

# FMC Travel Club

*A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)*

[www.fmc.org.nz](http://www.fmc.org.nz)

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## **Bible Lands Pilgrimage**

*In the footsteps of Jesus, the Patriarchs and Prophets*

**31 March to 30 April 2015, 31 days**

**\$6995 ex Tel Aviv.**

*Based on a minimum group of 7 participants, and subject to currency fluctuations*

*Costs calculated as at February 2014, so subject to revision in late 2014*

*Any payments by Visa or Mastercard adds \$150 per person to the final*

*A solo use room where this is possible adds \$1000 to the final invoice*

***Leader : Phillip Donnell***

*Scene of divine revelations, home of the People of the Book, background of the marvels recorded in the Bible... lands sacred to Jew, Christian and Moslem. Visiting this region, retracing the footsteps of Jesus, the patriarchs and the prophets, is more than just a journey; it is a pilgrimage to the very source of faith...*

### **PRICE INCLUDES :**

- *All accommodations in Jordan, Sinai and Israel (twin shared where possible)*
- *All transport in Jordan, Sinai and Israel and connections between the 3 countries*
- *Most meals (all breakfasts, all dinners, lunches in Jordan and Sinai and special Shabbat dinner in Israel)*
- *The services of an experienced and knowledgeable Kiwi leader throughout*
- *Local leaders and full operational support in Jordan and Sinai*
- *National Parks passes, entrance fees (including World Heritage sites) and inclusions as shown in the daily itinerary*

### **PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :**

- *Flights to / from the region and arrival / departure airport transfers*
- *Travel insurance (mandatory)*
- *Lunches in Israel*
- *Personal incidentals e.g. internet, tipping, optional expenses, etc*

# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS

One glorious month in Israel, Jordan, Sinai and the Palestinian Territories,  
including Easter in Jerusalem

## ITINERARY

\*For more details of the places mentioned below, see:

[www.allaboutjerusalem.com](http://www.allaboutjerusalem.com), [www.jerusalem.com](http://www.jerusalem.com), [www.BiblePlaces.com](http://www.BiblePlaces.com), [www.seetheHolyLand.net](http://www.seetheHolyLand.net),  
[www.BibleWalks.com](http://www.BibleWalks.com), [www.israel-webguide.com](http://www.israel-webguide.com), [www.goisrael.com](http://www.goisrael.com), [www.bible-history.com](http://www.bible-history.com), [www.gemsinisrael.com](http://www.gemsinisrael.com),  
[www.ilmuseums.com](http://www.ilmuseums.com), [www.israelinsideout.com](http://www.israelinsideout.com), [www.travelujah.com](http://www.travelujah.com)

\*4-10 April is the Passover holiday period in Israel, so some changes of plan may be necessary.

DAY	PLACES VISITED (on some days it may be a selection from those listed, decided by consensus)
<b>ISRAEL</b>	
<b>Participants need to be in Israel by the early evening of Monday 30 March, 2015. You will be met at Ben Gurion Airport and taken to your accommodation in Jerusalem.</b>	
Day 1 Tuesday 31 March	<p><b>Jerusalem: Mount of Olives</b>  <i>Today we have the opportunity to visit the mountain from which Jesus ascended and to which he will one day return...</i></p> <p>As we descend the Mount of Olives, we will visit several churches which commemorate aspects of the life of Christ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Evangelical Tower of the Ascension (Lutheran), Auguste Victoria.</li> <li>- Russian Church of the Ascension</li> <li>- Chapel of the Ascension</li> <li>- Church of the Paternoster</li> <li>- The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem began at <i>Bethphage</i> (Abu Dis), where we visit the beautiful Franciscan church (if access is available to this township).</li> <li>- The Mount of Olives <i>Observation Point</i> (Har Ha Zatim) has exceptional views over the Kidron Valley and the Old City.</li> <li>- Dominus Flevit</li> <li>- Russian Church of St Mary Magdalene</li> </ul> <p>*Finally we reach the <i>Church of All Nations</i> and <i>Garden of Gethsemane</i>, where Jesus prayed in anguish.</p> <p>Gethsemane Grotto            Tomb of Mary            Tomb of the Prophets</p> <p>*Our afternoon walk takes us through the <i>Kidron Valley</i>. Jesus crossed here many times, including going from the Last Supper to Gethsemane. It contains several tombs dating from the Second Temple Period.</p> <p>*The Kidron leads into the <i>Valley of Hinnom</i>, once the scene of abominable sacrifices and the city cesspit, hence given the name <i>Gehenna</i> or "hell". At its southern end lies the <i>Potters' Field</i> (Aceldama), where Judas the betrayer hung himself and was buried, a graveyard was purchased for foreigners, and which recent excavations suggest was the location of the real tombs of Israel's kings.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>

