

# ISRAEL

## *Your Holy Land Pilgrimage Journey*

20 – 31 January, 2019

*Hosted by*

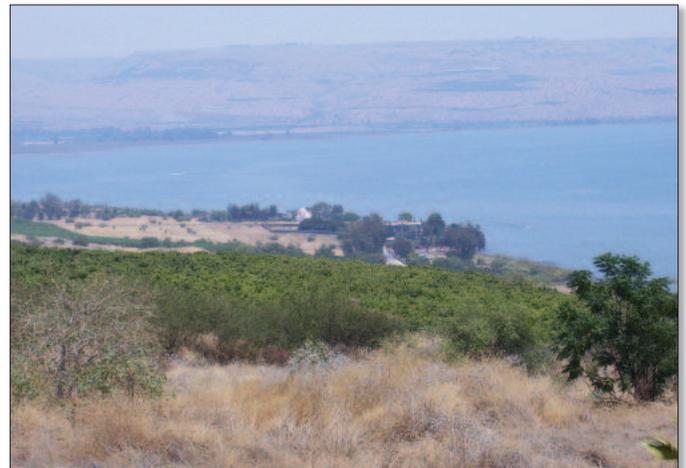
**Rev. David Exley and Rev. Dr. Jeff Crittenden**

*They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”*

(Luke 24:32)



*Tel Aviv, from the ancient port of Jaffa*



*Sea of Galilee, viewed from the Mount of Beatitudes*



*Boat Ride and Fellowship on the Sea of Galilee*



*Temple Mount, viewed from the Mount of Olives*



Travel Industry Council of Ontario  
T.I.C.O. Registration # 2976741

**DAY 1: SUN. 20 JANUARY: Toronto to Tel Aviv**

Today, we depart from Toronto on our overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

**DAY 2: MON. 21 JANUARY: Arrive Tel Aviv**

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we are met by our Israeli Tour Manager, Shimon Zemer who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach, we take the short ride to Tel Aviv. Schedule permitting, we would visit Jaffa.

**Jaffa** – One of the oldest towns in Israel and considered one of the oldest ports in the world! Cedars of Lebanon sent by King Hiram of Tyre (destined for Solomon's Temple) were unloaded at Jaffa. It is here that Peter brought Tabitha back from the dead and, when in the home of Simon the Tanner, he prophesied the vision of the pure and impure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15; Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42)

From here, we check into our hotel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea where we rest and enjoy our 'Welcome to Israel' dinner. **(B, D)**

**DAY 3: TUE. 22 JANUARY: Tel Aviv**

Our first full day in "The Land" has us visiting the following sites of Tel Aviv:

**Independence Hall** – Visit the hall where, on May 14, 1948, the declaration of Independence was signed.

**Palmach Museum** – Learn about the underground military history of this elite unit created in 1941.

**Nachalat Binyaman Market** – Walk through this lovely street market, specializing in all sorts of different arts and crafts. Experience the atmosphere of the local artisans.

Dinner will be at our hotel in Tel Aviv. **(B, D)**

**DAY 4: WED. 23 JANUARY: Mediterranean Sea and journey to Upper Galilee**

Today, we leave Tel Aviv and head for the Upper Galilee. En-route, we shall visit:

**Caesarea** – The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate made his base. Here, we will tour the Roman aqueduct, restored theater and crusader city.

**Mount Carmel** – Overlooking the City of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side, we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:18-45; Isaiah 33:9)

**Megiddo** – Hebrew for **Armageddon**. Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here, King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; I Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12; Revelation 16:16)

**Nazareth** – Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted to throw Jesus over the cliff.

Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38; John 1:46; Matthew 2:23)

Dinner will be at Kibbutz Ginnosar, located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, this will be home for the next three nights. **(B, D)**

**DAY 5: THU. 24 JANUARY: Upper Galilee**

After breakfast, we begin journeying north to the Tel Dan nature park where we see the spring waters of the River Jordan rise from the ground. Onwards from here, we shall visit:

**Hazor** – Once one of the largest cities in all of Canaan. The multi layered Tel of Hazor is a fascinating site that offers intrigue and insight into five thousand years of civilization. It was here that Deborah and Barak fought against Sisera. Captured by Joshua and raised to the ground, this city was eventually rebuilt by Solomon in the 10th century BC. (Joshua 11:10-14; Judges 4:2; I Kings 9:15)

**Tel Dan** – This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history.

**Caesarea Philippi** – Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the City of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat-footed god, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples His purpose, His Church, and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah. (Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

**Golan Heights** – Later today, we have the opportunity to view Israel from both Mt. Bental and the Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee.

Dinner will be back at our kibbutz this evening. **(B, D)**

**DAY 6: FRI. 25 JANUARY: Sea of Galilee and boat ride**

This morning, we visit the Sea of Galilee and the following Biblical sites:

**Magdala** – Located within one kilometer from our kibbutz, we have one of the latest Biblical excavation digs. We have the chance to visit what has been unearthed so far from the ancient seaside town of Magdala. (Luke 8:1-3)

**Korazin** – Location of Galilee's most intact ancient synagogues, Korazin was a very important Jewish town. Jesus rebuked the people of Chorazin for their lack of faith and for spurning his 'miracles'. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13)

**The Mount of Beatitudes** – Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee, the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. (Matthew 5:1-8)

**Capernaum** – The center of Jesus' Galilee! Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan Monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1; 4:13)

**Tabgha** – Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes, this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21; 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

**Church of the Primacy of Peter** – It is here that Jesus appears to his disciples for the third time after his resurrection on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The night before, Peter and several other disciples had sailed out on the lake to fish but caught nothing. In the morning, a man appeared on the shore and called out to them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. Doing so, they caught so many fish they couldn't drag the net back into the boat. At this point, Peter recognizes Jesus and promptly jumps out of the boat to wade to shore to meet him. (John 21: 1-24)



**Ginossar** – Here, we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986, this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved, it is a timeless reminder of life during that time. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride** – We end our day with a memorable time in our private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner will be back at our kibbutz tonight. Tonight is Shabbat! **(B, D)**

**DAY 7: SAT. 26 JANUARY: Beth Shean, Jericho, Jerusalem**

After breakfast, we leave the Sea of Galilee and head towards Jerusalem but not before visiting:

**Yardenit** – The baptismal site located on the southern shores of the Sea of Galilee where the river Jordan flows southwards.

