

## ISRAEL FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013 - HIGHLIGHTS – Feb 25 – Mar 17

- Neot Kedumim, a nature park with plants trees and artefacts referenced by the Bible.
- Pre-48 secret underground ammunition factory – the Ayalon Institute – in Rehovot
- Visit Jaffa (Story of Johah and the whale) and walk around the Neve Tzedek neighbourhood and perhaps the Carmel market.
- Caesarea Maritima, where Paul was imprisoned for 2 years and Peter converted 3000.
- Visit the Carmelite Monastery at the Muhraka, where Elijah smote the false prophets –
- Visit Bet Shearim,
- The necropolis of the Rabbis in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.
- Bahai Gardens and the northern coastline of Israel. Overnight Haifa.
- Drive to Akko (Acre), see the prison where the British hanged members of the underground; visit the Knights of St. John Castle, walk through the shuk to the harbor and the medieval Genoese marketplace. Continue to Rosh HaNikra to walk through Israel's "blue grotto".
- See the remains of a boat from the time of Jesus. Experience an early morning sail across the Sea of Galilee.
- Mt. of Beatitudes. Tabgha, Capernaum, Fish lunch
- Yardenit Baptismal Site of Jesus
- Tiberias hot springs
- Biblical Dan and Caesarea-Phillippi. Drive up the Golan stopping at Tel Fahr which fell to the Golani Brigade's Barak Battalion in the Six Day War.
- Nazareth Village where you can relive the Nazareth from the time of Jesus. Time permitting, visit Church of the Annunciation. At the foot of Mt. Gilboa visit the 6<sup>th</sup> century synagogue of Bet Alfa. Stop for a welcome to Jerusalem on Mt. Scopus before settling in.
- Start with a spectacular view of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives - Walk down the Palm Sunday Road, visit the Chapel of Dominus Flevit and the Church of all Nations at the Garden of Gethsemane – Afternoon visit to Bethlehem commencing with Lunch there –Visit the Holy Sites including the Shepherds Field, Shepherds Church, Church of the Nativity with Birth cave.
- Free time to enjoy Jerusalem (Old and New City)
- Temple Mount; the Pools of Bethesda, the Sisters of Zion (Actual road Jesus would have walked for his crucifixion) crypt and walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher before ending at Garden Tomb.
- Begin with a visit to David's City. Walk underground down the hill to the Gihon Spring; continue via the now-dry Canaanite water channel to (those who wish can walk - in water

up to their knees or higher - through the 550m. long tunnel built by Hezekiah, joining the rest at the Pool of Siloam.

- Davidson Center, the steps that led to the Temple, followed by a visit to the Western Wall.
- On Mt Zion visit the Last Supper Room and the prison of Christ at St. Peter et Gallicantu – enter the Jewish Quarter and walk the Cardo. Visit the Burnt House.
- Model of Second Temple period Jerusalem; the Dead Sea scrolls. Continue to the Holocaust Memorial. Visit En Karem and the birthplace of John the Baptist.
- Emmaus where the resurrected Jesus appeared to Leontidas and Cleopas.
- Continue to the Latrun Tank Memorial and mini-Israel.
- Continue via Bet Shemesh (where the ark of the Covenant returned and the Ela Valley (where David slew Goliath) to Bet Guvrin (the Biblical Maresha conquered by Joshua) where we explore the myriad bell-shaped caves and the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheatre.
- Visit the caves of Qumran, En Gedi and Masada which we ascend by cable car. Drive to Kfar HaNokdim, where you ride camels for ½ hour in the desert before returning to settle in your Bedouin tent (the whole group in one large tent – while your guide seeks out his private cabin) and enjoy a Bedouin hafla for dinner (perhaps followed by Bedouin music)
- Visit a local Arab falah (peasant) village.
- Dead Sea to enjoy the salty waters
- Timna to see the rock formations and ancient mines and Temples. Visit a re-creation of the Tabernacle in the Sinai desert and overnight Eilat
- Eilat Stone factory, and the underwater observatory.
- Free to enjoy the sea (early visit to the bird-watching centre, scuba or snorkel at the coral beach and/or the dolphin reef, parasail, ride in a glass-bottomed boat, or just lie in the sun on the northern beach) and /or the desert – arrange a camel ride up Wadi Shlomo, take a jeep ride