

# Bible Lands Seminar

Galilee • Jerusalem • Masada • Tel Aviv • Bethlehem • Nazareth • Cana

10 days



Sea of Galilee

## Included Highlights:

- Ascend the Mount of Beatitudes and revel in the site of the Sermon on the Mount
- Embark on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, stopping by Ginnosar to view a fisherman's boat dating back to Jesus' time
- Visit Masada and float in Dead Sea
- Tour the Chapel of Ascension, take a walk through the Garden of Gethesmane and rejuvenate your soul in the Church of All Nations
- Travel to the renowned Bethlehem, visiting the Church of Nativity and the Milk Grotto
- Pray and reflect at the Garden Tomb, walk where Jesus walked, visit sites relevant to the Bible and see the Bible come alive
- Fully Escorted
- Meals as mentioned in itinerary

## YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

**DAY 1 – NEW YORK** – Depart from a New York area gateway to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

**DAY 2 – GALILEE** – Upon arrival at the Tel Aviv airport, we transfer to our hotel in the Galilee for dinner and overnight. Already we begin to feel the spirit of this land enchanting us. Today, we will be visiting sites from the Bible and sharing the experience of walking in the footsteps of Jesus. (D)

**DAY 3 – GALILEE** – We start our day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit Ginnosar to view the fishermen's boat, found on these shores, dating back to Jesus' time. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount to reflect on the serene beauty and the event that took place here. On to Tabgha, site of the Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves and the Feeding of Five Thousand, to see the chapel built over the rock commemorating the primacy of Peter. We then visit Capernaum, the city of Jesus and Peter to see the house of Peter and an ancient synagogue, where Jesus preached and gathered his disciples. We then drive across the Jordan River via the land of Gaderenes. In the afternoon we drive north to Caesarea Phillipi, now called Banias, where Peter made his confession of faith, and identified Jesus as the Messiah. And Jesus said "thou art Peter upon this rock I will build my church". Matt . 16-17-18. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 4 – GALILEE** – Today take a scenic drive past Cana of Galilee to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's

Well. On to Muchraka, the location of Elijah's altar during his confrontation with the false prophets of Baal. Continue through the Valley of Armageddon to the excavation site at Tel Megiddo. On to Caesarea, built by Herod the Great in 22 B.C. Visit the Roman Theater, the Aqueduct and Herodian Port. It was here that Cornelius was baptized by Peter (Acts 10:24-28) and Paul was brought to trial (Acts 25). Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 5 – JERUSALEM** – This morning our first stop is in the ancient city of Magdala, home town of Mary Magdalene. Here we find a complete first century town and synagogue where it is believed that Jesus himself visited, taught and preached at this synagogue. The church called Duc in Altum in Latin “Launch into the deep” (words of Jesus in Luke 5:4, fishers of men) and it honors the women of the Gospels. Continue to Yardenit, the Baptismal Site on the Jordan River. We continue to the old Roman city of Beit Shean to visit the impressive Roman ruins. From here we drive down the Jordan Valley bypassing Jericho, on our way to Bethlehem. We will have time for lunch (on your own) and shopping. Visit the Church of Nativity, the Milk Grotto and Shepherds' Field. Proceed to our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 6 – JERUSALEM** – This morning we enter the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate visiting the Pool of Bethesda, the Chapel of the Flagellation, and the Ecce Homo Arch. Continue through the Bazaar to the last stations of the Cross Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Gabbatha pavement. Continue to the Jewish Quarter visiting the Cardo, the “Wide” wall built by King Hezekiah and the Herodian mansion. We continue to the Temple area and Mt. Moriah, to see the Dome of Rock, visit the Western Wall, the Ophel Archaeological park and Museum. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 7 – MASADA** – This morning we drive past the Inn of the “Good Samaritan” to arrive at the shores of the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth. We drive along the Dead Sea to Masada, the fortress where the Jewish Zealots held off the armies of the Roman Empire before choosing suicide over surrender. Continue to Ein Gedi, where King David found shelter from the wrath of King Saul. After lunch (on your own), we will have the opportunity to enjoy a short “float” in the Dead Sea. On to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 in a cave and then return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 8 – JERUSALEM** – Full day of leisure to pursue personal interests, or to shop. (B,D)

