

# The Life & World of Jesus

*A Shores Study Tour*

*Hosted by Church of the Outer Banks*

*26th December 2019 – 3rd January 2020*

*We will trace the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the First Century Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry and a better application of His teachings for us today.*

**Day 1: Thursday, 26th December**

## **ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE**

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. From the airport we will travel to our hotel in **Jerusalem**. After dinner, the Director of Shores will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share some encouraging testimonies. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 2: Friday, 27th December**

## **CITY OF THE GREAT KING AND FREE AFTERNOON**

We begin with a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, and we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. In early afternoon, we will head to the extensive and impressive site where Jerusalem's history all began, the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David's conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**. The rest of the day is free for rest, shopping or exploring other sites of interest.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 3: Saturday, 28th December**

## **IN THE STEPS OF JESUS - Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection**

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with a panoramic overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**, the site of Jesus' ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a **tomb from the time of Jesus**, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to **Gethsemane**. Next we cross the **Kidron Valley** and enter the Old City through **Stephen's Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. Time permitting, we may walk parts of the **Via Dolorosa**, stopping at several of the places mentioned in the Bible, and arrive at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 4: Sunday, 29th December**

**JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS - The Temple at the Center**

This morning we will have the option of attending the worship services at Christ Church, the oldest protestant church in the Middle East. Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City to see the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. This evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 5: Monday, 30th December**

**THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness**

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our day at **Masada**, Herod the Great's magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. From Masada we drive north to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. We will finish our afternoon by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**. Overnight: Kalia Kibbutz, Dead Sea

**Day 6: Tuesday, 31st December**

**THE JORDAN VALLEY - "In the World But Not of It"**

Today we journey north up the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley**. We will study the cultural tensions that existed at the time of Jesus, both between Greco-Roman culture and Jewish culture (and later the early church), and also between the Jewish religious establishment of the day and various spiritual reformers. Our first visit of the day will be **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel - the Dead Sea Scrolls. From here we continue up the Jordan Valley to the arid Judean Wilderness, passing by the region of **Jericho** - the oldest and lowest city on earth. Our next stop is the Biblical city of **Beit Shean** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. We end our day at our accommodation in Galilee. Overnight: Karei Deshe Youth Hostel, Galilee

**Day 7: Wednesday, 1st January 2019**

**AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE - Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus**

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century, and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context. We will start the day at **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. Our next stop will be the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings. After a short walk or drive down the hill we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. At lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection, we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. Later in the afternoon we will visit Kibbutz Ginosar to see the "**Jesus Boat**", a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time. After dinner we will meet with a local believer. Overnight: Karei Deshe Youth Hostel, Galilee

**Day 8: Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

**LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah**

We start our day at **Mt. Arbel**, where an easy stroll brings us to panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee, giving an excellent orientation for our studies in the area. For those who would like we will have the option to hike down. We continue along the route of the ancient **Via Maris** to **Megiddo**, one of King Solomon's cities, and according the Book of Revelation possibly the assembly point for the armies marching to the battle of Armageddon. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We conclude our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of **Caesarea Maritima**, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome.

Overnight: Kfar Maccabia, Tel Aviv

**Day 9: Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

In the morning we drive to the airport to catch the flight home.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*