

## BLESSING IN THE BIBLE LANDS!

Nile Cruise - Egypt – Israel – Jordan

May 1 – 20, 2019

B= Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner



### DAY 1: WED. 01 MAY. Depart for Cairo

Today, we depart from Vancouver on our flights to Cairo. Complimentary in-flight service is provided. (D)

### DAY 2: THU. 02 MAY. Arrive Cairo

Upon arrival at Cairo Airport we are met by our Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. From the airport we take the short drive to our hotel where we can un-pack and relax.

Tonight we will have our dinner at Le Meridien Airport hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 3: FRI. 03 MAY. Nile Cruise

This morning we shall take our domestic flight to Aswan.

Our touring today includes visits to the **Temple of Philae & High Dam.**

The Egyptian island of **Philae** was the center for worship of the goddess Isis and attracted pilgrims from all over the ancient world. The original island is now completely submerged under the waters of Lake Nasser. But in a spectacular rescue operation, the great temples and monuments of Philae were pulled out of the water and re-erected on a nearby island, now renamed Philae. The largest and most important temple on Philae is **the great Temple of Isis**, which is oriented south to north.

Lunch and dinner are served onboard the cruise ship, The Nile Premium. (B,L,D)

### Day 4. SAT. 04 MAY. Nile Cruise

This morning we set sail along the Nile and visit:

The **Temple of Horus and Sobek** at Kom Ombo. The temple of Kom Ombo is dedicated to two gods, Horus the falcon and Sobek the crocodile, and has the special feature of the duplication of all parts of the temple itself: double entry, double sanctuary, and so on. Finally, back on board and start sailing to Edfu.

Lunch and dinner are served onboard the cruise ship. (B,L,D)

### Day 5. SUN. 05 MAY. Nile Cruise

Upon arrival in Edfu visit the **Temple of Edfu** dedicated to the god Horus. Built during the Ptolemaic temple of Edfu is the best preserved of all Egypt, and is the classic example of the Egyptian temple, where all the components, from the pylon at the entrance to the sanctuary, are perfectly legible. The reliefs on the walls depict important moments in the religious life of the ancient Egyptians, and the struggle of Horus - to whom the temple is dedicated, against Seth, the murderer of Osiris - god and symbol of the forces of chaos and disorder.



Lunch and dinner are served onboard the cruise ship. (B,L,D)

## **Day 6: MON. 06 MAY. Nile Cruise**

This morning, we visit the Necropolis of Thebes on the West Bank of the Nile:

**The Valleys of the Kings** and the **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut**, we also see **the Colossi of Memnon**.

The west bank of Luxor is the area dedicated to funerary structures, because the West, the place where the sun sets, was considered the land of the dead and the entrance to the afterlife. Here the pharaohs of the New Kingdom were made to dig their graves in the rock and decorated them with beautiful paintings; here Queen Hatshepsut built her mortuary temple, the Sublime of the Sublime, extremely bold in its architecture and disconcerting modernity; here the Colossi of Memnon, lonely sentinels, witness the glory and splendor of the distant past.

In the afternoon we visit the **Temples of Karnak and Luxor**.

Luxor is the modern name of the ancient city called Thebes by the Greeks. It was the beautiful capital during the New Kingdom, and the seat of the two temples of Luxor and Karnak.

The temple of Luxor, a jewel of Egypt, built by Amenhotep III and completed by Ramses II, is surprising for the harmony of its proportions and the elegance of its findings. Karnak temple is fascinating for its grandeur and complexity, with many details of great interest, from the huge Hypostyle Hall: a forest of 136 columns towering over 20 meters, to the elegant obelisk of Queen Hatshepsut, and the "Ballroom".



This afternoon, we transfer to Luxor airport for domestic flight to Cairo.

Dinner and overnight will be at the Le Meridien Pyramid hotel. **(B,D)**

## **DAY 7: TUE 07 MAY Cairo**



**Pyramids of Giza-** Truly magnificent

**Great Sphinx-** To this day, there is much debate over who built this large monument and in whose name it was dedicated. Regardless, the Great Sphinx has stood the test of time and is a wonder to see.

**Christian Cairo-** Visit Coptic churches commemorating where Mary and Joseph fled with Baby Jesus. Follow the amazing journey to the Cave Church – the largest in this part of the world!

Once back at our hotel we will enjoy dinner and relaxation. **(B, D)**





## **DAY 8: WED. 08 MAY Cairo to Mt. Sinai**

This morning we embark on a symbolic voyage as we head towards the Promised Land, traveling across the Sinai desert, arriving at the foot of Mt. Sinai by late afternoon.

Here we find St. Catherine's Monastery, built upon the traditional site of Moses' encounter at the Burning Bush.

Dinner will be at the Mt. Sinai Monastery this evening.  
(B, D)

## **DAY 9: THU. 09 MAY Mt. Sinai, Red Sea, Israel**

For those of you who wish to do so, you can ascend Mt. Sinai for sunrise. A truly unique and spectacular moment!

Those less energetic may take a short camel ride and tour monastery grounds.