<p>Day 2 Wednesday 1 April</p>	<p><b>The Shephelah</b> <i>Today we venture into the Judean hill country west of Jerusalem...</i></p> <p>*<i>Moza (Colonia)</i> is a possible site for Emmaus. So too is <i>Abu Gosh</i> (also said to be the OT <i>Kiriath Jearim</i>, to which the Ark was brought).</p> <p>*<b>The Neot Kedumin Biblical Landscape Reserve</b> is a unique recreation of the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail, and allows visitors to see life as it was lived 3,000 years ago.</p> <p>* <i>Nicopolis</i> or <i>Amwas</i> in Canada Park is another possible site for Emmaus.</p> <p>* “<i>Mini Israel</i>” at Latrun features over 400 beautifully crafted exact replica models of Israel's most important historical, religious, archeological and modern sites, at a scale of 1:25, situated among rich greenery Bonsai trees and thousands of miniature figures of Israelis of all types – a fitting appetizer for the next 3 weeks!</p> <p>*<i>Timnah</i> (Tibnah) was the home of Delilah. Samson was born at <i>Eshtaol</i> (Eshwa), near <i>Zorah</i>. You can see both from <i>Beit Shemesh</i>, which was a major Canaanite and priestly city, and the place to which the Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant.</p> <p>*<i>Gath</i> (Tel Zafit NP) was the home of Goliath.</p> <p>*Some of the best caves in Israel are located in this region. We will visit the amazing <i>Sorek Stalactite Cave</i>, centre-piece of the valley that Samson grew up in.</p> <p>*Option: “Tzabarim” Show – an evening of Israeli and Arab folklore.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 3 Maundy Thursday 2 April</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem: Towards Calvary</b> <i>Today we visit some of the places traversed by Jesus on the last day before his death</i></p> <p>*<u>Via Dolorosa</u>: The <i>Ecce Homo</i> (“Behold the man”) Arch was part of the <i>Antonia Fortress</i> (or <i>Praetorium</i>) where Jesus was brought before Pilate and put on trial. The <i>Lithostrotos</i> (large stone pavement) is also part of this fortress. Below it are the <i>Struthion Pools</i>, built by Herod as part of his moat system for the fortress, open and uncovered in Jesus time.</p> <p>-We will look in on the beautiful <i>Chapel of the Flagellation</i> and <i>Chapel of Condemnation</i>.</p> <p>*<u>Mount Zion</u>: - The <i>Cenacle</i> is the traditional location of the Last Supper. - A notable grave is that of <i>Oskar Schindler</i>, instrumental in saving hundreds of Jews during the Holocaust, and subject of the film “Schindler’s List”. - The Church of <i>St. Peter in Gallicantu</i> is said to be built on the site of the house of the High priest Caiaphas, to which Jesus was brought, and where Peter denied knowing him. -<i>The Steps of Caiaphas</i>: 36 steps lead to what is believed to have been the very house of the High Priest Caiaphas, and were probably walked by Jesus in both directions. - Mary is reputed to have died and been buried on the site of the <i>Dormition Abbey</i>.</p> <p>*<u>Givat Ram</u>: - <i>Wahl Rose Park, the Supreme Court, the Knesset, the Menorah statue, Botanical Gardens</i>. The Knesset is Israel’s Parliament building. - At the <i>Israel Museum</i>, see the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls in the “Shrine of the Book” as well as a 1:50 scale model of the city in the Second Temple Period (when Christ was on earth).</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 4 Good Friday 3 April</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem: Reliving Christ’s Passion</b> <i>Today our focus is on the crucifixion of Jesus...</i></p> <p>*Having traversed the more likely early part of the route that Jesus took to the cross, we will join the 11.30 a.m. procession along the <i>Via Dolorosa</i>, with its 14 stations, to the <i>Church of the Holy Sepulchre</i>, believed by Catholic and Orthodox pilgrims to be the site of the crucifixion and resurrection. It has many small chapels dedicated to different events.</p>

	<p>*We will imbibe the marvellous views from the tower of the Lutheran <i>Church of the Redeemer</i>, and traverse 2000 years of the city's history in its archaeological park.</p> <p>*We will attend a service at <i>Christ Church (Anglican)</i>, the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East, located in the Old City.</p> <p>*It will be a profound experience to visit the rock-hewn <i>Garden Tomb</i>, adjacent to the skull-like formation at <i>Gordon's Calvary (Golgotha)</i>, believed by many to be the scene of Christ's death and resurrection.</p> <p>*Nearby is <i>Jeremiah's Grotto</i>, where he was imprisoned and is said to have written the book of Lamentations.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 5 Saturday 4 April National holiday (beginning of Pesach)</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem: Jerusalem Gems</b></p> <p>*The Armenian <i>Church of St James</i> is one of the most ornately decorated in the Holy Land and is dedicated to two martyred saints of that name — St James the Great, one of the first apostles to follow Jesus, and St James the Less, who became the first bishop of Jerusalem.</p> <p>*The Syrian <i>Church of St Mark</i> is home to one of <a href="#">Jerusalem's</a> smallest and oldest Christian communities, but it is the setting for a remarkable set of <b>traditions</b> and employs the oldest surviving <b>liturgy</b> in Christianity.</p> <p>*The <i>Church of St Ann</i> is the <b>best-preserved</b> <a href="#">Crusader</a> church in Jerusalem. It marks the traditional site of the home of Jesus' maternal grandparents, Anne and Joachim, and the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. Next to the church is the large <b>excavation</b> area of the <a href="#">Pools of Bethesda</a>, where Christ healed a sick man.</p> <p>*The <i>Damascus Gate</i> is a pot-pourri of sights and sounds, marking one of the main thoroughfares of ancient times.</p> <p>*<i>Solomon's Quarries/Zedekiah's Cave</i> are located beneath the Old City. Here the stone was cut for Solomon's Temple.</p> <p>*The <i>Ramparts Walk</i> atop the walls of the Old City traverses all the famous gates, and gives bird-eye views within and without.</p> <p>*We hope to enjoy a <i>Passover Meal</i> hosted by members of a local messianic kibbutz or congregation or attend a Vigil Service at Christ Church.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 6 Easter Sunday 5 April</p>	<p><b>Garden Tomb/South Jerusalem</b></p> <p>*We return to the <i>Garden Tomb</i> to celebrate their early morning service.</p> <p>* <i>Haas Promenade</i> is a favourite viewpoint over the city of Jerusalem.</p> <p>*<i>Yad Vashem</i> is the Holocaust Museum. The history and tragedy documented speak of far more than the Nazis and the nation of Israel.</p> <p>*In the chapel of the <i>Hadassah Medical Centre</i>, view the internationally famous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, depicting the twelve tribes of Israel.</p> <p>*<i>The Jerusalem Biblical Zoo (Tisch Family Zoological Gardens)</i> is the most popular and visited attraction in Israel.</p> <p>*Option: The exceptional "<i>Christian Spirit Show</i>" offers 3D, motion and music experiences.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 7 Monday 6 April</p>	<p><b>West Bank (south and east of Jerusalem) (Green Olive Tours)</b></p> <p><i>Today we visit the birthplace of Jesus and the resting place of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...</i></p> <p>*<i>Kathisma</i> is an octagonal Byzantine church decorated with beautiful mosaics, commemorating where Mary sat down to rest before entering Bethlehem to give birth.</p> <p>*<i>Mar Elias</i> was built in honour of the prophet Elijah, who is said to have paused here.</p> <p>*<i>Rachel's Tomb</i> is where Abraham's wife was buried.</p> <p>*<i>Bethlehem</i> is renowned as the birthplace of Jesus Christ and scene of the Nativity story. We</p>

