



CALVARY UPC
and
PASTOR STEVE & SYLVIA SIMPSON
with
Dr. Janet Trout

Israel – The Holy Land
APRIL 29 – MAY 8, 2024

Day 1 - Monday – April 29

Today, we board our flight for the land of the Bible!

Day 2 – Tuesday – April 30 Arrive in Israel

Arrive at **Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel** where we are greeted, assisted, and transferred to our hotel by the Epic TOURS staff. Overnight on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea! Open your Bible and let your mind drink in the Biblical history you are about to personally experience. You are in the Holy Land! We rest from the long journey to prepare us for our first day of touring.

Overnight in Netanya – Suburb of Tel Aviv

Day 3 -Wednesday – May 1 Caesarea/Mt. Carmel/Tel-Megido/Nazareth Village/Mt. Precipice/Tiberias

We awake in the Holy Land to a sumptuous Israeli breakfast buffet, then transfer by deluxe motor coach to head north on the Coastal Road to view the stately, ancient ruins of **Caesarea**, visiting the **Roman amphitheater** where Paul stood trial. It was here that the Holy Spirit first fell on the Gentiles as Cornelius, the first Gentile of the Church-age, met Peter. [Click here for more information on Caesarea](#). Next, we drive up the Mediterranean Coast to **Mount Carmel**, Elijah's Cave, the place where the Prophet Elijah defeated the false prophets of Ba'al and where God answered by fire. We continue today by driving through the **Valley of Jezreel** [Click here for more information on Jezreel](#) - the prophetic future site of the battle of **Armageddon**. The archaeological site of **Megiddo** is one of Solomon's chariot cities where twenty civilizations can be observed stacked up in the ruins. Driving toward Nazareth, we stop to visit an extraordinary site called **Nazareth Village**, where we step back in time to see a day in the life of the first century Jews who lived in Nazareth as in the days of Jesus. We will visit **Mt. Precipice**. [Click here for more information on Mt. Precipice](#)

(Luke 4:29-30) which is located south of Nazareth, on the cliffs of Mt Kedumim (397M), overlooking the Yizrael Valley and **Mount Tabor**. This is considered by some to be the place



where angry Jewish worshippers drove Jesus away from the Synagogue and attempted to throw him off the cliff. He disappeared before their eyes "in the midst of them".

Dinner and overnight - Tiberias

Day 4 – Thursday – May 2 Explore the Galilee- Lake Kinneret/ Mr. Arbel/Magdala/Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee/St. Peter’s Fish Lunch/Capernaum/Mount of the Beatitudes/ Tabgha/Bethsaida/Kurazim/Kursi (Pig Jump)

After another great Israeli breakfast, we start our day with a service on the Sea of Galilee. Stepping aboard a **Galilee boat** for a calm cruise on the sea, we enjoy an incredible worship service, which will be life changing. For many pilgrims to the Holy Land, this is one of the most memorable. Later, we disembark at **Ginosar** for a short trip to **Capernaum**, where we visit the home of the Apostle Peter where Jesus healed his mother-in-law. Visit **Tabgha** where Jesus multiplied the fishes and loaves. We lunch on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and enjoy a special feast of St. Peter’s Fish. A short bus ride takes us to the **Mount of Beatitudes** where we hear the words of Jesus on the mount where the greatest sermon ever was preached. At the end of our touring day, we proceed to our baptismal site located on the Jordan River, **Yardenit**, for those who wish to be baptized. After baptism, we return to the hotel where another Israeli buffet presents an amazing variety of food for our dinner.

Dinner and overnight - Tiberias

Day 5 - Friday – May 3 The Jordan Valley

After breakfast, we travel to **Beit Shean** (8 am) [Click here for more information on Beit Shean](#) to visit one of the best preserved **Roman Amphitheaters** in Israel. Extensive excavations have uncovered eighteen layers of civilizations. Ancient **Beit Shean** is also where King Saul’s body was retrieved by the brave men of Jabesh Gilead. We travel south toward Jericho, the “City of Palms” spreading out on the west side of the Jordan River at 825 feet below sea level. The Bible site of Tell es-Sultan is in the distance and is the city Joshua destroyed. In Jesus’ day a new center had been constructed on the wadi banks by the Hasmonean rulers and Herod the Great. Continuing south, we see **Qumran**, [Click here for more information on Qumran](#) where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a little shepherd boy and **Ein Gedi** where David fled from Saul. Continuing south through the wilderness of Judea, we will ascend by cable car to **Masada** (by 11:30 am) the fortress built by King Herod the Great. Step back in time to 66 CE when a group of Jewish rebels overcame the Roman garrison of **Masada** [Click here for more information on Masada](#) and settled on the top of Masada until 73 CE when the Roman governor laid siege. The view of the Roman camps can still be seen from atop Masada, as well as a spectacular view of the country of Jordan and the **Dead Sea**. Visit the remains of Herod’s Palace, the Apartments, Baths, Storehouses and Cisterns. It was here the Jewish Zealots made their last stand against the Roman Legions from 70-73 AD. Descend from Masada with a stunning view of the Dead Sea. Leaving the lowest place on earth, we ascend to **Jerusalem, the Holy City**.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6 – Saturday – May 4

