

The Life & World of Jesus

A Shores Study Tours Itinerary

October 16 thru 26, 2020

Group Leaders Kathy and Chris Scruggs

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 Friday October 16,

Afternoon or Evening Arrival: DINNER & REST

From the airport we will travel to our hotel on the **Mediterranean Coast**. Time permitting, we may have an opportunity to stroll on the beach or swim before dinner. Later we will have a brief meeting for introductions, some orientation, and prayer. Overnight: Grand Beach Tel Aviv

Day 2 Saturday October 17

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS – Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah

Today we travel north up the coast and then eastwards inland to the Galilee, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. We begin 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. We then travel to Zichron Yaakov to visit the **Rothschild Gardens**. Founded in the 19th Century by Baron Rothschild and is a leader in sustainability research within Israel. We conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. Overnight: Kinar Sea of Galilee

Day 3 Sunday October 18

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. That evening will have a special visit from Israeli believer Cindy Bayer. Overnight: Kinar Sea of Galilee

Day 4 Monday October 19

NORTHERN ISRAEL – "Who Do Men Say That I Am?" Part One

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. We begin by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. We will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin**, where we will take another close look at life in

New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. We continue into the mountains of Northern Israel with a visit to **Rosh Pnina**. Rosh Pnina was one of the first Jewish communities built in the late 19th Century. We will explore the quaint shops of local artists high on the mountainside while also eating lunch here. In the afternoon, we will stop to enjoy a visit to one of the wineries in the Golan Heights before returning to the hotel.

Overnight: Kinar Sea of Galilee

Day 5 Tuesday October 20

NORTHERN ISRAEL - "Who Do Men Say That I Am?" Part Two

Today we travel back north we will explore the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** - Israel's highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. Our next stop is **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Along the way we will pass **Druze Villages** before coming to **Mt. Bental**, a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Our final stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **OT city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham, and consider ancient Israel's apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teaching. Overnight: Kinar Sea of Galilee

Day 6 Wednesday October 21

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

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. 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. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. *If the tour leader wants to do baptisms, the group can visit a baptismal site on the Jordan River.* Our last 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. Time permitting, We will finish our afternoon by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**.

Overnight: David Hotel Dead Sea

Day 7 Thursday October 22

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 begin the drive north and the ascent into Jerusalem. Arriving in Jerusalem our first stop will be at the **Israel Museum**. Here we will be able to view a portion of the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will visit the model of Jerusalem at the time of the 2nd Temple before checking into our hotel within the Old City. After dinner, the Director of Shoresh will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share some encouraging testimonies. Overnight: Sephardic House Jerusalem

Day 8 Friday October 23

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE - A Garland Instead of Ashes

Today we study both a great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of

Christians committed to the Biblically prophesied physical restoration and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people. We travel to **Yad VaShem**, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people. We will enjoy lunch in the village of **Ein Kerem**, believed to be where Mary visited Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. From here we take the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the **“Shepherd’s Fields”** where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. Overnight: Sephardic House Jerusalem

Day 9 Saturday October 24

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**. From here we walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our day with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus’ burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: Sephardic House Jerusalem

Day 10 Sunday October 25 JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS – The Temple at the Center

The morning begins with a church service at Christ Church, the oldest Protestant Church in the Middle East. You will join with Israeli’s and visitors from around the world for church. 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. After a visit to the **Western Wall** place of prayer, Judaism’s most holy site, we will take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. 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. Time permitting at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. We then travel across town to enjoy worship with the King of Kings Congregation.

Overnight: Sephardic House Jerusalem

(For those groups with a late night flight, rooms will be held until departure for the airport.)

Day 11 October 26

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Depending on flight departure time, there are several options for this day.

Early Morning Departure: Straight Home

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

Afternoon Departure – Option A: THE HOPE OF RESTORATION

This morning, we focus on the miraculous restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. We begin our day at **Beit Immanuel**, the CMJ ministry center in Jaffa. Here we will learn of CMJ’s ministry to the Jewish people over the past 160 years. Time permitting, we may also visit

the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh and the location of Simon the Tanner's house. From here we go to the airport. *If your group has already done these sites as part of a morning arrival on Day 1, we can visit other interesting site(s) along the coast, Sharon Plain, or Judean Hills.*

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

- *Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.*
- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *It is mandatory for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.*