

IGM Regionaltour

LAND & WORD - authentic Bible sites with inspiring views & gentle walks

Proposed Itinerary as of: December 4, 2007

LEADER: WellSpring

Depart: Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Return: Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Departure City: San Francisco

Airline: American & Turkish

Mt. Arbel:
Overview of Jesus' operations base.



DAY 1 Wed May 14

USA DEPARTURE

Be at the airport at least 3 hours prior to departure for international check-in procedures. Meals and in-flight entertainment are per airline policies.

DAY 2 Thu May 15

ARRIVE TEL AVIV

Region: Coast of Sharon

Arrive Tel Aviv this afternoon. Proceed through passport control (keep the white entry paper in passport). Meet your guide outside in the group parking lot. Depart to your hotel for lodging.

DAY 3 Fri May 16

TO SEA OF GALILEE

Region: Coast of Sharon, Jezreel Valley, Sea of Galilee

Briefly visit Jaffa (Simon the Tanner's House?), then proceed to Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10, Peter's encounter with one of the God-fearers, Cornelius) to view the Crusader Fortress, the Roman Aqueducts, Roman theater, and the stadium. Continue to Nazareth for a ridge view at Mt. Precipice of Mt. Tabor and the Jezreel Valley. Depart for the Mt. Arbel cliffside overview of the center of Jesus' operations at Galilee. Proceed to your lodging for the next four nights.
BLR: p. 6 - Coastal Plains

DAY 4 Sat May 17

SEA CIRCLE TRIP

Region: Sea of Galilee

Circle the sea visiting sites of Jesus' ministry. Depart for the Yarmuk River and ascend the Apeh Plateau for an unobstructed view of the Sea of Galilee from Kfar Haruv. Continue past Koursi (Jesus cast demons into swine) to Bethsaida, home of Peter, Philip, Andrew. Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). Optional is a foot descent to the seaside of Tabgha. Visit Capernaum, the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry. Sail the sea in the Jesus Boat, a double-scale replica of a Roman fishing boat.
BLR: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, overview #4, #5, p. 7 Jesus at Galilee, Rifi Valley

DAY 5 Sun May 18

TO UPPER JORDAN

Region: Upper Jordan, Sea of Galilee

Depart the sea on the ancient Via Maris, pass Hazor (ancient crossroads, largest Canaanite city) to Tel Dan. Walk through the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Jordan River to Tel Dan. View the High Place of Jeroboam. Proceed to Baniyas (Caesarea Philippi), Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ. Optional: return via Quneita to view the Syrian Border.
BLR: p. 7, The Upper Jordan

DAY 6 Mon May 19

LOWER GALILEE

Region: Lower Galilee, Sea of Galilee

Visit more sites of Jesus' life at Galilee. At the capital city of Galilee, Sepphoris, view the Roman theater, the mosaic floor, and more. Continue via the Jezreel Valley to Muhraqa on Mt. Carmel (Elijah encounters the prophets of Baal). Proceed to Megiddo, the New Testament Armageddon of Rev. 16. View the tel and the water tunnel. Return to the Sea of Galilee with afternoon leisure.
BLR: p 6 #6 - The Jezreel Valley

DAY 7 Tue May 20

BETH-SHEAN, JERICHO, DEAD SEA

Region: Jordan Valley, Dead Sea

Motor southward to Tel Beth-shean. Cross the Roman bridge over Harrod Spring and ascend the tel to explore the demise of Israel's first king, Saul. Overview the dig of the Bible crossroads and Scythopolis, only Decapolis city west of the Jordan River. Descend the Jordan River Valley to Jericho. Visit the O.T. tel. Continue to the lowest place on Earth, the Dead Sea. Continue beside the Dead Sea to Ein Gedi for a hike to the waterfall (consider the cave experience between David and King Saul). Proceed to an oasis-like hotel on the Dead Sea.
BLR: p. 8 - #18 Lower Jordan, #19 Dead Sea

DAY 8 Wed May 21

MASADA, WILDERNESS OF ZIN

Region: Negev Wilderness

Visit the fortress of Masada. Ascend by cable car and briefly explore select ruins which include the synagogue and siege ramp. After the brief visit descend the siege ramp by foot to an awaiting safari vehicle to visit the Wilderness of Zin. During a 2 mile stretch of the Zin riverbed stop at Ein Zik (spring) and Ein Akab (spring) with their hidden pools of water and lush vegetation. Focus on the Israelite sojourn, rather than the geography. In the wilderness of Zin Miriam died, and the Israelites challenged Moses and Aaron (Num. 20). Consider the mindset of the patriarchs, and whether Abraham held ulterior motives in presenting his sister to the Pharaoh (Gen. 12). During lunch preparation, tour leaders may present Jesus and John the Baptist in the wilderness: exploit the issue of finding the way in the wilderness. Return to the hotel.
BLR: p. 7 - Overview: Southern Wilderness, #14 The Negev

