

God's Faithfulness w/Jordan

A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary

Led by: Rebecca Lin

02-14 October, 2017

We will travel through the land, from coast to desert to mountains, to visit the places where important Biblical events took place in Israel and Jordan, and dig deep into the Scriptures in their original context to learn about God's faithfulness to His people, in the past, present, and future. Our tour includes sites from the Old and New Testaments as well as the history of modern Israel. In addition, we will learn about God's work amongst believers in the land today. Jesus will always be the center of our studies, as we seek a better understanding of His ministry, His place among the Jewish people, and the application of His teachings in our lives. This tour is particularly suited for those who have been to Israel before.

Day 1: Monday, 02 October

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE & IN THE STEPS OF THE PATRIARCHS

After an early morning arrival in Israel, we will stop at a **local café** for breakfast and coffee. From here we will journey into the hill country of Judea. Here we will visit **Gush Etzion** to learn about the history of Jewish settlement in the region. Next we travel to the **ancient city of Hebron** to visit the burial **Cave of the Patriarchs**, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As we continue south, we will look over the **Wilderness of Ziph** where King David fled from Saul, and examine a **historic well** still used by Bedouin shepherds today. Our next stop will be **Tel Arad**, a pre-Abrahamic major city and later an Israelite fortress. We will end our day at our hotel in the western **Negev Desert**. Overnight: Eretz Zeelim Guesthouse, Western Negev

Day 2: Tuesday, 03 October

OUT OF EGYPT INTO THE WILDERNESS

We begin today looking over the beautiful **Ramon Crater**. Here we consider the true location of Mount Sinai and study the geology of the area. This morning we will be traveling through the **Wilderness of Zin** where Moses struck the rock in disobedience. We will visit the ancient caravan city of **Avdat** to discover how the ancient Nabateans made the desert bloom. We will take a short hike to a beautiful oasis in the **Zin Canyon**. We will then visit the **home of David Ben Gurion**, founder of Israel, at **Kibbutz Sde Boker**. As Ben Gurion is often called a prophet, we will take time to discuss the nature of biblical prophecy and the role of a prophet in the biblical period and today. At some point we will have a short **camel ride** and relax in Bedouin-style tents.

Overnight: Eretz Zeelim Guesthouse, Western Negev

Day 3: Wednesday, 04 October

THE EXODUS THROUGH JORDAN

After breakfast, we will travel to Timna, where we will visit a **full size reconstruction of the ancient Israelites' Tabernacle**. Before noon we cross the border into Jordan to begin our three-day journey along the ancient King's Highway. Passing by the Jordanian city of **Aqaba**, we continue to **Wadi Rum** for a **jeep tour**, on our way recalling the adventures of Lawrence of Arabia in the Jordanian desert.

Overnight: Movenpick Hotel, Petra

Day 4: Thursday, 05 October

DESERT TRADERS

We devote the rest of the day to exploring the ancient, rose-red city of **Petra** where we'll examine the mysteries of the Nabataean traders and their strategic location along the silk and spice trade routes between the east and west. We enter the city through the Siq, a narrow slit in the mountains, with walls towering 80 meters on each side. You will have several hours to explore the twists and turns of this magnificent gorge city, including the infamous Treasury tomb from the first century.

Overnight: Movenpick Hotel, Petra

Day 5: Friday, 06 October

CROSSING THE JORDAN, GILGAL, & FEAST OF TABERNACLES CELEBRATION

Travelling north along the King's Highway, we come to **Mt. Nebo**, where God showed Moses the Promised Land. In the steps of the ancient Israelites, we will cross the **Jordan River** in the region of **Jericho**, the oldest and lowest city on earth. Here we will visit **Gilgal**, the Children of Israel's first camp in the Promised Land. Time permitting we may have some solo time in the wilderness for reflection. In the late afternoon we will join the **opening night of the International Christian Embassy's Feast of Tabernacles Celebration** for dinner and worship at Ein Gedi.

Overnight: To be determined.

