

DISCOVER ISRAEL ARMCHAIR STUDY TOUR FROM THE FIRST EDITION

“Go ... to The Land that I will show you.” Gen. 12:1



DISCOVER ISRAEL

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

Dr. Bob C. Ross



ARMCHAIR STUDY TOUR DISCOVER ISRAEL

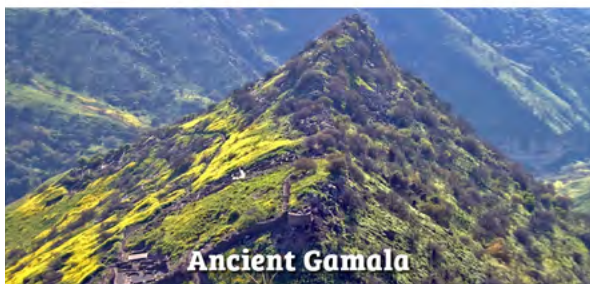
WITH PETRA EXTENSION



Mount Hermon



Banias Falls | Jordan River



Ancient Gamala



Capernaum Synagogue



Garden Tomb

Experience God's Land ... Israel

A "12 day" Study Tour of Biblical Scenes and Sites.

Your Armchair Tour of God's Land

"Travel Day" to Israel

~ The actual flight to the Holy Land requires some effort as Israel is not just "down the road". But from your comfortable study chair, you can make the trip easily. We suggest that before you begin the first "armchair tour day", use your time to study or review your [Discover Israel – Introduction](#) on [pp.6-19](#). This will whet your appetite for your "day-by-day tour" itinerary.

~ [The Historical Dates pp.14-18](#) (related to persons and places) will be referenced over and again in your studies. Israel is 4000 years deep in history and a quick study is like "drinking out of a firehose". This historical chart will help you locate and place in context each Biblical person and event.

~ On [Page 19](#) we give you the [Key to the Geographical Divisions of Israel](#). The [Yellow Line](#) separates these divisions. Begin in the far north-east with the Golan Heights. Find the Golan location on this full map of Israel...then, turn to [p.21](#) for the smaller sectional Golan map with the details. Each section of Israel is so divided. This map on [Page 19](#) is the Key to your "Tour" of Israel. You get the picture?

~ This "[At-Home - Armchair tour](#)" will be presented as if you were actually "[on the bus](#)" touring Israel. You can only see so much in a day. Sadly, the important sites and events in God's Word and the geography of Israel do not overlay exactly. On any tour of God's Land, you will be crossing often two to four geographical areas (as on the map on [page 19](#))...in order to visit the next important site on your tour. Sorry. So, as we move from site to site take extra time to "layer in" the geographical area you are passing through. These appear in **BOLD BLUE** beneath the **DAY OF OUR TOUR**. We will suggest the page numbers for easy reference. Try to get a mental picture of each area you are "visiting".

Now, Let our Tour Begin.

"Welcome Home" to God's Land, Israel!

DAY 1

MEDITERRANEAN COAST / VALLEY of JEZREEL / LOWER GALILEE / SEA of GALILEE

~ After a large Israeli breakfast buffet, we will visit [Caesarea Maritima pp.49-50](#) (the **Roman Capital of Israel** for over 500 years) on the **MEDITERRANEAN COAST pp.45,46**. This was the city of Peter's "**Gentile Pentecost**" and Paul's imprisonment. We sit in the same amphitheater where Paul was tried, then stroll through **Caesarea's** amazing Roman ruins. We visit **Herod the Great's** palace (later Pilate's palace) beside the Roman hippodrome on the **Mediterranean Sea**.

~ We drive to the “horn” of **Mt. Carmel p.39** to visit **Muhraka p.40** where **Elijah** had his contest with **Jezebel’s** Baal prophets. From **Mt. Carmel**, we can view the **Valley of Jezreel** and **Kishon**, where **Elijah** slew 400 of **Jezebel’s** Baal prophets. When Israel’s drought was broken **Ahab** raced his chariot to his summer palace at **Jezreel p.42**.

~ Driving to ancient **Megiddo p.40** we recall the 21 battles (in the Hebrew Scriptures) that were fought in this valley. The view is an unforgettable panorama of prophecy, as the **Armageddon p.40** battlefield of **Revelation** spreads out before us. We view the **Canaanite** ruins, their cultic altar (for human sacrifice) and the chariot stables of **Solomon** and **Ahab**.

~ Crossing the **Valley of Jezreel/Armageddon p.38-39** we pass **Mt. Tabor p.41** to the East. Here **King Saul** visited the witch of **En Dor p.41** by night and learned of his fate the next day. On the eastern slope of **Mt. Moreh p.42**, **Jesus** raised the widow’s son to life at **Nain p.42**. And on the western slope of **Mt. Moreh**, **Elisha** raised a widow’s son. On the western side of the valley stands **Mt. Gilboa p.43**, where **Saul** and **Jonathan** were killed by the Philistines.

~ Traversing the **Valley of Jezreel** our bus climbs the hills of **Lower Galilee pp.36,37** to **Nazareth p.37**. We will visit Nazareth Village. This replica of a Nazareth farming community or rural village has been reconstructed to resemble the area when **Jesus** grew up in the first century. Here in the synagogue, we will recall **Jesus’** childhood and early manhood.

