



UNION UNIVERSITY

ISRAEL 2011 • JANUARY 12-22

ITINERARY

Led by Dr and Mrs Richard Wells
Dr and Mrs Jim Sibley

Wednesday, Jan 12th:

En route

Today we leave our home airport for Atlanta. We'll then pass through security and board our overnight flight to Israel.

Thursday, Jan 13th:

Tel Aviv

Welcome to Israel! Upon our early evening arrival into Ben Gurion International we will be met and transferred to our hotel in Netanya.

Overnight, The Seasons, Netanya

Friday, Jan 14th: Coastal Route



Nazareth

After enjoying a delicious Israeli breakfast, we'll drive northwards up the Mediterranean coast. First we'll visit ancient **Caesarea**, site of significant experiences of both Peter and Paul. From there we'll travel to **Mount Carmel** and **Muhraka**, to visit the location of Elijah's contest with Jezebel's false prophets of **Ba'al**. Here we'll be able to view the **Jezreel Valley**. We'll then travel to **Meggido**, the site of 21 battles from the Old Testament, one of the "Chariot Cities" of Kings Solomon and Ahab, and where, according to the Book of Revelation, the final battle will take place. Here we'll also get to explore ancient Canaanite ruins. Next we'll visit **Nazareth**, Jesus' childhood home. Time permitting, we may visit **Zippori (Sepphoris)**, the Roman capital of the Galilee in Jesus' day. Then it's on to **Cana**, the site of Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine. We'll then descend to the Sea of Galilee and our hotel.

Overnight, Ron Beach, Tiberias

Saturday, Jan 15th:

Sea of Galilee/The Footsteps of Jesus



Tabgha

After breakfast we'll depart from Tiberias. First stop, the Arbel, for a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee area. Then we'll take a morning **Boat Tour** of the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. We'll visit **Migdal**, the home of Mary Magdalene and see the "**Jesus Boat**" at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar. We'll then drive the plain of Ginosar to **Tabgha**, where Jesus "multiplied the loaves and fish." Next stop is the **Mount of Beatitudes**, then on to the basalt synagogue at **Chorazin** to see where Jesus taught and see the "Seat



Capernaum

Sunday, Jan 16th:



Golan Heights

of Moses.” We’ll also view the **Natural Amphitheater** where Jesus taught, we’ll visit **Capernaum**, home of the synagogue of Jesus’ ministry and site of His teaching and miracles. Next we’ll cross the **Jordan River** and visit the **Decapolis** and **Kursi** where Jesus cast the demons out of a man into a herd of swine.
Overnight, Ron Beach, Tiberias.

Hula Basin/Upper Galilee/Golan

This morning we’ll pass ancient **Hazor** through the **Hula Basin**, known in the Old Testament as the **Waters of Merom**. We’ll hike in the **Dan Nature Preserve** and view the rushing **Headwaters of the Jordan River**. We’ll then visit the **Dan** of the Old Testament, to explore the incredible excavations and altar where the golden calf was worshipped by Israel under King Jeroboam. From there we’ll take a bus to **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter said to Jesus “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Sunday worship at Caesarea Philippi. Next we’ll drive to the **Golan Heights** where we’ll overlook the Jordan Valley and learn about the significance of this area in the Arab/Israel conflict. We’ll then see **Mt. Hermon**, a possible site of the Transfiguration, and drive along the ancient **Damascus Road**. Next we’ll visit **Qazrin** and its reconstructed New Testament village. Then on to **Gamla**, the “Masada of the North,” then descend the **Golan** to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, before we end our day with a visit to **Bethsaida**, home of Peter, Andrew, James, and John. and on to our hotel.
Overnight, Ron Beach, Tiberias.

Monday, Jan 17th: Jordan Valley/Dead Sea



Qumran

After breakfast we begin our day at **Yardenit**, the traditional Jordan River baptismal site. Then we’ll drive down the Jordan Valley to **Beit Shean**, an amazing New Testament Roman city with temples, baths, and a black basalt theater. Drive along the Jordan Valley, with Jordan on our east and the mountains of Samaria on our west, past the oasis of Old Testament **Jericho**, where Joshua led Israel in the siege of the city, and down to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth. Nearby is the site where John baptized in the Jordan River.; and on our right will be the awesome **Wilderness of Judea**. We will visit **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a Bedouin boy. Our guide will share discoveries relating to Essene Qumran. We’ll overlook the ancient oasis of **Ein Gedi** (*the Spring of the Kid [Goat]*), where David hid from King Saul in the caves. Then we drive south along the Dead Sea to our resort hotel.
Overnight, Le Meridien, Dead Sea.