**Bet She'an** – The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are today still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7-8)

After Beth She'an, we head further south and pass **GILGAL** where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover there after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

**Jericho** – We drive to Old Testament **Jericho**, home of Rahab the harlot and where the walls came tumbling down. In the New Testament Jericho is close to where **Jesus healed Bartimaeus**.

After another fascinating day, we make our way back 'up' to Jerusalem. The Mt. Zion Hotel will be our home whilst in Jerusalem. We will view the Old City from Mt. Scopus. Within walking distance from the Jaffa Gate, we are perfectly located to enjoy the old city. Dinner will be served at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

**DAY 8: SUN. 27 JANUARY: Jerusalem**

Our first full day in Jerusalem includes the following:

**Mount of Olives** – We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here, we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

**Garden of Gethsemane** – The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. – *“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”* (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

**House of Caiaphas** – Located under the current St. Peter of Gallicantu Church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

**Church of St. Anne** – Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple. (John 5:1-9)

**Via Dolorosa** – The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill.

**Holy Sepulcher Church**- Stations X- XIV on The Via Dolorosa.

**Mount Zion** – Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David, this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25)

**Upper Room** – The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

**DAY 9: MON. 28 JANUARY: Bethlehem, Jerusalem**

This morning, we drive through the new City of Jerusalem en-route to Bethlehem.

Upon arrival at **Bethlehem**, we shall visit the **Church of the Nativity** and **Shepherd's Field**.

From Bethlehem, we head to Tel Aviv but not before we visit:

**Yad Vashem** – Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

**Shrine of the Book museum** – Here, we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

**Scale Model of Jerusalem** – This fabulous reconstruction of the old City of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during Herodian times.

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

**DAY 10: TUE. 29 JANUARY: Masada, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea**

After breakfast, we drive into the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit:

**Masada** – This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here, we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders.

**Ein Gedi** – This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (I Samuel 24; Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

**Qumran** – Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here, we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947.

**Dead Sea** – No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

**DAY 11: WED. 30 JANUARY: Jerusalem**

Our day in Jerusalem focuses in and around the Temple and old city:

**Temple Mount** – Pending access to the site, we will see the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

**Davidson Centre** – This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.



**Western Wall and Tunnels** – Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews. Here, we can observe the Orthodox Jews pray relentlessly along with many Christians. Some of us may wish to leave a hand written note placed in the crevices of the Western Wall. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

**Garden Tomb** – Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association, these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41)

From Jerusalem, we depart for Tel Aviv, but not before we visit:

**Valley of Elah** – This is the traditional site of the encounter between David & Goliath. The brook of Elah still exists to this day. (I Samuel 17:1-58)

**Emmaus** – It is here that Jesus appears after his death and resurrection before two of his disciples. (Luke 24:32)

Our journey ends with our arrival back to Tel Aviv. Tonight is our 'Farewell dinner'. A wonderful time to share and reflect on a truly inspirational journey! **(B, D)**

**DAY 12: THU. 31 JANUARY: Journey Home**

This morning, we depart for Tel Aviv Airport and our lunchtime departure to Toronto. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B, L)**

*Though we have left the Holy Land, it shall never leave us!*

**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner**

**INCLUDED**

**Air travel:** Air travel from Toronto.

**Hotels:**

Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv  
Kibbutz Ginnosar, Sea of Galilee  
Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Meals:** Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily with refreshments, tea and coffee.

**Transportation:** Air conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

**Sightseeing:** Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

**Tour Guide:** Government licensed Tour Manager, Shimon Zemer will accompany the group.

**Porterage:** One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

**Bottled water:** (2 per person per day)

**Departure taxes and fuel charges:** Currently \$687

**Gratuities:** Equivalent to USD\$120

**Embarkation package:** An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

**NOT INCLUDED**

**Lunches.** (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.)

**Travel Insurance:**

Christian Journeys requires that you must have – “out of country” – emergency medical insurance equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please contact our office for policy details and premiums.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which does not expire before 31 July 2019. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

**Currency surcharge:** Christian Journeys reserves the right to introduce a currency surcharge. If applicable, this would be assessed 90 days prior to departure. If the total cost of the journey increases by more than 7% the customer has the option to cancel without penalty.

**Fuel surcharge:** At time of print, the airline still implements a fuel surcharge on all of its flights. We have included this amount in the pricing. The airline fuel is subject to change and will be re-assessed 90 days prior to departure.

**Reservations:** Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

**Deposit and final payment:** A deposit of \$400 is required with the signed booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable.

**Travel Insurance:** The Deluxe/Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against all monies paid, except the insurance premium.

**General Health:** All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.

**JOURNEY PRICING**

**12 DAY JOURNEY**

**TORONTO DEPARTURE: \$ 4199CAD**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 999CAD**

**(Based on 30 paid passengers)**



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