

It is our pleasure to WELCOME YOU ABOARD this "Explore Israel" and Bible Study Tour with Deane Woods and Simon Lawry. For 16 days, we will spend **SPRINGTIME IN THE LAND** and enjoy Israel's 70th Anniversary Celebrations - all set against her rich history and replete with God's promises to His people in "The Last Days"! Thank you for coming on board with this FRIENDS OF ISRAEL Tour. We're here to help you in any way - just ask! Your fellow servants for Yeshua's sake ... Deane & Simon



1st-20th March 2019 "SPRINGTIME IN THE LAND"

Day 1: Friday 1st March - Depart Australia

We depart respective Australian Ports today (Thai Airways) for Suvarnabhumi Airport Bangkok. All meet at the "Bus/Coach/Limo Gate" after exiting customs. Meet our driver for transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. It is within walking distance of Pratunam Markets and Electric City Hi-Tech Stores – places most might want to visit tomorrow!

Overnight: Eastin Makassan Hotel, Bangkok

Day 2: Saturday 2nd March – In Bangkok

Enjoy a Buffet Breakfast in the hotel Restaurant, then choose between having a restful day relaxing alongside the pool, or going on a self-organised tour of the City/Royal Palace, or visit Pratunam Markets/Electric City for bargains aplenty! Bags packed, checked out & in the Lobby by 6 PM for "Combined Introductions & Briefing". The Coach will then transfer us back to the Airport for the required Security Check & flight to Tel Aviv, just after midnight.

Day 3: Sunday 3rd March – Arrival in Israel

On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we will clear Customs, be met and assisted, collect our luggage, proceed to the "Welcome" Atrium Hall and be introduced to our Coach Driver and Tour Guide. We will then be driven to Tel Aviv's CBD and go to Israel's "Independence Hall" where David Ben Gurion announced the establishment of the modern State of Israel (14/05/1948). After a snack lunch we will embark on a guided tour through Joppa seeing Simon the Tanner's House and other significant places mentioned in Scripture.

Overnight: Ramat Gan (Kfar Maccabiah Hotel & Health Resort)

Day 4: Monday 4th March – Rehovot; Ela Valley (David & Goliath)

Our day begins (as every day MUST!) with being on board the Coach by 8 AM. Following a brief devotion & prayer, we travel 30 minutes to Weizmann Institute in Rehovot and tour the home of Israel's first President, Chaim Weizmann. This famous post graduate Research Institution was named after him. Afterwards, we will go to a kibbutz where another famous piece of Israel's history took place, ostensibly "in a Bakehouse and Laundry"! After a snack lunch, we will drive to the Ela Valley where Kira will explain the story of David & Goliath in a way you would never have heard it before!

Overnight: Ramat Gan (Kfar Maccabiah Hotel & Health Resort)

Day 5: Tuesday 5th March – Overlooking Gaza; Siderot (or other Town); Be'er Sheva

Today will be "another first" for most in our group! Rabbi Bowman will come on board; he is associated with "Operation Life-Shield" and will explain how transportable "Bomb/Rocket Shelters" are being provided for the Land's citizens (particularly school children) in Kibbutzes throughout southern Israel. We will visit the Black Arrow Memorial lookout over Gaza and visit a nearby University College/School.

After lunch, we will go to Tel Be'er Sheva & see Abraham's Well, the War Memorial Cemetery, the Pratt Foundation Memorial Park & relate the story of the "Charge of Be'er Sheva" on 31/10/1917.

Overnight: Be'er Sheva (Leonardo Hotel Negev, Be'er Sheva)

Day 6: Wednesday 6th March – The Negev; Wilderness of Zin (Israel's 40 Years' Wanderings)

We head further south today, deep into the Negev! Stopping at various places en route, we will recount the story of Israel's "40 years in the Wilderness" because of their "disbelief" at Kadesh Barnea. Tracing their journeys through the Wilderness of Zin, we will eventually reach the "modern Israel era" by visiting David Ben Gurion's home & his nearby tomb. In the afternoon, we drive to Tel Avdat for further significant events in Israel's history.

Overnight: Be'er Sheva (Leonardo Hotel Negev)

Day 7: Thursday 7th March – Tel Arad and "The Fountain of Tears"

Today we travel to places that continue to make Israel's ancient and modern history "come together" in most unique ways. First up, we travel to Tel Arad where Kira will intrigue us with what happened millennia ago as Israel sought to enter the Promised Land. Then we will visit the "Fountain of Tears" where Israel's past and present are combined in a most amazing way, viz., by being depicted by an Israeli artist with his unique artistic gifts. We then descend to the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea, 400 metres (1,300 ft) below sea level.