~ Directly North of **Nazareth** lies the well-watered **Netofa Valley p.36**. Above that valley is **Cana, (the Place of Reeds)** where we believe, **Jesus** changed the water to wine.

~ We will bus through the traditional Crusader **Kefar Cana p.36** on the **Pilgrim’s Highway** (not the Cana of Galilee).

~ Descending to the **Sea of Galilee pp.27-35** (686’ below sea level) we proceed to our hotel and “seaside home” at the **Sea of Galilee**.

– **No other place on earth offers a better opportunity to “Walk where Jesus Walked” –**

DAY 2

WORSHIP ON SEA OF GALILEE pp.27-28 - Walk in the “Footsteps of Jesus” pp.27-35

~ We begin our day at **Nof Ginnosar p.30** to view the “**Jesus Boat**” Then, we embark by boat for a unique **Worship Service on the Sea of Galilee**. From the Sea we will recall the “**Sightings of Jesus**”, including the sudden storms, **Jesus’** miracles, His Disciple’s fishing experiences, His teachings by the Sea, His ministry at the **Sea of Galilee** and the **Cove of the Parables**.

~ Debarking at **Capernaum Park**, then it is “**boots on the ground**” as we proceed to the Catholic excavations of Capernaum.

~ **Capernaum p.32** was the headquarters of **Jesus’ Ministry for 2½ years in Galilee**, where we believe **Jesus** was the **Teaching Rabbi of the synagogue**. Here He called **Levi/Matthew**, taught many parables, performed miracles, raised **Jairus’** daughter to life, and taught on “**The Bread of Life**” in the synagogue. In **Jesus’ Capernaum Synagogue p.32** we will worship and recall the events of His ministry. Wow!

~ The **Cove of the Parables pp.33-34 (Natural Amphitheater) (Sower’s Cove)** is a favorite and highlight of our tour. Here **Jesus** called His Disciples, borrowed Peter’s boat for His teaching, taught many parables and healed the multitudes.

~ While seated on the lush green grass and basalt rocks at the **Cove of the Parables**, we encourage your tour group to meditate on the many events that took place here during **Jesus’** ministry at the Sea. The call of his disciples to be “**fishers of men**”, His parables, healing and ministry by the Sea. Our study on “**Jesus Sightings at the Sea of Galilee**” is a 20 page study examining the events in **Jesus’** life and ministry which – 1) “Definitely” took place at the Cove, 2) “More than likely happened” at the Cove, 3) “Possibly happened” at the Cove. All based on clues from the Scriptures and Israel’s geography. This booklet will soon be published, but a working copy is available to you today (an early on-line copy for any donation). • **Request a copy at Bob@DiscoverIsraelMinistries.com**

~ **Questions to consider?** Where did **Jesus** minister to the thousands who came to Him for His teachings, healing and miracles? Not the Capernaum synagogue (as it was built only for the town’s folk), Not by the **Sea at Capernaum** (it was the busiest seaport in all of Galilee and not a good place for **Jesus** to teach and heal). God at creation placed a Natural Amphitheater one mile to the West of Capernaum with the best acoustics of any amphitheater in the Middle East. The Cove has a beautiful grassy hillside at the base of the “**Mount of Beatitudes**”. We believe, It was here that our Lord did most of His Galilean ministry out-of-doors.

~ On this seashore our **Resurrected Lord Jesus** appeared to His Disciples, provided the miraculous catch, and prepared breakfast for them. He forgave **Peter** and instructed him to “**Feed His Sheep**”.

~ Following the **Jesus’ Trail**, along the beautiful shoreline, we hike to **Tabgha p.30**, the largest spring feeding the **Sea of Galilee**. There we will visit the ancient **Leper’s Pool**.

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~ Climbing to **Wilderness Cave** we will see the likely place where our **Lord Jesus** prayed all night before calling His Apostles.

~ We proceed onward to the lower slope of the **Mount of Beatitudes p.31** we will focus on **Jesus’ Beatitudes** at the location where He shared with them 2000 years ago. This is a great place to consider **Jesus’ Word Pictures** from His “**Sermon on the Mount**”.

~ Afterwards, we will hike to **Tabgha pp.30** to visit the Byzantine mosaic of the **Loaves and the Fishes** and discuss **Peter’s Primacy** at the beautiful traditional Catholic location.

~ After a marvelous lunch of **St. Peter’s Fish**, we follow the old **Roman Road** which skirts the North Shore. Crossing the **Jordan River, Bethsaida p.34** is pointed out as the seaside home of **Peter, Andrew, James** and **John**, and **Zebedee’s** fishing company. **Mendel Nun**, the authority on first century **Sea of Galilee** ports and water levels, believed that in **Jesus’** day the fishing village of **Bethsaida** was located where the **Jordan River** entered the **Sea of Galilee**. He believed that the fishing village was part of the city of **Bethsaida Julius p.34**, and where **Jesus** healed the blind man between the fishing village of **Bethsaida** and the city of **Bethsaida Julius**

~ Diving South we enter the **Gentile Decapolis (Gadara/Gergesa p.34)** on the Eastern shore). We will recall **Jesus'** healing the demoniac near **Kursi**, and visit the cliff where Jesus drove the demons into the swine. The pigs rushed over the cliff and were drowned in the Sea. Devilish ham did a "swan dive".

