

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

16 - 30 October 2017

WITH
PASTORS ROSS & DIANE SMITH



Tour Focus: Encounters with local Arab & Jewish believers; seeing Biblical sites and enjoying nature trails.

Featuring: Jerusalem, Galilee, Caesarea, Mt Carmel, Dan, Jericho, Samaria, Shiloh, Masada, Dead Sea, Jaffa

DAY 1: Monday, 16 October

Depart Brisbane to Bangkok for your connecting flight to Tel Aviv, Israel. (Meals in Flight)

DAY 2: Tuesday, 17 October

Early arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, Israel. We will refresh ourselves in the Biblical Landscape of Neot Kedumim. Explore historic Caesarea Maritima, the Roman Capital of Judea, where Peter followed God's leading to visit Cornelius (Acts 10) and where he proclaimed the gospel to the Romans (Acts 24-26). "So King Ahab sent all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel. And Elijah came unto the people" (1 Kings 18:20, 21). Visit and teaching at Muchraka on Mount Carmel, where the Prophet Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, and offering a spectacular view over the Valley of Jezreel. En route to Galilee we will pass through Nazareth and Cana. Overnight Galilee (BD)

DAY 3: Wednesday, 18 October

Visit Gush Chalav, a Christian village on the border to Lebanon. An introduction to the Aramaic Maronite Christian community in Israel. Meet with Shadi Khalloul, responsible for the recruitment of (Arab) Christians for the IDF and president of the Aramaic Christian Association. Discuss the position of Christians in the Israeli society and the rest of the Middle East. Meet Israeli soldiers, young guys that are responsible for Israel's safety on Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Picnic lunch at Caesarea Philippi. Walk through the Dan National Park. Overnight Galilee. (BLD)

DAY 4: Thursday, 19 October

Sail on the Sea of Galilee in a replica of a boat from the time of Jesus. Disembark at Nof Ginosar and view the ancient fishing boat. Stand on the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount "Leaving Nazareth, he (Jesus) went and lived in Capernaum. From that time, he began to preach" (Matthew 4: 13, 17). Visit the ruins of Capernaum, the home of Jesus as well as the apostles Peter, Andrew, James and John and the tax collector Matthew. Time of reflection at Tabgha. St Peter's Fish lunch at Decks Restaurant. Afternoon hike in the Arbel National Park. Overnight Galilee. (BLD)

DAY 5: Friday, 20 October

Then Jesus came from Galilee down to the Jordan to be baptized" (Matthew 3:13). Visit to Qasr el Yahud, the traditional site where John the Baptist baptized and where Joshua and the Israelite entered the Promised Land. Visit Tass Al Saada's 'Seeds of Hope' Ministry in Jericho. Short stop at Qumran - where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered before arriving to our Dead Sea, Oasis at the Ein Gedi Resort. Time to enjoy the spa facilities and a float in the medicinal waters of the Dead Sea. Overnight Ein Gedi. (BD)

DAY 6: Saturday, 21 October

Enjoy the flora and fauna as we hike through the Nature Reserve to the Ein Gedi Falls, David's hiding place from Saul. Free time to enjoy the beautiful surrounds at the Dead Sea, Ein Gedi Resort. Overnight Ein Gedi. (BD)

DAY 7: Sunday, 22 October

Visit to Masada, situated on the top of a mountain overlooking the desert panorama to Jordan in the west and the Dead Sea and Jordan to the east. The thrilling story of the site reveals the courage of the Jewish defenders of Masada and their battle against the conquering Romans. Descend Masada over the Roman Ramp. Seven sculptured relief panels

reflecting the crucifixion and seven life-size bronze figures reflecting the Holocaust. Visit to the Fountain of Tears, a dialogue between crucifixion and holocaust. An impressive art series made by Rick Wienecke in Arad. Visit Beer Sheba and the Light Horse Memorial Park and the various locations around Beer Sheba where the famous charge took place. Ascend the Mountains for Israel up to Jerusalem for Overnight. (BD)

DAY 8: Monday, 23 October

The Shrine of the Book houses the Dead Sea Scrolls where you will read for yourself the words of Isaiah. Nearby is the ¼ acre scale model of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. An introduction to modern Israel and the Jewish people as we view the Israeli Knesset or Parliament, visit the famous Menorah and spend time at Yad Vashem, Israel's main Holocaust remembrance and education center. Overnight Jerusalem. (BD)

DAY 9: Tuesday, 24 October

Bethlehem, the city where Jesus and King David were born. Meeting with the Palestinian Pastor Naim Khoury for an update about Christianity in the Palestinian Authority. Drive to the top of the Mount of Olives, known as the site from where Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection. Enjoy the breath taking view of the Holy City of Jerusalem. From the Garden of Gethsemane walk in the pathway of Jesus to Caiaphas House. Enter the Old City through the Lions Gate meandering along the Via Dolorosa through the colourful Old City markets arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Overnight Jerusalem (BD)

