

## GCC Israel Exploration Trip July 13-23, 2021

### Planning Process:

---

- **Purpose: Explore the places described in scripture.**
- **Cost: \$3,500 - \$4,000 depending on airfare costs.**
  - Includes tour costs, most tips, breakfast and dinner daily, first-class hotels, airfare, and ground transportation.
  - Fundraising letters will be explained
  - Financial assistance will be available.
  - Extra money needed for 10 lunches (\$12-\$15 per lunch), and some small tips as well as souvenirs)
  - OPTIONAL – Travel Insurance
- **Registration: April 1 – October 31, 2020**
  - Fill out the online form on our website.
  - First payment is due October 31, 2020.
- **Maximum team size: 50 participants**
  - Must be 18 years or older.
  - Must be able to walk at least 1 mile.
  - Must be able to climb stairs and hike through somewhat rough terrain.
- **Interest Meeting: August 9, 2020 at 3pm in the Student Center**
  - Mark Ziese <http://www.markziese.com>, who has led this trip many times, will join us.
  - Features details of the trip and Q/A
- **Payments**
  - First Payment: \$500 due by October 31
  - Second Payment: \$1,250 due by March 28
  - Final Payment: (\$2,000-2,500) due by April 25
  - *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE is available upon request.*
- **Questions:**
  - Email John Veech at [jveech@greenwoodchristian.com](mailto:jveech@greenwoodchristian.com)
  - Find information here: <http://www.jcbs.org>.

### Itinerary:

---

#### Days 1 & 2– July 13 & 14 (Tues & Wed)

Depart USA; Arrive in Tel Aviv

Depart the USA for the Biblical *Heartland*. Transfer to hotel overlooking the **Mediterranean Sea**.

#### Day 3 – July 15 (Thurs)

Caesarea-by-the-Sea, Mt Carmel, Megiddo

Travel to **Caesarea-by-the-Sea**, a site built as the imperial center for the Roman government. Its harbor, theater, and marbled streets signal the arrival of foreign occupation in the *Heartland*, and, not surprisingly, the beginning point for Christianity in the Gentile world. Visit **Mt. Carmel** where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. Visit the site of **Megiddo**, an ancient command post. Many battles were waged in its shadow, including those of Israelite kings and Egyptian pharaohs. Overnight in Tiberias

#### **Day 4 – July 16 (Fri)**

Magdala, Mt Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tabgha/Primacy, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee

Dawn comes early at **Magdala**, an industrial site on the edge of the Sea of Galilee. View impressive remains that illustrate the fishing industry from the time of Christ. From Magdala, travel to other nearby places linked to specific Gospel moments: the calling of the disciples, miracle feedings, the Sermon on the Mount, and the restoration of Peter. Travel to **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' ministry. Visit the synagogue that stands on the site where Jesus taught. Finally, board a boat of your own and ride across the **Sea of Galilee**. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

#### **Day 5 – July 17 (Sat)**

Nazareth, Nazareth Village, Annunciation Church, Sepphoris, Mt Arbel

Spend a day in the rolling hills of Galilee visiting sites and people connected to early Christianity. Walk through the **Church of the Annunciation**, a structure built over the traditional home of Jesus. Explore **Nazareth Village**, a living display of lifeways in biblical times. Visit nearby **Sepphoris**, an opulent Galilean capital from the Roman and Byzantine Periods. On the return to Tiberias, stop for a stunning view overlooking the Sea of Galilee at **Mt Arbel**. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

#### **Day 6 – July 18 (Sun)**

Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Nimrod, Golan Heights

Experience the beauty of the far north. Leave the Sea of Galilee behind and travel to the site of **Dan**. Here an Israelite "high place," gate complex, and fortification walls are visible. Continue to the birthplace of Jordan River at Pnias, named after the goat-god, Pan. Consider the nearby site of **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter declared Jesus to be "the Christ." Finally, climb into the heights of **Mt. Hermon**, a snowy peak that marks the highest spot in all the Heartland. From a castle built in the crusader period, take in a view to the region where Jesus was transfigured. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

#### **Day 7 – July 19 (Mon)**

Jordan Valley, Jordan River, Jericho, Qumran, Dead Sea swim

Explore the ruins of **Jericho** where the walls came tumbling down! Travel to Kasr El Yehud for a personal experience with the **Jordan River**. After lunch peek toward caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered at the site of **Qumran**. Finally, arrive at your hotel on the shore of the **Dead Sea** for a memorable swim, dinner, and a well-deserved rest.

### **Day 8 – July 20 (Tues)**

Masada, Wilderness of Judea, Bethlehem, Shepherds' Field, Nativity Church

Rise early to visit **Masada**, Herod's mountain fortress. Here the First Jewish Revolt was brought to a bitter end by the Romans. Travel to the **Shepherds' Field** outside of Bethlehem where the Good News was first heard. Return to **Bethlehem** and experience the place where the Christian story begins: the Church of the Nativity. Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.

### **Day 9 – July 21 (Wed)**

Mt Olives, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem's Old City

Stand on the **Mt. of Olives** for a view to the Old City of Jerusalem, Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Enter the Old City and walk the path of the **Via Dolorosa**. Along the way, visit the **Pool of Bethesda**, the **Church of St Anne** and **Ecce Homo**. Finally, visit the site dubbed the most sacred in all Christianity: **the Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. Here, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

### **Day 10 – July 22 (Thurs)**

**Temple Mount, Western Wall, Davidson Center, City of David**

Step back on this last day and consider the roots of Jerusalem as a sacred city to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Walk on the **Temple Mount** where Solomon's glorious temple once stood and Muslims continue to pray today. Experience the **Western Wall**, a place of meditation and celebration. Go underground and witness Jerusalem's earliest remains, including a Canaanite wall, the possible site of **David's palace**, and a spectacular water system (conditions permitting) that terminates in the **Pool of Siloam**. Return to the hotel for dinner, packing, and a transfer to the airport for an overnight flight home.

### **Day 11 – July 23 (Fri)**

Arrive home in the USA.