Overnight: Dead Sea (Leonardo Dead Sea Hotel)

Day 8: Friday 8th March - Ein Gedi; Ahava factory & Masada

Remember the story of King Saul pursuing David and his men? Today you will see where it all happened. First, we visit to En Gedi Nature Reserve, surrounded by high cliffs and caves. Watch for ibex on the heights and hyrax (conies) on the rocks, as we walk up the valley to the "first Pool" and/or the "Waterfall" cascading from the side of the Rocks further on! Then we drive to the Ahava Factory and see how Dead Sea Cosmetics are made (& purchased!). The afternoon will see us visit the famous site of Masada, from which the phrase "Masada never again!" arose – and we'll know the reason why the expression is used, nationally!

Overnight: Dead Sea (Leonardo Dead Sea Hotel)

Day 9: Saturday 9th March – Qumran; Jordan Valley & Beit Shan

We conclude our visit to the Negev today by visiting the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1948: Qumran. Then we drive northwards up the Jordan Valley to Beit Shan. The awe-inspiring Roman ruins here are outstanding! To the north, we will see the "wall of the city" where the bodies of King Saul and Jonathan were displayed. Then we drive still further north to the "Sea of Galilee" (or Kinneret, in Hebrew meaning "harp") which is basically the shape of this beautiful inland sea that Jesus knew so well. **Overnight: Sea of Galilee (Kinneret) - Magaan Kibbutz Hotel and Resort (our "Base" for 3 days!)**

Day 10: Sunday 10th March – Boat Ride on Galilee; Capernaum; Mt. of Beatitudes; Yardenit

After breakfast, we will meet for a brief Worship and Communion Service and then proceed for a Boat Ride on the Lake. Then we go to Tabgha, Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes and complete this "Resurrection Day" with baptisms at Yardenit for those who have requested same. After Dinner, we will share fellowship and a debrief.

Overnight: Sea of Galilee (Kinneret - Magaan Kibbutz Hotel and Resort)

Day 11: Monday 11th March – Golan Heights; Tel Dan Nature Reserve; Banias; Valley of Tears.

Today we drive further north through Galilee and the Golan Heights. We will visit Tel Dan, see the walls and gate of a city 3,000 years old – one that Abraham entered -, overlook Lebanon, then on to Caesarea Philippi, on through a Druze Village (Snack Lunch) and to the Valley of Tears. Overlooking Syria, we will recapture a "modern miracle" of God deliverance of Israel in the "Yom Kippur" War, in October, 1973

Overnight: Sea of Galilee (Kinneret – Magaan Kibbutz Hotel and Resort)



Day 12: Tuesday 12th March – Nazareth Village; Elijah & Mt. Carmel; Megiddo

Departing by 8 AM, we will drive past Cana to Jesus' hometown, Nazareth. There will see Arab Israelis in authentic 1st-century garb, going about their daily business in settings that duplicate what it was like in Jesus' day. Then we proceed to the Mt. of the Precipice (4 kms away) where those who'd heard Jesus in the synagogue and were offended, mobbed Him to throw him over the cliff. We then drive to Mt. Carmel & overlook the Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon!), followed by an instructive tour as to why Megiddo was/is/will be so strategic. We then ascend Tel Megiddo with its multi layers of ancient city ruins, finally descending into the city's Aqueduct & resurface outside the original walls.

Overnight: Ramada Inn, Netanya.

Day 13: Wednesday 13th March – Caesarea Maritima; Bethlehem

After another filling Buffet Breakfast, we will drive to another of Israel's premier historical sites: Caesarea. We will be told the history of this whole region, including important Bible characters. After lunch, we will go to Bethlehem, see the Shepherd's Fields, sing, visit a Believer's Shop for "Bethlehem Memorabilia" like Olive Wood carvings etc, and then drive back through the Check Point to Jerusalem for Dinner.

Overnight: Ibis Jerusalem Hotel (our "Base" for the rest of our Tour).

Day 14: Thursday 14th March – Israel Museum; Rabbinical Tunnels; City of David; Hezekiah's Tunnel & The Pool of Siloam

We begin today with a purposive visit to the Israel Museum. Here, we will see the "Model of Jerusalem" so that we are orientated to what the city was like in Jesus' time. While there, we will visit The Scroll of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) and other relevant exhibitions. Then it is on to the "Western Wall" & a walk through the Rabbinical Tunnels beneath the Temple Mount, followed by a video of the City of David, an exciting (voluntary) walk through "Hezekiah's Tunnel" (dug 2,700 years ago!) to the Pool of Siloam.

