

**ITINERARY DESIGNED FOR
PALM CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
“DISCOVERING THE HOLY LAND”
MONDAY 25 APRIL 2011 - THURSDAY 5 MAY 2011**

DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM MIAMI

We will enjoy full meal service on our scheduled wide-bodied flight to Tel Aviv.

DAY 2 ARRIVE TEL AVIV - JERUSALEM (4 NIGHTS)

We will be met at the airport by our guide where we board our own private coach and transfer into Jerusalem for a stay of four nights. Jerusalem home to three of the world's religions and just as varied culturally. After checking into our hotel we will enjoy some free time before dinner together.

DAY 3 HALF-DAY TRIP TO BETHLEHEM

This morning we will travel to Bethlehem, a city featured prominently in both the Old and New Testaments. We will visit the **Basilica of the Nativity** and descend to the *Grotto of the Nativity*, in the lower level of the church to kneel at the place where Jesus was born. We will also see **Manger Square**, which has been transformed into a meeting place, and the *Shepherd's Fields* where the birth of the Christ child was announced (Luke 2).

DAY 4 OLD JERUSALEM

This morning we will take a **Walking Tour** of the Old City of Jerusalem, entering via St Stephen's Gate to visit **St Anne's Church**, a Crusader church that was originally built to commemorate the birth of Mary's mother. Next we will walk along the Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross to Calvary to visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** (Matthew 26) followed by a visit to the **Garden Tomb** where Jesus was buried. We will also stop at the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in the Jewish world. It became the most sacred spot in Jewish religious and national consciousness and tradition by virtue of its proximity to the Western Wall of the Holy of Holies in the Temple, from which, according to numerous sources, the Divine Presence never departed. It became a center of mourning over the destruction of the Temple and Israel's exile, on the one hand, and of religious - in 20th century also national - communion with the memory of Israel's former glory and the hope for its restoration, on the other. Because of the former association, it became known in European languages as the "Wailing Wall". The remainder of the day will be yours at leisure before we come together for dinner.

DAY 5 HALF DAY TRIP TO EIN KAREM - JERUSALEM

Today we visit Ein Karem just outside of Jerusalem and home to John the Baptist to visit the **Church of the Visitation**, where it is believed that Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1). Next we will return to Jerusalem to see some of its modern sights including the *John F. Kennedy Memorial*, **Shrine of the Book** and **Israel Museum**. The afternoon will be yours at leisure.

DAY 6 JERUSALEM - MT OLIVES - GETHSEMANE - JORDAN VALLEY - NAZARETH - TIBERIAS (3 NIGHTS)

Our day starts as we drive to the top of the Mount of Olives, where Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1), for amazing views of the city. Then we will make our way to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, believed to be home to the rock that Jesus prayed upon. Next we will see the **Dead Sea** before traveling through the Jordan Valley to Nazareth and a visit to **Nazareth Village**. This is an interactive replica of the Town of Nazareth as it was during the youth **Christ**. Following this, we will visit **The Basilica of the Annunciation**, built on the site where Christians believe the Archangel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah. We will view St Joseph's Workshop, the Grotto where Mary lived and the blessed Cave where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (Luke 1). Then we will continue to our hotel in Tiberias, a former Crusader and Turkish stronghold, as well as an important site of Jewish pilgrimage.

DAY 7 DAY TRIP TO MOUNT OF THE BEATITUDES, CAPERNAUM, TAGHBA & SAFED

Our morning begins as we ascend the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where the Sermon on the Mount was given (Matthew 5). Next we will journey to Capernaum, the town where Jesus first assembled his disciples to view remains of the ancient synagogue (Luke 4). Then we will visit the **Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes** in Tabgha, built on the site where it is believed that Jesus fed a multitude of people with 2 loaves of bread and 2 fish (Matthew 14). Then we will **take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee** as part of our journey to Safed, a city erected during the first Crusades that became a center for Jewish scholarship in the 15th-16th centuries. Our visit will include a walking tour through the artist's colony and the ancient synagogue quarter. Time permitting we will also see Mt. Tabor and **Yardenit**, whose waters flow into the Jordan River then down into the Dead Sea, and where many believe that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13).. We will return to our hotel in Tiberias for the evening.

DAY 8 DAY TRIP BETHSAIDA & CAESAREA PHILIPPI - GOLAN HEIGHTS

Today's journey takes us to Banias and the ancient city of Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus gave Simon the keys to the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16:13-20). Then we will drive along the Golan Heights, a place of strategic importance to Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, on our way to **Bethsaida**. This ancient town was the birthplace of the Apostles Peter, Andrew and Philip (John 1:44, 12:21) may be the site where Jesus fed a multitude of people with five loaves and two fish (Mark 6:32; Luke 9:10). While the town's ancient site is now land-locked, evidence was found here of a fishing village. Next, we will travel along the biblical Via Maris to Caesarea, built by Herod the Great in 20 BC as an official residence of Kings and the capital of the Holy Land for almost 500 years. Caesarea is also where St Peter baptized the first Gentile convert, Peter preached to Cornelius and his household (Acts 10) and where Paul was imprisoned. During our visit, we will explore the **Roman Theater** and the fortifications from the Crusades.

DAY 9 TIBERIAS AREA - MT CARMEL - MEGIDDO - JAFFA - TEL AVIV (2 NIGHTS)

Today we will journey back towards Tel Aviv. En route we will see Mt Carmel before continuing to Megiddo, where according to Biblical traditions Armageddon, the final apocalyptic battle between the forces of good and evil, will take place (Revelations 16). In Megiddo, a chariot city of King Solomon, we will view King Ahab's amazing **Water System**. We will follow the Mediterranean coast to Tel Aviv and enjoy a special Farewell Dinner in Old Jaffa.

DAY 10 TEL AVIV

Today will be yours at leisure in Tel Aviv. Dinner will be by your own arrangement.

DAY 11 DEPARTURE FROM TEL AVIV

Our enjoyable and rewarding tour will come to an end as our guide accompanies us to the airport for our return flight home.