



# In the Footsteps of the Patriarchs

## 16-Day Tour of Israel & Jordan with Pastor Russ Hurst

### March 23 – April 7, 2022

1 night on the coast, 3 nights in Galilee, 3 nights in Jordan, 2 nights at the Dead Sea,  
5 nights in Jerusalem

DAY 1 (Wednesday, March 23): We leave the States for a journey to the land where the Bible will unfold before our eyes. We will walk, see, feel and touch the roots of our faith, encounter the divine and sense His presence.

DAY 2 (Thursday, March 24): Flying over the Atlantic Ocean and over Europe, we reach the shores of God's Land. Upon our arrival at the Ben Gurion Airport, we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel on the **coast of the Mediterranean** for a wonderful buffet dinner and a good night's rest. Overnight Herods Hotel, Tel Aviv, on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 3 (Friday, March 25): COASTAL PLAIN

After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel at **Caesarea**, the city of Cornelius the Centurion, who was the first Gentile to convert (Acts 10). We will visit the Roman theatre, walk on the pier used by the apostle Paul on his way to Rome and see the impressive water aqueduct built by Herod the Great. Leaving the Mediterranean, we will travel north to **Mt. Carmel**, where Elijah held the contest with 450 prophets of Baal (I Kings 18). At noon, a memorable experience is waiting for us, as we stop for a typical **Falafel Meal** at the Druze village of **Daliat El-Carmel**. The afternoon will be dedicated to a trip through the **Valley of Jezreel**. At **Megiddo** we will view the excavations of 21 superimposed cities, the remains from Solomon's days (I Kings 9). At the end of the day, we will drive through **Nazareth**, where Jesus spent most of His life. We will make a stop at the **Mt. of Precipice** (Luke 4) for a wondrous view of Nazareth and the Valley of Armageddon. We will drive by **Cana of Galilee** where Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2) and continue to our hotel in the beautiful region of Galilee. Overnight Magdala Hotel – beautiful, new hotel, uniquely situated on the archeological site of the first century town of Magdala at the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

DAY 4 (Saturday, March 26): AREA OF THE TRIBE OF DAN

Today will be dedicated to the spectacular northern part of Israel. Following the accounts described in the Gospel of Luke chapter 9, we will drive through the **Hula Valley** overlooking **Mt. Hermon**, where the miracle of the Transfiguration occurred. We will visit the **Banias**, one of the headwaters of the **Jordan River** and the site of **Caesarea Philippi**, where Peter confessed Christ's divinity. From there, we will continue to the **Dan Nature Reserve**. After a refreshing walk through the beautiful reserve and a taste from the cool water, we will discover Jeroboam's Altar (I Kings 12). We will also see a city gate from the time of Abraham the Patriarch and learn about the importance of the gate in the social life of the city in the Old Testament times. At the end of the day, we will visit **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught in the synagogue and spent much of His ministry (Matthew 4). Overnight Magdala Hotel.

DAY 5 (Sunday, March 27): AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE

Today we will be visiting the places where Jesus spent most of His public life and the sites you have read about all of your life. Using a replica of the wooden fishing boat from the disciples' time, we will sail on the **Sea of Galilee** and recall Jesus' experiences with the fishermen. Our first stop will be at the recently discovered **Magdala Synagogue**. Here we will view remains of the synagogue and the town of Mary Magdalene and recall Jesus' teachings throughout the Galilee (Matthew 4). Then, we will continue to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Driving around the lake, we will visit **Tabgha**, the place of the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14). In the afternoon, we will stop by the **Jordan River** for a **Baptism Service** in the same water where Jesus was baptized. Overnight Magdala Hotel.

DAY 6 (Monday, March 28): JORDAN VALLEY - JERASH - AMMAN

Today, we will leave the beautiful Galilee area and drive down the **Jordan Valley**. After the formalities at the border, we will cross the Jordan River into Jordan, and drive through the land of **Perea**, where Jesus traveled coming to Jerusalem. Our first stop will be at **Jerash**, another Decapolis city (Mark 5). We will visit its Rotunda Plaza, the Roman amphitheater, the Cardo and Decumeno streets, the Forum and the mosaic floors from the Byzantine period. On our way to Jordan's capital, **Amman**, we will drive through the land of Gilead to the **Jabbok River**, where the angel of the Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32). Making our way through the citadel of **Amman**, we will view the ancient **Philadelphia** (Rev. 3). Overnight Landmark Hotel, located in the heart of Amman, one of the city's most renowned hotels.

DAY 7 (Tuesday, March 29): JORDAN VALLEY

We will leave Amman and travel down south alongside the **Jordan Valley**. Our first stop will be at **Mt. Nebo**. It was from here that Moses looked onto the Promised Land before dying (Deuteronomy 34). After seeing this beautiful view ourselves, we will continue to the city of **Madaba**, with its mosaic floor depicting the Holy Land in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. We will continue driving towards the breathtaking ancient city of **Petra**. Once the capital of the Nabatean people, this red city is considered one of the wonders of the ancient world. Overnight Movenpick Hotel Petra, located just steps away from the entrance to Petra.

DAY 8 (Wednesday, March 30): PETRA

We will spend the day exploring the city of **Petra**. Walking or riding an Arabian horse, we will go through the "Siq," a magnificent canyon that will take us to the **Treasury** Monument, carved out of the red rock. Other impressive remains are the ancient tombs, the Cardo Street, the Triumphal Arch of Adrian and the Court building, as well as a spring known as "Moses' Spring." If time permits, those who wish will be able to climb to the **High Place**, where the city's altar is found and an amazing overview of the entire area can be seen. After we enjoy a nice group lunch, we will walk back (those who are tired may try to rent a donkey). Overnight Movenpick Hotel.

