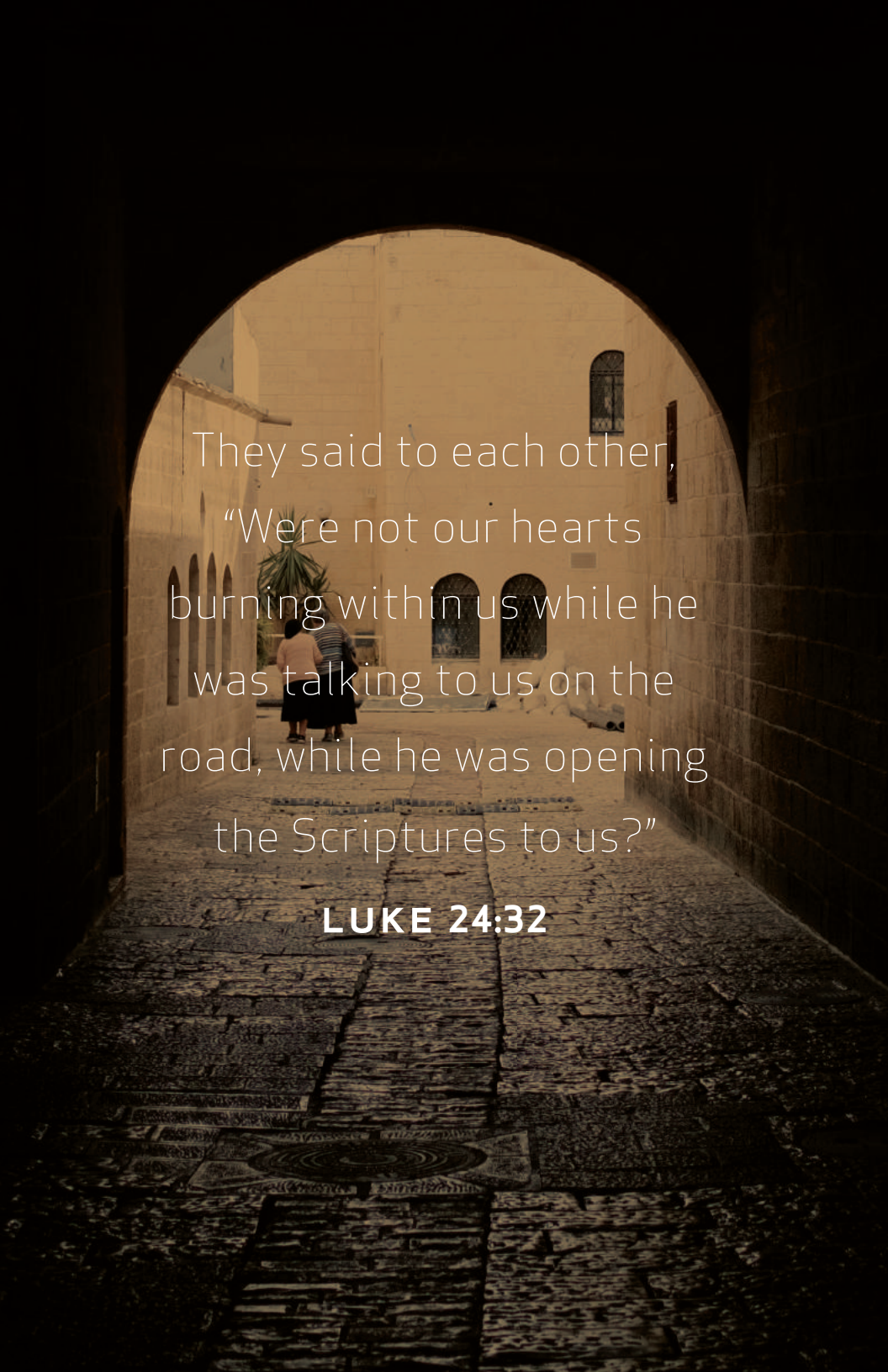




# **LAND OF THE BIBLE** LANDSCAPE OF FAITH

HOSTED BY DR. JAMES HOUSTON & BRONWYN SPILSBURY

OCTOBER 6-18, 2018



They said to each other,  
“Were not our hearts  
burning within us while he  
was talking to us on the  
road, while he was opening  
the Scriptures to us?”

**LUKE 24:32**

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: SAT. OCT 6 VANCOUVER TO TEL AVIV

Those choosing the group flight package depart from Vancouver to Tel Aviv. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening (**D**). Those *not* choosing group flights will meet us at Ben Gurion Airport, as the journey/course embarks from the airport.