Tuesday, Jan 18th:

Wilderness of Judea/Masada/Jerusalem



Fortress at Masada

This morning we have the option to depart at daybreak and taxi to **Masada** to hike to the top. The rest of us will take the bus to the cable car and ride to top at 8:00 am or stay at the hotel to enjoy the spas. Masada is the most important mountain in Israel's history. Learn the incredible story of the Jewish Freedom Fighters who held out against the Romans in A. D. 73. The story of the struggle, the excavations, and the view from the top, combine for one unforgettable highlight of our tour. We then drive to **Beer Sheva** to see the excavation of **Tel Sheva**, the original site of **Beer Sheva**. **Beer Sheva** is the town most closely associated with the Patriarchs. Isaac and Jacob lived here, and Abraham gave it its name – “The Well of the Oath” – for it was here that he made his covenant with Abimelech. We will drive through **Gat**, on our way to the **Valley of Elah**, where we relive the story of David and Goliath before making our way up into the **Golden City, Jerusalem**. Upon arrival we get an overview of the city from **Haas Promenade**.

Overnight, The Olive Tree, Jerusalem.

Wednesday, Jan 19th: The Holy City of Jerusalem



David's Citadel

From the **Mount of Olives**, our guide will explain the geography and history of Jerusalem. This vivid lecture overlooks where it happened, the **Kidron Valley**, the **Temple Area**, and **The Holy City**. Descending the Mount of Olives by the path of Jesus' Triumphant Entry, visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** discussing Jesus' suffering and his “Passion Week.” Before us is the **Golden Gate** of the Temple Mount. We'll then visit the **House of Caiaphas**, the place of Jesus' early trials when Peter denied Him. We'll then view the **Valley of the Cheesemaker**, the **Valley of Hinnom**, the **Field of Blood**, where Judas took his life, and the **City of David**, the site of Old Testament Jerusalem. We'll then visit “Mount Zion,” including a visit to the **Upper Room**, the traditional site of the Lord's Supper. We'll then enter the city through **Jaffa Gate** and visit the **Citadel Museum of Herod's Palace** at “**David's Tower**.” In the afternoon, we drive to **Bethlehem**, and the **Shepherds' fields**.

Overnight, The Olive Tree, Jerusalem.

Thursday, Jan 20th: Jerusalem old city



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Today we'll discover more of the Old City of Jerusalem. First we'll explore the **Rabbinical Tunnels** along the Western Wall. We'll then see the **Temple Mount**, then visit the **Lions' Gate** and the **Pools of Bethesda**. We'll then visit the **Tower of Antonia**, the **Praetorium**, and **Pilate's Judgment Hall**. Here our Lord was tried by Pilate, beaten by the Roman Cohort, and took up His Cross for Calvary. The **Ecce Homo** begins the traditional **Via Dolorosa** leading to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. We visit the **Jewish Quarter**, including the **Cardo**, the **Temple Institute**, the **Herodian Quarter**, the **Burnt House**, and **Nehemiah's Wall**. Afterwards we'll explore the **Southern Wall Excavations** and depart the old city by the **Dung Gate**. We will conclude the day with a special service at the **Garden Tomb**.
Overnight, The Olive Tree, Jerusalem.

Friday, Jan 21st: Jerusalem-New City-departure



Menorah

Optional free time this morning. Others will be exploring the New City of Jerusalem. First we'll visit the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament, and the **Bronze Menorah** in front of the building. We'll then visit the **Israel Museum**, with options to explore the **Shrine of the Book**, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls, the **Model of First Century Jerusalem**, or the **Archaeological Museum**. We'll finish our day with a visit to **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust memorial and museum. This evening we'll enjoy a **Farewell Meal**, then transfer to Ben-Gurion International Airport for our flight home.

Saturday, Jan 22nd:

En route

Early morning arrival in **Atlanta**. Board your flight back home.

Please note: The itinerary for Israel 2011 is carefully planned based on years of experience, and every effort is made to follow it. However, in any tour, changes may sometimes need to be made owing to any number of factors, including opportunities for different or additional sites. In any case where changes are necessary or desirable, our objective will always be to substitute sites of equal or greater significance.

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

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