



Sailing on the Sea of Galilee



Bayou Baptist Association Israel Pilgrimage Led by Pastor J. P. Cox



Guide Gilla Treibich at Magdala excavations



Dome of the Rock, Temple Mount

November 7-16, 2020 (10 days)
Only \$3995 from New Orleans and other airports

Bayou Baptist Association

ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE November 7-16, 2020

Led by Pastor J.P. Cox, only \$3995

Day 1, Sunday, November 7: depart for Israel. Anyone wishing to fly from airport other than New Orleans contact tour organizers.

Day 2, Monday, November 8: morning arrival in Israel to meet our English-speaking guide. Board the deluxe coach and head up the Mediterranean seacoast to **Caesarea Maritime**, artificial harbor and city built by Herod the Great. A restored Roman theater, where proof of the historical existence of Pontius Pilate was found, is a highlight, along with a Crusader fortress and an aqueduct built by Herod the Great. Continue north to **Mt Carmel** and the Carmelite monastery *Muhraka* for a breathtaking view of the Jezreel valley from the spot where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. Drive through the Galilean hills to Nazareth, stopping at the precipice overlooking **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, at the spot where his neighbors assembled to hurl Him to His death for the supposed "blasphemy" of claiming to be Messiah. Check in for four nights at a lovely hotel situated right on the **Sea of Galilee**. Time for an orientation meeting and Bible study after dinner. Full breakfast and dinner are included each day in Israel throughout the tour.

Day 3, Tuesday, November 9: be blessed by a sail on the **Sea of Galilee** in an enlarged version of the boats used by Jesus and His fishermen disciples--and see an actual boat from the time of Jesus as marine archaeologists raised it from the lake. See **Chorazin**, which Jesus cursed for its unbelief. At **Caesarea Philippi**, center of Roman might and pagan worship in Jesus' time, explore the ruins of Herod Agrippa's palace. In this setting, Jesus challenged His disciples then and now, "Who do men--and who do you--say that I am?" Caesarea Philippi is also where the headwaters of the **Jordan River** meet at the foot of **Mt Hermon**. Re-experience the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount at the **Mt of Beatitudes** chapel. At **Capernaum**, where Jesus based His 18-month Galilean ministry, stand within the foundations of the synagogue where He preached and healed and see the house of Peter's family where He stayed. **Tabgha's** ancient mosaic remembers the Miracle of

Loaves and Fishes and recalls where the risen Jesus fed His disciples after a miraculous catch and gave Peter his commission to "feed my sheep."

In Galilee, time and weather permitting, optional 4-wheel Jeep ride viewing Golan Heights hills and valleys, rivers and lakes, fields and vineyards.

Day 4, Wednesday, November 10: walk the extensively-restored streets of **Bet Shean**, where the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung by the Philistines. A Decapolis city in Jesus' day, Bet Shean was both destroyed and preserved by an earth-quake—and archaeologists have now done a fan-tastic restoration. Nearby on the slopes of Mt Gilboa, visit **Bet Alpha**, an excavated sixth-century synagogue. Dip a hand in, perhaps lap the water of **Ein Harod**, the spring where the Lord had Gideon winnow his soldiers in unique fashion. Drive to **Megiddo**, the always strategic city in biblical history and biblical Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). Megiddo is the setting of a highly recommended historical novel, James Michener's *The Source*.

Day 5, Thursday, November 11: explore the north Mediterranean coast of Israel, focusing particularly on **Acre** (aka Akko), situated on Israel's only true natural port and thus a thriving heart of commerce in biblical times—and last holdout of the Crusader Kings who had attempted to cast out the Muslim invaders but were finally driven into the sea. Back inland, marvel at intricate and lovely mosaics (including "The Mona Lisa of the Galilee") and a 1500-year-old synagogue in the ancient city of **Sepphoris**, which some believe carpenter Joseph and his young son apprentice helped construct.