### DAY 2: SUN. OCT 7 ARRIVE TEL AVIV, JUDEAN COAST AND JAFFA

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, we are met by our Israeli travel agent who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Once through customs, we meet the rest of our group (those who travelled separately) and together board our deluxe motor coach. Our Israeli guide will meet us onboard. Our journey begins with the short but informative ride to Tel Aviv. Schedule permitting, we will visit Jaffa before arriving at our hotel.

**Jaffa**—One of the oldest towns in Israel and considered one of the oldest ports in the world! Cedars of Lebanon sent by King Hiram of Tyre (destined for Solomon’s Temple) were unloaded at Jaffa. It is here that Peter brought Tabitha back from the dead and where, in the home of Simon the Tanner, he received the vision of the pure and impure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15; Jonah 1:3–17; Acts 9:36–42)

**Valley of Ayalon**—This is the traditional site of the encounter between Joshua and the Amorites (Joshua 10: 11–14). We will also walk along a panoramic trail in the “Road to Emmaus” and into Neveh Shalom—a Jewish Arab village, where all three monotheistic faiths coexist peacefully. We will visit the Dome of Faith and enjoy a flute recital of local prayer and music.

From here, we check in to our hotel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea where we rest and enjoy our “Welcome to Israel” dinner. (**B, D**)

### DAY 3: MON. OCT 8 MEDITERRANEAN SEA, COASTAL PLAIN & MT. CARMEL

Today we leave Tel Aviv and head for Upper Galilee. En-route, we will visit:

**Caesarea**—The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate made his base. Here, we will tour the Roman aqueduct, restored theater, and crusader city.

**Mount Carmel**—Overlooking the city of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and

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Jezreel Valley on either side, we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:18-45; Isaiah 33:9)

**Megiddo**—Hebrew for **Armageddon**. Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here, King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. (Judges 1:27; 5:19; I Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12; Revelation 16:16)

**Haifa University**—While at the university we will visit the Philistine coffins, Canaanite statuettes of Baal and Asherah, the ancient Classical Greek boat with the famous anchor (the anchor as a symbol of faith), and the art collection, which includes paintings by Modigliani, Van Gogh, and Monet hidden on top of Mt Carmel.

**Beth Shearim**—Here, we will visit the underground necropolis (where we can learn about ancient Jewish burial traditions) and see the biggest menorah of ancient Galilee.

Dinner and overnight will be at Kibbutz Ginossar, located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 4: TUE. OCT 9 UPPER GALILEE**

After breakfast, we begin our day with the ride north to the Tel Dan nature park where we see the spring waters of the River Jordan rise from the ground. Onwards from here, we will visit the following locations:

**Tel Dan**—This national park and archeological site offer a blend of Israel's natural beauty and Biblical history. It is here that the headwaters of the river Jordan flow. Ruins of Jeroboam's altar are also located at Tel Dan. The ancient "Abrahamic Gate" is on view. It is through here that Abraham enters and conquers Dan.

**Caesarea Philippi**—Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the city of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat-footed god, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples his purpose, his Church, and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah. (Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

Our lunch gives us the opportunity to meet and interact with the local Druze communities of Masada and Ein Kinia.

**Golan Heights**—This afternoon, we view Israel from both Mt. Bental and the Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee.

**Bethsaida**—Also known as "The House of The Fisherman" this is the home of Peter,

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Philip, and Andrew and the place where Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the blind man. Here we will see recent excavations of this historic city. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1:35-43)

Dinner will be back at our kibbutz this evening. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 5: WED. OCT 10 SEA OF GALILEE AND BOAT RIDE**

This morning, we visit the Sea of Galilee and the following Biblical sights:

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride**—We end our day with a memorable time in a private boat on the Sea of Galilee.

**Ginossar**—Here we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986, this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved, it is an enduring reminder of life during that time. While at Ginossar, we will see the "Jesus Garment." As described in Matthew 14:36, "All who touched even the hem of his garment were healed."

**The Mount of Beatitudes**—Sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee, the flower filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. (Matthew 5:1-8)

**Capernaum**—The center of Jesus' Galilee ministry! Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. In Capernaum we will listen to a Rabbinical reading of Mark 5.

**Tabgha**—Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes, this is the site of the miracle of the loaves and the fishes. We will walk along the path of the hot springs at Magadan and sit where Jesus fed the five thousand. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21; 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

We will end the day with a sunset walk along the panoramic trail of Mt. Tiberias overlooking Bernice's Palace and ancient Tiberias (built by Herod Antipas in Jesus' time).

