

PROPOSED ITINERARY

FOUNDATIONS ISRAEL TOUR

October 14-25, 2018

DAY 1 - Sunday, Oct 14 - DEPART USA

Tour members will meet at the Boston Logan International Airport in Boston, MA. for check-in formalities with EL AL Israeli Airlines before the flight to Tel Aviv. During the overnight flight, dinner and breakfast will served, and there will be ample time to rest before our “life changing” adventure begins.

DAY 2 - Monday, Oct 15 - ARRIVE TEL-AVIV

WELCOME TO ISRAEL! Upon our afternoon arrival into Ben Gurion Airport, we will be guided through customs before proceeding to baggage claim. A comfortable motor coach and our knowledgeable tour guide will await our arrival and take us directly to our nearby hotel on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea for check-in, dinner, and overnight. A lovely, relaxing stroll along the seashore will be the perfect way to prepare for our first night in Israel.

DAY 3 - Tuesday, Oct 16 – JOPPA/CAESAREA/MOUNT CARMEL MEGIDDO

The first full day of our spiritual journey through the Holy Land will begin by traveling north along the scenic Mediterranean coast to the city of Caesarea. This ancient seaport built by King Herod the Great during the first century BC, was the site of Peter’s first Gentile convert, the Roman centurion Cornelius, as well as the place of the Apostle Paul’s imprisonment. Some of the many ruins we will explore include the Roman amphitheater, hippodrome, and the Roman aqueduct system. Next, we will ascend Mount Carmel, whose summit provides a breath-taking view of the Jezreel Valley, sometimes referred to as “the battlefield of the Bible”. Mount Carmel’s Biblical significance is being the site of the fiery challenge between Elijah and the prophet’s of Baal to prove who was the one true God. We will continue north on the Plain of Armageddon to the ancient ruins of Megiddo, where archeologists have excavated 24 layers of civilization. Megiddo was King Ahab’s chariot city and a military crossroad of great strategic significance during Biblical times. Prophecy will come alive in Megiddo as we look over the Jezreel Valley, (also known as the Valley of Armageddon) site of the final world war as foretold in Revelation 16:16. As we arrive in Tiberias, we will be greeted by our first glimpse of the beautiful Sea of Galilee, before retiring for dinner and overnight at our seaside hotel.

DAY 4 - Wednesday, Oct 17- MOUNT OF BEATITUDES/CAPERNAUM JESUS BOAT/SEA OF GALILEE BOAT RIDE/GOLAN HEIGHTS

Arise for breakfast to your breathtaking view- the tranquil Sea of Galilee! Our first visit of the day will be to the Mount of Beatitudes where we will read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) as we gaze over the picturesque Jordan Valley. We’ll proceed to Capernaum, what once was a community of fisherman, and from where Jesus chose many of his disciples. We will explore the archeological excavations of an early octagonal church, the ruins of Peter’s house, and the site of an ancient synagogue where Jesus taught his followers that “I am the bread of life”, (John 6:35). It is a short drive to Nof Ginossar to visit a museum that houses a recently discovered, ancient boat known as the “Jesus Boat”, because it dates back to the time of Christ. Our next stop is sure to be a memorable one, as we will cross the Sea of Galilee. A sense of awe will be felt as we realize that this is where Jesus walked on water, and that the shoreline in the distance is where many of Jesus’ other miracles took place.

A highlight will be a praise and worship time as we sit in our wooden boat in the middle of the sea. A delicious St. Peter's fish lunch awaits us at a famous kibbutz (collective Jewish community) on the opposite shoreline. Following lunch we will travel to the Golan Heights and stop at an overlook with spectacular views, while learning about the enormous strategic and political significance that this small tract of land has to Israel's survival. We will ascend Mount Ben-Tal, a dormant volcano important to Israel because of its advantageous observation point, before we stop for a brief tour of old Syrian bunkers. Driving down from the Golan Heights, we will see the crusader fortress known as Nimrod's Castle as we make our way back to our scenic hotel for dinner and rest.

DAY 5 - Thursday, Oct 18 – NAZARETH/CAESAREA PHILIPPI JORDAN RIVER

The day will begin by leaving the Galilee area to travel south through the Jordan River valley to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. While there we will explore Nazareth Village, a full-scale, live-action, recreation of Nazareth as it would have been during Jesus' lifetime. From there we will drive across the Galilee mountains through the village of Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle of changing of water into wine. As we arrive at Caesarea Philippi, we realize that in a land where water is life, it's no wonder one of the major sources of water would become a primary place of worship. Regrettably, the god worshiped at Caesarea Philippi/Banias, was not the God of Israel but a god named Pan who had a thirst for carnal pleasures. Jesus brought His twelve disciples all the way up to this pagan region and asked them this question: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13) The Apostle Peter spoke for the disciples and answered Jesus' question correctly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16). Our final stop, the Jordan River, runs through the land and history of the Bible, giving its water a spiritual significance that sets it aside from all other bodies of water. We will stop on the banks of the Jordan River where there will be an opportunity for baptisms. Our gorgeous hotel awaits us at the end of this exhilarating day.

