

# The Best of Israel

12 Day Tour | March 10–21, 2016

## **March 10: Depart USA**

We depart Minneapolis today for our overnight flight to Israel. Sit back, get some rest and enjoy the in-flight service.

## **March 11: Arrive in Israel, Caesarea & Galilee**

We arrive in Tel Aviv this morning and are met by our tour guide who will welcome us to Israel. We travel by private motor coach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We'll see the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct and then journey on to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. We finish our day with a short drive to Galilee where we'll check into our hotel where we'll have the remainder of our day at leisure.

## **March 12: Megiddo, Tel Jezreel, Nazareth, and Mt. of Beatitudes**

After breakfast at our hotel we begin our day visiting Megiddo where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization. Megiddo offers an expansive view of the Jezreel Valley, the potential Armageddon Battlefield. We'll visit Tel Jezreel Park and learn more about this site before continuing to the area of Cana and Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, where we visit the Nazareth Village and experience what life may have been like during the time of Jesus. We return to Galilee where we'll visit the Cove of Parables, walk the trail to Tabgha Falls and then end our day at the Mt. of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

## **March 13: Capernaum, Chorazin, Kursi, Jesus Boat & Magdala**

In Capernaum we will visit the ruins of an ancient synagogue Jesus taught in and Peter's home. We'll also visit Chorazin to see the 1<sup>st</sup> century synagogue and Kursi. After lunch we'll visit the ancient Fisherman Boat and then take a relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee. A brief scripture reading and devotional on board brings to life the experiences of Jesus and the fishermen disciples. Our last visit today will be Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene. Magdala was a major first-century port on the Sea of Galilee, a center of trade and commerce, and an exporter of salted fish to markets as far away as Europe. Archaeological discoveries early in the 21st century have made it an exciting pilgrimage destination as a first century synagogue and fish market have been found of which Jesus and his disciples would most likely have visited.

## **March 14: Omrit, Caesarea Philippi, Dan & Mt. Arbel**

Following breakfast, our morning travels take us north across the Golan Heights and we'll visit a few valuable northern sites emphasizing the loss of God's blessing on Israel. Our first visit will be the ruins of Omrit and then on to Caesarea Philippi which is also the site of Peter's Confession. After lunch we'll visit Dan which is the site where the children of Israel fell to the depths of pagan worship. We return to the Galilee region and enjoy a hike atop Mt. Arbel where we'll have an amazing birds-eye-view of the Sea of Galilee and Golan Heights.

**March 15: Beth Shean, Jericho, Jordan River & Dead Sea**

We travel southward to Beit-Shean/Scythopolis, the most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. Like Jericho, it has been almost continuously occupied throughout history. After defeating Saul and his sons on Mt. Gilboa, the Philistines hanged their bodies on the walls of Beit-Shean. During the intertestamental period, the city was renamed the "Scythopolis." Archaeologists have uncovered a huge number of ruins of the Roman/Byzantine Scythopolis. During the time of Jesus, Scythopolis was one of the chief cities of the Decapolis - a league of ten cities sharing Greek culture and government. Following the fertile Jordan Valley southward, your guide will point out the agricultural restoration of the "Land of Milk and Honey" and Israel's intricate irrigation development. At Jericho, we visit the Tel of and view the traditional mountain of Jesus' temptation. This afternoon we make our way west into the mountains stopping at Wadi Kelt for a view of the monastery from above. Our next stop is the Jordan River which is believed to be the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, where Elijah and Elisha crossed the Jordan as well as the area where the children of Israel led by Joshua entered the Promised land. Our lodging for the evening is at the Dead Sea - the lowest place on earth. Spend time in the special spa and enjoy a dip in the Dead Sea for a relaxing float before dinner.

**March 16: Qumran Caves and Masada**

Today we enjoy visiting Qumran and Masada. We begin at the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Next we visit Masada and take the cable car ride to the mountain top fortress. Here our guide will treat us to the history of the famous zealot stand. This afternoon we return our Dead Sea Hotel and enjoy some free time to relax and take a Dead Sea float.

**March 17: Ein Gedi, Abraham's Tent, Wailing Wall and Rabbi Tunnel**

This morning we travel to Ein Gedi, "Spring of the Goat," an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Because of its warm climate and abundant supply of water, the site developed a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves. This is where King David hid from Saul, and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites by praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat. Continuing to Abraham's Tent we'll enjoy a special lunch with custom characters and have the opportunity to ride a camel. Next we visit Herod's Palace across from the Samaritan Inn and then make our way to Jerusalem. We enter Jerusalem from atop the Mount of Olive. We receive a magnificent first glimpse of the "Golden City" from atop this mount. With excitement we begin our extensive tour of Jerusalem by visiting the Wailing or Western Wall and walk thru the excavated Rabbinical Tunnel to see a massive Herodian stone wall and street from the time of Jesus. We then witness the many Bar Mitzvah celebrations and prayer at the Wall. Our lodging for the next five nights will be in Jerusalem.

