AMERICA ISRAEL TOURS®
Leading the Way to the Land of the Bible

CONNECT COMMUNITY CHURCH

10 DAYS INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL



WHY JOIN US?

The Roots of Your Faith tour allows you to experience your faith on a unique and eye-opening tour to the Holy Land. Bringing Biblical stories to life, this tour guides its travelers through the Holy Land using the Bible as a road map to spiritual discovery.



AIT OFFERS THE ULTIMATE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE AT THE MOST AFFORDABLE PRICE.
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ITINERARY

Day 1 | SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

DEPARTURE

Our Israel Holy Land tour starts today as we depart on our way to Israel – the Land of the Bible. Sit back, relax and enjoy your flight. Get some rest because tomorrow you will be walking where Jesus walked!

Day 2 | SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL / WELCOME TO THE HOLY LAND / VISIT OLD JAFFA

Today we will arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport. You will be met and assisted by our airport representative and transferred to Tel Aviv – Israel's largest and most modern city (20-30 minutes drive). Check in at the Herods Hotel, unpack and rest. Our hotel in Tel Aviv is conveniently located in the heart of the city. After the welcome dinner please join us for our tour orientation meeting, where you will meet your traveling companions and your expert tour guide. Spend free time resting and relaxing at your hotel room or strolling the famous Tel Aviv sidewalk and enjoy your first evening in Israel.

After welcome dinner & orientation meeting – Enjoy an escorted tour to Old Jaffa with your expert guide. For those who would like to explore Old Town Jaffa at night, meet with your tour guide after the welcome dinner. After a short walk on the famous Tel Aviv sidewalk, we will arrive in Jaffa (known in the Bible as Joppa) and walk through the narrow passages of Old Jaffa, believed to be the oldest port city in the world. See the amazing St. Peter Church at night and take in a spectacular view of the Tel Aviv Shoreline from Jaffa's Hilltop. Peter came to Joppa from Lydda to raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead (Acts 9:36-42). While in Jaffa, the apostle stayed at the house of Simon the Tanner. The Church of St. Peter marks the traditional site of Peter's vision of the great sheet.

Day 3 | MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

FROM TEL AVIV TO THE SEA OF GALILEE VIA THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST & THE VALLEY OF ARMAGEDDON: TEL AVIV / COASTAL PLAINS / CAESAREA / MT. CARMEL / MEGIDDO / NAZARETH / SEA OF GALILEE / TIBERIAS

After an early breakfast we will start our day of touring by heading north to the Sea of Galilee. We will have a relaxing drive along the beautiful coast of the Mediterranean Sea and stop at Caesarea Maritima (Acts 9:30 Acts 10 & 24-26), which was the center of early Christians. Here Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10), and it was also here where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26). Next we will stop at Mount Carmel (Muhraka), where Elijah issued his challenge to the False Prophets. Then on to Megiddo (1 Kings 4:28, 9:15 & 2 Kings 23:29) and the Valley of Armageddon (Rev.16:16), to see the remains from Solomon's days, and view the site where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought. We will continue along the Jezreel Valley to visit the town of Nazareth (Luke 1:26, 4:16-29, Matthew 2:23). We will take in an unforgettable view of the city of Nazareth from the top of Mt. Precipice, also known as Mount of Precipitation, or Mount of the Leap of the Lord. It is believed to be the site of the rejection of Jesus, described in Luke 4:29-30. (*If time permits we will also visit the Church of the Annunciation). Next we will drive to Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first public miracle – the turning of water into wine at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11). We will end our first day of touring Israel by driving through the Lower Galilee Region to the beautiful Sea of Galilee and the town of Tiberias. Our centrally located hotel is situated right in the town's center and on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Check in and eat dinner at our hotel before enjoying a free evening to walk along the shores of the Sea of Galilee and explore the town of Tiberias.