	<p>visit the atmospheric Church of the Nativity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The <i>Catholic Church of St. Catherine</i> is dedicated to one of the earliest pilgrims and martyrs, and contains caves that lead beneath the Church of the Nativity.</li> <li>*The <i>Milk Grotto</i> is based on a tradition that the Holy Family took refuge here during the Slaughter of the Innocents, before their flight into Egypt</li> <li>*<i>Beit Sahur</i> is where the shepherds watched when the angels sang. Deir el-Rayuat (Greek Orthodox) Church and Siar el-Ganem (Franciscan) church celebrate this event.</li> <li>*<i>Hebron</i> is sacred to both Jews and Muslims as the burial place of biblical patriarchs and their wives: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 8 Tuesday 7 April</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem to Beersheba</b></p> <p><i>Today we visit a picturesque village where the NT story began and several significant OT sites...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*In the village of <i>Ein Karem</i>, we pause to think about Elizabeth and Zechariah, parents of John the Baptist. Mary visited them here before Jesus was born. The Church of St John and Church of the Visitation commemorate these events.</li> <li>*In the <i>Valley of Elah</i>, David killed Goliath.</li> <li>*David hid from Saul in a cave at <i>Adullam</i>.</li> <li>* <i>Beit Guvrin Caves</i> are near <i>Tel Maresha</i>, a significant ancient city of Judah.</li> <li>*<i>Lachish</i> was overcome by Joshua, fortified by Rehoboam, defeated by Sennacherib and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.</li> <li>* <i>Beer Sheva</i> was home to both Abraham and Isaac, and location of seven wells, one of which is known as Abraham's Well. Just outside the city David built a fortified town at <i>Tel Beersheba</i>.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Beer Sheba</p>
<p>Day 9 Wednesday 8 April</p>	<p><b>Beer Sheba to Tel Aviv</b></p> <p><i>Today we experience the northern Negev before continuing along the Mediterranean coast through some Philistine strongholds...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*David's weary troops rested in the <i>Eshkol/Besor</i> region while he pursued the Amalekites.</li> <li>*David lived at <i>Ziglag</i> (Tel-esh-Sharia/Tel Sera).</li> <li>*<i>Yad Mordechai</i> kibbutz was scene of a decisive 1948 battle in the Arab-Israeli War.</li> <li>*Both <i>Ashkelon</i> and <i>Ashdod</i> (Azotus) were significant Philistine cities.</li> <li>*<i>Gezer</i> was one of Solomon's chariot cities. Ten huge stones signify ancient covenants made on this site, which was of great strategic importance.</li> <li>*In the valley of <i>Ayalon</i>, Joshua commanded sun and moon to stand still, and they did.</li> <li>*The <i>Ayalon Institute at Rehovot</i> was a secret munitions factory, disguised as a kibbutz, which operated under the very noses of the British during the Israeli struggle for independence 1946 – 1948, an astonishing operation.</li> <li>* <i>Ramataim</i> or <i>Ramla</i> is the likely location of ancient <i>Arimathea</i>, home to the wealthy Jew who gave his tomb for Christ's body, and the home area of Samuel the Prophet.</li> <li>*At <i>Lydda</i> (OT Lod), Peter healed the paralytic.</li> <li>*Herod the Great built <i>Antipatris</i>, a Roman town where Paul was escorted en route to Caesarea. It is situated near <i>Tel Aphek</i> and the Yarkon Springs, where the Philistines defeated the Israelites in battle and captured the Ark of the Covenant.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Jaffa</p>
<p>Day 10 Thursday 9 April National holiday (end of Pesach)</p>	<p><b>In Tel Aviv</b></p> <p><i>Today we explore Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, a modern and cosmopolitan metropolis...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Our first exploration is <i>Jaffa (Joppa)</i>, where Jonah left for Tarshish and Peter stayed with Simon the tanner, including the famous <i>Artist's Quarter</i> (12 streets of studios and workshops).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <i>Tel Aviv</i> offers a wide variety of attractions:</li> <li>* <i>Diaspora Museum</i> (Beit Hatfutsot, the world's largest depiction of Jewish life in exile)</li> <li>* <i>Hagana Museum</i> (detailing the activities of the defence force before the IDF)</li> <li>* <i>Neve Tzedek district</i> (a trip back in time)</li> <li>* <i>Dizengoff Street</i> (the prime place for window shopping and people watching, plus the Fire and Water Fountain)</li> <li>* <i>Carmel Market</i> (a maelstrom of tastes and smells)</li> <li>* <i>Museum of Art</i> (a superb collection)</li> <li>* <i>Independence Hall</i> (site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence)</li> <li>* <i>Sidna Eli Beach, Herzliya</i> has a very alternative limestone cave and a mosque.</li> <li>* You may also wish to do the famous foreshore promenade walk south back to Jaffa.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Jaffa</p>
<p>Day 11 Friday 10 April</p>	<p><b>Tel Aviv to Acre</b> <i>Today we are heading north through the coastal Plain of Sharon and into the Carmel Range...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Beyond Netanya, we visit <i>Caesarea Maritima</i>, built by King Herod in honour of Augustus Caesar, a marvel in ancient engineering which held an entire Roman fleet.</li> <li>* At <i>Tel Megiddo</i> (Armageddon) we will see much evidence of Israel's past, including King Ahab's great water system, and meditate upon the future.</li> <li>* The maze of ancient Jewish burial caves at <i>Beit Shearim</i> contain a wealth of artistic adornments unparalleled anywhere.</li> <li>* The range-top road known as <i>Nof Carmel</i> Path will lead us to <i>Muhraqa</i> and <i>Stella Maris</i>, possible scenes of Elijah's decisive contest with the prophets of Baal.</li> <li>* The <i>Bahai Shrine and Gardens</i> in Haifa are magnificent and unforgettable.</li> <li>* We stop for the night in the timeless Crusader capital of <i>Akko</i> (Acre, NT <i>Ptolemais</i>), visited by Paul near the end of his Third Missionary Journey.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Acre</p>
<p>Day 12 Saturday 11 April</p>	<p><b>Northwestern Shores of the Sea of Galilee: The Evangelical Triangle</b> <i>Today we enter Galilee and visit some key locations in the life and ministry of Jesus. Bethsaida, <a href="#">Chorazin</a> and <a href="#">Tabgha</a> — with <a href="#">Capernaum</a> as the base's midpoint — constituted the 'evangelical triangle', on the northwestern end of the Sea of Galilee, within which approximately 80% of Jesus' public ministry was exercised.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Harte Memorial Chapel at <i>Peniel</i> has a breath-taking view of the lake.</li> <li>* In the <i>Valley of the Doves</i> you walk the very path that Jesus did (from Nazareth to Galilee) and also find <i>Nebi Shue'ib</i>, the Tomb of Jethro, sacred to the Druzes.</li> <li>* <i>Migdal</i> (Magdala) was the home of Mary Magdalene.</li> <li>* At <i>Nof Ginossar</i> we view an ancient boat dating from NT days.</li> <li>* <i>Tabgha</i> commemorates the miracle of the loaves and fishes.</li> <li>* At the <i>Cove of the Sower</i> Jesus is said to have preached the Sermon on the Mount.</li> <li>* Jesus called <i>Capernaum</i> his "home town". It was also home to Matthew, Simon Peter and Andrew.</li> <li>* The beautiful basilica on the <i>Mt. of Beatitudes</i> overlooks the Sea of Galilee.</li> <li>* Jesus criticised the Galilean fishing village of <i>Bethsaida</i> (<i>OT Geshur/Zer</i>) for its inhabitants' <b>lack of faith</b>. In contrast, at least three of its native sons — Peter, Andrew and Philip — responded to his call and gave up everything to follow him.</li> <li>* <i>Chorazin</i> was also cursed by Jesus because of its refusal to receive his message.</li> <li>* <b>The "New Galilee Experience" will inspire, inform and entertain you with what God has done in this incredible Land.</b></li> </ul> <p>O/n Tiberius</p>

