

The Holy Land ~ A Biblical Seminar

St. Paul's Methodist Houston, with The Rev. Dr. Jeff and Lenée McDonald

Oct. 17 - 29, 2023



*Aviv Herzlich
Tour Guide*

Roundtrip Airfare

Deluxe Hotels

Daily Breakfast

Executive Coach

Transportation

Group Dinners

*Eric & Laura
Tour Manager*

*Tel Aviv
Caesarea
Nazareth
Sea of Galilee
Capernaum
River Jordan
Jerusalem
Bethlehem
Dead Sea
Qumran*



JERUSALEM'S DOME OF THE ROCK AND WESTERN WALL, ABOVE, AND AN AQUEDUCT IN CAESAREA

2023 HOLY LAND TOUR

ITINERARY

- OCT 17 — TRAVEL

We fly from Houston IAH to Tel Aviv TLV as a group with Turkish Airlines. We check-in for our flights 2.5 hours before departure: TA Flights: 34 & 788. We arrive Tel Aviv the following day at 8:20 PM. Flight includes meal service.

- OCT 18 — OLD TOWN JAFFA

Numa Hotel - Jaffa ****

Upon arrival we will be greeted by our tour guide, Aviv. Our coach takes us to our hotel in Jaffa where we will enjoy a welcome beverage and short orientation. Enjoy the quaint streets and restaurants.

- OCT 19 — OLD TOWN JAFFA

After breakfast, we will begin our day with a guided walking tour of historic Jaffa (OT: Joppa). We read from the scriptures about Jonah, his departure from Joppa, and his encounter at sea. We visit the *traditional* house of Peter, and read from Acts how he raised Tabitha from the dead. We learn the importance of historic Jaffa as a trade town, and its historic connection to Jerusalem. [B]

- OCT 20 — CAESAREA & MT. CARMEL

Legacy Hotel Nazareth ****

We load our coach and drive to Caesarea, built by Herod the Great in honor of Augustus Caesar, and considered the traditional site of Paul's imprisonment before his trial in Rome. We have lunch at a Druze village restaurant. After a tasty lunch, we ascend Mt. Carmel, where we enjoy a great view of the Jezreel Valley. We read from scripture about Elijah. We will also read from Luke about the miracles and ministry of Jesus. We check into our hotel, freshen up, and enjoy a traditional Israeli dinner in the hotel restaurant. [B,L\$20,D]



SUNRISE OVER THE SEA OF GALILEE, WHERE YOU WILL ENJOY A RELAXING BOAT RIDE OFFERING TIME TO PONDER THE STORIES OF JESUS CALLING FISHERMEN TO FOLLOW HIM, PREACHING FROM A BOAT, AND CALMING THE STORMY WAVES. THIS ALSO IS NEAR THE PLACE WHERE JESUS FED THOUSANDS WITH A FEW FISH AND LOAVES OF BREAD.

- OCT 21 — NAZARETH

This morning, we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, followed by a short walk through the quaint old town of Nazareth. We will visit archeological sites that inform us of the infrastructure in Nazareth at the time of Jesus. We'll sit down with a local shopkeeper who will demonstrate Middle Eastern traditions and cultures through word and song. The shopkeeper is a professional Armenian guide, who will also share her families story as one of the early Christian settlers in Israel. In the afternoon, we go to Nazareth Village, a first century outdoor museum that depicts daily life in Nazareth during the time of Jesus. Dinner is served in our hotel restaurant. [B,D]

2023 HOLY LAND TOUR

- OCT 22 — THE SEA OF GALILEE

This morning, we drive to Galilee, where we will first enjoy a view of the Sea from the mount where Jesus delivered the Beatitudes. Our tour continues with a private boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We turn the boat engines off and read from scripture, before we head back to shore, where we will be served a catch-of-the-day lunch. After lunch, we will visit Capernaum, the site of Jesus' teachings and the remains of a second-century synagogue. We will visit Magdala, the newest, and perhaps most important first century archaeological site. We learn of Mary from Magdala, and other women disciples who lived in this recently discovered town. [B,L\$20,D]

- OCT 23 — RIVER JORDAN TO JERUSALEM

At 8am we drive to Megiddo, one of the most impressive archeological excavations in Israel. We continue our drive through Beit Shean National Park, also one of Israel's largest archaeological sites with its ancient archaeological mound and ongoing excavations exposing the vast Roman-Byzantine city. We continue south along the Jordan Rift and visit an ancient baptism site on the river Jordan. After checking into the Gloria Hotel, we will enjoy a group dinner in the restaurant of our hotel. [B,L\$20,D]



- OCT 24 — JERUSALEM

Enjoy a traditional breakfast in the city of Jerusalem. At 9am, we begin our day with a guided walking tour of Jerusalem. We will see the Pool of Bethesda, the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock. We will walk the ancient streets of the Holy City, past several shopkeepers, and through the various quarters, which leads us to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This church is built over the Hill of Calvary, and the burial site of Jesus. Before we enter this unique church, we take time for lunch. After lunch, we will visit the church of the Holy Sepulchre. If the lines are long into the sepulchre, you may wait and go early in the morning when the lines are shorter. Our hotel is a three minute walk from the church. The rest of the day will be at your own leisure and pace. [B,D]

- OCT 25 — ISRAELI MUSEUM & JERUSALEM

We tour the Israeli Museum from 9 AM - 1 PM. In the afternoon you will have free time to shop in the Holy City. Walk through the narrow streets at your own pace and take in the various sounds and smells. You might also want to explore the City of David excavation site, the Davidson Center, or the Western Wall Tunnels. [B,D]

- OCT 26 — JERUSALEM

At 9am, we begin the day with a drive to the Mount of Olives to behold the breath-taking panorama of the Holy City. Then we descend to Gethsemane with its ancient olive grove, where Jesus prayed prior to his arrest and crucifixion. We drive to Bethlehem where we have lunch by Shepherd's Field, we visit the Church of the Nativity. We take time for a little shopping at the Tabash Olive Wood Factory in Bethlehem, before returning to our hotel in Jerusalem. [B,L\$20, D]

2023 HOLY LAND TOUR

- OCT 27 — THE DEAD SEA, QUMRAN & MASADA

At 8am, our coach-driver will take us to the Dead Sea Basin where we will visit Qumran to explore the area where the Dead Sea sect established a community and we'll see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We'll drive to Masada and ascend this wilderness mountain fortress in a cable car;

walk through the remains of the palace, water cisterns and fortifications built by King Herod and hear about the Zealots who lived here until the bitter end. There is a food court at Masada where we will have lunch. Bring a swim suit if you want to float on the Dead Sea. Dinner is served at our hotel. [B,L\$20, D]



THE DEAD SEA



QUMRAN

- OCT 28 — JERUSALEM

We walk to Mount Zion where we will see King David's Tomb, and we will visit one of two traditional locations of the Upper Room. We visit the church of St. Peter, and see a first century prison. We gaze across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane, and you'll notice that the roosters are still crowing. We conclude our walking tour by visiting the Garden of the Empty Tomb, where we take time to ponder our journey, and celebrate Holy Communion. [B,D]

- OCT 29 — FLIGHT HOME

Our fabulous tour of the Holy Land will unfortunately come to an end. At 5:30 AM, our coach will take us to Tel Aviv Airport where we will board flight home to Houston. We arrive Houston the same day at 7 PM with Turkish Airlines.



Land Only \$3020 pp

(Based on double occupancy.)

Airfare and Land \$3995 pp

(Based on double occupancy.)

Single Room Upgrade \$1195 pp

Business Class Upgrade \$ TBD

To register, please go to:

www.stcecilia.co/tours

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