

A PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE LAND OF JESUS THE MESSIAH:

Led by
The Rev'd Dr
Sharne Rolfe



4th – 17th January 2020

Join with Sharne Rolfe and fellow pilgrims on this journey of a lifetime through the Holy Land, following in the footsteps of Jesus from the Shepherds' Fields and Bethlehem, to the Holy City of Jerusalem. Marvel at the beauty of the Judean Desert, walk along the tranquil shores of the Sea of Galilee and explore the ruins of Capernaum where Jesus lived and worked. Gaze at snow-capped Mt Hermon, visit Qumran and Masada and immerse yourself in the wonders of ancient and modern-day Jerusalem. Enter into the life of Jesus with visits to the Church of Nativity, the Jordan River, Caesarea Philippi, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb. Encounter the complexities of modern-day Israel and Palestine, coming home with priceless memories of a land that is ancient and sacred, modern and magical.

DAY 1: SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Melbourne this afternoon on your Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong. On arrival in Hong Kong proceed to security and check in for your connecting Cathay Pacific flight to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2: SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY ARRIVE TEL AVIV, JAFFA, BETHLEHEM

We arrive into Tel Aviv this morning, where we are met by our waiting tour guide and driver. We will have a tour of Old Joppa. Transfer to our hotel in Bethlehem for a leisurely afternoon, early dinner and overnight (D)

DAY 3: MONDAY 6TH JANUARY SHEPHERD'S FIELD, BETHLEHEM

Our tour starts this morning after breakfast. We'll explore Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus. We will visit first the Shepherd's Fields, the traditional site where the angels announced the birth of the Messiah to shepherds watching their flocks by night. After a service in one of the cave chapels, we proceed to the nearby Herodian, Herod's fortress and palace in The Judean Desert. Drive back to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Holy Nativity, reputed to have been built over the cave in which Jesus born. Time permitting, explore Bethlehem before meeting at the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B D)

DAY 4: TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY WADI QELT, JORDAN RIVER, NAZARETH, SEA OF GALILEE

Today we leave Bethlehem and travel to Nazareth the boyhood home of Jesus, and the site of the annunciation to Mary. We first drive through the Judean desert stopping to admire Wadi Qelt and the monastery of St George set into the desert cliffs, then proceed to Yardenit, close to where the Jordan River meets the Sea of Galilee, to visit the baptismal site there and for a service to renew our baptismal vows. On the way we have a chance to observe the various agricultural practices that have been developed to allow intensive crop production in this very arid region. In Nazareth we will visit the Church of the Annunciation, decorated with artwork of Mary from around the world. We will then follow the shores of the Sea of Galilee, through Tiberias, to the Nof Ginosar kibbutz Hotel. (B D)

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY SEA OF GALILEE

We spend today on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, visiting places well known to us from the Gospels. A winding road takes us to the heights above the Sea of Galilee and to the Church on the Mount of Beatitudes. This area is associated with the Sermon on the Mount and provides lovely views over the surrounding Galilean countryside. We will next visit Tabgha, where the exhortation of Jesus to Peter 'feed my sheep' and the feeding miracle of the loaves and fishes are both commemorated. We will here celebrate Holy Communion in one of the outdoor chapels. At lunch we will have an opportunity to sample the local delicacy (Saint Peter's fish) from the Sea of Galilee. From Tabgha, we will visit the beautiful Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles and then travel to Capernaum, where we will see the ruins of the ancient synagogue there and a house that may once have been home to Peter. Return to Nof Ginosar for dinner and a relaxing evening. (B, L D)

DAY 6: THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY GOLAN HEIGHTS AND CAESAREA PHILIPPI AFTERNOON AT LEISURE

This morning we drive through the Golan Heights to the foot of snow-capped Mount Hermon, a possible location of the Transfiguration, where Jesus came with his disciples to a 'high mountain' at a very pivotal moment in his ministry. Near here is the site of ancient Caesarea-Philippi which we will visit. There will be time to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, as well as to read and prayerfully reflect on the biblical narratives associated with the Transfiguration and Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Return to our hotel for a quiet afternoon, dinner and overnight (B D)

DAY 7: FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY JESUS BOAT, BOAT RIDE

Enjoy a leisurely final day at our kibbutz Hotel Nof Ginosar. In the morning we will see the first century 'Jesus boat' recovered from the Sea of Galilee some years ago. We will then take a boat trip ourselves onto the Sea

of Galilee, pausing on the lake for a service of prayer and praise before returning to the kibbutz for dinner and overnight. (B D)

DAY 8: SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY JERICHO, MASADA, QUMRAN, JERUSALEM

