

TOUR OF THE BIBLE LANDS ISRAEL 2014



Spend ten unforgettable days touring the stage upon which the drama of God's Word was played out. You'll never read the Bible the same way again!

ITINERARY

Arrange to arrive in Tel Aviv by Sun March 2, and stay in a hotel (we can recommend), to meet the rest of the team at the airport when they arrive early Mon morning, March 3.

Day 1: Mon 3 Mar (the Coastal Plain). Meet the rest of the team at Tel Aviv airport early morning and start your tour at Neot Kedumim Biblical Reserve for a "Biblical" breakfast. Head to Nazareth, stopping on the way at Caesarea Maritima, the harbour city built by Herod the Great and Mount Carmel where Elijah took on the false prophets. Get a good night sleep in Nazareth after the long trip!

Day 2: Tue 4 Mar (Galilee). Enjoy a spectacular view from the top of Mount Arbel. Hike down the cliffs* past caves where the Jews held out against the Romans, to the valley floor where Jesus hiked to Galilee. Visit Tabgha and Capernaum, the centre of Jesus's ministry. Experience a sail on the Sea of Galilee. View the remains of a boat from Jesus's day. Reflect at the Mount of Beatitudes, where you can relive the Sermon on the Mount. Overnight in a Galilean Kibbutz.

Day 3: Wed 5 Mar (Golan Heights). Explore the source of the Jordan and walk through a bush trail to Tel Dan, the capital of the Northern Kingdom and the site of Jeroboam's rebellion. Continue to Caesarea Phillippi, the 'gates of hell,' and Banias Falls. Venture into the ruins of the Nimrod Crusader castle. Ascend the Golan Heights and from Mt. Bental, peer deep into Syria and the ghost town of Kuneitra. Overnight in Galilee.



Day 4: Thu 6 Mar (Descend to the Dead Sea). Depart the Sea of Galilee via the fertile Jordan Valley. See the ancient city of Beth Shean, then proceed to the Dead Sea for an afternoon camel ride to your Bedouin hafla (feast) and hear about the local Bedouin lifestyle. Sleep that night in a Bedouin tent.

Day 5: Fri 7 Mar (Jerusalem). After breakfast, climb the ancient siege ramp to the mountain fortress of Masada. Take the cable car down the other side, then float in the Dead Sea before continuing to Ein Gedi and a hike to the waterfalls. Walk the ruins of Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Finally, enter Jerusalem and visit the Western Wall in time for the coming of the Sabbath. Overnight inside the Old City walls of Jerusalem!

Day 6: Sat 8 Mar (Jerusalem). Start with a spectacular view from the Mt. of Olives, then walk the Palm Sunday road and spend some time of reflection amongst the ancient olive trees. Visit the dungeon at Gallicantu before a service in the Garden Tomb. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 7: Sun 9 Mar (Jerusalem). Explore the Old City and visit the Pools of Bethesda and the Strouthian Pools. Take a walking tour of the Old City over rooftops and through narrow streets and end at the Southern Wall excavations adjacent to the Temple Mount. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8: Mon 10 Mar (Jerusalem). Visit the Temple Mount (subject to security clearance), and the western wall. Take an underground tour of the Western Wall Tunnels. Finish in the City of David exploring Hezekiah's Tunnel* by candlelight, knee deep in underground water. Overnight in Yad Hashmona in the Judean hills.

Day 9: Tue 11 Mar (Jerusalem). Explore Zedekiah's cave beneath the Old City of Jerusalem. Then enjoy free time wandering the winding alleyways and market stalls of the Old City above. Overnight in Yad Hasmona.

Day 10: Wed 12 Mar (Jerusalem). Visit a model of Jerusalem as it was in Jesus's day. Experience a moving visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner. Depart to the airport for your return flight.

** You may opt out of the hike down Mount Arbel and the walk through Hezekiah's tunnel, and meet the group at the other end if needed. Other walks, such as the Masada siege ramp and hillsides in Jerusalem are necessary, so a degree of fitness is required ☺*



COST

\$3290 AUS (currently approx. \$3290 USD, subject to exchange rate fluctuations)

...with a \$200 refund if group size exceeds 15, \$400 if it exceeds 20!

...register your interest early as places are limited!

Price includes:

1. Transfers to and from the airport in Israel.
2. Air conditioned bus solely for our group.
3. Licensed guide.
4. Twin share accommodation (note: single supplement is \$950 extra).
5. Breakfast and dinner daily in hotel. Festive farewell dinner at a Middle Eastern restaurant.
6. All entrance fees.
7. All tips, gratuities and portorage.

Price does not include:

1. Return airfares to Tel Aviv: The team you will be joining is from Australia. This price is the land only portion (based on the Australian price minus their airfares). Graham can assist you to find flights, or you may consult a local travel agent. You must ensure however, that you will arrive before the rest of the team, and depart around the same time, or later.
2. Lunches, or beverages with meals.
3. Travel insurance (some credit cards provide this for free if ticket is purchased on the card).

Deposit of \$350 required July 31, 2013 to Olive Tree Travel. Full payment is required by 20 Dec, 2013. Payable by direct deposit or credit card (with surcharge). If you're reading this after that date, never fear, there may still be room! Just contact Graham (info@cpcc.org.au). Olive Tree Travel reserves the right to re-cost the tour in the event of a currency fluctuation of more than 3%. Tour cost will decrease with more people signed up.

Graham Kell has led numerous tours to Israel and has a passion for the land of the Bible and the lessons we learn there. He has a Masters in Theology specializing in Israel's geography and archaeology, and is currently completing a degree in psychology.

Jeff Abel is a renowned Jewish tour guide of Israel. Fluent in Hebrew and English (and wit) he's a wealth of knowledge, who often researches and writes for historical journals.

Arranged by Olive Tree Travel, Melbourne, Naftali Tours, Israel, and Graham Kell, Sunshine Coast.

Questions can be directed to Graham Kell (info@cpcc.org.au) or travel agent Steven Green (steven@olivetretravel.com.au)