DAY 10: Wednesday, 25 October

Lookout on biblical Samaria from Mount Gerizim, the biblical Mount of Blessings. A tour through the archeological findings of the Samaritan temple on top of Mount Gerizim. An encounter with the community of the Samaritans that live on Mount Gerizim till this very day. View over Ancient Shechem with the Tomb of Joseph and Jacob's well, the place known for the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-42) Tel Shiloh was a religious center for the Israelites even before Jerusalem: it was the place where the children of Israel brought the Tabernacle to. Visit the exposition "Until Shilo Comes", visit the ancient excavations of the Biblical city Shiloh and explore the place where the Tabernacle stood for 369 years. Visit the Biblical city of Beth-El, the place where King Jeroboam built his Golden Calf and Jacob dreamt his dream. A small Israeli community resettled Beth-El in 1977. Discover Beth-El's story and meet her people. Overnight Jerusalem (BD)

DAY 11: Thursday, 26 October

Walk through the Biblical City of David, the very roots of Jerusalem, where archeology confirms the Bible. After traversing a newly discovered tunnel connecting the City of David with the Temple Mount, emerge beneath Robinson's Arch to discuss the place and function of the Temple in Jesus' time. Visit the Davidson Center with excavations of the Herodian Temple, as it stood prior to its destruction by Roman troops in the year 70 CE. Visit to the Temple Mount. Explore the Jewish Quarter with its newly constructed Hurva Synagogue, The Cardo with the remainder of the ancient city wall from the time of Nehemiah, Temple Institute- displaying authentically recreated vessels for the New Temple. Overnight Jerusalem. (BD)

DAY 12: Friday, 27 October

Experience in 3D stories of the early supporters of the State of Israel at the Friends of Zion Museum. In the heart of a neighborhood in downtown Jerusalem, the largest open market in Israel was built in 1928, the Machane Yehuda Market. Walking through the market's alleyways is a good opportunity to meet Jerusalem and its fascinating human mosaic. Lunch at the market. "On the first day of the Festival of



Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" (Matthew 26:17). A visit to the Room of the Last Supper, The Coenaculum. According to very old sources, Jesus and his disciples celebrated Passover at this site on Mount Zion. Visit the Western Wall, where people gather to pray for the start of the Shabbat. Join in Shabbat prayers with thousands of others at the Western Wall. Enjoy a traditional Shabbat dinner in a Jewish home. Overnight Jerusalem (BD)

DAY 13: Saturday, 28 October

Morning visit the Garden Tomb. This ancient cemetery is a moving site where we recall the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Spend time in these

peaceful garden surroundings in prayer, song, fellowship and communion. Free time for last minute shopping before returning to your hotel to prepare for the journey home. Jonah's journey, Tabitha's restoration to life, and Peter's conversion of the gentiles all began in Jaffa, where our tour of Israel will finish. Farewell dinner in Jaffa before transferring to Tel Aviv Airport for your return flight home. (BD)

DAY 14: Sunday, 29 October

In flight

DAY 15: Monday, 30 October

Arrival home

European Extensions and Bangkok Stopovers can be arranged with Trish Cortizo, Olive Tree Travel.
* A six-hour block in day room is included for the layover in Bangkok



TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE ISRAEL:

AUD \$5940 (per person twin share) Single Room Supplement Additional **AUD \$1520**

*Price is subject to a minimum of 20 full paying adults, currency fluctuation, and increase in Airline Ticket/Departure Taxes - conditions apply

*Please note if you are not travelling with a companion and a suitable same gender roommate is not available, you will need to pay the single room supplement

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy airfares Australia/Tel Aviv/Australia
- Accommodation in quality hotels with meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner as indicated BLD)
- Transportation - bus and driver for touring and group transfers to and from airport
- Government licensed tour guide - English & Hebrew speaking
- Entrances fees - Historical sites, Museums, Parks etc
- Tipping & Gratuities
- Airline Ticket & Departure Taxes for Tour Package Flights

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Travel Insurance - Mandatory, if you are not choosing the option offered by Olive Tree Travel a copy of your policy is required
- Drinks with meals
- Individual activities on free days
- Individual Airport Transfers apart from the group
- Single room supplement (\$1520 additional to tour cost)
- Visas
- Wheelchairs

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Obtain a booking form from Trish Cortizo 0421638453/1300 550 830 or trish@olivetree-travel.com.au
2. To secure your place a deposit of \$400 is required as soon as possible
3. Final balance will be due by 16th August, 2017

NB: The touring itinerary may be rearranged according to the local situation on any given day. However, our tour operator Keshet Educational Journeys, will endeavour to include all the content.

WHO TO CONTACT:



Trish Cortizo
Olive Tree Travel
0421 638 453 Ph: 1300 55 08 30
trish@olivetree-travel.com.au
www.olivetree-travel.com.au