Day 6, Friday, November 12: head south along the Jordan Valley, stopping first at the banks of **Bethabara**, thought by many to be where Jesus was immersed by John the Baptist. Crossing the lunar landscape of the Judean wilderness, come to **Qumran** on the shores of the Dead Sea, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Ascend by cable car to **Masada** overlooking the Dead Sea, built by Herod the Great as both a winter palace and fortress against Cleopatra, where zealous Jews

resisted Rome after the 70 AD destruction of the Temple. View the date palm oasis of **En Gedi** where David spared King Saul. Then it's "Up to Jerusalem," perhaps singing a Song of Ascent like Psalm 122: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" to Jerusalem, the Holy City. Our deluxe hotel for the rest of the tour is within walking distance of the Jaffa Gate into the Old City, the Ben Yehuda pedestrian shopping mall, and the colorful outdoor Mahane Yehuda spice, fruit, and vegetable market.

Day 7, Saturday, November 13: starting from the summit of the **Mt of Olives**, walk down the Palm Sunday path where Jesus rode the donkey and heard the hosannas from the crowds. Stop at **Dominus Flevit** where "Jesus wept" and view the Eastern or Golden Gate through which Messiah rode. At the bottom of the hill, in the **Garden of Gethsemane**, surrounded by olive trees still growing from roots dating to Jesus' time, pray as He did for strength to face the ultimate tests of life.

Orient yourself to Jerusalem in Jesus' time by studying the incredibly-detailed, large-scale outdoor model of The Holy City at the **Israel Museum**, where you will also view actual scrolls and artifacts discovered in the Dead Sea caves of Qumran.

Travel through **Shepherds' Fields** to **Bethlehem** and to the oldest-continually serving church in the world, the 4th century Church of the Nativity, where a silver star marks the traditional spot of Jesus' birth.

Day 8, Sunday, November 14: pray at the **Kotel** or Western (Wailing) Wall, leaving scrolls of your prayers in the giant stones remaining from the Temple, from where Jewish tradition says prayers go most-directly to heaven. Actually go *under* the Temple area exploring the famous **Rabbi's Tunnel**.

Up on **Temple Mount**, Muslim mosques squatting where Solomon and Herod the Great built the First and Second Temples cannot prevent Christians from standing at the Pinnacle of the Temple where Jesus was victorious over Satan's tempting.

Pray for loved ones back home at the healing **Pools of Bethesda**, then marvel at the acoustics as you sing in the **Church of St. Anne**. Worship where the **Upper Room** is commemorated. Stand on the pavement where Jesus was tormented by the soldiers in the **Judgment Hall of Pilate**. Walk the narrow streets of the Old City, still very much as when Jesus carried His cross on the Via Dolorosa. See remains of the original 4th century **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** in the **Russian Orthodox**

Church, adjoining the current structure guarding traditional sites of Calvary and Empty Tomb. See the actual steps up which Jesus was dragged from the Garden of Gethsemane to his first imprisonment in the **House of Caiaphas**, high priest, where Peter denied His Lord thrice before the cock crew.

Time during the day for lunch on your own in **The Jewish Quarter** with shopping in the Old City bazaar and the restored shopping street called **The Cardo** or "The Heart" of Roman Jerusalem.

Day 9, Monday, November 15: depart for a service of Holy Communion at **The Garden Tomb**, a lovely site overlooking a hillside nature has carved into what many see as a skull, Golgotha, and setting of an empty tomb from which the stone has been rolled away. Outside the city, explore **Herodian**, the artificial mountain that was Herod the Great's palace and recently-discovered tomb. **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust Museum, is a contrasting study of the evil humankind can do and the strength of faith that can allow men and women to become victors over evil. Farewell dinner in biblical in the hotel then to the airport for the flight home, arriving back in the USA on **Day 10, Tuesday, November 16**.

November in Israel is great, the beginning of fall having broken the summer heat. Mostly sunny skies with daytime high temperatures in the upper 60's in Jerusalem, 70's in Galilee, 80's at the Dead Sea. Showers are possible around the Sea of Galilee, so a good-quality travel umbrella or poncho might come in handy. Shorts and sleeveless garments are not recommended, not being allowed at religious sites.

