

The Life & World of Jesus



October 2 – October 13, 2023
Led by the Rev. Philip Bottomley

We will trace the life of Jesus from his home in Galilee to Jerusalem, giving particular attention to the First Century Jewish context in which Jesus lived. Our goal is a better understanding of Jesus' ministry and a better application of His teachings for us today.



MissionValley
TRAVEL INC.



IMPORTANT

ALL DEPOSITS ARE DUE JUNE 25, 2023

FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE AUGUST 4, 2023

\$2,763 - Land price

For individual airfare please email tours@mvti.us

\$750 - Land & Air deposit, due at registration
(Direct Deposit or Check)

For individual bookings please email tours@mvti.us

Price is based on two persons sharing a double room.

IF PAYING WITH CREDIT CARD (3.5% fee):

\$776.25 – Land & Air Deposit

****Land price is based on a group of 20 people or more****

Booking: Prices are good for **three weeks from the date they are quoted**. If not confirmed by the tour leader within three weeks, prices may have to be updated. In general, hotel prices cannot be guaranteed more than 6 months in advance. Shoresh reserves the right to amend prices of tours without prior notice in case of devaluations of the dollar, or in case of receiving new updated contract rates from suppliers.

- 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.
- Services of US Travel Agent – Mission Valley Travel

***Not Included:** Airfare, visas, Travel Insurance (mandatory, rates listed below); lunches & snacks; individual activities on free days; individual transfers to/from the airport apart from the main group; wheelchairs; wheelchairs; discretionary gift for guide and driver; personal discretionary spending.

Single Supplement: **\$963** (additional single room cost, limited availability)

Approximate Travel Insurance Pricing for US residents:

Trip Cost (Covers Up To)	Age Up to 30	Age 31-59	Age 60-70	Age 71-75	Age 76-79	Age 80+
\$3000	\$126	\$149	\$232	\$302	\$368	\$500

***Travel Insurance Quote is APPROXIMATE.
Individual pricing is available upon request.***

ITINERARY

Day 1 Monday, October 2, 2023 (Sukkot, Day 3)

DEPARTURE FROM USA

Day 2 Tuesday October 3 (Sukkot, Day 4)

ARRIVAL IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near **Tel Aviv**, where we will be met by our guide and bus driver for the trip.

Depending on the flight's arrival time, there are several options for this day.

Overnight: Jacob Hotel Resort
Hadera, Mediterranean Coast



Day 3 Wednesday October 4 (Sukkot, Day 5)

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS – Jews, Gentiles, and the Messiah

Today we travel north up the coast and then eastwards inland to the Galilee, visiting a number of Biblical sites that testify to God's faithfulness to His word, past, present, and future. We begin 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. We then travel up the coast to **Mount Carmel**, with a spectacular view over the North of Israel, near the spot where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. 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 conclude our day at ancient **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home and place of His early ministry.

Overnight: Golan Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee



Day 4 Thursday October 5 (Sukkot, Day 6)

AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE – Daily Life and Religion in the Time of Jesus

Our day will be spent visiting various sites around the Sea of Galilee as we try to picture daily life and religion in the First Century and seek to better understand the miracles and teachings of Jesus in His original Jewish context.

Today we will visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we will consider the Kingdom of God in Jesus' teachings.

After a short walk or drive down the hill

we will arrive at **Capernaum**, the town where Jesus lived during the majority of His ministry. Other sites may include **Chorazin**, the well-preserved ruins of a typical Galilean village, where we study village life, Jewish religion, and the Pharisees. At the newly excavated **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdala, we will visit the remains of an ancient synagogue from the time of Jesus or the lovely **Tabgha**, which commemorates the multiplication of loaves and fish, and where Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection. Later in the afternoon we will visit Kibbutz Ginosar to see the **"Jesus Boat"**, a Galilean fishing boat from the First Century. From here we will set sail for a **boat ride on the Lake** to enjoy the views and some worship, prayer and reflective time.