DAY 6 - Friday, Oct 19 – DEAD SEA – BEIT SHE'AN/QUMRAN/EIN GEDI

After a delicious breakfast we will travel south along the Jordan Valley toward world-famous Dead Sea. Our first stop is a visit to Beit She'an known as "a walk through time" because of the diversity of ruins that surround this ongoing archeological site. We will walk through spectacular ruins from the Egyptian, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires that will give us a window into thousands of years of history. Beit She'an is a true archeological gem with several impressive buildings that have been uncovered including a theatre, a public bathhouse, a Roman temple, a residence from the Byzantine period, and a large basilica marking the ancient center of the city. Along the way to the Dead Sea, we will view sites important to the historical Judea including the ancient city of Jericho, while taking note of Jesus' Mount of Temptation, and of Mount Nebo, the place where the Bible says Moses viewed the Promised Land. Our next stop will be at the ruins of Qumran, best known for the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. The best-preserved scroll is the complete book of Isaiah, which exactly matches the book of Isaiah in our modern day Bibles. We will enjoy our next stop at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. It is the biggest oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea, and most famous as the place David escaped to when King Saul wanted to kill him. (1 Samuel 23:29) This ancient area is a wilderness desert of rocks and salt, where life would be beyond difficult even today. Yet, despite these harsh realities, lush oases are tucked away in the rugged landscape. To complete our day, a hike to one of the oases will be an option for the adventurous before arriving at our luxurious spa hotel located on the Dead Sea.

DAY 7 - Saturday, Oct 20 – MASADA/FREE TIME AT DEAD SEA

We begin our day with a visit to Masada, ascending by cable car for a three-minute ride to the top of this impressive fortress. While at the summit we will experience the same panoramic views as those seen by the Jewish defenders as they made the last stand of the Judean revolt against Rome in AD 73. Once atop, we will explore extensive excavations unearthed in the past 50 years. Some of the most impressive of the ruins include King Herod's three-terrace palace with its massive storehouses and cisterns, an ancient synagogue, and a Byzantine era church. We will have the afternoon to float in the Dead Sea, which at 1300 feet below sea level is the lowest point on Earth. We will have the opportunity to join countless people from around the world that have come to the region to bask in its therapeutic, mineral-rich waters. The high salt content of the Dead Sea provides buoyancy and prevents any possibility of sinking, making the effortless floating in a body of water a truly unforgettable experience. We will especially enjoy a relaxing afternoon in preparation, physically and emotionally, to experience the Holy City of Jerusalem tomorrow.

DAY 8 - Sunday, Oct 21 – JERUSALEM - MOUNT OF OLIVES/ WESTERN WALL/ BETHLEHEM/SHEPHERD'S FIELDS/ KING OF KINGS CHURCH

Up to Jerusalem! We begin our ascent of nearly 4000 feet to Jerusalem after breakfast. Our first view of the Holy City will be from the majestic Mount Scopus, where we will have time to reflect on our entry into Jerusalem by opening our Bibles to Psalm 122:2, "Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem." We will begin our first of five days in Jerusalem at the top of Mount Olives with its magnificent view of the Eternal City. Our guide will point out all of the important sites of Jerusalem from this vantage point including the Temple Mount, the Old City walls and the "Palm Sunday Road", the traditional route taken by Jesus when he entered Jerusalem. We will make our way to the most sacred of all Jewish sites, the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. After Rome destroyed the Second Temple in 70 AD, the small segment of wall left standing today is the holiest site in Judaism; a place for prayer and pilgrimage for centuries. While visiting the Western Wall we will take the opportunity to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). Time will also be provided to write a personal prayer on a piece of paper and to place it in a niche of the ancient wall. As we exit the Old City walls via the Lion's Gate we will take special note of the tombs of Absalom and Zachariah as we travel the short distance to the town of Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth. There we will see the Shepherd's Fields and reflect on the angel's announcement of the birth of the Promised Messiah, who praised God saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." While in Bethlehem we will be privileged to visit one of the few Christian churches in the town of our Savior's birth. We will learn of their struggles and victories as they reach out to Arabs in their community with the message of God's love. We will be blessed to pray and encourage our fellow believers who face life-threatening circumstances daily. This evening, we will have the privilege to worship with fellow believers at the King of Kings Church in the heart of Jerusalem at 5:00 before returning to our hotel for dinner and respite from an extraordinary day.

