**With Jesus at Sukkot**

**September 16 – October 1, 2021**

***Hosted by Martin Weatherston***

*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, taking in Tel Aviv, Beersheba and the Galilee as well. In addition to worship, lectures and tours, our fifteen days 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: Thursday, September 16, 2021**

**ARRIVAL IN AMMAN, JORDAN.**

We arrive at the Airport in **Amman** where we will be met by the Jordanian guide and bus driver. Transfer to the Petra hotel. Overnight: Panorama, Petra.

**Day 2: Friday, September 17, 2021**

**PETRA**

Today, we will be 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: Panorama, Petra.

**Day 3: Saturday, September 18, 2021**

**ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE**

In the morning we might visit **Mt. Nebo** mentioned in the Bible as the place where Moses was granted a view of the Promised Land and the city of **Madaba**, an ancient town southwest of the capital Amman.

In the afternoon, we cross into Israel through the Allenby Crossing. From there, we travel to our hotel in the Negev In the evening, we will meet with the pastor of the messianic congregation, Howard Bass *(to be confirmed closer to the date).* (itinerary TBD)

Overnight: Leonardo, Beer Sheva.

**Day 4: Sunday, September 19, 2021**

**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 oasisof **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.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem

**Day 5: Monday, September 20, 2021**

**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 **Christian Quarter** and the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most likely site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus**.** 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 6: Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

**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, David Pileggi will deliver his **first lecture**, entitled **“The Place of Jerusalem”**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 7: Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

**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 **St Anne’s** and the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**, followed by the **Davidson Centre.** We continue our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. 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.Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 8: Thursday, September 23, 2021**

**THIRD DAY OF SUKKOT - Yad VaShem and the Israel Museum**

In the morning, we will visit **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.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 9: Friday, September 24, 2021**

**FOURTH DAY OF SUKKOT – Second Lecture and Beit Immanuel**

In the morning, we will have the **second lecture** on “**Holiness and Purity in Ancient Israel”** will be delivered. After lunch at Christ Church, we will drive to **Beit Immanuel Guest House in Tel Aviv** where we will join the Messianic Congregation service.

**Afternoon bus: Beit Immanuel (6-8pm)**

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 10: Saturday, September 25, 2021**

**FIFTH DAY OF SUKKOT**

**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 reflective time at a site that wonderfully illustrates Jesus’ burial and resurrection, the peaceful **Garden Tomb**. From there, we take in a panoramic view 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**. Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 11: Sunday, September 26, 2021**

**SIXTH DAY OF SUKKOT – Christ Church Service and City of David**

After breakfast, we will join the **morning worship service** at Christ Church. After service we will enjoy a tour of the **Christ Church Heritage Centre** to learn about CMJ’s 200-year history of ministry to the Jewish people. Today, we visit the place where it all began – the **City of David**. Here, we will walk through **Hezekiah’s Tunnel** to the **Pool of Siloam**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 12: Monday, September 27, 2021**

**SEVENTH DAY OF SUKKOT - church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, Bethlehem.**

In the morning, we will visit the **church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** a possible place of Peter's triple rejection of Jesus (Christine Sakakibara). In the afternoon, we will drive to **Bethlehem** to visit **Shepherds’ Fields**.

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 13: Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**SHMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH: Free Morning & Afternoon Teaching**

In the afternoon, we will have a final lecture: **“The Relationship between Worship in the Temple, the Church, and The New Jerusalem”.**

Overnight: Christ Church Guest House, Jerusalem

**Day 14: Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

**SAMARIA, ANCIENT ISRAEL & THE GALILEE.**

Today we say farewell to Jerusalem and travel north 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 **Jacob’s Well** and **Mt. Gerazim** (the “Mount of Blessing” from Joshua’s time). We will conclude our day at the Galilee Experience to take in the multimedia overview of the history of the Land of Israel. Overnight: Ginnosar Kibutz Hotel, Sea of Galilee

**Day 15**: **Thursday, September 30, 2021**

**THE GALILEE continued.**

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 (with lunch and some free time on the veranda)**, a CMJ center on the shores of Galilee where we’ll hear about the work of the ministry and take part in a review of your pilgrimage. 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 inspirational **Magdala,** where we will see the oldest synagogue excavated in the north. Overnight: Ginnosar Kibbutz Hotel, Sea of Galilee

**Day 16: Friday, October 1, 2021**

***The itinerary for the day only works with very late afternoon or evening flights.***

**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: Beit Shean in Israel and ancient cities in Jordan.**

Possible options for today depending on the flight times: **Beit Shean**, a city in the Northern District of Israel which has played historically an important role due to its geographical location, at the junction of the Jordan River Valley and the Jezreel Valley. After crossing into Jordan through the Allenby border, time permitting, we will visit the ruins of the ancient city of **Pella** and possibly Roman ruins of the city of **Jerash**, the best-preserved **Roman ruins** outside of Italy. After this, we head to the airport to catch our flight home.

**FOOTNOTE**: We will have an opportunity to join the annual **Sukkot celebration conference** organized by the Vision for Israel led by Barry and Batya Segal and join the **Jerusalem March of Nations** (time and date to be announced closer to the event).

Contact Roy and Mary Kendall.

Arab pastor: Saleem Shalash

**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.*