First thing in the morning, we arrive on the **Mount of Olives (8 am)** for a breathtaking view of the Temple Mount (Mt. Moriah Genesis 22:2) is seen. The Mount of Olives is where Jesus will return, and the Temple Mount is where the 3rd Temple will be rebuilt prior to His appearing. Walking the pathway from the Mt. of Olives, we pray in the **Garden of Gethsemane (10 am)** with a grand view of the **Eastern Gate** and the **Kidron Valley**. After enjoying the view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, we visit the **Church of All Nations** and read the Scriptures of Jesus' prayer and take time for personal reflection where we literally walk where Jesus walked. We visit **St. Ann's Church** and hear the marvelous acoustics as we sing. Visit the **Pool of Bethesda** where the angel stirred the waters for healing. Following the path from **Pilate's Judgement Hall** through the old city, we experience the sights and sounds of old Jerusalem. We walk the **Via Dolorosa**, the route that Jesus took between his condemnation by Pilate and his crucifixion and burial. In the afternoon, journey to **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherd's Fields. Before returning to the hotel, enjoy a great shopping opportunity in Bethlehem.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7 – Sunday – May 5 Jerusalem, Old City

Jerusalem/Temple Mount 8 am/Western Wall Tunnel 10 am / Western Wall/Hulda Gates/Southern Steps excavations/Jewish Quarter/Temple Institute

[Click here for more information on Jerusalem](#)

Arriving at 8 am, we will visit one of the most incredible sites in all of Judaism, the **Temple Mount**. It is here where the Temple era came to an abrupt halt as it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. On this site, Solomon built the Temple and subsequently, the Divine Presence still abides on this site. Visit the archaeological explorations at the Southern Steps and Huldah's gate. Just below the Temple Mount, on the western side, we will pray at the **Western Wall (Kotel)** which is the closest wall to where the Holy of Holies was located when the Temple was in use during the 1st Century. We will visit the **Western Wall Tunnel (10 am)** which will take you underground. A large portion of the Western Wall is inaccessible, otherwise. You will see stones, models and actual structures which provide clues as to how the Second Temple was constructed. In addition, these artifacts help explain the history of this area through the eyes of all the great empires that once ruled Jerusalem. We begin a tour of the city of Jerusalem. As we tour old Jerusalem, we visit the room of the **Last Supper**, also known as the site of the **Upper Room**, and the traditional site of the **Tomb of King David**, we take a short walk through the **Jewish Quarter** to visit the **Temple Institute (1 pm)** The Temple Institute's ultimate goal is to see Israel rebuild the Holy Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, in accord with the Biblical commandments. Finally, a short walk through the Roman Cardo. End the day with another shopping opportunity at Jerusalem Gates Shop.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 8 – Monday – May 6 City of David/Hezekiah’s Tunnel/Pool of Siloam/House of Caiaphas/Israeli Museum/Knesset Menorah/Garden Tomb/Calvary/Communion Service

We drive to the **City of David (9 am)**, at the **Gihon Spring**, where we learn of how the original city of Jerusalem was established by King David, overtaking the Jebusites. We will visit **Hezekiah’s Tunnel**: A 1750-foot tunnel carved during the reign of Hezekiah to bring water from one side of the city to the other, Hezekiah’s Tunnel together with the 6th century tunnel of Euphalios in Greece is considered the greatest works of water engineering technology in the pre-Classical period. The **Pool of Siloam** is a rock-cut pool on the southern slope of the **City of David**, the original site of **Jerusalem**, located outside the walls of the Old City to the southeast. The pool was fed by the waters of the Gihon Spring, carried there by two aqueducts. An ancient 2000-year-old road leading from the City of David to the Temple Mount has recently been excavated.

Visit the **House of Caiaphas** where Jesus spent the night after his arrest in Gethsemane. Traveling to the **Israeli Museum**, we will visit the **2nd Temple model** of Jerusalem and the **Dead Sea scrolls** (discovered in the caves of Qumran) among other antiquities. We’ll view the **Knesset Menorah** which is a bronze [Menorah](#) weighing 4 tons. It is located opposite the [Knesset](#). It was presented to the Knesset as a gift from the Parliament of the United Kingdom on April 15, 1956, in honor of the eighth anniversary of Israeli independence.

Arrive at the **Garden Tomb (2:30)** where we view the **Hill of the Skull** and walk into the empty tomb. A **communion service** provides an opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ sacrifice and His victory over death. Ministers from your group will lead the service.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9 – Tuesday - May 7

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel to have a final worship service at the **International Biblical College** and fellowship with our UPCI representatives in Israel and Palestine, Tammy and Shawn Turner. The afternoon will be spent on **Ben Yahuda Street**. At the end of the day, we’ll enjoy a **Farewell dinner**, courtesy of Epic Tours. After dinner, we depart for Tel Aviv and check in four hours prior to our flight to the USA. Next year, in Jerusalem!

NOTE: Sequence of sites visited may be adjusted to accommodate local openings and/or closing time limitations. Epic Tours reserves the right to change the Itinerary or hotels and/or omit sites based on schedule requirements or local conditions.