



From Desert to Dominion

A Shoreside Study Tour
Hosted by Robin & Sue Aldridge
& Alan & Alison Bowell



27th October - 5th November 2017

In the steps of the ancient people of Israel and Jesus the Messiah, we'll travel from the Sinai wanderings, through the heartland of Israel, and up north to the source of the Jordan River. The whole of the Land will become our spiritual classroom as we seek to understand God's message to His people, both in those ancient days and our own.

Day 1: Friday, 27th October

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE & NATURE IMAGERY IN SCRIPTURE

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 transfer to **Yad HaShmona**, a Messianic Jewish moshav in the Judean hills west of Jerusalem. Here we will enjoy a tour of the **Biblical Gardens** where we shall study the imagery Jesus used in parables.

Overnight: Yad HaShmona Guesthouse, Judean Hills

Day 2: Saturday, 28th October

IN THE STEPS OF THE PATRIARCHS

We shall begin our morning at the **Valley of Elah**, the location of the battle between David and Goliath. From here we climbing up from the strategic lowlands into the **Mountains of Judea**, to the burial **Cave of the Patriarchs** in **Hebron**, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Next we shall continue in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the **Negev** in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Here we visit **Tel Beersheva**, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. We conclude our day by traveling through the **Wilderness of Paran** to an overlook of the beautiful **Ramon Crater**, where we will consider the true location of Mount Sinai and study the geology of the area.



Overnight: Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon, Central Negev

Day 3: Sunday, 29th October

OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS

We begin today at the ancient caravan city of **Avdat** to discover how the ancient Nabateans made the desert bloom, and take a short hike to a beautiful oasis in the **Zin Canyon**. From here we travel through the desert to **Tel Arad**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. We conclude our day with an early arrival at our spa hotel on the **Dead Sea**, to enjoy a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters.

Overnight: Daniel Hotel, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea

Day 4: Monday, 30th October

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 site of 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. At an overlook of **Wadi Qelt** we will discuss the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Next we will leave the desert and make the final ascent to **Jerusalem** – the City of the Great King. After dinner, the Director of Shoresh will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share some encouraging testimonies.



Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 5: Tuesday, 31st October

JERUSALEM IN THE TIMES OF KING DAVID & JESUS



We will begin our 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**. From here we ascend the **channel underneath the Herodian Pilgrims' Road** to the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount where Jesus likely walked. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will travel 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.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 7: Wednesday, 1st October

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. 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 view the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. At the



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, we will examine the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We will conclude with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 8: Thursday, 2nd October

SAMARIA: ANCIENT ISRAEL

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. We will focus on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament. We begin at **Shiloh** (long-time location of the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant), **Mt. Gerizim** (the “Mount of Blessing” from Joshua’s time), and **Mt. Kabir**, (scenic overlook above Abraham’s campsite at Alon Moreh) where we will have an extended devotional time. At the end of the day we descent from the mountains into the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley**. Near the base of **Mt. Gilboa**, we will have dip in the beautiful spring fed pools at **Sachne**. From here we travel north, crossing the **Jordan River** before we arrive at our hotel on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. Overnight: Kibbutz Ma’agan, Galilee

Day 9: Friday, 3rd October

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

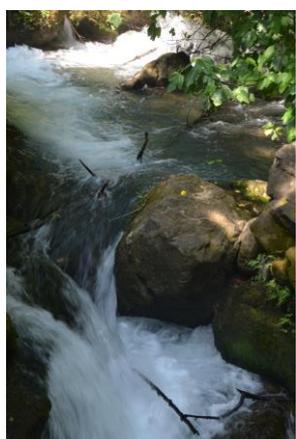
Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of 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. We will visit **Beit Bracha “House of Blessing”**, CMJ’s Prayer Center in the Galilee, to learn about the work of the ministry. 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: Kibbutz Ma’agan, Galilee



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Day 10: Saturday, 4th October

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: Kibbutz Ma’agan, Galilee

Day 10: Sunday, 5th October

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS – JEWS, GENTILES, AND THE MESSIAH

This morning we will visit **Mount Carmel**, where we take in a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We will also visit the **worship centre at Kehilat HaCarmel**, the Mt. Carmel Messianic congregation which is located on a former CMJ property. We complete our tour 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. From here we travel along the coastal plain to the airport to catch our flight home.



PLEASE NOTE:

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*