~ Along this Eastern shore, rising above the Sea, is the incredible ruins of **Susita/Hippos p.34**. To this Gentile city **Jesus** sent the healed demoniac as His witness. Later, there were 7 churches and 1 cathedral in this once pagan city. In **Jesus'** day, the stone pagan temples glistened in the afternoon sun casting their reflection over the Sea. We propose that this was the city **Jesus** pointed to and said, *"a city set on a hill cannot be hidden..."*

~ Returning to the southern end of the **Sea of Galilee**, we **Baptize** (those who desire) in the **Jordan River**, at beautiful **Yardenit p.64**.

~ After our evening meal you may want to stroll the quaint streets of **Tiberias p.29** and enjoy dessert and coffee. Alternatively, one can sit with friends by the water's edge and enjoy the beauty of the evening and the stars over the Sea of Galilee.

– 2nd Overnight Ron Beach on the Sea of Galilee –

DAY 3

GOLAN HEIGHTS p.21

HULEH BASIN / DAN / CAESAREA PHILIPPI / MT. HERMON

~ Departing the **Sea of Galilee**, our bus takes us to **Upper Galilee p.25** for a scenic drive over viewing the **Huleh Basin p.25**. Passing ancient **Hazor p.26** and proceed to the beautiful **Dan Nature Preserve p.22**. The lush and beautiful **Headwaters of the Jordan**, pictures on **pp.22,23** leaves an indelible impression.

~ The excavations at ancient **Dan p.22** include the altar where the golden calf was worshiped by Israel under **Jeroboam**.

~ After viewing the **Israel/Lebanon** border, we stroll to the new excavation of the **Canaanite Gate** from **Abraham's** time. Continuing, we visit the city gate of **OT Dan p.22** the *"Hill of the Judge"* to see the ancient city and the amazing *"Cyclop walls"*.

~ We drive to **Caesarea Philippi p.22** where **Jesus** brought his **Disciples** on retreat. This was the **Roman** pagan cultic center, featuring pagan temples and the *"gates of hell"*. Here **Jesus** asked His **Disciples**, *"Who do YOU say that I AM?"*. **Peter** answered, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"*. One week later, **Jesus** was transfigured on **Mt. Hermon p.21**.

~ While viewing the **Jordan Valley** from the **Golan Heights p.23**. Your Guide will explain the **Arab/Israel War of 1967** and the conflict for this area.

~ Skirting **Mt. Hermon p.21** foothills, we travel a portion of the **Damascus Road**. On that road **Saul's** met **Jesus** near **Damascus**.

~ We drive past **Druze Villages p.22**, as the snow-capped "granddaddy" of the mountains in Israel, **Mount Hermon p.21** towers above. What majesty!

~ We will enjoy an marvelous Arab lunch at a Druze restaurant.

~ After lunch we descend through the **Golan p.21** tableland. You will come to understand the agricultural and strategic military importance of the **Golan Heights** to Israel. The **Golan** must remain in Israel's hands!

~ As we return to the Sea we will visit the **Jordan River p.26** and the area of **Jesus'** ministry near **Bethsaida**.

– We return for the overnight at our Hotel (3rd night) at the Sea of Galilee. –

DAY 4

RETURN TO GOLAN HEIGHTS AND GALILEE

GAMALA / KATZRIN / KORAZIN / MOUNT of BEATITUDES / MAGDALA

~ **Gamala p.24** is visited by very few tourists. Usually, the lack of tour time (half a day) and physical strength of the group prevents tours from climbing the difficult path to the top of the abandoned city. However, with our armchair tour, it is no problem. This unique first century Jewish ruin is often called *"The Masada of Galilee"*. An estimated 10,000 Jews died in the Roman conquest of Galilee.

~ At **Gamala**, we will visit the **synagogue where we believe Jesus taught**, near where the Romans broke through the eastern wall. Then, we will visit the famous round tower the Roman's dismantled by night. As we climb toward the overlook of the Sea of Galilee and the peak of **Gamala**, we realize that we are climbing the same path from which the Jewish fighters and their families bravely battled the Roman soldiers. Out numbered and with few swords, in desperation, refusing to become slaves to Rome, they chose to leap to "freedom" through their death. **Gamala** and **Masada** are truly two highlights on our tour.

~ Departing **Gamala** we drive to the capital of the Golan Height and visit **Katzrin p.24** with her reconstructed New Testament village to discover what "small town" Jewish life was like in **Jesus'** day.

~ We suggest that we have an early lunch at the popular **Blueberry Restaurant** (let's make this a gastronomical tour, Wow!) We will burn off 10 calories as we hike to visit the **Katzrin** Museum. Here we experience the descriptive, fascinating film and light show on **The Fall of Gamala**.

~ We return to **Galilee**, busing to the North side of the **Mt. of Beatitudes p.31** and visit the third synagogue where **Jesus** served. Here at **Korazin p.31** we view the mikvah, the yeshiva, the synagogue of **Jesus' day** and learn of the **Seat of Moses**, where **Jesus** unrolled the scroll before reading the prescribed Shabbat Scripture of the week. The view down the mountain to the Sea of Galilee is a sight to be remembered. Jesus and His disciples climbed those same valleys and mountain trails that we view, as they made their way to the city where He served and ministered as the "Teaching Rabbi". Truly, we are "walking in the footsteps" of Jesus, even "touching" the chair where He sat.