Day 4 | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

DISCOVERING THE SEA OF GALILEE, THE UPPER GALILEE AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS: SAIL ON THE SEA OF GALILEE / "JESUS BOAT" / GOLAN HEIGHTS / UPPER GALILEE / CAESAREA PHILIPPI / YARDENIT

After breakfast we will board a wooden boat and sail on the Sea of Galilee as the disciples did 2,000 years ago. We will dock at Kibbutz Nof Geonsar and visit the "Ancient Jesus Boat" – the remains of a 2,000 year old boat that was discovered in 1986. This boat was used at the time of Jesus and his disciples. Visit Magdala, best known as the home of Mary Magdalene. Walk through the ruins of a first century Jewish town where a synagogue from the time of Christ's ministry was found. Next, we will drive up to the beautiful Golan Heights and learn about the ancient Jewish settlements in this region. We will visit Banias – ancient Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13 and Mark 8:27), where Jesus said, "On this rock I will built my Church". We will drive through the natural Hula Valley and the Upper Galilee Region back to the Sea of Galilee. We will conclude this remarkable day with a visit to Yardenit – the wonderful baptismal site on the Jordan River. We will then return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 5 | WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

JESUS' EARLY MINISTRY ALONG THE SEA OF GALILEE AND THE JORDAN RIVER: MOUNT OF BEATITUDES / TABGHA / CAPERNAUM / BETH SHEAN / DEAD SEA / FREE TIME TO FLOAT & ENJOY THE RESORT

Today we will experience the area of Jesus' early ministry around the Sea of Galilee. After breakfast we will drive along the shores of the Sea of Galilee and visit the Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5-8), where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will visit the famous chapel, constructed in 1939 by the noted architect Antonio Barluzzi and enjoy the breathtaking view. We will continue to Tabgha – the site of the Feeding of the 5,000 and Primacy of Peter (Matt. 13, Mark 33-45, & John 21). Here we will visit the Church of Multiplication with its 4th century mosaic floor. We will continue on to the 2,000 year old remains of Capernaum (Matt. 4:13 13:54, 17:24, Luke 7, Mark 1:2, John 4:46-54). Here we can stand in what is left of the synagogue in which Jesus ministered. It was from this city that Jesus did most of his Galilean ministry, where he performed many miracles, and where Peter's mother-in-law lived and was healed. From here we will drive south along the Beth Shean Valley and the ancient city of Beth Shean (Mark 5:20, 7:31) for an overview of this remarkable archaeological site. It was here that after defeating Saul and his sons on Mount Gilboa, the Philistines hanged their bodies on the walls of Beth Shean (1 Samuel 31). We will drive through the Jordan Valley, pass the city of Jericho, and stop for a visit at Qumran, and walk through the ruins of this ancient Essene community. In this spot, an amazing cache of ancient biblical texts was discovered in 1947 by a shepherd – commonly known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. The original documents are exhibited in the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem. We continue south and arrive at the lowest place on earth – the Dead Sea. At 1293 feet below sea level, you can sunbathe without any sunscreen protection and will not burn. We will check in to our spa hotel located on the shores of the Dead Sea. After check-in and before dinner, we will enjoy relaxing free time at our wonderful Dead Sea Resort Hotel with its own private beach. Walk down to our beach, float in the healing salty water of the Dead Sea, and take a dip in the beautiful swimming pools of our resort hotel. You can also take this opportunity to enjoy the Dead Sea's famous mud and mineral treatments at our hotel's spa.

Day 6 | THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

EXPLORING THE DEAD SEA AND THE JUDEAN DESERT / ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM: DEAD SEA / MASADA / EIN GEDI / QUMRAN / JERUSALEM / MOUNT OF OLIVES / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Today we will explore the Dead Sea and the Judean Desert Region and its biblical and historical sites. After breakfast, we will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit one of the most spectacular sites in Israel – the 1,500 foot mountaintop fortress of Masada. Built by King Herod, Masada is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. We will ascend to Masada by cable car and discover the 1st century Synagogue, Herod's Bathhouse and many other sites. We will continue along the shores of the Dead Sea for a look out on the oasis of Ein Gedi, where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (1 Samuel 23). From here we will ascend to Jerusalem – the Holy City of Zion. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, we will head to the top of the Mount of Olives to stand where the Lord ascended into heaven (Acts 1). From the Mount of Olives, we will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the city across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate, where the Prince of Peace will enter (Ezekiel 44). We will pass by Pater Noster Church and visit Dominus Flevit, where "the Lord wept" as he beheld the Holy City. We will take the Palm Sunday Road down to the Garden of Gethsemane, where we will see 2,000 year old olive trees that date back to the time of Christ. We will end our day with a dinner.



