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Day 1 – Tuesday, September 6: U.S.A. to Tel Aviv

Join your fellow travelers for the journey of a Lifetime! It all begins with our flight to Tel Aviv. Meals are served on board according to the airline schedule.

Day 2 – Wednesday, September 7: Arrive Tel Aviv, Tiberias

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, we are met by our agent who assists us through customs and security. We then motor coach for Tiberias, where we will have dinner and overnight at our hotel right on the beautiful Sea of Galilee.

Day 3 – Thursday, September 8: Golan Heights, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, Gideon Springs, Beit Shean, Galilee

After breakfast, we travel north to the Golan Heights for a beautiful view of northern Israel’s landscape. Then, we head to Caesarea Philippi where Peter confessed, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:13-16). We embark on a short hike to Tel Dan to see the altar of Jeroboam before heading to Gideon Springs. Next, we visit Beit Shean, one of the best-preserved Decapolis Roman cities. This is where King Saul and his sons’ bodies were hung from the city walls after being defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10-12). We return to our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.



Day 4 – Friday, September 9: Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee, Jordan River

There is nothing quite like watching a sunrise on the Sea of Galilee from your hotel room or from a boat. Today will include many biblical sites along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and in the Upper Jordan Valley: e.g. Capernaum (Matt. 4:13), Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5), Tabgha (Feeding of 5000; Mark 6), Church of Peter of Primacy (John 21), Magdala (Matt. 15:39; Luke 8:2); and view Mt. Hermon (Deut. 3:8) and Tiberias (John 6:23). Afterwards, we board a replica wooden “Jesus Boat” to set sail on the Sea of Galilee. Optional: baptism in the Jordan River. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 5 – Saturday, September 10: Tiberias, Cana, Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea Maritima, Jerusalem

We start early this morning on our way up to Jerusalem. Along the way, we will stop at many Biblical sites: Cana (John 2), Nazareth (Luke 1 & 2) Megiddo (Armageddon; 1 Kgs. 9:15; Rev. 16:16), Caesarea (Acts 9 & 25), and on to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 – Sunday, September 11: Mt. of Olives, Temple Mount, Bethlehem

We begin our explorations with a drive to the beautiful Mt. of Olives to behold the breath-taking panorama of the Holy City. Our pilgrimage will proceed to the Church of Ascension, descend to Gethsemane with its ancient olive grove, and there visit the Church of Agony, where tradition holds that Jesus prayed. We will enter Jerusalem through the Dung Gate and walk to the holiest site in the whole Jewish world, the Western (Wailing) Wall of Herod’s temple. Beyond the wall lies the 35-acre temple area purchased by King David (2 Sam. 24:18-25). On this site now stands the magnificent Dome of the Rock (the third holiest shrine in all Islam) and the El-Aksa Mosque. From the temple area, we make our way to St. Stephen’s Gate, St. Anne’s Crusader Church, and then onto the Pools of Bethesda. This afternoon we pass by Rachel’s Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem and visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd’s Field. Time permitting, we’ll view Israel’s Knesset, the huge bronze Menorah.



Day 7 – Monday, September 12: Qumran, Ein Gedi, Masada, Jericho, Jerusalem

This morning, we depart Jerusalem via motor coach, and we will descend to the Dead Sea and the wilderness of Judah. Our first stop will be Qumran and the possible settlement of the first century sect known as the Essenes, the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Following the road south along the western shore of the Dead Sea, we will stop at Ein Gedi where David hid from King Saul, and everyone will have an opportunity to put their feet in the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on the earth. Continuing south, the

Did you know?

► *The Dead Sea has the lowest elevation on land at 1,388 ft below sea level.*

next stop is Masada, where we ascend high upon the wilderness mountain by way of the cable car to the fortress built by King Herod. Here, we survey the ruins of the fortifications, waterworks, synagogues, temples, and palaces. From here, we continue into Jericho for a short visit, conditions permitting. Dinner and overnight are in Jerusalem.

Day 8 – Tuesday, September 13: Yad Vashem, Israel Museum, Garden Tomb

We begin the day by driving to Ein Karem village, the birthplace of John the Baptist, to see the Church of Visitation, and then go to Yad Vashem and spend time touring The Holocaust Memorial. From there, we will go to the Israel Museum, including the Bronfman Archaeological Museum and the Shrine of the Book Museum, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. Late in the afternoon, we will visit the Garden Tomb with an optional communion service together. We enjoy our Farewell Dinner and final overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9 – Wednesday, September 14: Tel Aviv, Munich

After breakfast at our hotel, we drive to Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion airport for our non-stop flight to Munich. After customs and passport formalities, we meet up with our guide who welcomes us to Germany. The drive between Munich airport and the tiny village of Oberammergau is spectacular. First, we have a brief orientation tour of Munich, Bavaria’s capital. Then, we drive south towards the snow-capped Alps. Our accommodations for the next two nights are in a little village near the Oberammergau area.

Day 10 – Thursday, September 15: Oberammergau Passion Play

Oberammergau is not only known for its World-Famous Passion Play, but also for its woodcarving craft and for its colorful and attractive frescos known as Lüftlmalereien. In the morning, we have time to explore the lovely village, the museum, the parish

church, and a woodcarving workshop. Then, we should take our seat at the Passion Play Theater for the early afternoon performance. All the actors, musicians, and singers as well as the backstage staff are either born in Oberammergau or been residents for more than 20 years. Between the different scenes of the life of Jesus Christ we can admire “living pictures” – scenes from the Bible presented as still life. After 2.5 hours it is time for a dinner break, which is waiting for us in a local restaurant. After dinner, we have the opportunity to stroll around in the village and to do some shopping. Later this evening, the second part of the play starts and will end at approximately 11:00 pm. We go back to our hotel in the Oberammergau area for overnight after the play.



Day 11 – Friday, September 16: Munich Airport, U.S.A.

Today we depart from Munich airport for our flight back to the USA. We return home the same day. Indeed, we have experienced the Journey of a Lifetime! We visited all the wondrous sites connected with the Bible, then capped off these unforgettable experiences with the most memorable presentation of Christ’s great Last Week, the traditional Passion Play of Oberammergau.

**While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program/itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.*

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