

GAFCON Leaders Israel Familiarization Tour

*The Life & World of Jesus
A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary*

Led by: Bishop Neil and Marcia Lebhar

June 7-17, 2018

On this Familiarization Tour for bishops and other leaders in ministry, we will focus on the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the influence of Jewish thought and culture of the period on the origins of The Christian faith. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry, his place among the Jewish people, and the application of His teachings for us today. The FAM tour will also include sites from the Old Testament as well as the history of modern Israel. The tour is designed to prepare leaders so they can lead future trips if they feel so called.

Day 1: Thursday, June 7th
DEPARTURE FROM USA

Day 2: Friday, June 8th
ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where in the late afternoon we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. (We ask that flights arrive no later than 4:30p that day). From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. After dinner we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer. Overnight: Seasons Hotel, Mediterranean Coast

Day 3: Saturday, June 9th
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 **Megiddo**, one of King Solomon's cities, and according the Book of Revelation possibly the assembly point for the armies marching to the battle of Armageddon. We conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 4: Sunday, June 10th

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 either **Chorazin or Magdala**, Galilean villages from the time of Jesus, where we consider village life and the influence of 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. Down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His 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 may meet with a local believer.

Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 5: Monday, June 11th

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. We will be in the region of **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. 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: Maagan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 6: Tuesday, June 12th

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We travel south 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. From here we will visit **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. At the end of the day we will make the final ascent to **Jerusalem** - the City of the Great King.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 7: Wednesday, June 13th

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, we will 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. After dinner, the Director of Shoresh will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share an encouraging testimony.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 8: Thurs, June 14th

CITY OF DAVID & FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM

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 to the **Pool of Siloam**. The afternoon is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. *Shoresh will provide a list of interesting options, including Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, for those who want to explore on their own.* After dinner we will learn about what is involved in working with Shoresh to plan and recruit for a Biblical tour of Israel.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 9: Friday, June 15th

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes

Today we study both a great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of Christians committed to the Biblically prophesied physical restoration and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people. After breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ's 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. Next we 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. From here we take 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. This evening we will be celebrating either a **Shabbat** or a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

Day 10: Saturday, June 16th

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**. From here we walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. 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: Sunday, June 17th

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH & TRANSFER TO GAFCON

In the morning, we are invited to join the worship service at **Christ Church**. In the afternoon our bus will take us across Jerusalem to check-in to our hotel for GAFCON and to check in to our hotel for the conference.

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.*

Land Price

Per Person, Double Occupancy

\$1,699

Single Supplement = \$499 (*number of single rooms is limited*)

The Price of Your Shoresh Tour Includes:

- Accommodation - Half-board (breakfast & dinner) in en-suite shared twin rooms, taxes & portage.
- Transportation - Bus and driver for touring and group transfers to and from airport.
- Guide - Licensed Christian/Messianic guide.
- Tips - Driver, Guide, Hotels.
- Entrance fees - Historical sites, museums, parks, etc.
- Study Materials.

Not Included: Airfare; visas; travel insurance (mandatory); lunches & snacks; individual activities on free days; individual transfers to/from the airport apart from the main group; discretionary gift for guide and driver; personal discretionary spending.

Single Supplement: This is the additional cost for a single room.

Prices: Shoresh reserves the right to amend prices of tours without prior notice in case of devaluations of the dollar, or in case of receiving new updated contract rates from suppliers. All prices are quoted in US\$.

If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact Harris Willman, administrator, The Gulf Atlantic Diocese: HWillman@GulfAtlanticDiocese.org, 904-701-4230. You will receive an application form from the travel agent as soon as it is available.