~ Descending the Mount of Beatitudes to the Sea we drive again through the **Valley of Ginnosar (GINOSAR) p.31**, we come to New Testament **Magdala/Migdal p.30**. Jesus first came to the **Sea of Galilee** and here cast 7 demons out of **Mary Magdalene**. Our architect friend, **Matti Avshalomon**, designed the quaint and beautiful **Reflection Church** near the shore. We will visit the **Magdala** synagogue, yeshiva, the unique **"Magdala Stone"** and stroll to the beautiful **Reflection Church**. Here we can pray and worship. **Josephus** was in charge of the Jewish resistance against Rome here at **Migda**. Later, he wrote his **Jewish Wars** here.

– **Our 4th overnight at the Sea of Galilee** –

DAY 5

"FINISHING TOUCHES" FOR GALILEE

It is impossible to see all of Galilee, the Valley of Jezreel and the Golan Heights in 4 days. Due to a tight schedule and travel time by bus, there are important sites that have been left out. Very few tours spend 5 days in Galilee, but we will do just that. The advantage we have over tours on the ground, is that we can forego the travel time. So now, let's visit the sites most tours miss - they are...

~ **Sepphoris p. 36** which was located about 4-5 miles East of Nazareth **p.37**. Here Mary's mother and dad lived and likely Jesus would have spent much time in their home, since we teach that He attended yeshiva (seminary) in **Sepphoris**. There He studied and became a Rabbi by age 30. **Sepphoris** was the seat of the **Galilean Sanhedrin** and they definitely had a yeshiva (though it has not yet been excavated). **Sepphoris** means "bird" and the city sits on a hillside overlooking the **Netofa Valley p.36**. The city was both Jewish and Roman in Jesus' day and was the fastest growing city in Galilee. Here we will visit the Governor's House (with its famous mosaics), the extensive excavations, mosaics and Roman streets.

~ **Lake Huleh Basin** and **Nature Preserve p.25** is well worth a leisurely visit. Renting a golf cart we will tour the Nature Preserve and see the thousands of birds that rest there from their long flights between Africa, Europe and Greenland **p.10**. More than 460 species find sanctuary, safety and are treated as "honored guests" in Israel. They quickly learn not to fly across Arab countries. Israel is a Bird Sanctuary!

~ **Safed / Safat p.26** sits on the highest mountain (3,962' alt.) in **Upper Galilee p.25**. We once believed that this was the **"city set on a hill"** in Jesus' parable. Further study reveals that it was only a Roman colony in Jesus' day. Many Jews that fled **Spain** during the **Inquisition** settled in this city. Here **kabala** (a mystical interpretation of the Scriptures) is taught and studied. Today **Safat** is a quaint and beautiful artist colony.

~ **Hazor p.26** sits astride the **Via Maris**, an ancient highway that ran from **Mesopotamia** and **Egypt**. Much like **Megiddo**, **Hazor** has been inhabited for nearly 4500 years, with a tel of 21 cities. A visit to her museum and excavations is well worth one's investment. **Solomon** built up **Hazor** as one of his chariot cities.

~ **Horns of Hattin p.36** where the Crusaders were finally conquered by Saladin. We will view the hill as we descend into the **Valley of Jezreel p.38**. We pass **Mt Tabor p.41**, **En-Dor p.41** of Saul's visit with the witch and Samuel, and **Mt. Moreh** the mountain of two resurrections, one in **Nain** and the other in **Shunem**, all on **p.42**.

~ The city of ancient **Jezreel p.42** sits on the eastern slope of **Mt. Gilboa p.43**. **Jezreel** was the summer home of Ahab and Jezebel and the place of **Naboth's Vineyard**. Please read the Scriptures related to the historical site. Mt. Gilboa is the mountain where Saul and Jonathan were killed by the Philistines.

~ Though we backtrack to get to our hotel, it is worth it spending our last night in Galilee on the seashore.

This is our last opportunity to enjoy dialogue and coffee in the moonlight at our hotel.

Most Christians leave "a part of their heart" at the Sea of Galilee. Enjoy this last evening in Galilee.

DAY 6

JORDAN VALLEY P.64 TO THE DEAD SEA

BEIT SHEAN / GIDEON'S SPRING / JORDAN VALLEY WILDERNESS OF JUDEA

JERICO / DEAD SEA QUMRAN

~ Departing the **Sea of Galilee**, we drive south through the Jordan **River Valley p.64** to the incredible **OT** and **Roman** ruin of **Beit Shean p.44**. This **Decapolis** city was the only Greek city of the ten west of the **Jordan River**. The excavations reveal a first century Roman city with temples, baths, a theater, and hippodrome. Strolling the streets, you will learn of the **Roman Empire**, and see the extensive pagan (Decapolis) city of **Jesus' day**. The OT tel of **Beit Shean** rises above the Roman City and the **Jordan Valley**. **Saul** and **Jonathan's** bodies were hung on the city gate by the Philistines.

~ We will visit **Gideon's Spring p.43** where God selected **Gideon's** 300-man army. This spring is one of the ten most beautiful "swimming holes" in the world. We will enjoy the park, but a swim may be a bit chilly. Your choice.