Dinner will be back at our kibbutz this evening. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 6: THU. OCT 11 NAZARETH, LOWER GALILEE, AND JORDAN VALLEY**

After breakfast, we leave the Sea of Galilee and head towards Jerusalem—but not before visiting these sites:

**Nazareth**—Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of the Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted

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to throw Jesus over the cliff. We experience Nazareth as Jesus would have known it in a marvelous reconstruction village based on an original site.

**Cana**—Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26–38; John 1:46; Matthew 2:23)

**Beit She'an**—The largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Bet She'an was one of the 10 cities in the Decapolis. It is here that Jesus heals a deaf and mute man. (Mark 7:31)

This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7–8)

After Beit She'an, we head further south and pass **Gilgal**, where Saul was proclaimed king. Gilgal became a sacred place because the tribes of Israel first encamped and celebrated Passover there after their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River and before their conquest of the Promised Land.

**Kasr el Yahud**—Extensive excavations of the surrounding area since 1996 have uncovered many sites—none more significant than the ruins of “Bethabara.” Many believe this is the original site of John the Baptist's ministry and the location of his baptism of Jesus.

**Jericho**—We drive past Old Testament **Jericho**, home of Rahab the harlot and where the walls came tumbling down. In the New Testament, Jericho is close to where Jesus healed Bartimaeus.

**Qumran**—Home to the ancient Essenes. It is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. We will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where the scrolls were found in 1947.

After another fascinating day, we make our way to the southern shores of the Dead Sea. Dinner will be served at our hotel. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 7: FRI. OCT 12 DEAD SEA AND THE JUDEAN WILDERNESS**

After breakfast, we drive into the Judean wilderness, visiting sites along the shores of The Dead Sea:

**Dead Sea**—No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away!

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**Masada**—This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain top palace and fortress. Here, we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders.

**Ein Gedi**—This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (I Samuel 24, Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

From the Dead Sea, we will travel "up" to Jerusalem. Our home for the remainder of the journey!

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

#### DAY 8: SAT. OCT 13 BETHLEHEM

After breakfast, we visit Bethlehem (The House of Bread) visiting the following:

**The Church of the Nativity and Star of Bethlehem**—Located on or near the birthplace of the Lord Jesus. (Luke 2:7, Matthew 2:1-12)

**Shepherds Fields**—Country of Boaz, where the angels met shepherds tending their flocks. (Luke 2:8-20)

Dinner will be at our Jerusalem hotel this evening. (B,D)

#### DAY 9: SUN. OCT 14 JERUSALEM

This morning, we leave Bethlehem and spend our first full day in Jerusalem, visiting the following sites:

**Mount of Olives**—We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound, with the golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here, we will walk down to the Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

**Dominus Flevit**—The traditional site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.

**Garden of Gethsemane**—The site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden: *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."* (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

**House of Caiaphas**—Located under St. Peter of Gallicantu Church is the

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traditional dungeon site where Jesus was imprisoned while waiting to appear before Pilate. In the courtyard, Peter denied his Lord.

**Mount Zion**—Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David, this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25)

**Upper Room**—The traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration—the New Covenant in his blood (Mark 14:15). This is also where, at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell on waiting believers.

Dinner is at our Jerusalem hotel this evening. (B, D)

#### DAY 10: MON. OCT 15 JERUSALEM

Our day in Jerusalem includes:

**Yad Vashem**—Israel's national monument, memorial, and museum to the Holocaust.

**Shrine of the Book Museum**—Here, we can see many original fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls plus a replica of the great Isaiah scroll.

**Scale Model of Jerusalem**—This fabulous reconstruction of the old city of Jerusalem gives us a chance to better understand the importance of the second temple and the city during Herodian times.

**Church of St. Anne**—Located by the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the paralytic. (John 5:1-9)

**Via Dolorosa**—The one-mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill.

**Holy Sepulchre Church**—Stations X-XIV on The Via Dolorosa.

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

#### DAY 11: TUE. OCT 16 JERUSALEM

Our day in Jerusalem will be spent in and around the Temple and old city:

**Temple Mount**—Pending access to the site, we will see the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

**Western Wall and Tunnels**—Also called the Wailing Wall, this is the holiest place

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of pilgrimage for the Jews. Here, we can observe the Orthodox Jews pray ceaselessly, along with many Christians. Some of us may wish to leave a hand-written note placed in the crevices of the Western Wall. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

**Davidson Centre and Steps of Ascension**—This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This gives us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today. We will climb the stairs to the original Temple's Huldah Gates, where Jesus entered.