<p>Day 13 Sunday 12 April</p>	<p><b>The Golan Heights</b> <i>Northern Israel has been a lot safer since Israel captured the Golan heights in 1967, which also made some important biblical sites more accessible...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*We pause at <i>Mitzpe Gadot</i> Lookout to dwell on the sacrifice many made for Israel to gain the Golan.</li> <li>*As you tour the reconstructed <i>Talmudic village of <a href="#">Katzrin</a></i>, suddenly it dawns on you: you are walking the lanes of a real village mentioned in the Talmud, which has come alive again in its actual ancient location.</li> <li>*Enjoy the volcanic peak of <i>Mt Bental (1170m)</i> with views from the highest café in Israel.</li> <li>*From <i>Quneitra Observation Point</i>, look across into Syria.</li> <li>*<i>Nimrod</i> is the best preserved and most impressive of Israel's Crusader Castles and enjoys fine views.</li> <li>*<i>Mount Hermon</i> is the source of the Jordan River and a possible site of the Transfiguration.</li> <li>*<i>Tel Dan</i> was home to the tribe of the same name, and used to designate the northern limit of the land in the phrase "from Dan to Beersheba".</li> <li>*At <i>Banias (Caesarea Philippi)</i> Peter made his great declaration: "You are the Christ".</li> <li>*Traversing the fertile <i>Hula Valley</i>, we reach <i>Tel Hazor</i>, the largest in Israel and scene of significant OT battles, including those fought by Joshua, Deborah and Barak.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Tiberius</p>
<p>Day 14 Monday 13 April</p>	<p><b>The eastern and northern shores of the Sea of Galilee</b> <i>Today we reconnoitre some remarkable ruins and places of unique character...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Optional early walk up <i>Mt Arbel</i>, ending at Wadi Hamman Spring.</li> <li>*<i>Safed</i> is a one of Judaism's four holiest cities. It is a picturesque city of spiritual people and artists, wrapped in mysticism and sacred atmosphere. We will visit a synagogue.</li> <li>*<i>Rosh Pina</i> has a thriving and picturesque artists' colony, offering visitors an enchanting assortment of galleries, cafes, and studios.</li> <li>*<i>Gamla</i>, the Masada of the Golan, was the scene of an heroic hilltop stand against the Romans.</li> <li>*At <i>Kursi (Gergesa)</i>, excavations have restored the ruins of a 5-6th C AD church and monastery, the largest Byzantine monastery in Israel, which was established as the traditional site of the Legion/Swine miracle.</li> <li>*<i>Susita/Hippos</i> was the OT home of Jephthah, and later a significant Greek city. It had a strong Christian community (8 churches) and is one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in the north of Israel.</li> <li>*We enjoy a St Peter's fish meal at Ein Gev Kibbutz restaurant before an evening cruise on the <i>Sea of Galilee</i>. Here, Jesus walked on the water, calmed a storm and enabled miraculous catches of fish.</li> </ul> <p>O/n Tiberius</p>
<p>Day 15 Tuesday 14 April</p>	<p><b>Southwestern Galilee and the Valley of Jezreel</b> <i>Today we visit the hometown of Jesus, the scene of his first miracle, a nearby city, some famous mountains, and some spectacular springs (both hot and cold)...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Jesus performed his first miracle (turning water into wine) at <i>Cana</i>.</li> <li>*The exquisite mosaics of <i>Zippori</i> include the "Mona Lisa" of the Middle East.</li> <li>*<i>Nazareth</i> was where Jesus grew up and offers us a selection of churches commemorating sacred events, and a replica of the village as it was in Jesus' day.</li> <li>*Jesus healed the widow's son at <i>Nain</i>.</li> <li>*The views from <i>Mt Tabor</i> across the fabled Jezreel Valley (a crucible of history) are superb, and this is the traditional place of Christ's Transfiguration.</li> </ul>