~ We bus south through the **Jordan River Valley p.43**. The Jordan River and the country of Jordan lie to the East, and the **Mountains of Samaria** to our West. The hour-and-a-half drive takes us in and out of the **"West Bank"** territory **pp.168-169**.

~ Depending on the changing political climate, we may have lunch in **Jericho p.66**. The city spreads out around **Elijah's Spring** at the foot of **Tel e-Sultan**, which dates back to the Stone Age. **Jericho** is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, inhabited since approximately 10,000 BC.

~ Her **Neolithic** tower, the world's oldest building, dating to 7000 BC. At **Jericho**, **"the walls came tumbling down"** as a result of **God's** judgment. **Jericho** was **Israel's** first conquest in the **Promised Land**. Unfortunately, the city is now in the hands of the PLO. Above **Jericho** rises the **Mount of Temptation p.67**, the traditional site of **Jesus'** temptations in the **Wilderness of Judea p.74**. We then descend by bus to the **Dead Sea p.70**.

~ **John the Baptist** often ministered at **Bethany beyond the Jordan**, North of where the **Jordan** enters the **Dead Sea**. In this area **Our Lord Jesus** was baptized by John.

~ **The Dead Sea p.70** is 1300 feet below sea level and is the lowest place on earth. The rainfall here is less than 4" per year. The surrounding area is **"a dry and thirsty land"**. The mountains of the **Wilderness of Judea p.74** tower above the Sea on the West.

~ We view the area of ancient **Gilgal p.66**, located just north of the **Dead Sea**. **Gilgal** was the largest of all Jewish cities (until today). Here, the **Twelve Tribes of Israel** first dwelt when they entered the **Land of Canaan**. At **Gilgal** the men of Israel were circumcised, the manna ceased, and Israel sacrificed to God. **Gilgal** lies just south of **Jericho**, the first city **Israel** conquered. Between **Gilgal** and **Jericho**, **Joshua** met **"the angel of the Lord"**, who took over leadership and led **Israel** to conquer the **"Land of Canaan"**.

~ Driving along the west side of the **Dead Sea**, we view the cave where archaeologist **Vendyl Jones** searched for the **"Ashes of the Red Heifer" p.73** and the **Temple Treasures** at **Wadi ha Kippah p.71**. The fictitious movie, **Indiana Jones**, we believe was based on **Vendyl Jones'** experiences, with the usual embellishments by Hollywood. Vendyl was a most interesting personality **p.71**.

~ We visit the extensive ruins of **Qumran p.71** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found. For years, it was felt that the inhabitants were the **Essenes**, and that they recorded the scrolls. However, our guide will tell the story of the **Sect of the Wilderness of Judea**, who recorded and hid the scrolls from the invading Romans. Because of their beliefs, today many see the sect as a **"pre-Christian"** community. **John the Baptist** and our Lord held many of the same beliefs as this **Sect** (that is; a pierced Messiah with pre-mortal existence, a new covenant, sabbath observance, the last days, judgment, resurrection, angels, and the afterlife). They spent their days committed to reading, studying, and writing the Scriptures. We believe that **John the Baptist** was perhaps raised and educated through yeshiva (seminary) by the **Qumran** community.

~ **Muhammed adh-Dhib**, a 14 year old, Bedouin, while caring for his sheep, discovered the first of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in **Cave #4 p.71**. He sold them to an antiquities dealer in **Bethlehem p.76** by the name of **Kando**. The Syrian archbishop of Jerusalem obtained 4, and **Dr. Eleazar Sukenik** of the **Hebrew University** purchased 3 of the scrolls on Nov. 29, 1947 (the very day that the **United Nations** voted for the re-creation of the Jewish state, **Israel**, after 2000 years. We proceed to our hotel at the **Dead Sea**.

– Relax and enjoy the spa, a massage, and float in the Dead Sea. – Overnight at Ein Bokek (2 nights) –

DAY 7

DEAD SEA P.70 AND WILDERNESS OF JUDEA P.74

WILDERNESS OF JUDEA / MASADA / EN GIDI / DEAD SEA / LIMITUS

~ **Masada p.72** is one of the most important mountains in world history. Your guide will tell you the incredible story of the **Jewish Freedom Fighters** who held out against the **Romans** in **73 AD**. The story of the struggle, the excavations, and the view from the top over the **Judean Wilderness** and **Dead Sea** will long burn in your memory as a **highlight** of the tour. From the top of **Masada**, one can see **Jordan**, **Edom**, the **Arabah Valley p.188** and the **Negev p.121**.

~ Departing **Masada**, we travel north to **Ein Gedi / Spring of the Wild Goats p.71**. Then, we hike to the waterfalls and recall **David** hiding from **King Saul** in the mountain cave behind the veil of the waterfalls. **Ein Gedi** is known for her beautiful cascading streams and refreshing pools. **David** spared **King Saul's** life here. Incredible story.

~ Following lunch, we travel south along the **Dead Sea p.70** to view the modern Israeli chemical operations at this incredible Sea. En route, we will discuss the destruction of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**. According to the **Hebrew Scriptures** **God** literally **turned the earth upside down**. Nothing is left of the two cities today.

~ Just south of the **Dead Sea** is the overlook of the **Arabah Valley p.127** and the farthest outpost of the **Roman Empire**, **Palestina Limitus p.125**. The great Roman Empire extended from here to **Cold Water, Scotland** (a five-hour flight today).