**City of David**—We will be guided through the site and new excavations of the city of David. You will have the opportunity to walk through Hezekiah's tunnel and re-surface at the pool of Siloam.

**Garden Tomb**—Preserved by the Garden Tomb Association, beautiful gardens surround the evangelical site of the Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:41). Here we shall celebrate Communion together.

Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

#### **DAY 12: WED. OCT 17 JUDEAN LOWLAND**

Our last full day in Israel includes the following.

**Valley of Elah**—This is the traditional site of the encounter between David & Goliath. The Brook of Elah still exists to this day. (I Samuel 17:1–58)

**Bet Guvrin**—Known as “Houses of the Giants” and possible birthplace of Herod the Great, we shall visit the underground city and the bell caves.

**Beth Shemesh**—Here we shall visit the newly discovered “Great Stone” of the Holy Ark. (1 Samuel 6:18)

Tonight is our “Farewell dinner”. A wonderful time to share and reflect on a truly inspirational journey! (B, D)

#### **DAY 13: THU. OCT 18 JOURNEY HOME**

This morning, we depart for Tel Aviv airport and our lunchtime flight to Vancouver. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. (B, L)

***Though we have left the Holy Land, it shall never leave us!***

The journey is expected to include 3 lectures given by Dr. Houston and his local guests. These will provide colour and detail to interpret the land and its political/historical/theological landscape. Itinerary is subject to change as determined by the guide and leadership, based on weather, site information, traffic, and smooth flow, to ensure the best experience for participants.



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### INCLUDED

**Hotels:** (Mediterranean 4\*)

Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Kibbutz Ginossar, Sea of Galilee

Daniel Hotel, Dead Sea

Grand Court Hotel, Jerusalem

**Meals:** Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily with refreshments, tea, and coffee.

**Transportation:** Air conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour.

**Sightseeing:** Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees.

**Tour Guide:** Government licensed Tour Manager, Yossi Paz, will accompany the group.

**Porterage:** One large suitcase per person. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

**Bottled Water:** (2 per person per day)

**Departure Taxes and Fuel Charges:** Currently \$745 for those choosing group airspace

**Gratuities:** Equivalent to USD \$168

**Embarkation Package:** An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

### NOT INCLUDED

**Air Travel:** Please see pricing below for Air Canada options, Vancouver to Tel Aviv return, connecting in Toronto.

**Lunches.** (Unless mentioned in the itinerary.) Approx. \$12-15 USD.

**Travel Insurance:** Christian Journeys requires that you must have "out of country" emergency medical insurance, equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer, which include cancellation and interruption coverage. Please contact our office for policy details and premiums.

### PRICING

**Land Only Cost:** CAD \$3978

**Single Supplement:** CAD \$1299  
(Based on 30 paying passengers)

**Economy Group Airfare:** CAD \$1599

\*Travellers who make their own flight arrangements should meet the group from Vancouver when it arrives at Ben Gurion Airport on the morning of October 7. The course and journey begins at departure from this airport.

Please add 3% surcharge if paying by credit card.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport which does not expire before 19 Apr. 2019. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

**Currency Surcharge:** Christian Journeys reserves the right to introduce a currency surcharge. If applicable, this would be assessed 90 days prior to departure. If the total cost of the journey increases by more than 7% the customer has the option to cancel without penalty.

**Fuel Surcharge:** At time of print, the airline still implements a fuel surcharge on all of its flights. We have included this amount of CAD \$585 in the group airline pricing. The airline fuel is subject to change by the airline and will be re-assessed 90 days prior to departure.

**Reservations:** Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

Regent College Course Registration must also be complete (credit or audit) to hold your place.

**Deposit and final payment:** A deposit of \$400 is required with the signed booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment and are 100% non-refundable.

**Travel Insurance:** The Deluxe/ Comprehensive Travel Policy includes trip cancellation coverage to protect you against all monies paid, except the insurance premium.

**General Health:** All tour members should be in sufficiently good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety.

**Host Substitution:** In the event that either host is unable to fulfill his or her duties, a suitable substitute host will be provided by Regent College in consultation with Christian Journeys.

## SHEMA

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and  
with all your soul, and with all your strength.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
When I call, answer me!  
Come and listen to me!

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and protect you.  
The Lord deal kindly and graciously with you.  
The Lord bestow His favour upon you,  
and grant you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Be still, and know that I am God  
I am the Lord that healeth Thee  
In Thee O Lord, I put my trust