	<p>*Saul consulted a medium at <i>Ein Dor</i>.</p> <p>*Gideon reduced the size of his army at the <i>Spring of Harod</i>.</p> <p>*We will enjoy a relaxing swim at <b>Gan Hashlosha</b>, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in Israel, with warm pools shaded by lush palm trees and surrounded by green lawns.</p> <p>* We will pause at the <i>Yardenit</i> Baptismal site where the Jordan River exits from the Sea of Galilee.</p> <p>*We stay overnight at the spa resort of <i>Hammam Gader</i>, in the biblical region of <i>Gadara</i>, home of the gospel demoniac, or just north of here at the Ein Gev kibbutz.</p> <p>O/n Hammam Gadar or Ein Gev</p>
<p>Day 16 Wednesday 15 April National holiday (Holocaust Remembrance Day)</p>	<p><b>Jordan Valley</b> <i>Today we travel the length of the Jordan Valley between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea...</i></p> <p>*<b>Belvoir or Kochav HaYarden</b> (“Star of the Jordan”) is a massive and very impressive Crusader castle perched high above the <b>Jordan valley</b> – which provided strategic control of the area and a stunning view to match.</p> <p>*<i>Beit Shean</i> has some of the best ruins dating from both the OT and NT periods. It was here that the bodies of Saul and Jonathan were taken by the Philistines.</p> <p>*<i>Qaser el Yahud</i> is the traditional Jewish site for the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.</p> <p>* We enter <i>Wadi Kelt</i>, likely location of Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness, to visit St. George’s monastery.</p> <p>*Ascending to “the city of the great king”, we pause at the <i>Good Samaritan Inn</i> and museum, commemorating Christ’s famous story.</p> <p>*Option: “Jerusalem Time Elevator” show – a high tech potted version of the history of the city.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 17 Thursday 16 April</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem: the Jewish Quarters</b> <i>The Jewish Quarter of the Old City contains numerous points of great interest, and a suburb in the New City is like a step back in time...</i></p> <p>*The <i>Cardo</i> was the main street of ancient Roman Jerusalem.</p> <p>*At <i>Hurva Square</i> we visit a synagogue which took more than 300 years to complete. and the Wohl Archaeological Museum which contains part of the ancient Herodian Quarter.</p> <p>*The <i>Burnt House</i> is an excavated house from the Second Temple Period situated six metres below current street level.</p> <p>*The <i>Temple Mount</i> Viewpoint will give us a wonderful view over this sacred precinct, which we will also hopefully set foot on to visit Al Aska and Dome of the Rock mosques.</p> <p>*We will certainly be able to go to the <i>Wailing Wall</i> and <i>Western Wall Tunnel</i>, the last surviving parts of the Temple of Jesus’ day, and the inspiring <i>Chain of Generations</i> presentation.</p> <p>*The <i>Golden Menorah</i> is an example of temple furniture and ornaments prepared by the <i>Temple Institute</i>. We will visit their <i>Treasures of the Temple</i> Exhibition.</p> <p>*For some great views of the Old City, we may climb to the <i>Rooftop Promenade</i>.</p> <p>*<i>Mea Shearim</i> is the only remaining example of shtetl (ghetto) which existed before the Holocaust and will allow you to see the unique lifestyle of ultraorthodox Jews.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 18 Friday 17 April</p>	<p><b>West Bank (north of Jerusalem): Samaria (Green Olive Tours)</b> <i>This region, now part of the Palestinian Territories, has many sites of biblical importance.</i></p> <p>*<i>Qubeibeh</i> is another possible site for Emmaus.</p> <p>*<i>Nebi Samwil</i> is believed to be the place where Samuel crowned Israel’s first king.</p> <p>*At <i>Bethel</i> (Luz/Beitin), Jacob saw a heavenly ladder, the ark was brought, Samuel held court.</p> <p>*Visitors from <i>Gibeon</i> (el-Jib) deceived Joshua into making a peace pact.</p>



