



# WITH JESUS AT SUKKOT

2nd – 15th October 2017

HOSTED BY MARTIN WEATHERSTON & REV'D JOHN SIMONS



A unique tour that allows us as disciples and pilgrims to experience the liturgical richness of the Biblical fall feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) and anticipate the second coming of Jesus of Nazareth. We will spend the majority of our time based at historic Christ Church Guest House in the Old City of Jerusalem, with time along the Mediterranean coast and in the Galilee as well. In addition to worship, lectures and tours, our two weeks will have a good amount of free time for you to explore the Holy City on your own and soak up the atmosphere of the holiday. During Sukkot Jerusalem is an exciting place, filled with Jewish people as well as Christians from every corner of the world. Join us as we rejoice in the hope of the kingdom of God.

## DAY 1: Monday 2nd October

### ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE - IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PATRIARCHS & AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip. We begin our journey by climbing up through the strategic lowlands into the Mountains of Judea, to the burial Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, where we will look at God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Next we shall continue in the steps of the Patriarchs to the southern desert region called the Negev in the Bible (a name it still carries today). Here we visit Tel Beersheva, one of the most impressive and ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. We will also visit a number of sites associated with the ANZAC forces in WWI and the Battle of Beersheva, including the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse. Overnight: Leonardo Hotel, Beersheva

## DAY 2: Tuesday 3rd 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 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 site visit 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. We will finish our afternoon by enjoying a float in the therapeutic mineral rich waters of the Dead Sea. At the end of the day we will make the final ascent to Jerusalem – the City of the Great King. 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: Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem

## DAY 3: Wednesday 4th October

### EREV SUKKOT – INTRODUCTION TO JERUSALEM & DECORATING THE SUKKAH

Our goal this morning is to get a basic orientation to Jerusalem. An early start will take us up to the Temple Mount, where we'll consider some of Jesus' activities there, as well as the claims of Islam. After a visit to the Western Wall place of prayer, Judaism's most holy site, we will walk back to Christ Church via the Jewish Quarter. From here, we will venture into bustling and vibrant New City. For a glimpse of modern Israeli society, we will follow pedestrian streets: along Jaffa Road to Zion Square, then up Ben Yehuda Street to the colorful Mahane Yehuda open-air market, where Jerusalemites shop for some of the best and freshest foods in Israel and sit in cozy cafes. After lunch we will return to Christ Church to decorate a sukkah, the traditional temporary hut constructed to celebrate the holiday. Our sukkah will be built in the Christ Church courtyard, and be a key focus for welcoming visitors during the holiday. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem

## DAY 4: Thursday 5th October

### FIRST DAY OF SUKKOT - FREE MORNING & AFTERNOON TEACHING

The morning is free as we take in the beginning of the Sukkot holiday. Tour participants can rest, reflect, shop, 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. In the afternoon we will have our first lecture, entitled "The Place of Jerusalem". This evening we have the option of taking part in the

ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles conference in Jerusalem.\*

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY 5: Friday 6th October

### SECOND DAY OF SUKKOT – JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS

Today will be devoted to learning about Jerusalem in Jesus' day, when the Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life. We will study how worship was performed in the temple, the Sadducees and Jesus' attitude towards them, and generally enrich our insight into many important events in the gospels and book of Acts. We will begin at the Western Wall Tunnels to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. Time permitting, we may stop to examine the remains of the Pool of Bethesda. We continue our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the Southern Steps where Jesus walked. This evening we have a brief talk about the Shabbat, after which we will visit a local synagogue for Shabbat evening prayers. After the service we will share a traditional Shabbat dinner.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY 6: Saturday 7th October

### THIRD DAY OF SUKKOT - THE CHURCH AS TEMPLE WORSHIP & FREE AFTERNOON

This morning we will visit the Church of St. Mark in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City, home to one of Jerusalem's oldest Christian communities, the Syriac Orthodox. Their worship employs the most ancient surviving liturgy in Christianity, based on the rite of the early Christian Church of Jerusalem. Our visit will be followed by a lecture: "The Relationship between Worship in the Temple, the Church, and The New Jerusalem". This evening we have the option of taking part in the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles conference in Jerusalem.\*

