



10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime through the Holy Land
with
Tour Hosts: Pastors Kevin and Joelene Taylor
Journey Church, Kenosha
Israel Travel Dates: October 18 – 27, 2021
Optional Turkey Pre-Trip Travel Dates: October 15 – 19, 2021

*"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
and we shall walk in His paths."*

ISAIAH 2:3



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Greetings Friends,

Joelene and I are blessed to invite you to travel with us to Israel, the Land of the Bible, for a life-changing experience. Ever since our previous trip in 2018, we have been anticipating the opportunity to return and share spiritual moments with our Journey Church family. This will be our fifth visit to Israel and, as you may know, each visit is more exciting, more enlightening, and more captivating.

You'll see, once you visit the Holy Land, and walk through the pages of the Bible, following the footsteps of Jesus, you will read and understand the Scriptures with new meaning. Your faith will be strengthened, your belief will be fortified, and your relationship with God will be deepened.

Every time you read about places such as the Sea of Galilee, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, or Meggido (site of the future battle of Armageddon), the Word will come alive for you in ways you cannot imagine. Throughout the program, you'll encounter God in the sites and activities planned for you where we share devotionals, recite scripture together, and pray in the very places where they occurred.

You'll encounter many heroes of the faith we've come to know in the Old and New Testaments, notables, that until now, you've only read about. Picture visiting Gilgal, the place where Joshua and the Israelites landed after crossing into the Promised Land, and viewing the site where Joshua set up the 12 stones. Visualize Caesarea Maritima, on the Mediterranean Sea, the site of Peter's first Gentile convert.

Close your eyes and you can already navigate the road on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Experience God's presence as we share communion in the Garden Tomb, the hill called Calvary. As you see the 2,000 year-old olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, where it is believed the 'night of agony' occurred, you'll be captured by the serene setting.

Witness a 1st century synagogue in Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene. Enjoy a Bedouin desert experience, a 'spa'n'swathe' pampering experience in the Dead Sea. Cherish a meaningful baptismal service in the Jordan River. Touch the ancient stones of the city where King David ruled and see the place where he fought Goliath. And more. Much more.

Round-trip air arrangements are included in the program. Our hotels along the Mediterranean Sea in Netanya, along the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias, at the Dead Sea, and in the Golden City of Jerusalem are beautiful. We will enjoy daily breakfasts and dinners. We will partake of St. Peter's fish lunch along the Sea of Galilee, after our boat sails on this body of water where Jesus taught His disciples, saying to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19, ESV).

We are offering an added, optional "Pre-Israel Trip: A Taste of Turkey and Its Significance in Early-Christianity." It's an exciting program with sites, activities, and experiences waiting for us in Ephesus, Izmir (Smyrna), and Istanbul. Once the center for the growing Christian movement in the early centuries, Turkey was one of the most important lands at the time of early-Christianity.

This journey is an integral extension of our ministry. We would love to share this great opportunity with you and believe that this, too, will be a trip of a lifetime for every person who joins us. We look forward to sharing these unique experiences with you.

Pastors Kevin and Joelene Taylor



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Making it easy to find and experience God



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Glencoe, IL 60022
847-835-0550
IsraelAdvantageTours.com

10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime through the Holy Land

SUGGESTED SITES ITINERARY

Pending weather, time, conditions

Day 1 – Monday, October 18, 2021 - Depart USA

Depart USA for Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast are served during the flight.

Day 2 – Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Arrival in Tel Aviv

We arrive in Israel at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv. After brief airport formalities and baggage claim, we meet our guide and are escorted to our waiting motor coach. We proceed directly to our hotel in Netanya for check-in, dinner, and overnight.

Day 3 – Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Caesarea / Akko Crusader Museum / Megiddo / Magdala / Tiberias

We begin the first full day of our spiritual journey in the Holy Land by traveling north along the Mediterranean Sea to visit Caesarea, the ancient seaport built by Herod the Great. Paul was imprisoned here and this was the site of Peter's first Gentile convert. Then we visit the ancient city of Akko. The remains of the Crusader town, dating from 1104 to 1291, lie almost intact, both above and below today's street level, providing an exceptional picture of the layout and structures of the capital of the medieval Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem. We continue to Megiddo with its 24 layers of civilizations. This was Ahab's chariot city and one of the most strategic crossroads of the world in Old Testament times. After, we drive to Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene, a once prosperous fishing village with its 1st century synagogue, where, in greatest likelihood, Jesus may have taught; as the Bible tells us, Jesus taught in synagogues along the Sea of Galilee. Then on to Tiberias for dinner and overnight at our hotel located in Tiberias.

Day 4 – Thursday, October 21, 2021

Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee / 2,000 year-old boat at Yigal Alon Museum / Banias (Caesarea Philippi) / Capernaum / Mensa Christi / Mount of Beatitudes / Katzrin / Mitzpe Shalom / Yardenit for Baptismal service on Jordan River

After breakfast, we will enjoy a time of praise and worship as we sail on the Sea of Galilee. Following, we will visit the Yigal Alon Museum at Kibbutz Ginossar and its ancient 2,000 year old boat dating to the time of Jesus. Then we visit the Banias, Caesarea Philippi. Jesus and His disciples were here when Peter made his remarkable confession that Jesus was the Messiah (Matthew 16:13-20). Onward to Capernaum (Kfar Nachum), the center of Jesus' ministry, where we visit the ruins of an ancient synagogue from the 4th century AD. We will then visit Mensa Christi, the "Table of Christ," where the resurrected Jesus prepared bread and fishes over a fire for His disciples. Next, continue to the Mount of Beatitudes. From this location, it is believed that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. Time permitting, via Katzrin, the modern capital of the Golan Heights, a nice town, we stop at Mitzpe Shalom, an observation point overlooking the entire Sea of Galilee and the entire Galilee region. Take the curvy road of Chamat Gader to Yardenit, the baptismal site. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Tiberias.