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ITINERARY
(CONTINUED)

Day 7 | FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

THE STONES OF YOUR HERITAGE: TEMPLE MOUNT IN JESUS TIMES / JERUSALEM OLD & NEW CITY TEMPLE MOUNT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS / SOUTHERN WALL / SOUTHERN STEPS / DAVIDSON CENTER / WESTERN WALL / JEWISH QUARTER / MT. ZION / UPPER ROOM / TOMB OF KING DAVID

Today we walk where Jesus walked. We will return to the Old City, where we will enter via the Dung Gate and visit the Southern Temple Mount archaeological excavations. Here we will visit the "Southern Steps" – the archaeological reconstruction of the Temple Steps where Jesus walked so often. From here, Jesus entered the Temple Mount and drove out the vendors and money changers who were exploiting the people. We will visit the unearthed southern end of the Western Wall, the paved street and the Robinson's Arch. At the Davidson Center Museum we will view a fascinating documentary of the excavation and a 10 minutes film describing the visit of a pilgrim to the second temple – to better understand what the Temple was like in Jesus times. We will continue our Old City exploration and walk through the historic Jewish Quarter all the way to Mt. Zion. Here we will visit the Tomb of King David and worship in the Upper Room (Luke 22) – the traditional site where Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and where Thomas later cried, "My Lord and my God". In the late afternoon, we will return to the Western Wall Plaza and visit the Western Wall ("Wailing Wall") – the holiest site in Judaism and one of the original ancient walls that retained the Temple. We will have some free time to experience this holy site, to pray at the wall, and to sense the importance of this site to the Jewish and Christian people just before the entrance of the Shabbat. We will return to our hotel for a festive Shabbat dinner.

Day 8 | SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020

CITY OF ZION – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: JERUSALEM OLD CITY AND BETHLEHEM LIONS' GATE / VIA DOLOROSA / ST. ANNE CHURCH / POOL OF BETHESDA / JUDGMENT HALL OF PILATE / CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER / CHRISTIAN QUARTER / KNESSET / BETHLEHEM / CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY / SHEPHERD'S FIELD / GARDEN TOMB

Following breakfast we will enter the Old City via the Lions' Gate. The Lions' Gate, located in the Eastern Wall of the Old City, is the entrance that marks the beginning of the last walk of Jesus from prison to the crucifixion – the Via Dolorosa. We will start our walk along the Stations of the Cross to visit the St. Anne Church and the Pool of Bethesda. We will continue to the Judgment Hall of Pilate all the way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Matt. 27: 33-57, 28:10). After lunch we will enjoy some free time to rest and shop at the colorful Christian Quarter bazaars. We will drive through the New City of Jerusalem and pass by the Knesset – Israel's parliament- and continue to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity (Luke 2: 1-7). We will venture out to the Shepherd's Field, referenced in Luke 2:8-20, where an angel appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. We will end our touring day visiting the Garden Tomb, where we will celebrate the resurrection with a time of prayer (Luke 23). We will end the day by driving back to our hotel for our great farewell dinner. We will share food with our new friends and be inspired by all the memories from our journey – memories that will last a lifetime.

Day 9 | SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

ENJOY A FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM: SAYING GOODBYE / TRANSFER BACK TO THE AIRPORT & DEPARTURE

After breakfast and by 12 noon, check out from your hotel and store your luggage at the hotel storage room to enjoy a free day in Jerusalem. Take this opportunity to experience the special atmosphere of Jerusalem. Our hotel is conveniently located within walking distance from the Old City as well as the City Center. You might choose to return to the Old City to walk again through the biblical sites and the colorful bazaars, or head to the City Center and walk along the Ben Yehuda Street to experience the authentic Jerusalem restaurants and shops. Our knowledgeable staff will be more than happy to suggest some other sites for you to explore on your own, such as the newly renovated Israel Museum, the Shrine of the Book and much more. After dinner (not included) the group will meet at the hotel lobby for our evening departure transfer back to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport (40-60 minutes drive). Your departure transfer is fully escorted by your tour guide.

Day 10 | MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

ARRIVAL

Today you will arrive back in the U.S.A and start planning your next trip to the Holy Land...

SOME OF THE SITES THAT YOU WILL SEE ALONG THE TOUR:

Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Nazareth, Lower Galilee, Sea of Galilee, Golan Heights, Caesarea Philippi, Upper Galilee, Tiberias, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitude, Sail on the Sea of Galilee, Tabaja, Beit Shean (Beth Shean), Dead Sea, Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Old City Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion, Western Wall Tunnels, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Christian Quarter, Jewish Quarter, The Room of the Last Supper, Kind David Tomb, Garden Tomb, Western Wall, Southern Wall, Temple Mount, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, and much more...