**Returning to our hotel,
David's Spa, in Ein Bokek, we relax and prepare our
minds and hearts for the Holy City of Jerusalem.**

DAY 8

THE NEGEV

ARAD / BEERSHEVA / VALLEY OF ELAH

- ~ Departing the Dead Sea hotel, we bus through the northern **Negev of Israel p.124**. The difference in the topography of **God's Land** will amaze you. This desert area of Israel presents a majesty of its own.
- ~ We will visit **Tel Arad p.125** (5000 years old), and see a sanctuary built according to the layout of the **Holy of Holies** (instructed by God) in **Solomon's Temple**. How did the ancients know? **King Solomon** had a fortress near here.
- ~ Journeying West we come to the **Capital of the Negev, Beersheba p.124** (meaning "**Well of the seven**"). At **Tel es Seba Abraham** dug 7 wells before he entered a covenant with the **Abimelech**. **Abraham** lived here, the angel spoke to **Hagar**, **Jacob** fled from **Esau**, **Jacob** offered sacrifices to God, and the angels fed **Elijah**. The OT proverbial expression "**from Dan to Beersheva**" described the size of Israel in **David's** day. A stone highway connected the two.
- ~ We will visit ancient underground **Beersheva** (6000 years old) and see "**Abraham's Well**". The whole ancient city is a marvel indeed.
- ~ After lunch, we travel north in ancient **Philistia p.121** to the **Valley of Elah p.119**, where **David** slew **Goliath**.
- ~ Next, we view the **Valley of Sorek p.117** from **Tel Beit-Shemesh p.119** ("Temple of the Sun"). The inhabitants of this Israelite city received the returning **Ark of the Covenant** from its captivity in **Philistia**. The **Sorek Valley** was the site of **Sampson's** early exploits and were he dated **Delilah**.
- ~ Our bus climbs from the **Shephelah p.112** (low foothills) into the **Judean Mountains** toward the **Holy City of Jerusalem**. The pilgrims of the **OT** sang the "**Songs of Ascent**" (**Psalms 120-134**) **p.78** as they ascended the highways leading to **God's Holy City** to celebrate the annual Jewish Feasts. Entering **Jerusalem** from the West, we make our way to our Jerusalem hotel.

Concerning our "Tour" of Jerusalem...

Every site possible will be seen, but an itinerary is not necessarily the order a tour can see the city. It is best to leave Jerusalem in your guide's capable hands. Your guide must coordinate all your site visits with Shabbat, any Jewish holidays, and even working around parades or marathons. Therefore, any written out itinerary of Jerusalem may have to change and often overnight. Place your safety and sites to visit in your guide's hands, they will cover every important site listed, and show you much more.

However, you are in great shape from your arm chair. Below are the days we suggest for your Jerusalem Experience. We will simply list the sites you can expect to visit. Follow the page numbers and the details are in our Discover Israel -An Illustrated Guide. Enjoy Jerusalem.

DAY 9

THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM

MOUNT OF OLIVES / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE / KIDRON VALLEY CAIAPHAS' HOUSE / WAILING WALL / SOUTHERN EXCAVATIONS

- ~ Our day begins on top of the **Mount of Olives p.85**. From here we have an incredible panoramic over view of the **Temple Mount**, the **Dome of the Rock**, the **Golden Gate**, the ancient **Walls of Jerusalem**, and the **Kidron Valley**. Study the **Historical Overview p.80-82** of the Biblical and historical events related to **Jerusalem**. This will cover pre-Biblical Jerusalem, through the **Hebrew Scriptures** and **New Testament** events, up to present day **Israel**.
- ~ We walk down the traditional path of **Jesus' Triumphal Entry p.84** from **Bethany p.84** and **Bethphage p.86** to the edge of the **Kidron Valley pp.79,87**. Here we visit the beautiful **Garden of Gethsemane p.87**. In your devotional time here please recall **Jesus'** experiences related to the **Passover** and **Gethsemane**.
- ~ From the Garden we enter the **Kidron Valley**, past the **Tomb of the Kings p.76**, and then climb up **Mt. Ophel p.90** to the **Jerusalem Walls p.87** and the **Golden Gate p.86**.
- ~ We visit the **House of Caiaphas/ St. Peter** in **Galicantu p.93**, the place of **Jesus' early interrogation and/or "Jewish trials"**. In the courtyard **Peter** denied our **Lord Jesus** three times. Here, we teach that **Jesus** was kept in the **Prison Pit**, **Tortured** and "**Flayed**", **better translated, "Caned"** by the Jewish authorities. Consider the details of **Jesus' suffering** for us **p.93**.
- ~ After viewing the first century Roman street **Jesus** used, we will overlook the "**Field of Blood**" **p.90** where **Judas** hanged himself. At this location, you are standing just above the confluence of the **Kidron p.79,87**, **Cheesemaker p.87** and **Hinnon Valley p.90** at **New Testament Gehenna (the Place of Burning) p.90**.
- ~ After lunch, we will take quality time at the **Wailing Wall pp.91,93-94** and worship with Jewish friends.
- ~ Then, we visit the **Southern Excavations, Davidson's Center p.90**, and the southern **Temple Entrance** in **Jesus' day** to view the incredible excavations of the NT time.

