

The Life & World of Jesus

*A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary
Hosted by Rev. David Drake
11 – 22 February 2019*

We will trace the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the First Century Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry and a better application of His teachings for us today.

Day 1 Monday, 11 February, 2019

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. Time permitting, we may have an opportunity to stroll on the beach or swim before dinner. Later we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer.

Overnight: Ramada Hotel, Netanya, Mediterranean Coast

Day 2 Tuesday, 12 February

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS – Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah

Today we travel north up the coast and then eastwards inland to the Galilee, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. We begin our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to the spectacular ruins at **Sepphoris**, where we will examine Jesus' relationship to Elijah and His first miracle. We conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry.

Overnight: Ma'agan Holiday Resort, Sea of Galilee

Day 3 Wednesday, 13 February

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE – Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings. After a short walk or drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. At lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. Later in the afternoon we will visit Kibbutz Ginosar to see the "**Jesus Boat**", a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time. After dinner we will meet with a local believer. Overnight: Ma'agan Holiday Resort, Sea of Galilee

Day 4 Thursday, 14 February

NORTHERN ISRAEL – "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. We begin by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. We will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin**, where we will take another close look at life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. Next we will travel along the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** – Israel’s highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. Our next stop is **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Along the way we will pass **Druze Villages** before coming to **Mt. Bental**, a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Our final stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **OT city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham, and consider ancient Israel’s apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of “living water” in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus’ teaching. Overnight: Ma’agan Holiday Resort, Sea of Galilee

Day 5 Friday, 15 February

THE JORDAN VALLEY - “In the World But Not of It”

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. We will study the cultural tensions that existed at the time of Jesus, both between Greco-Roman culture and Jewish culture (and later the early church), and also between the Jewish religious establishment of the day and various spiritual reformers. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. *If the tour leader wants to do baptisms, the group can visit a baptismal site on the Jordan River.* Our next stop is the Biblical city of **Beit Shean** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one of the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. Conditions permitting, we will have dip in the beautiful spring fed pools at **Sachne**, near the base of **Mt. Gilboa**. From here we continue down the Jordan Valley to the arid Judean Wilderness, passing by the region of **Jericho** – the oldest and lowest city on earth. Our last visit of the day will be **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel – the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Overnight: Ein Gedi Hotel, Dead Sea

Day 6 Saturday, 16 February

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our day at **Masada**, Herod the Great’s magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. From Masada we drive north to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. We will finish our afternoon by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**. Overnight: Ein Gedi Hotel, Dead Sea

Day 7 Sunday, 17 February

WORSHIP SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

This morning we will make the final ascent to **Jerusalem** – the City of the Great King. We will arrive in time to attend the worship services at Christ Church, the oldest protestant church in the Middle East. In the afternoon, we will head to the **Citadel (“Tower of David”) Museum** where we will enjoy breathtaking views overlooking Jerusalem and have an introduction to the fascinating historical geography of the Old City. From here we will have a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ’s 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people.

The rest of our day is open for rest, reflection, shopping or, for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 8 Monday, 18 February

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS - The Temple at the Center

Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. An early start will take us up to the **Temple Mount** (conditions permitting), where we'll consider some of Jesus' activities there, as well as the claims of Islam. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 9 Tuesday, 19 February

BETHLEHEM - Birthplace of the King and CITY OF DAVID

This morning we will make the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the "**Shepherd's Fields**" where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. In the afternoon we will visit the **City of David**, the place where it all began, and the most excavated site in the world. We will walk through Hezekiah's tunnel (optional) to the Pool of Siloam.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 10 Wednesday, 20 February

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes

We will spend our morning at the **Israel Museum**, home of the Second Temple Jerusalem model and the Shrine of the Book, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are displayed. In the afternoon we head to **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people. This evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 11 Thursday, 21 February

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with a panoramic overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**, the site of Jesus' ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**. Next we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen's Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the

Pool of Bethesda. Depending on the group's interest, we may walk parts of the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at several of the places mentioned in the Bible, and arrive at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Time permitting, we may visit **St. Peter in Gallicantu**, a possible site of the prison where Jesus was held. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 11 Friday, 22 February

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

- *Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.*
- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *It is mandatory for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.*

ADDITIONAL TOURING DAYS

For groups wishing to spend more time in Israel, we can arrange additional days of touring on a variety of themes. These can include activities such as: outdoor adventures (hiking, camel treks, swimming, etc.), wine tasting, visits to see Israeli agricultural innovations, service and outreach projects, visits to local ministries, retreats, prayer experiences, as well as Biblical and historical teaching at more sites throughout the country.