Day 6: Saturday, 07 October

THE JUDEAN DESERT - Seeking Refuge in the Wilderness

Our theme today is the wilderness and what it signified to the ancient Israelites. We begin our day at **Masada**, Herod the Great's magnificent fortress palace in the desert, and the site of the last stand of the Zealots, a Jewish revolutionary group at the time of Jesus. From Masada we drive north to the beautiful subtropical oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. Depending on conditions, we can walk into the nature reserve and possibly to the waterfalls. We may see some wildlife, including the furry rock badger and the graceful ibex. We will also discuss the temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness. Our last visit of the day will be **Qumran**, likely the home of the Essenes, a First Century Jewish sect which may have influenced early Christianity, and the site of the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel – the Dead Sea Scrolls. Time permitting we will enjoy a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters **Dead Sea**. After dinner, the **Director of Shoresh** will lead us on a short stroll to a **rooftop panorama of the Old City**, and then share some encouraging testimonies. Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, 08 October

CITY OF DAVID & FREE AFTERNOON IN JERUSALEM

An early start will take us to the place where it all began – the **City of David**. Here we will learn about King David's conquest of the Jebusite city, and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**. The afternoon is free for rest, reflection, shopping, or for the energetic, perhaps a walk on the walls of the Old City. *Shoresh will provide a list of interesting options for those who want to explore on their own.*

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday, 09 October

THE SHEPHELAH – Strategic Battlefields of Israel

The Shephelah, the lowlands between the coastal plain and mountains of Judea, has been a battlefield for millennia. Sites visited will include: **Adulam Cave** (where David hid from King Saul); **Ella Valley** (where David slew Goliath); and the **Israel Armored Corps Museum**, with the largest collection of tanks in the world. Our final stop will be the **Garden of Life**, operated by Israel's Messianic prolife organization, where trees are planted to bless the memory of babies killed by abortion and to bring healing to the parents.

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday, 10 October

MODERN JERUSALEM & ICEJ JERUSALEM MARCH

We will begin our day at **Ammunition Hill**, site of the fiercest fighting in the Battle of Jerusalem during the Six Day War in June 1967. From here we will have a walking tour of the **New City of Jerusalem**, including the colorful **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market, where Jerusalemites shop for some of the best and freshest foods in Israel and relax in cozy cafes. Later in the afternoon we will cheer on the marchers in the spectacular **ICEJ Jerusalem March**.

Overnight: Gloria Hotel, Old City Jerusalem

Day 10: Wednesday, 11 October

SAMARIA: ANCIENT ISRAEL

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. Sites visited may include: **Mt. Gerazim** (the "Mount of Blessing" from Joshua's time), **Mt. Kebir** and **Alon Moreh** (scenic overlook and one of Abraham's campsites), and **Shiloh** (long-time location of the Tabernacle and the ark of the covenant). We will focus on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament. At the end of the day we will descend into the Jordan Valley and drive to our hotel on the southern shores of the Sea of Galilee or on the Golan Heights. Overnight: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee or Akim, Golan Heights

Day 11: Thursday, 12 October

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE

The pace of our time in the Galilee will be slow and relaxed, with plenty of time for reflection and prayer. We will begin today with a view over the Sea of Galilee from **Mt. Arbel**, which will give us a wonderful introduction to our studies in the area. From here we proceed to **Magdala**, a newly excavated village from the time of Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, likely the home of Mary Magdalene. Our final site of the day will be **Capernaum**, Jesus' base for ministry in the Galilee, where we can sit in an ancient synagogue built on the very spot where he taught.

Overnight: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee or Akim, Golan Heights

Day 12: Friday, 13 October

NORTHERN ISRAEL – Off The Beaten Track

Today we explore less travelled sites in Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will start by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. Our first stop is at the impressive hilltop ruins of ancient **Gamla**, the “Masada of the North” where a great battle was fought. Today the area is home to Israel’s largest birds. Next we visit **Kibbutz El Rom**, with a documentary on Israel’s miraculous survival in the 1973 “Yom Kippur” War. We conclude our day at **Tel Hazor**, an ancient capital conquered by Joshua, later rebuilt by King Solomon as a fortified city. Time permitting, we may visit the **Hula Valley wildlife refuge**, to see the amazing fall migration of birds from Europe to Africa.

Overnight: Ohalo Manor, Sea of Galilee or Akim, Golan Heights

Day 13: Saturday, 14 October

THE HOPE OF RESTORATION

After saying farewell to the Galilee, we begin our last day, during which we focus on the miraculous restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. First we will visit a reconstructed **Tower & Stockade settlement** to see how Jewish pioneers built new communities in less than 24 hours. Next we will have a special stop at the **underground bullet factory** where Jewish defense forces clandestinely manufactured ammunition during the British Mandate. We will then visit the ancient port of **Jaffa**, the point from which Jonah tried to escape his calling to warn the people of Nineveh, and location of Simon the Tanner’s house where Peter had the vision of taking the gospel to the gentiles. We will conclude our tour at **Beit Immanuel**, we will hear about CMJ’s ministry to the Jewish people over the past 160 years. From here we will go to the airport to catch our evening flight home.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *Some days involve a significant amount of walking and/or steep climbing. Every effort will be made to enable all tour members to fully participate at every site, but in some cases that may not be possible.*