We continue to King David's City for the afternoon of Day 9

AFTERNOON – DAY 9

KING DAVID'S CITY

MT OPHEL / HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL / POOL OF SILOAM / JEWISH QUARTER

~ At **King David's City p.90** on **Mt. Ophel p.87** we will visit the incredible **Canaanite** ruins, the **Jebusite** water system, **David's Tomb**, **Joab's Tunnel p.89** and exit at the recent excavations of the **Pool of Siloam p.89** connecting to **Hezekiah's Tunnel pp.88,89**.

~ **Note:** Our tours always make arrangements for several to walk thru **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and meet our group at the **Pool of Siloam**. The tunnel is about knee-deep in water. Digging from both ends, the workers met in the middle, beneath **Mt. Ophel**. The tunnel is an unforgettable 45-minute wet hike. One must wear old water shoes, a flashlight or cap light. The water is comfortable and most of the base is plastered and quite even for our tunnel adventure. Don't plan on this hike if you are claustrophobic. From your armchair, you will have no problem.

~ Read and consider **"Mt. Zion" p.92** with Traditional **"David's Tomb" p.93** and Traditional the **"Upper Room" pp.92,93**. Then, entering the **Zion Gate** we stroll through the **Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem p.102**. Here we will visit the **Cardo Maxima p.102**. Consider the OT history as you view a remnant of **Nehemiah's Wall p.102**. While in that area it is wise to visit the **Temple Institute p.102** (where the items for the New Temple are being crafted according to the instructions in the Scripture. Nearby is a must see location called **The Burn House p.102** (burned by the Romans in 70AD). This was the home of a rich family in the Jerusalem quarter, which was occupied by the Jewish leaders. We know from Scripture that Mary, John Mark's mother had a home here near the High Priest. From Scriptural clues, her home was the most likely the location of the **Upper Room**. The **Burn House** is likely the closest excavation for us to visualize the **Upper Room**. Leaving the heart of **Jewish Quarter (photo on p.137)** we stroll through the **Jerusalem Market of the Old City** to **Jaffa Gate p.101** and **"David's Tower"** and **Herod's Palace p.101**. Near **Jaffa Gate** we meet our bus to go to our hotel.

Overnight at our Jerusalem Hotel for a much needed rest.

DAY 10

JESUS' TRIALS AND SUFFERING CONTINUES

JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY / TRIALS OF JESUS / VIA DOLOROSA CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHER

~ Our day begins early as we check through security to enter the **Temple Mount/ Mt. Moriah p.95** (which is today under the control of the **Jordanian Wakf**). Here we will see the Mosque of **El Aksa p.100**, the **Dome of the Rock p.100**, which many believe is where the **Temple of Solomon** and **Herod's NT Temple** were located. From our research across the years, we believe that the **Temple Holy of Holies** was located at bedrock outcropping, at the **Dome of the Spirits p.96** (please study our detailed description). This cannot be talked about on the **Temple Mount** due to the **Wakf's** control (but you can study it from your home). We will stroll to the **Gate Called Beautiful/ Golden Gate p.86**, and make our way to the **Lion's Gate or St. Stephen's Gate p.98**.

~ At the **Lion's Gate** our study tours have focused on the importance of **Israel's return to the Holy City in June of 1967, "The end of the Age of the Gentiles"**. Our guide of some 35 years, **Yehuda Hecht**, led Israel's reconnaissance unit, **Rabbi Shlomo Goren**, and the Israeli troops through this gate on **June 7th, 1967 (Six Day War)**. What an incredible story! Sorry to inject our previous tour information, but after 49 tours, it is difficult not to recall those wonderful experiences and miracles God gave to Israel.

~ We proceed to the **Pool of Bethesda p.98** where **Jesus** healed the lame man. Here we visit the **Crusader Church of St. Anne** and experience the incredible acoustics of the chapel. Who will sing for us?

~ Nearby is the **Tower of Antonia p.102**, **Praetorium p.102** and **Pilate's Judgment Hall p.99**. Our **Lord Jesus** was tried here before **Pontus Pilate**, beaten by the **Roman Cohort**, received the **Crown of Thorns** and took up **His Cross**. Here we view the **King's Game**, inscribed on the **Pavement stones p.102** near **Pilate's Judgment Seat**. The **Ecce Homo Arch p.99** is where **Pilate** told the Jews **"Behold, the man"**.

~ The **Ecce Homo** begins our walk along the **Traditional Via Dolorosa p.99** with the **14 "Stations of the Cross" p.99** (determined by the **Crusaders** - Not so **Biblical**). We will visit the **Praetorium Prison (not in our 1st edition)** where we believe **Jesus** was imprisoned and where **Peter** was likely imprisoned and released by **God's angel**. The **Crusader Via Dolorosa pp.99-101** route leads to the 4th century **Church of the Holy Sepulcher pp.100,101** the traditional **Catholic/Orthodox site of Jesus' Death, Burial, and His Resurrection**.

~ After lunch, in the **Old City of Jerusalem**, we always allowed a brief time for shopping (not shoppingg).

Calvary and the Garden Tomb Experience...

~ We pass through the **Damascus Gate p.103**, en route to **Calvary/Golgotha p.104** and the **Garden Tomb p.104**. Our **Research pp.104-109** leads us to believe this is the most reliable site for **Jesus' Crucifixion/The Hill of the Skull p.104**, **His Burial** and **Resurrection from the Garden Tomb p.104**. After visiting the **Empty Tomb**, we discuss the details of the events in **Jesus' Death** and **Resurrection**, in detail. Here most tours celebrate of the **Lord's Supper**.