**March 18: Israeli Museum, Hezekiah's Tunnel, City of David & Southern Steps**

We enjoy a morning visit to the Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls). While there we will also see a model of 1st Century Jerusalem. This afternoon we enter the City of David and explore Hezekiah's Tunnel, Warren's Shaft and the Pool of Siloam. Next we'll visit the Davidson Center and stroll along the Archaeological Park where we'll see a film, the original 2nd Temple stones, and southern steps that Jesus walked on and the most likely place where Pentecost in Acts 2 occurred. Late this afternoon we visit David Street for some late afternoon shopping.

**March 19: Temple Mount, Herodium, Bethlehem, Shepherd Fields, Yad Vashem**

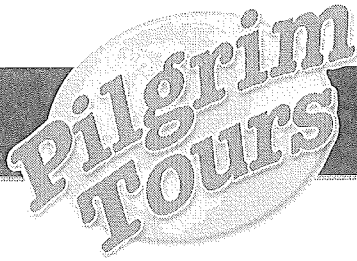
This morning we ascend on top the Temple Mount to observe columns and steps from the Temple where Jesus taught, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock shrine, and the Golden Gate. Next we travel a short distance to Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus and home to Herod the Great's palace and tomb on top of the Herodium. We'll visit the Shepherd's Fields and YMCA cave and take some time to shop in the Bethlehem Olive Wood Factory. This afternoon we visit Yad Vashem for a somber tour of the Holocaust Museum. Afterward we pass the Knesset on our way to our hotel.

**March 20: Mt. of Olives, Path to the Garden of Gethsemane, Kidron Valley, Ancient Tombs, Caiaphas House & Valley of Elah**

This final day in Jerusalem begins with an ascent to the top of the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, Bethpage, and Bethany. We remember the last week of Jesus' life on earth and descend the Messianic path where He rode on a donkey, visit where He wept over Jerusalem, tour the Garden of Gethsemane where He was arrested and then across the Kidron Valley to ancient tombs. We continue on to Caiaphas' House to see a 1st Century road and prison where traditionally Jesus was put on trial by the high priest. We overlook the Hinnom Valley, also called Gehenna, and the Potter's Field where Judas was buried. We'll walk along the Way of Suffering and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This afternoon we make our way outside of Jerusalem to the Elah Valley which is the location of the famous battle between David and Goliath. Our last visit today is Khirbet Midras which is thought to be the location of the burial of the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. We return to our Jerusalem hotel for our last dinner and overnight.

**March 21: Return Home**

We transfer to the Tel Aviv airport this morning for our return flight home



- AIR & HOTEL DOCUMENT -

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

BEST OF ISRAEL 12 DAY INSPIRATIONAL TOUR | MARCH 10 – 21, 2016

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DATE	DEPARTURE	TIME	AIRLINE	FLIGHT#	ARRIVAL	TIME
Mar10	Minneapolis	5:50am	United	538	Newark	9:34am
Mar10	Newark	3:55pm	United	84	Tel Aviv	9:25am (Mar11)
Mar21	Tel Aviv	10:25am	United	85	Newark	4:50pm
Mar21	Newark	7:15pm	United	1519	Minneapolis	9:21pm

\*Your airport to hotel transfer personnel will greet you in the Arrival Hall after you pass through customs. He/she will be carrying a sign saying "Pilgrim Tours/Legacy Christian Academy".

HOTEL SCHEDULE

March 11-15 (4 nights)

Nof Ginosar  
Tiberias, Israel  
Tel: (011) 972 4 670 0320  
www.english.ginosar.co.il

March 15-17 (2 nights)

Ein Gedi Hotel  
Dead Sea, Israel  
Tel: (011) 972 8 659 4222  
www.en.ein-gedi.co.il

March 17-21 (4 nights)

Ritz Hotel  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Tel: (011) 972 2 626 9900  
www.jerusalemritz.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION BY COUNTRY

United States of America: 1-800-322-0788 (8:30 AM – 5:30 PM, EST) | 610-334-5779 (After hours emergency support, Tim)

Israel: 972 (0) 525129222 (Laila) or 972(0) 522331906 (Steve)

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