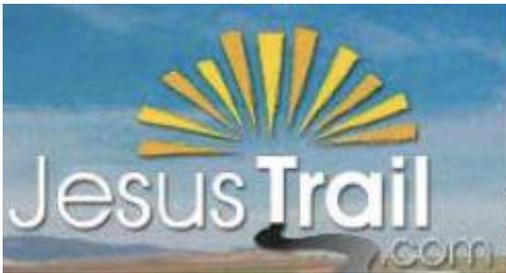


May 1 – 13, 2024



ISRAEL & THE JESUS TRAIL TOUR WITH PASTOR JAKE & DR HEATHER BIRCH



The Jesus Trail is a 65 km hiking trail in the Galilee region of Israel which connects important sites from the life of Jesus plus other historical sites. Experience the steps of Jesus in a way that is authentic, adventurous & educational by hiking through the rugged & beautiful landscape of the Galilee in Israel. Beginning in Nazareth, we will pass through Zippori National Park, Cana, Ilaniya, Kibbutz Lavi, Horns of Hattin, Nebi Shu'eib, Arbel National Park, Tabgha, Mount of Beatitudes & Caperaum.



TEL AVIV – GALILEE – CAESAREA – Mt. Carmel – MEGGIDO –
NAZARETH - CANA – TIBERIUS – CAPERNAUM –
Mt. of Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount) – Bethsaida –
Jordan River – Dead Sea – Qumran – Masada – JERUSALEM –
Mt. of Olives – Garden of Gethsemane – City of David –
Western Wall – Mount Zion – Via Dolorosa – Pool of Bethesda –
Shepherds Field – Israel Museum and much more!

EXPERIENCE
ISRAEL
13 DAYS

ITINERARY: GROUP A = Israel Tour participants without the Jesus Trail
GROUP B = Participants doing the Jesus Trail

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY MAY 1

DEPARTURE FROM TORONTO

Depart for your flight to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY MAY 2

ARRIVAL DAY

Arrive in Tel Aviv.

GROUP A: Transfer from airport to the Grand Beach Hotel in Tel Aviv Hotel. Relax and enjoy dinner at the hotel. (D)

GROUP B: Transfer from airport to Nazareth. Arrive in Nazareth in the evening & settle into the tranquil old-world ambiance of the Fauzi Azar Inn, a restored 18th-century mansion with painted ceilings & marble floors. Relax with sweet mint tea in the common room & meet other travelers. Upon check-in you will be issued vouchers & luggage tags. A time will be arranged for your orientation session with a Jesus Trail Tours staff member. Enjoy dinner at one of Nazareth's many fine restaurants (not included in package).

DAY 3 – FRIDAY MAY 3

GROUP A: JAFFA

After breakfast we take a short drive to Jaffa, one of the oldest port cities on the Mediterranean coast, whose first written record dates back to the 15th century BC. Although integrated with Tel Aviv, Jaffa is quite different. Famous for its ancient slate houses & narrow winding stone roads, it feels a little like some ancient cities and towns in Asia. Take some time to shop at the famous Jaffa Flea Market and take in the amazing views & historical landmarks. Later in the afternoon, enjoy some time at the beach. (B,D)

GROUP B: NAZARETH

Start your day with a fresh & healthy breakfast before setting out to explore old city Nazareth. Wander the old city streets, breathe in the smell of spices, soak in history and spirituality at ancient churches, & haggle for souvenirs in the historic marketplace. Enjoy some free time to explore & grab lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, walk to Nazareth Village for a Parable Walk through a recreation of 1st century Nazareth, complete with houses, a synagogue, terraced farmland, and an olive press all authentically recreated in 1st century style. Enjoy dinner at one of Nazareth's many fine restaurants (not included in package cost). (B)

DAY 4 – SATURDAY MAY 4

GROUP A: HAIFA – CAESAREA

Enjoy a nutritious breakfast & then it's off to explore. Perched on a cliff in the Carmel mountains, the 'Muhraqa' site marks one of the most spectacular events in the bible – a contest between Jehovah, the God of the Israelites, and the Pagan deity of Ba'al. Today, the site is a monastery maintained by the Carmelites, and is a popular pilgrimage destination. (B, D)

GROUP B: NAZARETH TO CANA – 15.5 KMS

Eat a traditional Arabic breakfast of fresh pita bread, salads, cheeses & eggs. Carry water & a packed lunch with you– the rest of your luggage will be transferred to your accommodations. Ascend out of the old city & walk to Zippori National Park to visit the archeological ruins of the main administrative city in the Galilee at the time of Jesus. Admire the exquisite Byzantine mosaics, drink in the view from atop the Crusader fortress & take a stroll through the ancient cistern system. Take a lunch break & refill your water before returning to the trail through the small village of Mashhad to arrive at Cana, traditional site of Jesus' first miracle. Take a rest & have a snack at Cana Wedding B&B before visiting the Orthodox & Catholic churches commemorating the water to wine miracle. Eat a home-cooked meal with your hosts. (B, D)