Overnight: Ibis Jerusalem Hotel.

Day 15: Friday 15th March – Yad Vashem; Spafford House

Today we will have prepared our hearts to be reminded of the atrocities of WW2's antisemitism. We will visit Yad Vashem Memorial. After an initial briefing, we will make our separate ways through the Memorial to the Children's Memorial, "The Track to Nowhere" Rail Wagon and finally the "Flame of Remembrance". After a snack lunch in the Restaurant, we will go to "Spafford House" (of Horatio Spafford's "It is well with my soul" fame). Here, we will find a fitting "Prayer Venue" for an extended season of personal prayer for Israel, her people, and the peoples of the Middle East.

Overnight: Ibis Jerusalem Hotel.

Day 16: Saturday 16th March – Mt. of Olives; Gethsemane; Bethesda Pools/St Ann's Church; Via Dolorosa; Sisters of Zion Convent (Bronze Relief of City); Lithostrophos; Garden Tomb.

We start the day with a drive through the city to East Jerusalem, take a group photograph on the Mt. of Olives, look back across the Kidron Valley to the Temple Mount & the Dome of the Rock, walk down "Palm Sunday" road to Gethsemane. Then we proceed to St. Ann's church with its 9-fold "echo reverberations" as we sing songs of praise. The Bethesda Pools and excavations await us outside, plus certain sections of the Via Dolorosa, & a Bronze Relief showing us the ancient City of Jerusalem and the probable place of the Crucifixion. After seeing the stone pavements where the soldiers gambled for Jesus' "seamless robe", we point out (not visit) the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and make our way to the memorable Garden Tomb where we conclude the day with fellowship, praise & worship & a "Breaking of Bread" (Communion) Service.

Overnight: Ibis Jerusalem Hotel.

Day 17: Sunday 17th March – Temple Mount; Jewish Quarter & Cardo; Southern Steps of the Temple/Baptisms on Day of Pentecost related to the Upper Room; Western Wall (Kotel)

Today we will go to the Temple Mount – another memorable, spiritual experience! We then move on to the City's Jewish Quarter, the Cardo, the Broad Wall (of Nehemiah's time!), then buy a snack lunch in the "Square", plus (optional) shopping in the Fountain Square. On regathering, we will walk to the Southern steps of the Temple Mount, the Davidson Centre Museum and conclude the day's activities and our time in Jerusalem at the Kotel (Western Wailing Wall) before returning to our Hotel.

Overnight: Ibis Jerusalem Hotel.

Day 18: Monday 18th March – Packing; Own Arrangements; Airport & Departure

FREE MORNING: Breakfast/Packing/Check Out/Own Arrangements, till coach departure for the airport and our farewell festive lunch en route. Listen carefully for all final announcements relative to our flight to Bangkok. Either Transit Passage in Bangkok to meet your driver to take you to your pre-booked Hotel for overnight stay or continue on to your relevant Australian/New Zealand flight to your capital city.

Day 19: Tuesday 19th March – In flight

Day 20: Wednesday 20th March – Arrive Australia/New Zealand

Return home with a heart full of praise, and happy, never-to-be-forgotten memories of The Land and her people, The "city of the great King"!



FULL PACKAGE PRICE:

AUD \$6,890*
per person twin share

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:

AUD \$1,865

*Price is based on minimum of 40 paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply

HOTELS TO BE USED (or similar)

- Bangkok - Eastin Makassar (1 Night)
- Ramat Gan - Kfar Maccabiah (2 Nights)
- Beersheba - Leonardo Negev (2 Nights)
- Dead Sea - Leonardo Plaza (2 Nights)
- Sea of Galilee - Maagan Kibbutz Hotel & Resort (3 Nights)
- Netanya - Ramada Inn (1 Night)
- Jerusalem - Ibis Jerusalem Hotel (5 Nights)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class fares with Thai Airways/El AL Airlines via Bangkok
- 15 nights hotel accommodation in Israel including all daily buffet breakfasts & dinners
- 1 night accommodation in Bangkok with breakfast and return transfers from airport to hotel.

- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as outlined in the itinerary including local English speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Airport meet & assist, transport throughout in luxury coach
- Entrance fees to museums & all sights as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Tips & gratuities throughout
- Headsets
- 1 Farewell lunch

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Lunches (except farewell lunch)
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Incidentals such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Travel Insurance
- Any services not listed in Price Includes" above.

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest & obtain a booking form from Deane Woods or Les Crawford from FOI or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place a deposit of AUD\$350 per person is required by 1st July 2018 (Unless sold out prior)
3. Full payment is required by 14th January 2019

WHO TO CONTACT:

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