	<p>*<i>Shiloh</i> (Kiryat Sailun) was the home of the Ark of the Covenant for 369 years, and scene of the <i>Valley of the Dancers</i>.</p> <p>*At <i>Shechem</i> (Nablus/Tel Balatah) Jacob pitched his tent, bought land, and dug a <i>well</i>, now in St. Photina Orthodox Church.</p> <p>*Abraham came to <i>Mitzpe Elon Moreh</i>, where God showed him the land and gave him the promise of many descendants.</p> <p>*<i>Samaria</i> was the capital of the OT's Northern Kingdom before Herod rebuilt it and named it <i>Sebaste</i>.</p> <p>*At <i>Mt. Gerizim</i>, Moses outlined the blessings of obedience to God. <i>Mt. Ebal</i> (the mountain of cursing) lies opposite.</p> <p>*Joseph was sold by his brothers, and Elisha had a vision of horses and chariots, at <i>Dothan</i>.</p> <p>* Ephraim (<i>Taybeh</i>) is the last all-Christian community in the West Bank, and the place where Jesus sought refuge with his disciples when threatened by the priests.</p> <p>*Optional visit to <i>Belz Great Synagogue</i> for Shabbat service.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 19 Saturday 18 April</p>	<p><b>Jericho and the Jerusalem Wilderness (Green Olive Tours)</b> <i>Today we again venture outside Jerusalem to visit some places that were very significant in the life and ministry of Jesus...</i></p> <p>*<i>Tel-es-Sultan</i>, the original <i>Jericho</i>, indeed reveals evidence of its walls falling down.</p> <p>*We take the cable Car to Qarantal, the traditional <i>Mount of Temptation</i>, where Jesus fasted for 40 days, and visit the monastery.</p> <p>*<i>Tekoa</i> was the home of the prophet Amos.</p> <p>*<i>Herodion</i> was Herod's grand citadel and burial place.</p> <p>*<i>Mar Saba</i> is the largest and most impressive monastery in the Judean desert.</p> <p>*<i>Bethany</i> (El Azariya) was the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 20 Sunday 19 April</p>	<p><b>Jerusalem: City of David</b> <i>Our key focus today is on the role of David in Israel and Jerusalem's history...</i></p> <p>*The <i>Jerusalem Archaeological Park/Davidson Centre</i> reveals the administrative complex of Solomon's First Temple, including Robinson's Arch, Wilson's Arch, and the Hulda Gate, all viewed by Jesus.</p> <p>*We pause at the <i>City of David Visitors Centre</i>, where you can find a small Kiosk and gift shop.</p> <p>*<i>Ophel</i> was the original site of the <i>City of David</i>. We will walk the ridge, viewing ancient dwellings.</p> <p>*Water supply for the ancient city was guaranteed by a complex system including <i>Warren's Shaft</i>, <i>Hezekiah's Tunnel</i>, and the <i>Gihon Spring</i>. The more adventurous will be able to wade through the 530m Tunnel to the <i>Pool of Siloam</i>, which the blind man was told by Jesus to go and wash in.</p> <p>*The <i>City of David Museum</i> focuses on the most famous king of Israel, who is integrally linked to the city.</p> <p>*This evening you have the option of attending the <i>Tower of David Night Spectacular Show</i>.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<b>JORDAN</b>	
<p>Day 21 Monday 20 April</p>	<p><b>Northern Jordan: Northern Jordan: the ancient lands of land of Gilead and Ammon.</b> <i>This morning we cross into Jordan at the Allenby Bridge and explore biblical sites in the north...</i></p> <p>*<i>Succoth</i> (Tel Deir Alla or Tel el Ahsas) is where the Midianites opposed Gideon.</p> <p>*<i>Penuel</i> and <i>Mahanaim</i> were all life-changing points in the journey of Jacob. They have long</p>

