

A Shoresh Study Tour

Hosted by Ian Stobart

27th July – 7th August 2018

We will travel through the land, from coast to desert to mountains, to visit the places where important Biblical events took place, and dig deep into the Scriptures in their original context to learn about God's faithfulness to His people, in the past, present, and future. Our tour includes sites from the Old and New Testaments as well as the history of modern Israel. In addition, we will learn about God's work amongst believers in the land today. Jesus will always be the center of our studies, as we seek a better understanding of His ministry, His place among the Jewish people, and the application of His teachings in our lives.

Day 1: Friday, 27th July, 2018

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 in Bethlehem. Later we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer.

Overnight: Mt.David Hotel, Bethlehem.

Day 2: Saturday, 28th July, 2018

BETHLEHEM

We spend this morning in **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. From there we will travel to **Herodian**, King Herod's desert fortress and tomb. We will finish our day walking around the Old City of Bethlehem.

Overnight: Mt.David Hotel, Bethlehem.

Day 3: Sunday, 29th July, 2018

WORSHIP IN BETHLEHEM, HEBRON AND CAMEL RIDE

We will start the day with a worship at Immanuel Church in Bethlehem. From there, we continue to the burial **Cave of the Patriarchs** in **Hebron**, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Our last stop for the day will be **Kfar HaNokdim**, for some **Bedouin hospitality** and a **camel ride**. Overnight: KfarHaNokdim Tents, Judean Wilderness.

Day 4: Monday, 30th July, 2018

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. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. Our last site 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. We will also enjoy a float in the **Dead Sea**. Later in the day we will travel north up the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley**, crossing the **Jordan River** before we arrive at our hotel on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**.

Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 5: Tuesday, 31st July, 2018

MOUNT TABOR, NAZARETH, JORDAN BAPTISM

Our first visit for the day will be **Mount Tabor** also known as "the mount of Transfiguration". From there we continue to the **Church of Annunciation** and **Nazareth Village** in ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. We will finish the day of traveling at **Yardenit**, a baptismal site on the Jordan River.

Overnight: Maagan Holiday Village, Sea of Galilee

Day 6: Wednesday, 1st August, 2018

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

Our first stop of the day is 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: Maagan Kibutz Hotel, Sea of Galilee

Day 7: Thursday, 2nd August, 2018

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. In the late afternoon we will enter Jerusalem, the City of the Great King. After dinner we will be treated to a short stroll for a **rooftop panorama of the Old City** and talk with the Director of Shores Study Tours. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 8: Friday, 3rd August, 2018

CITY OF DAVID, BETHESDA, VIA DOLOROSA

We will start our day at 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 there we continue with stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. Later in the day we will join Franciscans on **Via Dolorosa**. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 9: Saturday, 4th August, 2018

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM

Today 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 for those who want to explore on their own.* Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 10: Sunday, 5th August, 2018

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 participate in the morning worship service at Christ Church. 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. (Based on availability, meet Mike and Alys Niebur). Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 11: Monday, 6th August, 2018

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**. 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 Guest House, Jerusalem

Day 12: Tuesday, 7th August, 2018

CAESAREA MARITIMA & TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

We say farewell to Jerusalem and travel to **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 continue to the airport to catch the 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.*