DAY 5 – SUNDAY MAY 5

GROUP A: NORTHERN ISRAEL – ACRE - METULA

Today we have a full day exploring many sites in northern Israel. Metula is the center of tourism in the Upper Galilee. Israel's northernmost town is a quiet country village with a view of Mt. Hermon & the green Galilee landscapes with waterfalls. One of the most historic towns on the Mediterranean coast, Acre ('Akko' in Hebrew & Arabic) is a walled port city first settled in the Bronze Age. Continuously inhabited since, the old town is now protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its citadel, mosques & baths date largely from the Ottoman era, while earlier Crusader-era remains sit almost intact. (B, D)

GROUP B: CANA TO KIBBUTZ LAVI – 13.9 KMS

Arise early for a hearty breakfast & do some stretching before ascending out of Cana to walk along a forest ridge with peaceful valley views. Stop for a break in a pleasantly shaded forest. Visit a nearby ancient Roman road (5 min from route), part of the Via Maris which connected the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee. Walk up a pleasant hill dotted with ruins, to arrive at Kibbutz Lavi, one of very few religious Jewish kibbutzim in the country. Enjoy the swimming pool & peaceful grounds & a kosher buffet in the dining room. (B, D)

DAY 6 – MONDAY MAY 6

GROUP A: TEL AVIV

Today we spend our last day in Tel Aviv at your leisure. Explore one of the many museums including the Palmach Museum which reflects the trials & tribulations for forming the state of Israel. The Museum of the Jewish People is another great place to visit where you will discover the history of the Jewish people in Israel. You may also choose to spend the day at the beach or shop at the many outlets nearby your hotel. (B,D)

GROUP B: KIBBUTZ LAVI TO MOSHAV ARBEL – 17 KMS

Eat breakfast & head out across agricultural fields to ascend the Horns of Hattin– a volcanic structure where a famous Crusader battle took place. Relish your first glimpse of the Sea of Galilee & the sweeping views into Arbel Valley. Continue down the rocky hillside to Nebi Shu'eib, the holiest shrine for the Druze religion. Visit the tomb of Jethro, father-in-law of Moses. Don't forget to refill your water bottle! After lunch, continue the trail through Arbel Valley past ancient olive groves & the ruins of Hattin village. Rise out of the valley to Moshav Arbel, where you will stay in charming rustic cabins & eat dinner cooked on the premises by your hosts. (B, D)

DAY 7 – TUESDAY MAY 7

GROUP A: BEIT SHE'AN – NAZARETH - CAPERNAUM

After breakfast we will travel back in time as we make our way to the ancient city of Beit She'an. Here you will see the remains of the first King of Israel, Saul was placed. We will also visit an impressive ruin like the Roman theatre and bathhouse before making our way to Nazareth, where our Lord Jesus spent his childhood and youth. Visit Mary's well & then while in Nazareth we will enjoy an experience of a first century open air museum that reconstructs village life in Galilee in the time of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Then we make our way to the Sea of Galilee and meet up with the group that completed the Jesus Trail. Spend the night at hotel in Tiberius. (B,D)

GROUP B: MOSHAV ARBEL TO CAPERNAUM

Start early for the stunning morning light from Arbel Cliffs. Carefully descend the steep trail down the mount, passing ancient cliff dwellings & caves. Drink from the fresh spring at Wadi Hamam before continuing to Tabgha via rolling agricultural land. Explore the mosaics at Tabgha, the traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000. Continue around the northern side of the Sea of Galilee to visit the church of St. Peter. Ascend a small ridge to visit the Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Finish your journey at Capernaum by wandering the ruins of the city that was the center of Jesus' ministry, and spending a moment of prayer in the church built over the home of Simon Peter. Meet the shuttle for transportation to Tiberias & the Sea of Galilee. You will stay overnight at the Nof Ginnosar Kibbutz Hotel & meet up with the travelers that did not participate in the Jesus Trail hike. (B, D)

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY MAY 8

GOLAN HEIGHTS - CAPERNAUM - TIBERIAS

Make your way to the Golan Heights to visit the Druze villages & old Syrian bunkers. Entering Banias (Caesarea Philippi), you will see that Israel is not all desert, as the lush green surroundings mark the source of the Jordan River. We will also see the ancient city of Tel Dan, the northernmost city in Israel. Along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, see where Jesus began his teachings. Sit within the ruins of the ancient synagogue as well as visit the octagonal church built over Peter's house. Next, go to Tabgha, the site of the Loaves & Fishes miracle & Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached the "Sermon on the Mount." Tour the bustling city of Tiberias before returning to your hotel for the night. Sail in a boat across the Sea of Galilee to experience the tranquility & scenery where little has changed during the past 2000 years (subject to conditions) This sailing will include a fish lunch. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 – THURSDAY MAY 9