~ We will take time for personal prayer time in the **Garden**, and allow time to shop in the **Garden Tomb Book Store**.

We return to our Hotel (3rd night in Jerusalem)

DAY 11

JUDEA

TEMPLE MOUNT / HERODIUM / BETHLEHEM / SHEPHERD'S FIELDS

~ Departing **Jerusalem**, we drive to the **Herodium p.77** the mountain that **Herod the Great** moved to build his palace. **Jesus** referred to the **"kings in their palaces"** and **Herod** had two palaces in this location. The **Herodium** was the place of his elaborate funeral. (His tomb was only recently discovered.) From the **Herodium** you have an incredible view of **Bethlehem p.76**, the **Wilderness of Judea pp.74-75** and the **Negev p.119**.

~ Crossing into the **"West Bank" pp.168-9** at the **Israeli/Palestinian Checkpoint**, we proceed to **Bethlehem p.76**. We will briefly visit **Bethlehem Square** and the traditional place of **Jesus' Birth**, the **Church of the Nativity p.77** (built by **Constantine's mother, Queen Helena** - the second oldest church in world).

~ At **"Shepherd's Field"/ Migdal Eder p.76**, we discuss **Joseph and Mary's** visit to **Bethlehem** and **Jesus' Birth**.

~ Then, our tour enjoyed an incredible Arab meal at **The Tent**. Wow! Unforgettable!

~ After lunch, we will visit an **Olive Wood Factory and Shop**. There you can select items or gifts from the world's most beautiful **olive wood** carvings. You will learn of the **Plight of the Christians**, who live under **Bethlehem's** Muslim administration.

– We return to our Hotel - 4th night in Jerusalem –

DAY 12

NEW JERUSALEM

NEW JERUSALEM / YAD VASHIM ISRAEL MUSEUM / MODEL OF FIRST CENTURY JERUSALEM

~ In the **New City of Jerusalem p.110** your morning is spent in **Yad Vashem, Israeli's Holocaust Museum p.110**. **Warning:** You will not come out of this museum the same person as when you entered.

~ Next, we view the **Israeli Knesset p.111** as we bus to the amazing **Model of First Century Jerusalem p.110**, the **Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) p.111** and the **Israel Museum p.110**.

Leave the balance of the day in the hands of your guide to "wrap" what has not been visited in Jerusalem. Or maybe, you can use the balance of the day to visit and see...

- **Machne Yehuda**, the enormous Jerusalem Market
- **The Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**
- **The Chagall Windows and the incredible Hadassah Hospital p.111**
Ein Karem, where John the Baptist was born, **p.111**

Often visitors stay on in Jerusalem a few extra days after their tour.

– We return to our Hotel - 5th Night

DAY 13



Come Join Us?

**Many who visit Israel extend their Tour to include a...
Jordan Extension to Ancient Petra.**

Let's do it!

PETRA EXTENSION (In Jordan):

Journey through the narrow Siq to Petra, Jordan's breathtaking 'Rose City.' Carved into sandstone cliffs by the ancient Nabataeans, this remarkable desert city is famed for its magnificent Treasury, royal tombs, and timeless beauty.



DAY 13 – Continues to PETRA

~ We bus to the **Allenby Bridge** and Cross from Israel into **Jordan**. We walk across the bridge and board our Jordanian bus. We climb the mountain of **Ammon** and visit **Mt. Nebo**, to where **Moses** viewed the **Promised Land**. Nearby is **Madaba** where we will see the world's oldest mosaic map. Then, we descend to the Dead Sea to the fortress of **Machaerus**, Herod's incredible palace, where John the Baptist was in prison. Then, we bus thru **Moab** and **Edom** to our **Petra Hotel**.

DAY 14

~ **Excitement Builds** as we stroll through the incredible **Siq** for our 5 hour visit to the "**Rose Colored City**" of **Petra** **pp.124-125**. **Petra** was the ancient **Nabatean capital** and one of the "**Wonders of the World**". **Enjoy!**

~ **Commentary beyond Petra is not provided for Jordan. Please ckeck your cell phone for information.**

~ After our visit to **Petra** we journey to **Amman**, the **Capital of Jordan**, and visit her ancient Roman theater and ruins. Our hotel for the evening is in **Amman**. Enjoy the Arab hospitality.

DAY 15

~ We drive thru the **Gilead Mountains** to majestic **Jerash** (a Roman Decapolis city). The city compares to Beth Shean in **Israel**. Amazingly, her theater even offered battles on her imported "Seas" with Roman war vessels in live combat. Impressive for an arid land.

~ Descending thru the **Gilead Mountains** we cross back into Israel over **King Hussein's Bridge**. Changing to an Israeli bus we drive to beautiful **Tel Aviv** **p.54**. Some may want to revisit nearby **Jaffa** **pp.54-55** (the world's oldest seaport), to visit the town's quaint artist colony or stroll through her "flea market". We overnight in our **Tel Aviv** hotel.

DAY 16



Your fight returns to the U.S.

It has been Great to have had you with us on this "At-Home, Arm Chair Tour".

It has been our Joy to share Israel with you!

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