The Holy Land ~ A Biblical Seminar

Good Shepherd - Tomball, with Fr. George McGavern, and Dcn. Karen Jaworski

May 29 - June 10, 2023

St. Cecilia TOURS

Roundtrip Airfare

Deluxe Hotels

Daily Breakfast

Executive Coach

Transportation

Group Dinners

Aviv Herzlich Tour Guide

Eric & Laura Tour Managers

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

ITINERARY

- MAY 29 — TRAVEL

We fly from Houston IAH to Tel Aviv. We check-in for our flight three hours before departure. We arrive Israel the following day. [Flight TBA]

- MAY 30 — OLD TOWN JAFFA

Numa Hotel ****

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

- MAY 31 — OLD TOWN JAFFA

After a delicious traditional breakfast spread. At 9:30 AM, we enjoy a guided walking tour of historic Jaffa. We learn of Peter raising Tabitha from the dead, Jonah, and the importance of Jaffa as a trade town. [B]

- JUNE 1 — CAESAREA & MT. CARMEL

Legacy Hotel Nazareth ****

At 9am we load our coach to visit 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, followed by Mt. Precipice, where we enjoy a great view of the Jezreel Valley. We see Mt. Carmel and Mt. Tabor, and where Elijah rebuked the priests of Baal. We check into the Astoria Hotel Galilee, 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.

- JUNE 2 — NAZARETH

At 9am 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 Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. We conclude the day at Nazareth Village, an incredible outdoor museum that depicts the daily life and business of Nazareth during the time of Jesus. [B,L$20]

2023 HOLY LAND TOUR

- JUNE 3 — THE SEA OF GALILEE

At 9am we drive through Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We will enjoy a beautiful boat tour on the Sea of Galilee. We will enjoy a catch of the day fish 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 archealogical site. It is also the site of a modern church built on the remains of a first-century Synagogue. We will also visit the Mount of Beatitudes, the site of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount', overlooking the Sea of Galilee [B,L$20]

- JUNE 4 — RIVER JORDAN TO JERUSALEM

Gloria Hotel ***

At 8am we drive to Megiddo, one of the most important 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 admire the cloister of St. George, carved into the cliffs, before we ascend to Jerusalem through the Judean Desert. After checking into the Three Arches Hotel, we will enjoy a group dinner in the restaurant of our hotel. [B,L$20,D]

- JUNE 5 — 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 Western Wall, the Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and we walk sections of the Stations of the Cross that leads us to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where we sit and ponder for a few minutes. Lunch is on our own and we leave a little time for shopping. Afterwards, we will visit to 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. The rest of the day will be at your own leisure and pace. [B]

- JUNE 6 — ISRAELI MUSEUM & JERUSALEM

We tour the Israeli Museum from 9 AM - 1 PM
In the afternoon we will enjoy a little 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 today as well, or the Davidson Center. [B]

- JUNE 7 — JERUSALEM

At 9am, we begin the day with a drive to the beautiful Mount of Olives to behold the breath-taking panorama of the Holy City. Then we descend (walking or coach) to Gethsemane with its ancient olive grove, where tradition holds that 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 olive wood factory in Bethlehem, before returning to our hotel in Jerusalem. [B,L$20]

- JUNE 8 — 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 on your own in Jerusalem. [B,L$20]

THE DEAD SEA

QUMRAN

- JUNE 9 — JERUSALEM

Have another cup of strong coffee for breakfast and prepare for our final walking tour. At 9am, we'll have a short hike to Mount Zion where we see King David's Tomb, the site of The Upper Room. We visit the church of St. Anne by the Pool of Bethesda. We conclude our walking tour by visiting the Garden of the Empty Tomb, where we will celebrate Holy Communion. We will celebrate our tour with a group dinner at our hotel restaurant at 6pm. [B,D]

- JUNE 10 — FLIGHT HOME

Our fabulous tour of Jerusalem will unfortunately come to an end. At 8AM, our coach will take us to Tel Aviv Airport where we will board flight home to Houston. [B]

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St. Cecilia TOURS

To register, please go to:

www.stcecilia.co/tours

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