	<p>been identified with two sites in north-central Jordan – Telul ed-Dahab al-Gharbi and Telul ed-Dahab al-Sharqi.</p> <p>*<i>Wadi al-Yabis</i> is thought to be Elijah’s Brook Cherith, a beautiful valley with ancient olive trees, some over 2000 years old, and a perennial stream.</p> <p>*<i>Jabesh-Gilead</i> (Tel Abu al-Kharaz) is where Elijah was reputedly born and Saul was buried.</p> <p>*A massive Bronze and Iron Age temple recently discovered at <a href="#">Pella</a> (Tabaqat Fahl) is thought to be the largest, best preserved temple from Old Testament times.</p> <p>* <i>Umm Qays</i> is the ancient biblical city of Gadara, another possible site for the miracle of the Gadarene swine.</p> <p>*<i>Ajlun</i> is dominated by Qalat Er Rabad, a classical hilltop Islamic fortress.</p> <p>*<i>Jerash</i> (biblical Gerasa) has some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in the Middle East.</p> <p>*Jacob forded the River <i>Jabbok</i> (now Zerka) on his way to meet his brother Esau.</p> <p>*<i>Ramoth Gilead</i> (Tel Ramith) was a city of refuge east of the Jordan river.</p> <p>* <b><i>Qusayr Amra</i> is the most beautiful of the desert castles, famed for its frescos, and now a World Heritage Site.</b></p> <p>O/n Amman</p>
<p>Day 22 Tuesday 21 April</p>	<p><b>Moab</b> <i>Today we explore the northern reaches of "Moab", where Ruth came from.</i></p> <p>* <b><i>As-Salt</i> is said to contain the tombs of Job, Jethro, Jad, Asher, and Joshua.</b></p> <p>*The world’s oldest map (showing Jerusalem) is in St. George’s Church in <i>Madaba</i>.</p> <p>*<b><i>Mukawir</i> is the ancient <i>Machaerus</i>, the citadel of Herod the Great, and the place of execution of John the Baptist.</b></p> <p>*The <i>Dead Sea Panorama Centre</i> has some fascinating information about the geology and history of the surrounding area. As the name suggests it has a magnificent view of the Dead Sea and the hills beyond it.</p> <p>*We ascend to <i>Mt.Nebo</i> in the Pisgah Range, from which Moses saw the promised land before he died and the Lord buried him .</p> <p>*<i>Bethany Beyond the Jordan</i> is now recognized as the likely place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Here you may wish to be baptised, or to remember and affirm your own baptism.</p> <p>*<i>Umm Ar-Rasas</i>, mentioned in both Testaments, is a World Heritage site in its entirety, containing 16 ancient churches adorned with beautiful archways and mosaics, including an ancient mosaic map in the Church of St. Stephen showing 25 cities of the OT and NT.</p> <p>O/n Amman</p>
<p>Day 23 Wednesday 22 April</p>	<p><b>Amman-Petra</b> <i>Today we journey southwards into ancient Edom...</i></p> <p>*We follow the ancient <i>King’s Highway</i>, first mentioned in Genesis 20:17, the earliest known road in the world to be in continuous use</p> <p>* We pass through <i>Dhiban</i>, which was the biblical Dibon, the former Moabite capital.</p> <p>*The <i>River Arnon</i> is today’s Wadi al-Mujib and is one of the most spectacular sights in Jordan – over 1000m deep and 4 km wide – Jordan’s “Grand Canyon”.</p> <p>*<i>Petra</i>, an ancient rock city, was the capital of the Nabatean Kingdom. Built around 2300 years ago, the imposing rose-stone palaces are an impressive testament to the power and influence of the Nabateans, who controlled trade around the area in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Petra is surrounded by hills in which tombs have been carved into the pink sandstone. The site includes some 800 structures. Walking into Petra you will quickly realize why this ancient city is a World Heritage site and a world wonder.</p> <p>*Once we have settled in to our accommodation, we will spend the rest of the day in this totally unique setting. We will enter the site through the main Siq, so you get to experience the</p>

	<p>most famous view of the Treasury. We will also see the Facades Street, Urn Tomb, the Theatre, Colonnaded Street, Royal Tombs and Qasr al Bint.</p> <p>O/n Petra</p>
<p>Day 24 Thursday 23 April</p>	<p><b>Petra</b></p> <p>*Another day for you to explore the wonders of <i>Petra</i>. We take a trail to the Royal Tombs and Wadi Farasa, reaching Petra Basin. Throughout the hike and from the Place of Higher Sacrifice, there are awesome views over the whole site. Lunch at the Basin Restaurant. Further self-exploration in the afternoon, possibly to Aaron's Tomb (for the more adventurous). You may consider the optional 'Petra by Night' tour by candlelight – an amazing experience. You will never forget your visit to this stunning area.</p> <p>O/n Petra</p>
<p>Day 25 Friday 24 April</p>	<p><b>Wadi Rum</b></p> <p>*We will travel down the King's Highway to <i>Wadi Rum</i>. Wadi Rum is a valley cut into the sandstone and granite rock in south-west Jordan. It has been inhabited since prehistoric times and is dotted with massive rock formations. Weather and winds have carved the imposing towering skyscrapers, so elegantly described by T.E. Lawrence as "vast, echoing and god-like". Here we will experience a half day jeep tour. *We transfer to <i>Aqaba</i>, Jordan's only port city and window on the Red Sea.</p> <p>O/n Aqaba</p>
<p>Day 26 Saturday 25 April</p>	<p><b>Aqaba to Nuweiba and on to St. Catherine's Village</b></p> <p>*This morning we take a fast ferry down the <i>Gulf of Aqaba</i> to the Egyptian port of <i>Nuweiba</i> in the <i>Sinai</i> peninsula. *We meet up with our local Bedouin trip leader and driver, then travel inland to see and walk through a magnificent place called "<i>the Coloured Canyon</i>", continuing on to <i>St Catherine's Village</i> in the shadow of the Sinai Range.</p> <p>O/n St Catherine's (Sheik Mousa Guesthouse)</p>
<b>SINAI</b>	
<p>Day 27 Sunday 26 April</p>	<p><b>Mt. Sinai (Safsafa) Walk (Sheik Mousa Tours)</b> <i>The best way to see the sights of this holy mountain, and both sunset and sunrise, is to sleep in a small basin, Elijah's Basin, below the peak of Mt. Sinai. This 1.5 day excursion offers both sunset and sunrise views from the summit of Mt. Sinai.</i></p> <p>*Many believe that it is here that Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. An added bonus is sleeping in Elijah's Basin in a Bedouin tent. The camp is in a walled court under ancient cypress and olive trees. There is a carpeted sitting area around a camp fire, good mattresses and blankets. *During the day we will discover small, hidden basins with small chapels and Byzantine ruins - beautiful places a little off the main tourist path, where hardly anyone goes. We will see the sunset from the top of Mt. Sinai and descend back to the camp where dinner will be ready. In the morning you can climb back to the top for the sunrise if you wish, or relax in the camp.</p> <p>O/n at camp in Elijah's Basin</p>
<p>Day 28 Monday 27 April</p>	<p><b>Sinai to Eilat</b></p> <p>*Descend from the mountain via a slightly different route, now in full sunshine. Tucked</p>