Important security note: while news media often report troubles in "The Middle East" including Israel, the fact is *not one Christian on an American group tour has ever been harmed by violence in Israel—not one, not ever*. All groups return from Israel saying, "never felt as safe in any American city."

To register send \$400 per person check made out to "Escorted Travel" and mailed to:

Escorted Travel—Bayou
1015 W Kensington Rd
Joplin MO 64801

Please also send a copy of the photo page of your passport. If you do not have a passport or it needs to be renewed, please start that process right away.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

U.S. passport valid through end of May, 2021, is required; anyone with non-U.S. passport, please contact tour operator.

Payment schedule: \$400 deposit required to guarantee a place on the tour. Second payment of \$1600 is due June 1. Final payment of \$1995 is due September 15. Credit cards may be used for second and final payments with a non-refundable 5% processing fee, which will show up on credit card statements from Rafi Shelef Tourism, Tel Aviv.

Tour price includes . . .

While air transportation is scheduled on Delta, any regularly-scheduled airline can be used. Cancellations after the air tickets have been issued are subject to a cancellation penalty as imposed by the airline. Current air fuel charge and taxes/fees are included. Please note: frequent flyer miles or credit card points cannot be used to purchase or upgrade air tickets; however, if you arrange your own airfare, you can deduct \$1529 from the brochure price.

Accommodations in superior and deluxe hotels, private bath. Cost for anyone staying in a single room \$869.

Meals daily buffet breakfasts and dinners in hotels or restaurant.

Sightseeing in the itinerary including entrance fees and services of English-speaking guide.

One regular-sized suitcase, maximum 50 pounds, is currently allowed free of charge plus one personal item and one "carry-on" that will fit under the seat ahead or in the overhead bin. Tour organizers accept no liability for loss or damage to any baggage.

All tips to guide, driver, hotel and restaurant personnel, and porters are included.

Tour price does not include beverages not part of regular menu; sightseeing or services not specifically mentioned or noted as optional; baggage charges that may be implemented by airlines (none as of this printing).

Cancellation policy: No penalty for written cancellations received before May 15, 2020. Written cancellations received May 15-June 14 are subject to a \$400 per person cancellation fee. Written cancellations received June 15-July 14 are subject to a 25% cancellation fee of the total tour price. Written cancellations received July 15-September 30 are subject to a 50% cancellation fee of the total tour price. No refund for written cancellations received after September 30. No refund made for missed services while on tour. *In addition to the above cancellation fees*, airline tickets are not refundable once issued. *We recommend the purchase of travel insurance*, which covers medical expenses as well as cancellation penalties and other eventualities as per policy standards. Please note: Healthcare and Medical Costs outside the USA are not covered by basic Medicare; information on travel insurance available on written request to ron.cansler@yahoo.com.

Brochure price based on minimum 31 passengers and VAT policy and shekel/dollar exchange rate of December 31, 2019.

Responsibility Pastor J.P. Cox, Bayou Baptist Association and its associated churches, and Ronald L. Cansler dba Escorted Travel Concepts, LLC, and their agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters, and as such, are not responsible for any damage, expense, or inconvenience caused by late plane arrival or departure or by any change of schedule or other condition, nor the loss of or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever. The sponsoring organization reserves the right to withdraw the tour at any time, or make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour. Services of any regularly-scheduled jet carrier may be used on this tour. *Payment of deposit by tour participants indicates acceptance of above terms and conditions.*



To register, make out \$400 per person check to "Escorted Travel" and mail to

Escorted Travel Concepts--Bayou, 1015 W Kensington Rd, Joplin MO 64801

Important: please include email address and phone number with registration check!

For more information, contact tour operator Ron Cansler: ron.cansler@yahoo.com, 417-499-8685

Or tour leader Pastor J. P. Cox (985) 446-5818, jpcox@ubcthibodaux.net