DAY 9 (Thursday, March 31): CROSSING INTO THE PROMISED LAND

We will leave Petra behind us and start driving north again to the Jordan River. We will cross at the same place where Joshua and the Children of Israel crossed the river into Israel (Joshua 2). Back in Israel, we will make a stop at the **Jesus' Baptismal Site** on the Jordan River. Located across from **Jericho**, the oldest city in the world and a beautiful oasis (Joshua 3), it is believed to be the traditional site where Jesus was baptized by John (Matthew 3:13). We will also visit **Qumran**, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery. Then, a nice ride along the **Dead Sea** will bring us to our hotel, located in the lowest place in the world, 1,300 feet below sea level! Overnight Herods Hotel, located on the shores of the Dead Sea, with its own private beach and beautiful spa facilities.

DAY 10 (Friday, April 1): DEAD SEA AREA

We will start our day by visiting the astonishing ruins of **Masada**. Using a cable car, we will reach Herod's magnificent fortress, site of the Zealots' stand against Rome. Well-preserved storehouses, cisterns and palaces will be among the features to visit. Our next stop will be at **Ein Gedi**, where David wrote some of his beautiful psalms. After a short hike, we will reach the waterfall where David cut off Saul's skirt (I Samuel 24). We will enjoy the rest of the day swimming in the Dead Sea. Those who wish will be able to enjoy the hotel's spa facilities as well. Overnight Herods Hotel.

DAY 11 (Saturday, April 2): ASCENDING TO JERUSALEM

We will begin the day crossing part of the **Wilderness of Judea**, using the same road pilgrims have been using for thousands of years while ascending to the Golden City of the Mighty King: **JERUSALEM**. Once in Jerusalem, our first stop will be on the **Mt. of Olives** with a magnificent overview of Jerusalem and an explanation of its history. We will continue down the Mount of Olives and walk through the **Kidron Valley**, following the path Jesus would have taken many times in His coming and going from Bethany to the temple. We will pass a row of Second Temple monumental sepulchers; including the so-called Absalom's tomb. We will continue to **Peter in Gallicantu**, believed to be the site of Caiaphas' house and dungeons (Luke 22). We will end the day visiting **Oscar Schindler's** grave at the Christian cemetery on the **Mt. of Zion**. Overnight Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem, located conveniently about two blocks from the Mamilla Mall, which is near the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City, and many other fascinating places in Jerusalem.

DAY 12 (Sunday, April 3): MODERN JERUSALEM

We will begin the day at the **Israel Museum**, visiting the **Model of Jerusalem** during Jesus' time to obtain an excellent perspective of the city at His time. We will also visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, and view the ossuary of Caiaphas and the Pontius Pilate Stone. Then, at **Yad Vashem**, the museum of the Holocaust, we will better understand the miracle of Israel's revival and return to the Land, as promised by God. Overnight Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem.

DAY 13 (Monday, April 4): THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

We will enter the old city through the **Jaffa Gate**, the **Arab Market** and bazaar, the **Cardo** and **Hezekiah's Wall**. We will continue to the **Jewish Quarter** and reach the **Ophel Digs**, where we will walk on the First Century Street, used by pilgrims for centuries, while viewing the remains of the Temple and sitting on the steps used by Jesus when entering the Temple (Luke 19, Matthew 21). This is also the place where Peter delivered his sermon after the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and where the new converts were baptized. Then, after a quiet moment of prayer at the **Western Wall**, we will visit the impressive **Western Wall Tunnel**, running along the continuation of the Western Wall, to get a better understanding of how the impressive complex of the Temple Mount was constructed. Overnight Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem.

DAY 14 (Tuesday, April 5): BETHLEHEM

We will spend the morning in **Bethlehem**, at the birthplace of Jesus and the **Church of the Nativity**. We will continue to the pastoral **Shepherds' Fields**, where David raised his sheep and where the Good News about Jesus' birth was received (Luke 2). Before returning to Jerusalem, we will enjoy a **typical Middle Eastern meal** at one of Bethlehem's finest restaurants. From Bethlehem, we will drive to the **Ella Valley**, where you will be able to pick up your own stone from the brook where David slew Goliath (I Samuel 17) before returning to Jerusalem. Back in Jerusalem, the rest of the day will be free. This will allow us to rest and absorb much of the information we have obtained so far. You may want to use this afternoon to stroll on your own or to do some shopping. Our tour bus will function as a shuttle bus, and different activities will be suggested. Overnight Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem.

DAY 15 (Wednesday, April 6): JERUSALEM'S CHRISTIAN SITES

We will begin our last tour day in the city by retracing Jesus' last steps in Jerusalem. First, we will visit the **Temple Mount** and the impressive **Dome of the Rock**. After a visit to the **Upper Room**, we will enter **St. Stephen's Gate** and come to the **Pool of Bethesda**, where Jesus healed the lame man (John 5). After a time of singing in **St. Anne's Church**, we will view the remains of the **Antonia Fortress**, site of Jesus' trial (Matthew 27). We then will follow the **Way of the Cross** out of the **Damascus Gate** to the **Garden Tomb** and the site of the crucifixion, after which we will culminate our tour with Communion at Calvary. You will have the use of your Leonardo Hotel Plaza Hotel room and facilities until time to depart for the airport.

DAY 16 (Thursday, April 7): Early departure for home, after fulfilling a lifetime dream of seeing, touching and breathing in the very places we have only read about until now. Arriving home, our Bible will never be the same, for it will be alive in front of our eyes and in our hearts forever.