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY 7: Sunday 8th October

### FOURTH DAY OF SUKKOT – WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH & VISITS TO YAD VASHEM AND THE ISRAEL MUSEUM

This morning we will join in worship at Christ Church, the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East. After lunch we will visit to Yad VaShem, the Israel Memorial Museum to the Holocaust. Here we examine the spiritual and theological roots of the most notorious genocide in history and the connection between the Church, Jesus and the Jewish people prior to and during this period of time. There we will also visit the Children's memorial and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish Christian relations today. We will end our day at the Israel Museum, where we will view a Model of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus as well as the Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the evening we have the option to join in worship with a large international congregation in the New City, King of Kings.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

## DAY 8: Monday 9th October

### FIFTH DAY OF SUKKOT – HIGH PRIESTLY BLESSING & THE RESTORATION OF HOPE

We begin our day by walking down to the Western Wall for the Birkat Kohanim, or Priestly Blessing. This ceremony is attended by tens of thousands of people from all over Israel and abroad. Next we will enjoy a tour of the historic Christ Church compound and Heritage Center, where we will learn about CMJ's amazing 150 year history of bringing the gospel to the Jewish people.

This afternoon we have the option of taking part in the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles "Jerusalem March".\*

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem



**DAY 9: TUESDAY, 10th October**  
**SIXTH DAY OF SUKKOT: SPECIAL EVENTS RELATED TO THE HOLIDAY & LECTURE**

There are special events associated with Sukkot that are not scheduled until much closer to the date. This morning is kept open for these events. In the afternoon will be a lecture on "Pilgrimage in the Second Temple Period".

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**DAY 10: Wednesday 11th October**  
**SEVENTH DAY OF SUKKOT: SAMARIA – ANCIENT ISRAEL & THE CITY OF DAVID**

Today we journey into the northern homeland of the Patriarchs, of the Israelites under Joshua, and later the breakaway Kingdom of Israel. We will focus on our roots in the Old Testament, which are vital to our understanding of the New Testament. In the morning, we visit Tel Shiloh, the long-time location of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. Time permitting, we may also visit Mt. Gerazim (the "Mount of Blessing" from Joshua's time). In the afternoon we visit 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, and study the importance of "living water". Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**DAY 11: Thursday 12th October**  
**SIMCHAT TORAH - FREE MORNING & AFTERNOON TEACHING**

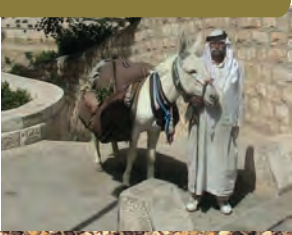
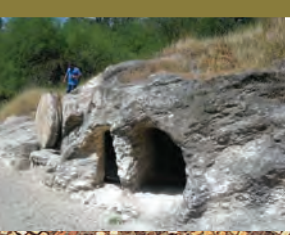
The morning is free for rest and reflection as we take in the grand finale of the Sukkot holiday "Rejoicing with the Torah". In the afternoon we will have a final lecture: "Purity and Holiness in Ancient Israel". Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**DAY 12: Friday 13th October**  
**IN THE STEPS OF JESUS – CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION**

Today we focus on sites related to the Biblical passages concerning Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. Our goal is to understand why He was crucified, how He was buried, and what it meant to the Jewish people of the First Century that He was raised from the dead. We begin our day with a panoramic overlook of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, the site of Jesus' ascension to heaven and His future second coming. After viewing a tomb from the time of Jesus, we will walk down the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane. Next we cross the Kidron Valley and enter the Old City through Dung Gate. We then make our way through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City to see the Herodian Villas, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. From here we continue to the Citadel "Tower of David" and Kishle, the site of King Herod's palace and probable location of Jesus' trial before Pilate. Next we cross in the Christian Quarter and arrive at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We end our tour with a reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection, the peaceful Garden Tomb. We will later join in the festive Shabbat evening meal at Christ Church. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Old City, Jerusalem

**DAY 13: Saturday 14th October**  
**THE GALILEE**

Today we say farewell to Jerusalem and travel north up the spectacular Syrian African rift along the Jordan River to the Galilee.



**TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE TO ISRAEL:**

**LAND ONLY COST AUD \$4130** \* Per Person Twin Share      Single Room Supplement Additional **AUD \$750**

\* Price is subject to a minimum of 20 full paying adults, currency fluctuation, or increase - conditions apply. Administration fee of \$100 per booking applies should the tour be cancelled for any reason. Airfare cost from Australian capital cities is expected to be around \$2300

**Contact Trish @ Olive Tree Travel for Optional Tours Info**

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation - Half-board (breakfast & dinner) in en-suite shared twin rooms, taxes & portage.
- Transportation - Bus and driver for touring and group transfers to and from airport.
- Guide - Licensed Christian/Messianic guide.
- Tips - Driver, Guide, Hotels.
- Guest speakers (if specified).
- Entrance fees - Historical sites, museums, parks, etc.
- Study Materials.

On our way we will visit Gan-Garoo ("gan" means garden or park), the Australian-Israeli wildlife park. This beautifully landscaped park is home to many types of kangaroos as well as a variety of other animals and plants, all native to Australia. On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, we will explore Capernaum, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. Here we will enjoy a contemplative time on the shore of the Lake. Next we will visit Beit Bracha, a CMJ centre on the shores of Galilee where we'll hear about the work of the ministry. Later in the afternoon we will set sail for a boat ride on the Lake to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time. We will conclude our day at the Galilee Experience, to take in a multimedia overview of the history of the Land of Israel. After dinner we may meet with a local believer. Overnight: Ginnosar Village, Sea of Galilee

**DAY 14: Sunday 15th October**  
**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS & TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

On our final day we cross the southern Galilee and then travel down the Mediterranean coast, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. Our first visit of the day will be ancient Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry. We continue along the route of the ancient Via Maris to Megiddo, one of King Solomon's cities, and according to the Book of Revelation possibly the assembly point for the armies marching to the battle of Armageddon. We will then visit Mount Carmel, where we take in a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. We complete our day at the fabulous ruins of the Herodian city of Caesarea Maritima, the site of the conversion of Cornelius and the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail on his journey to Rome. After a farewell dinner in Caesarea, we head to the airport to catch our 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.
- \* The 2017 All Nations Convocation and ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles dates and schedules have not yet been published. Registration and participation in these conferences, as well as transportation to the conference venues, are not included in the cost of the tour and are the responsibility of the tour participant.

**ROME STOPOVER** with Martin Weatherston **29 SEPT - 1 OCT**  
**\$510** (3 days - no flights included)

**JORDAN & PETRA** with Rev John Simons **15 - 19 OCT**  
**\$1430** (4 days)

**JERUSALEM & BEER SHEBA** **15 - 31 OCT**  
**\$2840** (15 days)

**Join Kelvin Crombie for the 100th Anniversary Celebrations in Beer Sheba**

**PRICE EXCLUDES:**

- Airfare;
- Travel insurance (mandatory);
- Lunches & snacks;
- Individual activities on free days;
- Individual transfers to/from the airport apart from the main group;
- Wheelchairs;
- Discretionary gift for guide and driver
- Personal discretionary spending

**WHAT TO DO NEXT:**

1. Obtain a booking form from Trish Cortizo 0421638453/1300 550 830 or email trish@olivetreetravel.com.au
2. To secure your place a deposit of \$400 is required.
3. Final balance will be due by 1 July 2017

**Contact Trish Cortizo for special airfare deals!!!**  
**Stoppers in Asia or extensions to Europe can be arranged...**



**WHO TO CONTACT:**

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