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Holy Land 2024

with Rev. Bryan Rezen & Eric Stitt

June 17 - 27, 2024



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ITINERARY



June 17 - DEPART THE USA

Your pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on an overnight flight.

June 18 - ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

Arrive in Tel Aviv. Upon arrival be greeted by your guide at Ben Gurion and transfer to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

June 19 - MASADA & BETHLEHEM

Enjoy a visit to the intriguing Masada, the spectacular mountaintop fortress built by Herod that later became the final tragic stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. Ride the cable car to the top to explore the fortress and look down upon the remains of the Roman camps and siege ramp below. In Bethlehem, visit the cave revered as Jesus' birthplace and see the Church of the Nativity constructed over the site (Matthew 1: 18 -25). Gaze out over the Shepherds Field, where angels first proclaimed the Good News. Explore one of the most exciting archeological digs in Israel, the Herodion, the palace-fortress and final resting place of Herod the Great. This evening, partake in a lecture on the Palestinian perspective on the Middle East conflict. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

June 20 - JERICHO, NAZARETH & YARDENIT

Begin today at Jericho (considered the oldest city in the world) to visit the ruins of the ancient city conquered by Joshua (Joshua 6:1). Travel the cable car to the Mount of Temptation. Visit Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus (Matthew 2: 23), and Mount Precipice, where an angry crowd from the synagogue attempted to throw Jesus off a cliff (Luke 5:28 -30). Travel the Jordan River Valley north to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Check in to your Galilee hotel for dinner and overnight.

June 21 - SEA OF GALILEE

Sail across the Sea of Galilee and experience a special onboard worship service. On the Mount of Beatitudes, contemplate the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matt. 5 -7). In Magdala, once home to Mary Magdalene, visit a recently discovered first-century synagogue. Travel to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Stand in the ruins of the synagogue built on the remains of the one where Jesus taught (Matt. 4). See the other excavations, including where Peter's house is thought to have been located. You'll also visit the Chapel of the Primacy, where three times Peter professed his devotion to the risen Christ (John 21). Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

June 22 - CANA, JACOB'S WELL, BETHANY & JERUSALEM

Visit the Franciscan Wedding Chapel in Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle. In modern-day Nablus (ancient Shechem), see where the Samaritan woman encountered Christ (John 4) at Jacob's Well. Continue on to Bethany, where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). Inside the modern-day Church of St. Lazarus are mosaics that date back to the Byzantine church that originally stood here. Continue to your Jerusalem hotel for dinner and overnight.

June 23 - JERUSALEM

Be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of Jerusalem ("the Golden City") as you stand on the Mount of Olives, the place from which Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-12). Walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and pray beneath the ancient olive trees (Matthew 26:36-44). On Mount Zion, see the House of the High Priest Caiaphas,

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where Jesus was imprisoned on the night of His arrest (Matthew 26:57-65). Visit the Southern Wall Excavations of the Temple, including the Teaching Steps and the Western Wall. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

June 24 - JERUSALEM: CITY OF DAVID EXCAVATIONS, POOL OF SILOAM, FIRST-CENTURY MODEL OF JERUSALEM

Wander through the excavations of the City of David. Walk the steps to the Pool of Siloam, recently uncovered at the foot of the City. Explore Hezekiah's Tunnel, an amazing engineering feat that was dug from either end and met in the middle (Note: Those who are claustrophobic may want to meet the group at the other end of the tunnel). Stand on the steps of the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed the blind man (John 9). Gain a better understanding of Jerusalem at the time of Christ with a look at the first-century model of the City of Jerusalem, now housed at the Israel Museum. The museum itself contains 10,000 years of archeological artifacts. Also visit the Shrine of the Book displaying the Book of Isaiah discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

June 25 - JERUSALEM

This morning, conditions permitting, stand on the Temple Mount where the Jewish Temple once stood, and the Dome of the Rock now stands. View the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle (John 5: 1-31). At Herod's Antonia Fortress (Luke 23:1), see where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate. Walk the Via Dolorosa, "the Way of the Cross," and stand in reverence at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Remember the Lord's sacrificial love at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Visit the Garden Tomb for a time of reflection and communion.

June 26 - DAY ON YOUR OWN IN JERUSALEM

June 27 - RETURN HOME



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