

United Theological College Holy Land Study Tour

Dec 5 – 16, 2019, escorted by Rev Dr Ian Robinson, tour by *Olive Tree Travel*

FOR students, staff, clergy, friends, family and church members. Tell them about it!

Your discipleship will be more grounded, your Bible come alive, for the rest of your life. Yes, truly.

Day 1: Thursday 5 Dec **Depart Australia**

Day 2: Friday 6 Dec **Arrive Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Tiberias**

Arrive Tel Aviv this morning, where we are met by our waiting tour guide and driver. We tour Old Joppa, then drive north to our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight. We stay here for 4 nights.

Day 3: Saturday 7 Dec **Sea of Galilee**

Enjoy a morning boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. A prayer service will be held either onboard or on the shores. We then visit the ancient fishing boat dating from the 1st Century that was found in the seabed at Nof Ginosar Kibbutz. We visit the Mount of Beatitudes, on to Capernaum the centre of Jesus preaching ministry, the Church of Tabgha with its famous mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes and the Church of Primacy where Jesus said to Peter "Thou art the rock". Dinner at our Tiberias hotel.

Day 4: Sunday 8 Dec **Golan Heights, Banias, Kursi, Free afternoon**

Head up to the Springs of Banias, also known as Caesarea Philippi where Peter said "Thou are Christ". Returning towards the Sea of Galilee via the old monastery at Kursi . We will have the afternoon free to relax in Tiberias, and catch up with yourself! Dinner and overnight is in Tiberias.

Day 5: Monday 9 Dec **Sephoris, Nazareth, Nazareth Village, Magdala**

Start with a visit to the amazing site of Sephoris, where Jesus probably laboured as a tradesman. Then a short drive to 'Nazareth Village', a reconstructed site, capturing life in 1st Century Nazareth. Then go into Nazareth and see the oldest Church of the Annunciation with Mary's Well. Return to Tiberias via the newly opened Magdala Centre, where Mary Magdalene met Jesus. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Tuesday 10 Dec **Caesarea, Mt Carmel, Megiddo, Jerusalem**

Today we head to Jerusalem via the coast. First the ancient town of Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon. Visit Mt Carmel (Muchraqa) with its view across to the Mediterranean Sea, where Elijah held contest with the prophets of Baal. Take the coastal highway to Caesarea Maritima once capital of the Roman province. There we will see the Roman and Crusader remains and the harbor from which St. Paul was taken prisoner to Rome. Continue to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight, for 6 nights.

Day 7: Wednesday 11 Dec **Mt. Olives, Gethsemane, Mt Zion, Bethlehem**

Drive to the Mount of Olives for a wonderful view of the Old City of Jerusalem. See the Place of Ascension, commemorating Jesus' Ascension and the Pater Noster Church. We then follow the Palm Sunday Road stopping at Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. At the foot of the hill see the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees and the church of All Nations. In the afternoon, visit the Church known as St. Peter in Gallicantu, where Peter denied Christ. See also Caiphas' House, where Jesus was held. Drive south to Bethlehem, enjoy some time to grab a bite and sing an Advent hymn in manger Square, outside the Church of the Nativity, built over the stable-cave of Jesus' birth. Then over to the Shepherds' Fields. Dinner and overnight is in Jerusalem.

Day 8: Thursday 12 Dec**Old City of Jerusalem**

This morning we start early to enter the Old City through St Stephen's Gate and walk along the Via Dolorosa ending up at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, site of Jesus' death and burial. Visit St. Anne's Church, the pools of Bethesda, site of the miracle of the healing. We pass the Ecce Homo where Pilate proclaimed "Behold the man"; then the Western Wall, the most holy place for Jews. Enjoy some time for our own prayer and reflection. Nearby is the Dome of the Rock and the Haram al Sharif or Temple Mount. We will finish the day with Holy Communion at the place called "The Garden Tomb". Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9: Friday 13 Dec**Qumran, Masada, Ein Gedi**

We descend to the Dead Sea today. This morning we drive to Qumran, the remains of the Essene enclave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were hidden. Continue south to the lowest point on earth, to the fortress mountain called Masada, the final stronghold of Jewish resistance to the Romans in the revolt of AD70. Ascend by cable car to see the remains of Herod's Palace and many other excavations found. The view across the wilderness of Judea is fabulous. After a brief stop at the springs of Ein Gedi, where David hid from King Saul, we return up the pilgrims route to Jerusalem for dinner & overnight.

Day 10: Saturday 14 Dec**Free Day in Jerusalem – suggestions and options will be given****Day 11: Sunday 15 Dec****New City of Jerusalem**

After breakfast enjoy a visit to the Israel Museum, the large scale model of first century Jerusalem, the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed and other exhibits. We will pay our respects at Yad Vashem (Israel's memorial to the Holocaust). Enjoy some time this afternoon for shopping in the Old City or wandering through the Machane Yehuda markets. Pack your bags and your thoughts for departure in the morning, after a life-changing experience.

Day 12: Monday 16 Dec Depart for Tel Aviv airport for departure flight home.

Fantastic Price: \$5,990 pp twin share, all-inclusive, except as below.

PRICE EXCLUDES: Lunches; beverages with meals; Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary; Single supplement (\$1325); Travel Insurance; any incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc. Note the following:

1. Prices are valid for travel during the dates specified above.
2. The group must travel outbound together on the same flight to qualify for the group airfare included in this quotation. Persons can arrange other onward flights, with conditions.
3. If a total minimum number of twenty (20) full paying passengers are not reached for the tour, *Olive Tree Travel* reserves the right to re-cost the tour.
4. Price has been quoted using an exchange rate as of Monday 1st April 2019. In the event of a currency fluctuation downwards of more than 3% *Olive Tree Travel* reserves the right to amend prices accordingly.
5. A deposit of \$350 per person is required by 31st May 2019. (Details to be provided.) Full payment is required by 1st October 2019.

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