**DAY 9 – TEL AVIV** – Drive by the Knesset to the Israel Museum, visiting the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed and see the model of Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple. Drive to Mount Scopus to view the impressive home of the Hebrew University and to the Mount of Olives for an outstanding view of Jerusalem. Visit the Chapel of the Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations before driving along the Kidron Valley seeing the Tombs of Absalom, Zechariah and James. We continue to Mount Zion to visit the Room of the Last Supper and King David's Tomb. We end our day with a visit to the Garden Tomb where we have an orientation beside Calvary and also where our Communion service will be held. (Mark 15 42:47) Enjoy a farewell dinner before being transferred to the airport. (B,D)

**DAY 10 – NEW YORK, NY** – Today our journey ends with good memories as we head home. Arrival the same day.

\* (B,L,D) = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## **MT SINAI AND CAIRO EXTENSION**

**DAY 1 - JERUSALEM** - Those passengers taking the extension after a full day of sightseeing will return to their hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 2 - JERUSALEM /MT. SINAI** - After breakfast today we head south to the city of Eilat on the Red Sea. We motor coach through the Negev Desert, whose history dates back to the tenth century forts constructed by Solomon to defend King David's rule over the Negev. Marvel at the wind carved rock formations known as King Solomon's Pillars. Our motor coach arrives at Solomon's southern port of Etzion Geber, known today as Eilat. We then we continue to the Taba border to cross over into Egypt. (B,D)

**DAY 3 - MT. SINAI/CAIRO** - An early wakeup call starts our journey to climb Mt. Sinai following in the footsteps of Moses. A prayer service can be held on the summit. As we descend the mountain, we are able to see the majestic view of the desert. We visit the Chapel of the Burning Bush and the Museum of the Skull. The monastery of St. Catherine, the oldest on earth, is where monks have been witnesses to the Christian faith since the fifth century AD. Our motor coach takes through the Sinai Desert over the Suez Canal to Cairo where we will stop at the tomb of President Anwar Sadat and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight (B,D)

**DAY 4 - CAIRO** - After breakfast our sightseeing today will include the great Pyramids at Giza and the world renowned Sphinx. Here if one wishes, they have an opportunity to ride a camel. Into the desert. We then drive to the fantastic Egyptian Museum which contains many treasure mummies, and artifacts and treasures of King Tut. (Tutanka-Amon). Our day also includes a visit to the Citadel, and the Mohammed Ali Mosque which offers a panoramic view of Cairo and the Nile. We also have time to visit the exciting bazaars to where you can bargain for memorable treasure. Dinner and overnight in Cairo.

**DAY 5 - CAIRO/USA** - Today we say farewell as we are transferred to the Cairo Airport for our flight home. Arrival back in USA the same day with good memories of your trip.

## **AMMAN AND PETRA EXTENSION**

**DAY 1 - JERUSALEM / JERASH / AMMAN** - Morning transfer to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Jordan and drive to the city of Jerash, known as the Pompeii of the East and the city of a thousand pillars. We will have time to walk around the ancient ruins, which includes churches, the triple arched gate, the high hippodrome, the Roman theater and Forum dating back to the 4th century. As we leave Jerash we drive to the beautiful city of Amman past the King Hussein's Sport City. We check into our hotel and have time to walk around and shop before dinner. (B,D)

**DAY 2 - BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN/PETRA/AMMAN** - After breakfast we depart for Bethany beyond the Jordan. The area at Tell-Ai-Kharrar on the River Jordan has been identified as the biblical site where John was living in a Byzantine Monastery with a large baptismal pool, and findings from the first century AD confirm that this site was inhabited during the lives of Jesus and John the Baptist. We then drive south to the long lost city of Petra. This city with its rose-colored temples and amphitheatre was carved out of multicolored rocks and is a UNESCO world heritage site which is more than 2,000 years old. Petra dominated the trade routes and was completely lost to the world for 300 years. In 1812 it was “rediscovered”. The Apostle Paul studied here for 3 years and Herod came from this city. After exploring this exciting sight we return to Amman for dinner and overnight. (B, D)/p>

**DAY 3 - MADABA, MT NEBO, TEL AVIV** - Today we bid farewell to Jordan and head for the Holy Land first stopping at Madaba where we will see some of the finest Byzantine mosaics. We then visit Mt Nebo with a remarkable view of the Jordan Valley where we can see the Dead Sea and Jerusalem. It is here that Moses looked over the Promise Land but did not cross over. We cross the Allenby Bridge where we are met by our guide and driver and head for the airport for our flight home. We will stop for dinner along the way. (B, D)

**DAY 4 - NEW YORK, NY** - Today our journey ends with many blessings and memories as we head home. We arrive home the same day.

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