the Hill, Galilee

We begin this morning with a drive to **Mount Carmel** where there is a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape. This is near the traditional location where Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal.

Next, we will stop at a traditional site for the “**brow of the hill**” near Nazareth when Jesus’ hometown tried to throw him over the hillside after his announcement he was the Messiah of prophecy.

Free Afternoon.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, Sea of Galilee (B, D)

April 5 – Sunday – Galilee

We will begin our day, by the Sea of Galilee, with a sunrise talk on John, chapter 21, known as “**the Morning Meal.**”

Then we will visit the ancient site of **Capernaum** – the center of Jesus’ ministry where more healings by Jesus occurred than any other location in Israel. Next, we will make our way to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the traditional site for Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Lastly, Our next stop is a visit to the ruins of **Bethsaida**. The feeding of the 5,000 likely took place nearby. Bethsaida was also the home town of Philip, Andrew, and Peter, according to John 1:44.

We will also visit the site of the **Church of the Primacy**, near the Sea of Galilee, where tradition says Jesus met his disciples after the resurrection.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz (B, D)

April 6 – Monday – Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, Magdala, Galilee

We will start our morning by traveling north to **Caesarea Philippi**, at the base of Mt. Hermon, where Jesus asked his disciples, “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matt. 16:13). Then, we will drive to **Tel Dan** which is located next to the Golan Heights. Dan was the northernmost city of the Kingdom of Israel, known as Laish prior to the conquest by the tribe of Dan. The site’s artifacts date back to 4500 BCE.

On our way back to the Kibbutz, we will visit the recently excavated town of **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdalene and view a first-century synagogue.

We will make a short visit to the **Yigal Allon Museum**, located on the grounds of Kibbutz Ginosar. This museum houses the first-century fishing boat discovered in 1986 in the Sea of Galilee. Our day will end with a **boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.**

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz (B, D)

April 7 – Tuesday – Mount Tabor, Tel Megiddo, Harod, Kursi, Galilee

This morning we begin early and briefly walk the **Arbel Pass** (the route Jesus would have taken from Nazareth to Galilee). Next is **Mount Tabor**, which rises dome-like from the Jezreel Valley. This site is the mountain where Christian tradition places Jesus' transfiguration. We will take taxis to the summit.

Then we travel to **Tel Megiddo** which sits on a strategic location at the head of a pass through the Carmel Range and overlooks the Jezreel Valley. On the Tel are the ruins of a Canaanite Gateway, the Solomonic Gate and Casemate Wall, and "Solomon's Stables." As we talk about the last great battle mentioned in the book of Revelation, we will have a spectacular lookout over the Valley of Armageddon.

Our next stop is the **Spring of Harod** where Gideon chose the 300 men for battle. Our last stop is **Kursi**, one of the traditional sites where Jesus heals the insane man.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz (B, D)

Monday - April 8 – Depart for Home

Driving distance from our Kibbutz to Ben Gurion airport is 1 hour/30 minutes. Everyone should be at the airport 3 hours ahead of your departure time. So, please plan your return flights accordingly. We will have one bus transfer from our Kibbutz to the airport at 5 a.m. and we will arrive at the airport by 6:30 a.m.

If your flight leaves early on the morning of April 8, you can also reserve a taxi to take you to the airport with a cost of about \$225.00.