



Serving the traveling public since 1975

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# THE HOLYLAND & ATHENS

**DAY 01: BEGINNING OUR EXPLORING TOUR** Depart North America by jet service. Meals will be served on board.

**DAY 02: INTO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE** Upon arrival in the afternoon, local time, our agent will meet you at the airport and then on our way to Jerusalem.

**DAY 03: MOUNTAINS OF JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM** Drive to the Mount of Olives with its outstanding view of the city. Visit the Chapel of Ascension, Church of Pater Noster, Garden of Gethsemane, Church of All Nations. View the Kidron Valley. Drive to Bethlehem for a visit to the Church of Nativity, visit the Shepherd's Fields and the Fields of Boaz and Ruth. An afternoon drive takes you to visit Mount Zion, the site where Jesus accomplished His Ministry. Visit the room of the Last Supper. Visit the Tomb of King David and the House of Caiaphas; proceed to the Knesset, or the House of Parliament. Visit the Shrine of the Book enclosing the Scrolls of the Dead Sea; visit the National Museum. Return to your hotel.

**DAY 04: JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY** Visit the Garden Tomb and Gordon's Calvary, the site where Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected. A service can be arranged at the Garden Tomb. Proceed towards the city walls built by Suleiman the Magnificent enclosing the most Holy sites. Walk into the city through Damascus Gate and through the picturesque colorful bazaars to the superb Temple Area, where Solomon's Temple was built on Mount Moriah. Visit the Dome of the Rock enclosing the Rock of Sacrifice; the Mosque of Al Aksa, further south, the Pinnacle of the Temple and the Western Wall or the Wailing Wall. In the afternoon, start at Saint Stephen's Gate and into the Old City to visit the Church of Saint Anne, the Pool of Bethesda, the Lithostrotos, Pilate's Judgment Hall and walk on the Via Dolorosa leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Walk through the bazaars to the Citadel and take the bus from Jaffa Gate back to the hotel.

**DAY 05: JERUSALEM/MASADA** Morning drive to Bethany and on via the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea - lowest spot on earth - 1,300 feet below sea level. A beautiful new road takes you along the shores to Ein Gedi where a precipitous cliff, filled with caves, rises some 2,000 feet. Continue on to Masada where you will ascend by cable car to visit the remarkable ruins of the Fortress, built by Herod the Great, and where from 70 to 73 A.D., Jewish Zealots made their last stand in the Judean Revolt against the Roman Legions. See the remains of Herod's Palace; the Apartments, Baths, Storehouses and cisterns - all used by the Jewish Defenders who took refuge here. Return to Jerusalem.

**DAY 06: ALONG THE JORDAN VALLEY** Drive to Jericho and Tel El Sultan, ruins of one of the oldest cities in the world. From Jericho you can see the Mount of Temptation where Satan tempted Jesus when He fasted for forty days and forty nights. Visit Elijah's Fountain and continue to Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found by a shepherd boy. Drive along the Jordan Valley to Beit Shean, an ancient city. Extensive excavations have uncovered eighteen layers of habitation in Beit Shean. The Roman Amphitheater is one of the best preserved in Israel. Proceed to Galilee to visit the city of Nazareth, tracing the

early life of the Holy Family. View Mary's Well and proceed to Cana where the first miracle took place, the Transformation of Water into Wine. Descending 636 feet below sea level, arrive at the lovely city of Tiberias and proceed to your hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for overnight.

**DAY 07: GALILEE AND UPPER GALILEE** This morning board a boat on the calm surface of the sea, and cruise toward Capernaum. Upon landing, visit the site where Jesus started His Ministry, the house of Peter and the Synagogue where Jesus was teaching. Proceed to Tabgha, the site of Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes. Visit the 4th century mosaics. Drive to the top of the Mount of Beatitudes for an outstanding view of the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding area. It was here that Christ taught the Eight Beatitudes to His Disciples. This afternoon, drive to the Golan Heights in Upper Galilee. Visit the sources of the Jordan. View Tel Dan. Return to the exit of the Jordan River from the Sea of Galilee where a Baptismal Service can be arranged. Return to your hotel.

**DAY 08: ALL THE PAST YEARS WITH HISTORY** Leave Tiberias to Megiddo, Armageddon, a very important strategic point on the Via Maris connecting Egypt and Damascus. It is a city that has witnessed many wars and suffered many destructions throughout the different wars and periods of time. Our belief is that the last battle is going to be on the hill or the plains of Megiddo. Visit Haifa. Mt. Carmel is renowned for the contest of Monotheism and Paganism. The prophet Elijah confronted the priests of Baal and confounded them at Al Muharakah. Proceed along the Mediterranean and parallel to Mt. Carmel to the beautiful city of Caesarea to visit the ruins of the Crusader's city surrounded by a dry moat and a city wall enclosing the ruins of the Roman city. Visit the Roman Theater. Proceed to Tel Aviv to connect with our flight to Athens, Greece. Upon our arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 09: ATHENS** Morning sightseeing of Athens which will include a visit to the world renowned Acropolis, with the ruins of the Parthenon, Erectheum and Propylea. Thereafter we will ascend Mars Hill, where Paul preached. View the Agora (ancient market place, and former center of Athenian public life), the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Palace, now called the Presidential Palace. Return to your hotel.

**DAY 10: CORINTH** Morning sightseeing tour of ancient Corinth, seeing the Archaeological Museum, the Bema, and the Market Place and Temples. Corinth was home to St. Paul for 18 months. From the Bema at Corinth, Paul spoke to the Corinthians about Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On the way to Corinth, stop for a few minutes at the Corinth Canal, which separates Pelopnese from the Greek Mainland and connects the two Seas (Ionian and Aegean). Return to your hotel in Athens for the balance of the day at leisure.

**DAY 11: ATHENS / NORTH AMERICA** Transfer to Athens International Airport for our flight home. Arrival in the afternoon local time of the same day.