



## **11-DAY “BIBLICAL ENCOUNTER” TOUR IN ISRAEL WITH AN OPTIONAL PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION**

**DAY 1: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018 – DEPART FOR TEL AVIV, ISRAEL**

**DAY 2: TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018 - ARRIVAL IN TEL AVIV**

Arrive in Tel Aviv. Tour group will be met at airport and assisted with arrival procedures. Dinner and overnight beside the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.

### **Dinner**

**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 - CAESAREA MARITIMA / MEGIDDO / MT. TABOR / MT. ARBEL / TIBERIAS (SEA OF GALILEE)**

Today we depart for the Galilee enjoying stops at the extensive ruins of Caesarea Maritima, an ancient port city, built by King Herod and later becoming the seat of government of the Roman governors, and where Peter proclaimed the Good News to the Roman centurion (Acts 9 & 25). We continue to Megiddo (the valley of Armageddon) & Mt. Tabor, where the early church fathers believed that the Transfiguration of Jesus happened. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 4: THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 – NAZARETH VILLAGE / MT. PRECIPICE / MT. OF BEATITUDES / CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / PETER’S PRIMACY / MAGDALA**

We begin our special time in the Galilee, rich in memories of the life of Jesus, with a short drive to Nazareth to visit “Nazareth Village” – a re-created village offering detailed explanation of what life was like during the time of Jesus. Leaving Nazareth Village, we make our way to Mount. Precipice (also called the Mount of the Leap of the Lord) believed to be the site of the rejection of Jesus described in Luke 4:29 – 30. The people of Nazareth, not accepting Jesus as Messiah tried to push Him from the mountain, but “He passed through the midst of them and went away”. We return to the Sea of Galilee area to visit the Mt. of Beatitudes where we enjoy time for meditation as we reflect on Jesus’ teachings from the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5: 1-15) and enjoy the beautiful view of the Sea of Galilee. We continue along the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum (Mark 1: 31-38), the base of Jesus’ early ministry, the home of Peter, and the site of many healings. We then head to Tabgha, the traditional site of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and Peter’s Primacy - located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We end our day with a visit to Magdala, the

2045 Mt. Zion Road, Suite #395    Morrow, GA 30260

Phone 770.847.0919    Fax 866.670.2768

Email [info@faithbasedexpeditions.com](mailto:info@faithbasedexpeditions.com)

Website: [www.faithbasedexpeditions.com](http://www.faithbasedexpeditions.com)

birthplace of Mary Magdalene. Magdala is a first century city discovered in 2009 with a first century synagogue where it is certain Jesus taught. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

#### **DAY 5: FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018 – GOLAN HEIGHTS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI / TEL DAN / MOUNT BENTAL / BOAT RIDE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE**

After breakfast, we travel north into the Golan Heights along the Banias River to the ancient site of Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where Jesus asked His disciples “who do men say that I am?” (Mark 8:27-30). We enjoy a short hike through the beautiful nature reserve of Tel Dan (named for the tribe of Dan) where we will see the gate of Jeroboam and a new discovery known as the “Abraham Gate” believed to be from the time of Abraham. We continue our day with a drive up to Mount Bental overlook providing stunning views of Mt. Hermon and the Golan area. This is the site of a courageous battle fought during Israel’s war for the Golan in 1973. We end our day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee on board a replica “Jesus Boat”, a fishing boat of the kind used by the disciples of Jesus, for this special time of worship and remembrance of Jesus and his fishermen disciples. We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

#### **DAY 6: SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018 – BEIT SHE’AN / BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN / JERUSALEM**

We begin our journey toward Jerusalem with a brief stop at Beit She’an, one of the best-preserved Decapolis Roman cities. In Beit She’an, the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls (1 Samuel 31:10-12) after the Philistines defeated them. From here we travel to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the site believed to be where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Baptisms can take place for those who want to be baptized in this special location. From here we ascend to the majestic city of Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