Here are just a few examples of the many options for additional touring in Jerusalem:

INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM (Full day)

After breakfast we will head to the **Citadel ("Tower of David") Museum** where we will enjoy breathtaking views overlooking Jerusalem and have an introduction to the fascinating historical geography of the Old City. We will continue to the **Museum of the First Temple** in order to better understand not only the story of Solomon building the Temple, but how the Temple priesthood and sacrificial system foreshadowed the ministry of Jesus the Messiah. After this overview, we will spend the rest of the morning at the place where it all began - the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David's conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**.

THE HEART OF THE NEW CITY (Half day)

Most of the Biblical sites in Jerusalem are inside or nearby the Old City. But most of the population of modern Jerusalem lives outside the Old City walls, in the bustling and vibrant **New City**. For a glimpse of modern Israeli society, we will follow pedestrian streets: along **Jaffa Road** to **Zion Square**, then up **Ben Yehuda Street** to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda** open-air

market, where Jerusalemites shop for some of the best and freshest foods in Israel and sit in cozy cafes. The whole walk is filled with interesting history, as well as great people watching, photographic and eating opportunities.

JUDEA & SAMARIA (Full day each)

Judea and Samaria, the areas to the north and south of Jerusalem respectively, together make up the Biblical heartland of Israel. They comprise what is often referred to as the “West Bank”. Both are packed with amazing Old Testament sites, as well as some from the time of Jesus and of course the history of modern Israel. In Judea, prominent sites include: Hebron (tomb of the Patriarchs); The “Way of the Fathers” the ancient route travelled by the Patriarchs; Herodian (King Herod’s desert fortress and tomb). In Samaria, we like to visit: Mt. Gerazim (the “Mount of Blessing” from Joshua’s time); Mt. Kebir and Alon Moreh (scenic overlook and one of Abraham’s campsites); Jacob’s Well; Shiloh (long-time location of the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant). In both areas one also finds freshwater springs for refreshing dips, as well as modern settlements, boutique dairies and wineries, cafes, etc.

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH or a MESSIANIC CONGREGATION (Half day)

Depending on tour dates, on a Saturday it may be possible to join a worship service at a local Messianic congregation, or on a Sunday to participate in the morning worship service at Christ Church or another local congregation.

ITINERARY OPTIONS

For groups returning to Israel who would like to see some new sites, here are some of the many options available for the itinerary:

Day 2

- An alternative to Megiddo is ancient **Sepphoris**, where we can examine Jesus’ relationship to Elijah, as well as His first miracle.
- An alternative to Megiddo or Nazareth is **Mt. Arbel**, where an easy stroll brings us to panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee, giving an excellent orientation for our studies in the area.

Day 3

- During the longer days of the year, time might allow for a visit to “the other side” of the Sea to briefly consider Jesus relationship to the non-Jewish world during the time of His ministry, including the site of **Kursi**.
- A special visit is tranquil **Beit Bracha**, CMJ’s prayer retreat center in Migdal, to hear about the work of the ministry.

Day 4

- One interesting option is **Kibbutz El Rom**, with a documentary on Israel’s miraculous survival in the 1973 “Yom Kippur” War.
- We may also visit the ruins of ancient **Gamla**, the “Masada of the North” where a great battle was fought. Today the area is home to Israel’s largest birds.

Day 5

- You might enjoy stopping at **Kibbutz Alfa** to examine a beautiful mosaic of a very early synagogue floor, where we can study the reasons of the separation of Jewish believers in Jesus from what had become a mostly non-Jewish church in the early centuries.
- We can walk a gentle trail from **Tel Jezreel**, Ahab's winter capital, and visit **Ein Harod** known as "**Gideon's Spring**".