Leaving Nof Ginosar after an early breakfast, our drive will take us south through the Jordan Valley, past the site of ancient Jericho, and into the Judean desert, to Masada, Herod's hilltop fortress where the Jewish rebels made their last stand against an advancing Roman army in 70 AD, and which can be ascended today by cable car, affording incredible views over the wilderness. We then visit the site of Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. After an (optional) opportunity to have a "float" in the Dead Sea, we will travel north, to the Holy City of Jerusalem, and then check in to our hotel, the Olive Tree, located opposite St George's Anglican Cathedral and College. (B D)

DAY 9: SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY JERUSALEM

Today, being Sunday, we will attend as a group the morning service at St George's Cathedral. We will stay on for the after-service fellowship to meet with local parishioners. After lunch we will leave for the Shrine of the Book museum, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, and see the remarkable scale model of the ancient city of Jerusalem, which will prepare us for what we will see and experience in the remaining days. Drive to Mt Scopus for a dramatic early evening vista over Jerusalem. (B D)

DAY 10: MONDAY 13TH JANUARY JERUSALEM

Drive to Bethany, the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Continue to the Mount of Olives, and have a wonderful view of Jerusalem as we begin our descent on foot, following the path taken by Jesus on the first Palm Sunday. Half way down we will pause in the Church 'Dominus Fleuit' ('The Lord wept') for prayers. At the bottom of the Mount we will come to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations.



Entering the Old City through the Zion Gate we will walk through the Jewish Quarter, to the site of the Pool of Bethesda. Exit the Old City through the Zion Gate and visit the sites on Mt Zion including the Upper Room (room of the Last Supper), Dormition Abbey and the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu, where Caiphas' prison is thought to be. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B D)

DAY 11: TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY JERUSALEM

This morning we began early, commencing before breakfast the Via Dolorosa or 'Stations of the Cross,' a meaning-filled and deeply spiritual walk through the City of Jerusalem, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After breakfast back at the hotel, we will proceed to the Western (or 'wailing') Wall on the Temple Mount. This afternoon, there will be an optional visit to the Jewish Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem, or for those who wish, time to explore the Old City – including the City walls - on foot. (B D)

DAY 12: WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY FINAL DAY IN JERUSALEM

On our final day in the Holy City, we will call in to the Garden Tomb, another possible site of the burial and resurrection, and celebrate Holy Communion in one of the outdoor chapels there. Following some free time (which includes an optional visit to a local craft shop for last-minute souvenir shopping), we will transfer to Abu Gosh for our final farewell valedictory meal together at a delicious Middle Eastern restaurant as our time as pilgrims comes to an end. (B, D)

DAY 13: THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY DEPARTURE

We'll transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv for our Cathay Pacific flight. (B)

DAY 14: FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY ARRIVE HOME

Arrive into Hong Kong. Transfer to your Cathay Pacific Flight back to Melbourne. Arrive back to Australia with wonderful memories from the trip!

TOTAL ESTIMATED PACKAGE PRICE TO ISRAEL:

Price per person **AUD\$5,990*** (twin share) Optional Single Supplement: **AUD\$1,225**

*Price is based on minimum of 15 paying participants. Subject to change. Conditions apply

PROPOSED HOTELS TO BE USED (or similar):

Bethlehem	St Gabriel Hotel	2 nights
Tiberias	Kibbutz Nof Ginosar	4 nights
Jerusalem	Olive Tree Hotel	5 nights

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy airfares Melbourne - Hong Kong – Tel Aviv with Cathay Pacific or Qantas/Thai International and El Al Israel Airlines.
- Current airport and departure taxes
- 11 nights' hotel accommodation in shared twin rooms
- Daily breakfasts and dinners
- 1 St Peters Fish Lunch
- 1 Festive Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.
- Transport by deluxe air-conditioned motor-coach
- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- All tips, portorage and gratuities

PRICES EXCLUDE:

- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Lunches except those mentioned above
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance

- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Sharne or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a booking deposit of \$350 per person is required by 3rd December 2018 (unless sold out prior)
3. The balance payment is required by 4th November 2019

ATTEND AN INFORMATION EVENING:

Wednesday, 31st October @ 7:30pm
St Nicholas' Church Mordialloc
9 Bear St Mordialloc

- * Have your questions answered
- * Meet your fellow travellers
- * Enjoy a full briefing by Israel Expert, Steven Green, Director of Olive Tree Travel

**Please RSVP to Katrina Maggs at Olive Tree Travel
by 24th October, 2018**

Hope to see you there!



WHO TO CONTACT:



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