DAY 9 - Monday, Oct 22 JERUSALEM - FRIENDS OF ZION MUSEUM/YAD V'SHEM/SHRINE OF THE BOOK MUSEUM SOUTHERN STEPS

We will begin our day with discoveries in modern Jerusalem. Our first stop will be a visit to the Friends of Zion Museum, which tells the story, in state-of-the-art technology, of non-Jewish people (Gentiles) who aided the Jewish people in support of Zionism and assistance in the establishment of the state of Israel.

We will view the Knesset, the seat of the Israeli Parliament. We will stop with a visit to Yad V'Shem, Israel's national memorial to the six million Jewish souls who perished during the Holocaust. We will be amazed at our next visit to the famed Shrine of the Book museum where the treasured Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. While there we will visit the Model City of Jerusalem, a miniature scale model of Jerusalem as it was during Jesus' time on earth. Our day will conclude with a visit to the Southern Steps. These steps, carved out of bedrock, are an enormous flight of steps at the southern end of the Temple Mount believed to be the exact steps where Jesus would often teach as He walked up to approach the Temple to worship. At the foot of these stairs are numerous mikvah (ritual baths) used by the Jews for purification. The Apostles likely used these mikvah on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 for baptizing the 3,000 new believers. Excavations began in 1967 after the stunning victory by Israeli forces against its formidable Arab neighbors. Known as the Six-Day War, this conflict led to the reunification of Jerusalem under Jewish rule for the first time in nearly 2,000 years. Back to our hotel relishing another beautiful day in the City of the Great King

DAY 10 – Tuesday, Oct 23 – JERUSALEM - KOTEL TUNNEL/POOL OF BETHESDA/ST. ANNE CHURCH/VIA DOLOROSA/CITY OF DAVID

Our day will begin with a visit to the Kotel Tunnel (Rabbi's Tunnel), a fascinating excavation site, where we will stop at the spot considered nearest to the Temple's Holy of Holies. From there will proceed to the Pools of Bethesda, (where Jesus healed a paralytic) and to the adjacent Church of St. Anne where we can sing hymns while hearing a 10 second echo of our voices. Next, we will relive history and reflect on the great sacrifice made for each of us, as we walk in the traditional final steps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross). Our last site for the day will be the ancient City of David where Jerusalem was born. We will marvel at this mysterious, magical journey through ancient shafts recently excavated. We will pass through the underground tunnels through which the city was conquered and residents fled. As time permits, we can chose to walk in illuminated darkness through the water of Hezekiah's Tunnel, where water has flowed since the time of the prophets

DAY 11- Wednesday, Oct 24 – JERUSALEM – PALM SUNDAY ROAD/UPPER ROOM/HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS/GARDEN TOMB/FAREWELL DINNER/TEL-AVIV AIRPORT

After checking out from our hotel, we will drive to the top of the Mount of Olives and walk down Palm Sunday Road, tracing the last steps of Jesus before His death on the cross. We will follow Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane, the place that scripture tells us Jesus agonized over His impending crucifixion. There will be a time of devotion, reflection, and prayer in a private garden surrounded by 2000-year-old olive trees, providing the perfect setting for worship. On this special and very emotional day, we will then visit The Upper Room, where Jesus shared his final Passover with his apostles the night before His crucifixion. After a short drive we will come to the House of Caiaphas, where Peter denied Christ three times in the hours before His crucifixion. We will conclude the tour with a visit to Golgotha (the place of the skull) and the Garden Tomb. When we arrive we will take our turn going inside the first century tomb believed by many to be the burial place of Jesus. This ancient cemetery provides a peaceful setting where we will lovingly and gratefully remember Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Our visit will conclude with a special time of prayer, song, fellowship, and communion in the beautiful garden setting. Our last day in Israel will conclude with a special Farewell Dinner at a well-known restaurant. After dinner, we will have a chance to reflect on the many life-changing experiences during our spiritual journey through the Holy Land. After this memorable event, we will journey to Tel Aviv arriving at Ben Gurion airport for an overnight flight to the USA.

DAY 12 – Thursday, Oct 25 - ARRIVAL USA

We will arrive back in USA with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime!

Itinerary subject to change depending on circumstances