#### **DAY 7: SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018 – MASADA / EIN GEDI / QUMRAN / DEAD SEA**

Leaving Jerusalem this morning, we meander through the Judean desert and along the western shore of the Dead Sea. Our first visit is Masada, the fortress built by King Herod and site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Ascending Masada by cable car, we will be able to survey the ruins of the fortifications, waterworks, synagogue, temples and palaces. Continuing along the Dead Sea, we pass by the lovely Ein Gedi, the area where David hid from King Saul (1 Sam. 24: 1-7). We continue to Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were written over 2000 years ago and discovered in 1947. We conclude the day with a relaxing float in the healing waters of the Dead Sea (the lowest spot on earth). **\*\*Please be sure to bring swimsuit, towel (from the hotel), and water shoes as the bottom surface can be rough.** Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

### **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

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**DAY 8: MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018 – ISRAEL MUSEUM TO VISIT THE SHRINE OF THE BOOK AND THE MODEL OF JERUSALEM IN THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD / BETHLEHEM / SHEPHARD’S FIELD CHURCH / CHURCH OF ST. PETER IN GALLICANTU (CAIAPHAS HOUSE)**

We begin our day with a visit to the Israel Museum to see the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed and to see the 1:50 scale model of Jerusalem showing how Jerusalem would have appeared in Jesus' time. We depart for Bethlehem to visit the Shephard's Field Church and shopping at the Bethlehem Olive Wood store. We end our day with a visit to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (Caiaphas House), the site believed to be where Peter denied Jesus 3 times before the rooster crowed. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. **Special Shabbat dinner with a Jewish family.**

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 9: TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018 - MT. OF OLIVES / PALM SUNDAY ROAD / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE / WESTERN WALL / WESTERN WALL TUNNEL / CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER**

We begin our day on the beautiful Mt. of Olives to behold the breathtaking panorama of the Holy City. Our pilgrimage will proceed down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive grove, and the Church of All Nations, where tradition holds that Jesus prayed on the night of His betrayal (Matt. 26:36, John 18:1). Entering the Old City of Jerusalem through the Lion's Gate, we walk to the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a paralytic (John 5:1-15) the most holy site of the Jewish people. We take a short walk for a visit to the Pavement (where Jesus stood while being tried by Pilate). From here we head to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher which commemorates the hill of crucifixion and the tomb of Christ's burial. We then walk to the Western (Wailing) Wall of Herod's temple. Beyond the wall lies the 35-acre temple area purchased by King David (2 Samuel. 24:18-25). On this site now stands the golden Dome of the Rock (the third holiest site in all Islam) and the El-Aksa Mosque. After visiting the Western Wall, we visit the Western Wall Tunnel to walk along the entire length of the Western Wall. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018 - CITY OF DAVID INCLUDING HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL / GARDEN TOMB / FREE AFTERNOON**

We begin our day we go to the City of David to see the archeological remains of David's period and that of the Kings of Judah (2 Samuel 5: 8-10). We will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel, the 2,700-year old tunnel dug during the reign of King Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:30) and remaining as one of the wonders of early engineering. The tunnel ends at the Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed the blind man. **\*A flashlight and good water shoes will be helpful should you choose to walk through Hezekiah's tunnel.** We end our day at the Garden Tomb believed by many to be the burial site of our Lord and Savior. Here we will have communion and visit the burial tomb. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

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**DAY 11: THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018 - FLIGHT TO USA OR OPTIONAL PETRA, JORDAN**

Following breakfast, we check out of the hotel and depart for Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv for return flight to the US.

**Those going on the Optional Petra Extension, will depart the hotel for Petra, Jordan via the Allenby Bridge.**

**Breakfast**

**OPTIONAL PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION**

**DAY 11: THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018 – ALLENBY BRIDGE / PETRA**

The group will need to check out of the hotel before breakfast. Following breakfast, we will head to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Jordan. Once through the border we head straight to Petra for our visit. Dinner and overnight in Petra.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 12: FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 – MT. NEBO / CRUSADER CASTLE / JERUSALEM**

Following breakfast, head back to Jerusalem with stops at the Crusader Castle in Kerak and Mt. Nebo, where Moses spent his last days before ascending into Heaven. We head to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Israel for the journey to Jerusalem. Farewell dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAY 13: SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 – DEPART FOR THE USA**

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for the Tel Aviv airport for the flight back to the USA.

**Breakfast**

***\*\*The itinerary as outlined is an indication of the sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions***

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