TIBERIUS – JORDAN RIVER - JERUSALEM

Today after departing Tiberius, we journey through the Jordan River Valley to Qsar Al Yehud, the original site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Then we make our way to the magnificent city of Jerusalem. Experience a magnificent panoramic view of the city from the Mount of Olives before heading over to the Church of the Agony and Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus went after the Last Supper. Next, visit the Israel Museum, which is home to the famous Dead Sea Scrolls and the model of Jerusalem from the Second Temple period. Visit Mahane Yehuda to experience the flavors, aromas, colors and the traders' interaction with the crowds, at the largest open market in Israel. (B, D)

DAY 10 – FRIDAY MAY 10

JERUSALEM: THE OLD CITY

Begin your journey through the Old City in the Jewish Quarter where you will stop at the famous Western Wall or, "Wailing Wall". Continuing along the Via Dolorosa, pass the Stations of the Cross on your way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus took place. Next, head to Mount Zion to visit the room believed to be the site of the Last Supper and the Tomb of King David, which is housed in an incredible thousand-year-old building. Brace yourself for a powerful journey through the Holocaust with a visit to Yad Vashem, a massive complex and museum dedicated to the memory of Holocaust victims. In the afternoon you will visit Ein Karem, where John the Baptist was born (B, D)

DAY 11 – SATURDAY MAY 11

MASADA - QUMRAN – DEAD SEA

Spend the day out in the Judean desert stopping at Masada, an incredible mountain top fortress built by King Herod in 30 BC. Later, it became the last stronghold for a group of Jewish zealots whose tragic story has become a symbol of perseverance, faith and ambition. The well-preserved remains are accessed by cable car and offer an incredible view of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea. Visit Qumran, a site close to where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found on your way to the Dead Sea where you can end the day "floating" in the salty, therapeutic waters. Spend the night in Jerusalem. (B, D)

DAY 12 – SUNDAY MAY 12

SHILOH - BETH-SHEMESH - GARDEN TOMB

Today we will visit Shiloh, the place where the ancient tabernacle of the Lord was erected when the people of Israel entered into the promised land. Then we will visit the city of Beth-Shemesh. We will continue to visit the valley of Ella, where the David and Goliath had their conflict. After lunch we will return to Jerusalem to visit the Garden Tomb where we will have a time of reading of scripture and prayer. We will also include a visit to the Rabbi's Tunnel, the Temple Institute, the Robinson Arch and Southern Steps. There will be time to shop in the bookstore before we board the bus and return to the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 13 – MONDAY MAY 13

DEPART ISRAEL FOR HOME

This morning we make our journey back to the airport. We reflect on all the memories of this incredible tour to Israel. (B)

GROUP A – WITHOUT JESUS TRAIL

\$3399 CAD per person based on double occupancy - Flights not included*

GROUP B – WITH JESUS TRAIL

\$3099 CAD double occupancy only- Flights not included*

ITINERARY & ACCOMMODATIONS

- 5 Nights Tel Aviv, Grand Beach Hotel (Group A)
- 5 Nights
- 2 Nights Sea of Galilee, Nof Ginnosar
- 4 Nights Jerusalem, Grand Court Hotel
- All ground transfers in Israel (1 piece of luggage per person)
- Licensed English speaking Tour Guide
- Buffet Breakfasts & evening Dinners daily at the Hotels
- All entrance fees
- All taxes

*Prices are per person based on double occupancy (add \$1559 CAD for Single Supplement) land only (flights not included)

Triple occupancy rate is \$3,299 CAD per person

- Deposit: \$500 CAD per person (refundable until January 1, 2024 - a \$100 CAD pp cancellation fee applies)

- Final Payment: Full payment is due January 1, 2024

- Passports are required for international travel.

Not included in Tour Price:

- Airfare (Please contact us for flight options @ 1-877-641-3053)

- Gratuities: Tips to Tour Guide, Driver, Waiters and Bellboys (suggested per person per day:

Guide \$6 USD, Driver \$3 USD, Dining Room Staff \$3 USD, Bellboys \$3 USD).

- Some meals as indicated in the itinerary (Included meals are B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

To book your trip, or for more information, contact:

Dave Smith at 905-641-3053 / 1-877-641-3053

Travel Only Beyond a Dream & Canadian Christian Tours

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