Overnight: Golan Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee



Day 5 Friday October 6 (Sukkot, Day 7)

NORTHERN ISRAEL – "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Today we explore Northern Israel, one of the most beautiful regions of the country. We will seek to understand what the Jewish people of 2,000 years ago expected of the Messiah, and how that was fulfilled in Jesus. We begin by climbing up to the magnificent **Golan Heights**. In the morning we will visit a reconstructed Talmudic village at **Katzrin**, where we will take another close look at life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. We will travel along the lower slopes of **Mount Hermon** – Israel's highest mountain, and the most likely site of the Transfiguration. Along the way we will pass **Druze Villages** before coming to a lookout spot near the border with Syria and the area of the **road to Damascus** where the Apostle Paul met the Lord. Our next stop is the **Dan Nature Reserve**, where we see the incredible archaeological remains of the **OT city of Dan**, including the city gate from the time of Abraham, and consider ancient Israel's apostasy. We will also enjoy a pleasant walk by a stream and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teaching. Time permitting we will visit **Caesarea Philippi**, in the region where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah.

Overnight: Golan Hotel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee

Day 6 Saturday October 7 (Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Tora. End of Sukkot)

THE JORDAN VALLEY – “In the World But Not of It”

Today we leave the Galilee and journey south down the spectacular **Syrian African Rift Valley** to the Dead Sea in the arid Judean wilderness. We will study the cultural tensions that existed at the time of Jesus, both between Greco-Roman culture and Jewish culture (and later the early church), and also between the Jewish religious establishment of the day and various spiritual reformers. At the **Jordan River**, we will discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship with Jesus. *If the tour leader wants to do baptisms, the group can visit a baptismal site on the Jordan River.* Our next stop is the Biblical city of **Beit Shean** to examine the visually impressive excavations of its Roman-Byzantine period when it was one of the ten Hellenistic cities of the Decapolis. Conditions permitting, we will have a dip in the beautiful spring fed pools at **Sachne**, near the base of **Mt. Gilboa**. From here we continue down the Jordan Valley to the arid Judean Wilderness, passing by the region of **Jericho** – the oldest and lowest city on earth. 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.

Overnight: David Dead Sea SPA Hotel, Dead Sea

Day 7 Sunday October 8

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. 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 8 Monday October 9

JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF JESUS – The Temple at the Center

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. An early start will take us up to the **Temple Mount** (conditions permitting), 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 take a trip to the subterranean **Western Wall Tunnels** to walk at what was street level in the time of Jesus. We then make our way through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City and time permitting will visit the **Herodian Villas**, the palatial mansions that were the home to the Sadducees, the ruling priesthood at the time of Jesus. We complete our day at the excavations near the base of the Temple Mount and discuss Pentecost on the **Southern Steps** where Jesus walked. Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

Day 9 Tuesday October 10

FREE DAY IN JERUSALEM

Today 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: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

Day 10 Wednesday October 11

THE RESTORATION OF HOPE – A Garland Instead of Ashes

Today we study both a great tragedy and the wonder of the Lord's redemptive power. We will examine the systematic annihilation of six million Jews in the Nazi genocide, God coming to earth in the form of a man to save His people from their sins, and the loving witness of Christians committed to the Biblically prophesied physical restoration and spiritual rebirth of the Jewish people. We travel 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. From here we take the short drive to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit the **Church of the Nativity**, which marks the probable site of the birth of Jesus, and the **"Shepherd's Fields"** where the angels heralded the advent of Messiah. This evening we will expand our understanding of the role of the Lamb of God by celebrating a **Jewish Passover Seder meal** together, making Biblical connections to the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

Day 11 Thursday October 12

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 **Stephen's Gate**, stopping to examine the remains of the **Pool of Bethesda**. From here we walk to 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**.

Overnight: Overnight: Christ Church Guesthouse Jerusalem

(For those groups with a late night flight, rooms will be held until departure for the airport.)

Day 12 Friday October 13

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Depending on flight departure time, there are several options for this day.

Early Morning Departure: Straight Home

We say farewell to Jerusalem and descend through the mountains of Judea to the airport on the coastal plain to catch the flight home.

Please register online via e-registration.

<https://shoresh.mvti.net/CMJUSA-2023>

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

- *Most days on this itinerary involve a regular amount of walking and/or climbing. Therefore, this trip cannot generally accommodate those who have significant difficulty with climbing stairs or walking a half a mile at a time. Please be in contact with the trip leaders if you have any concerns about this.*
- *Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.*
- *It is **mandatory** for each participant to have travel insurance to cover medical costs or trip cancellations.*