Day 5 – Friday, October 22, 2021

Beit She'an / Gilgal / Ein Gedi / Qumran / Dead Sea Swathe / Dead Sea

We travel through the Jordan Valley to Beit She'an, one the ancient cities of the Decapolis dating from the 5th century B.C., now the site of the largest archaeological excavations in Israel. Continuing to Gilgal, we visit the place where Joshua and the Israelites landed after they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. The site is located on the east side of Jericho (Joshua 4:19-20). Joshua set up 12 stones in this area to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan. Afterwards, enjoy a hike in the nature preserves and waterfalls of Ein Gedi where King David hid from Saul. Next, we visit Qumran, the location where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a shepherd boy. It is here, that the entire Book of Isaiah was found in one of the many caves in the area. We will spend this night at the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth, where we can swim and enjoy the therapeutic properties of the saltwater without the possibility of sinking. We will check into our hotel, perhaps deciding to enjoy spa treatments or to relax at the pools or to take a dip in the Dead Sea. Dinner and overnight at our hotel at the Dead Sea.



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Day 6 - Saturday, October 23, 2021

Masada / Kfar Hanokdim / Tel Be'er Sheva / Ela Valley / Jerusalem

Enjoy a leisurely early-morning swim at the Dead Sea before heading to Masada where we ascend by state-of-the-art cable cars to visit the mountaintop palace of Herod the Great and the great fortress. It is here that the Jewish defenders, from AD 70 – 73, took their last stand against Rome. View the fascinating remains of Herod's palace, storehouses, cisterns, and an ancient synagogue. Next we visit Kfar Hanokdim where we participate in the Bedouin desert experience - living in the desert, just as our forefathers did thousands of years ago. Onward to Tel Be'er Sheva, the remains of the biblical town of Beer Sheva, mentioned in Genesis when Abimelech and Abraham swore an oath beside a well. Drive to the Ela Valley, best known as the place described in the Bible where the Israelites were encamped when David fought Goliath (1 Sam. 17:2, 19). Continue upward to Jerusalem, for dinner and overnight at our hotel overlooking the Judean Hills surrounding the Holy City.

Day 7 - Sunday, October 24, 2021

Jerusalem / Mount of Olives / Palm Sunday Road / Garden of Gethsemane / Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah / House of Caiaphas / Upper Room / Cardo / Western Wall / Western Wall Rabbi's Tunnels / Pool of Bethesda / Church of St. Anne / Lion's Gate

Our first daylight view of the Holy City will be from Mt. Scopus, where we will have time to reflect. We begin our first day in Jerusalem at the Mount of Olives, with an outstanding view of the Old City walls and the Eastern (Golden) Gate. From there we descend by foot on the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Garden of Gethsemane for a service in the Garden with time to reflect in this lovely setting . . . olive trees, perhaps 2,000 years old, still stand today. We travel around the Old City walls, viewing the tombs of Absalom and Zachariah and continue to the House of Caiaphas where Jesus was held the night before His crucifixion. Here we will stand on the same stone steps Jesus would have walked up Mount Zion. We then go to visit The Upper Room (Room of the Last Supper) and have a brief service. After lunch, we walk through the Cardo, the bustling heart of ancient Jerusalem, then visit the Western Wall (the Kotel) where we may place our prayers snugly in the crevices of this Holy Wall. We then begin our visit to the Western Wall Rabbi's Tunnels where we come to an area considered to be the nearest to the Holy of Holies. We proceed to the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of St. Anne, where we can sing in a church with a 10-second echo! We leave the Old City through the Lion's Gate. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 8 - Monday, October 25, 2021

Jerusalem / Bethlehem / Shepherd's Fields / Church of the Nativity / Yad VaShem / View the Knesset / Shrine of the Book and Dead Sea Scrolls / Scale Model of Ancient Jerusalem

Today, we travel the short distance to Bethlehem. There we will view the Shepherd's Fields and tour the Shepherd's Caves and the 1,600 year-old Church of the Nativity. We will have time to shop and see the famous olive wood carvings, a specialty of the Bethlehem artisans. After lunch, we will return to Jerusalem. We proceed to Yad VaShem, the memorial to the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Following, we drive through modern Jerusalem, viewing the Knesset, seat of the Israeli Parliament, then go to the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed and visit the amazing scale model of Jerusalem at the time of Christ. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 9 - Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Jerusalem / City of David / Davidson Museum / Southern Steps to the Temple Mount / Lithostratos / Pilate's Judgement Hall / Ecce Homo / Via Dolorosa / Church of the Holy Sepulchre / Garden Tomb and Communion / Farewell Dinner

We start today with an amazing tour of the City of David. We then re-enter the Old City to visit the Davidson Museum and the Southern Steps to the Temple Mount. We go to the Lithostratos, where we view the actual Jerusalem streets upon which Jesus would have walked, the remains of Pilate's Judgment Hall, and the Ecce Homo Arch. We then walk the Via Dolorosa, passing through intriguing markets and bazaars and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed by many to be the place of Jesus' crucifixion and burial. This afternoon we visit the Garden Tomb, which is considered the highlight of our tour! There we will worship and celebrate communion beside the empty tomb. "He is risen; He is not here!" What a wonderfully meaningful conclusion to this truly memorable day! Farewell dinner at a restaurant. Prepare for early-morning flight to USA. Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 10 - Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Tel Aviv / USA Today we return to Chicago, having experienced a soulfully-enriching spiritual journey of a lifetime.