	<p>into a barren valley at the foot of Mt Sinai, the ancient <i>St Catherine's Monastery</i> has been a place of pilgrimage since the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It traces its founding to about AD 330, when the Roman empress Helena ordered its construction beside what was believed to be the burning bush, from which God spoke to Moses. Today St. Catherine's is a major tourist attraction and a World Heritage site. Considered one of the oldest functioning monasteries in the world, it is well worth visiting, and we have scheduled our visit on a day when it is actually open to the public.</p> <p>*After travelling to the <i>Taba</i> border crossing (175 km), we enter Israel.  *En route to <i>Eilat</i>, we pass a number of coral beaches.  *We should have time to visit some of the following incredible landscapes around Eilat:  - <i>Ein Netafim</i> is a small spring at the foot of a 30m waterfall which attracts many animals.  - The <i>Red Canyon</i> is one of the area's most beautiful sights: 600m long, 1-3m wide, and some 10m at its deepest. <i>Moon Valley</i>, which is in Egyptian territory, can be seen from here.  -The hike at <i>Gishron</i> is a short and easy ring route, good for all ages, which takes us along the riverbed of a spectacular and intriguing canyon through colorful sandstones.  -<i>Mt. Yoash</i> and <i>Har Hizqiyahu</i> are drive-to lookouts that offer spectacular views into the Negev and northern Sinai regions.</p> <p>O/n Eilat</p>
<b>ISRAEL</b>	
<p>Day 29 Tuesday 28 April</p>	<p><b>The Negev: Eilat to Ein Bokek</b>  <i>Today we journey north through the Negev, a area as big as the rest of the country combined...</i></p> <p>*<i>Timnah National Park</i> has stunning desert landscapes enlivened with multi-coloured rock formations, along with the 14<sup>th</sup> century BC temple of Hathor and a full-scale replica of the Old Testament's Tabernacle in the Wilderness.  *At <i>Hai-Bar Arava (Yotvat) Wildlife Reserve</i> you will see wild animals that inhabit the Middle East during a 1.5 hour minivan excursion.  *At Shizaphon Junction we will call at <i>Kibbutz Naot Smadar</i>, a lovely place to take a break. Neot Smadar is as an organic community featuring architecturally unique buildings, artisan foods, and craft workshops.  *We stop briefly to view <i>Maktesh Ramon</i>, one of the largest craters on earth.  *There may be time for a short spectacular canyon walk in <i>Ein Avdat National Park</i>.  *We continue north to <i>Sde Boker</i>, where we will visit the <i>Ben Gurion home and graves</i> .  *We pass the Dead Sea Works into the vicinity of <i>Sodom</i>.  *Finally we head to <i>Ein Bokek</i> for a memorable evening dip in the <i>Dead Sea</i>.  *Optional <i>Sound and Light Show</i> at Masada at 9 pm.</p> <p>O/n Ein Bokek</p>
<p>Day 30 Wednesday 29 April</p>	<p><b>The Dead Sea: Ein Bokek to Jerusalem</b>  <i>Today we visit three highlights of the Dead Sea Valley, the lowest place on earth...</i></p> <p>*Our first highlight today is <i>Masada</i>, the free-standing sheer-sided plateau which has become the symbol of Jewish resistance to Roman rule. We will take the cable car to the summit, and you have the option of descending on the famous Snake Path.  *One of the country's most attractive oases is at <i>Ein Gedi</i> – a lush area of freshwater springs, waterfalls, pools and tropical vegetation nestled in the arid desert landscape of the lowest place on earth. We will take a short walk to David's Waterfall and Ein Shulamit Spring (1 hour return).</p>

	<p>*<i>Qumran</i> is the famous archaeological site where the Dead Sea Scrolls (now in the Israel Museum, visited on Day 3) were discovered in 1947. It was home to a fundamentalist Jewish sect named the Essenes.</p> <p>* Final celebration and farewell dinner in Jerusalem.</p> <p>O/n Jerusalem</p>
<p>Day 31 Thursday 30 April</p>	<p>Travel from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport. Depart Israel.</p>