DAY 9 Thu May 22

DEAD SEA TO JERUSALEM

Region: Dead Sea, Jerusalem

Depart for Ein Gedi and the conflict between David and Saul. Walk to the waterfall? Continue to NT Jericho to overview Herod's winter palace from the Roman Road on the Wadi Qilt. Return to the main highway and motor toward Jerusalem. Half way, embark on the Roman Road for a spectacular overview of the cliffside St. George's Monastery. One may recall the parable of the Good Samaritan here and reference the Roman Road. Return to main highway and proceed to Mt. Scopus for an ancient first-view of the Old City. Enjoy an orientation to Jerusalem with an ancient Genesis welcome. Proceed to your lodging for the next few days.
BLR: p. 8 - #19 Dead Sea, p. 6 Overview: Jerusalem

DAY 10 Fri May 23

JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

Region: Jerusalem, Judean Hills

Visit the Mt. of Olives for orientation to Jerusalem's Old City (Ps. 122). Walk the traditional Palm Sunday route past the Dominus Flevit Church to the Garden of Gethsemane. Proceed to the Dung Gate. Enter the Ophel Ridge to walk on the ancient Herodian pavement and to view the Temple foundation stones. Continue to the Temple steps from Jesus' time, the one place where we know Jesus walked and taught (Lk. 19-21). Depart for the Judean Hills and Bethlehem. Visit shepherds' fields. Walk to the historic Guide Street to visit Herodian caves beneath a Lutheran Church. Continue a two block descent to Manger Square. Enter the Church of the Nativity, and St. Catherine's Church to visit Herodian caves below. View St. Jerome's tomb, and depart for an olive wood shop before returning to Jerusalem.
BLR: p. 7 - Jesus At Jerusalem, #12 The Judean Highland

DAY 11 Sat May 24

JUDEAN SHEPHELAH

Region: Benjamin Plateau, Judean Shephelah

Begin the day with a private tour and communion at the Garden Tomb. Depart for Nebi Samwil, Samuel's grave, to view an ancient approach to Jerusalem, and Joshua's conquest route. Descend on the Beth-horon Road into the Aijalon Valley (the sun stood still). Pass Beth-shemesh (Samson, Ark of the Covenant) and continue to the Valley of Elah. Ascend Socoh and consider the geography of David and Goliath's encounter. Visit Tel Maresha's underground house and the columbari. Return to Jerusalem.
BLR: p. 7 - #11 The Shephelah

DAY 12 Sun May 25

JERUSALEM

Region: Jerusalem

Proceed to the Dung Gate and ascend the Temple Mount to view the Dome of the Rock. Continue to the intact St. Anne's Crusader Church (hymn-sing?), the Pools of Bethesda, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Walk through the market place on the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Visit the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum. Continue to the scale model of Herodian Jerusalem and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.
BLR: p. 7 - Jesus at Jerusalem

DAY 13 Mon May 26

JERUSALEM

Region: Jerusalem

Walk through the Damascus Gate into the Jewish Quarter to visit Wohl Archaeology Museum and view the underground excavations of Upper Jerusalem of Jesus' lifetime. The Herodian Mansion may possibly be that of the High Priest Caiaphas. Continue via the Cardo to view the Byzantine Cardo Map (Madeba map replica) and walk the Herodian period pavement. Walk through the Jewish Quarter to Zion Gate and Mt. Zion to visit the Upper Room. After a lunch break in the Old City proceed to the southern excavations of the Ophel Ridge. Enter Area G to explore the dig of the City of David and continue to the Warren Shaft. Descend to the Gihon Spring and walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (bring old shoes for the walk through knee-deep water) to the Pool of Siloam (Jn. 9). Proceed to the Jaffa Gate to walk the wall of the Old City's Christian Quarter to the Damascus Gate.
BLR: p. 7 - Jesus at Jerusalem

DAY 14 Tue May 27

JERUSALEM, FREE AFTERNOON

Region: Jerusalem

This morning is reserved for an extended reflective walk from the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane, across the Kidron Valley to the Old City (sites and sequence to be determined by Patti and Bill Pierce). The balance of the day is at leisure for personal interests in Jerusalem.
BLR: p. 9 - Bible and History: The Roman Period

DAY 15 Wed May 28

DEPART FOR THE USA

Transfer early morning to the Tel Aviv Airport for the flight to Istanbul and the USA. Fly while reliving the experiences of the Lands of the Bible. Upon arrival, clear customs and return home.

LEADER: WellSpring

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Return: Wednesday, May 28, 2008

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Departure City: San Francisco

Airline: American & Turkish

REQUESTED HOTELS

TEL AVIV: Crowne Plaza Hotel

TIBERIAS: Golden Tulip Hotel

DEAD SEA: Le Meridien Resort Hotel

JERUSALEM: Regency Hotel