This afternoon we leave Egypt and follow the Red Sea to our border crossing into Israel. Here, we shall meet our guide, Dr. Yossi Paz, who will lead us during our time in Israel.

Dinner and overnight will be the David Spa hotel, by the Dead Sea. (B,D)



## **DAY 10: FRI. 10 MAY: Masada, Ein Gedi, Sea of Galilee**

After breakfast we will have some time to enjoy 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 on the water!

This afternoon we head for the Galilee, but not before visiting:

**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)

After another fascinating day we journey north to the Sea of Galilee. Located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee our hotel is located in the heart of Tiberias at the Caesar hotel. (B,D)

## **Day 11: SAT. 11 MAY: Upper Galilee, Golan Heights**

Today we travel in and around the beautiful upper Galilee region, visiting:

**Hazor** - Once the largest city in all of Canaan. The multi layered Tel of Hazor is a fascinating site that offers intrigue and insight into five thousand years of

civilization. Captured by Joshua and burnt to the ground this city was eventually rebuilt by Solomon in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. (Joshua 11:10-14; Judges 4:2; 1 Kings 9:15)

**Tel Dan** - This beautiful Biblical site will allow us a short walk around one of the rivers feeding the Jordan.

**Caesarea Philippi** - Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the city of Banias (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)

**Golan Heights** - Today we view Israel from The Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee

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

## **DAY 12: SUN. 12 MAY: Sea of Galilee and Boat Ride.**

After our Israeli buffet breakfast our full touring day involves visits to the heart of Jesus' ministry.



**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. (Matt 5:1-8)

**Capernaum** -The center of Jesus' Galilee! Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan monastery and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matt 9:1; 4:13)

**Bethsaida** - Also known as 'The House of The Fisherman' this is the home of Peter, Philip and Andrew and also the place where Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the blind man. Here we will see recent excavations of this old city. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1:35-43)

**Tabgha** - Located at the foot of the Mt. of Beatitudes this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21, 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

**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 a timeless reminder of life during that time. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

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

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





### **DAY 13 MON. 13 MAY: Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea**

Today we leave the Galilee and head towards Jerusalem. En-route we shall visit:

**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 to throw Jesus over the cliff. 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)

**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; 1 Kings 4:12; 9:15, II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16).

**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.

Our day ends by travelling “up to Jerusalem.” The Leonardo Hotel is our home whilst in the Holy City. Dinner will be at our hotel. **(B,D)**

### **DAY 14: TUE. 14 MAY: Jerusalem**

Our first full day in Jerusalem includes:

**Mount of Olives**- We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the Golden Dome of the Rock prominent. From here we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.



**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 the current St. Peter of Gallicantu church is the traditional site where Jesus was imprisoned.

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

**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.



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

**Western Wall and Tunnels**- Also called The Wailing Wall. The holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews. Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews pray relentlessly, along with many Christians.

### **Day 15: WED. 15 MAY: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we will visit the following:

**Davidson Centre** - This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

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

**Church of St. Anne** - By the pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the cripple. (John 5, 1-9)

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



Free afternoon in the city.

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

### **DAY 16: THU. 16 MAY: Jerusalem**

This morning we drive through the new city of Jerusalem en route to Bethlehem.

Upon arrival at **Bethlehem** we shall remember the birth of Jesus as we visit the **Shepherd's Fields** and **Tent Restaurant**.

We return to Jerusalem in the afternoon for a memorable service:

**Garden Tomb** - Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association, these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41). We will share a communion service here.

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

### **DAY 17: FRI. 17 MAY: Israel to Jordan, Mt. Nebo**

This morning, we say "good bye" to our guide, Yossi, and driver.

Upon crossing into Jordan we shall meet our Jordanian guide and driver. Heading towards Petra and the wilderness of Edom, we shall visit:

**Bethany**- 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.

**Mt. Nebo**- One of the holiest sites in all of Jordan, Mt. Nebo is the supposed location where Moses was laid to rest. For those inclined you can climb Pisgah and admire the dazzling view across the Jordan Valley and view the Promised Land as Moses saw it, from afar.

Then we drive to the city of Petra.

Dinner will be at our hotel, the Olde Village Resort Petra. **(B,D)**



### **DAY 18: SAT. 18 MAY: Petra**

After breakfast, we begin our visit of Petra. Petra was chosen as the capital of the Nabateans because of its location in a valley surrounded by sandstone mountains.

The main entrance to Petra is called the Siq, with sides as high as 200m. It was here that Christians escaped from the siege of Jerusalem by Titus in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. This gorge, and the temple at the end of it (the Kazneh), were popularized in American culture in the movie, Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.

Petra was lost to the western world until an archeologist tricked his Bedouin guide into leading him there, 1812.

**The Kazneh-** Of the 800 carved tombs in Petra, the Kazneh is the most famous. “Kazneh” means ‘treasure’ and comes from the Bedouin belief that the Pharaoh chasing the Israelites hid his treasures in the urn at the top.

**Main Street-** As many as 30,000 people may have lived in Petra during the 1<sup>st</sup> century. It is a misconception that Petra was a city only for the dead. A large earthquake in 363 AD destroyed at least half of the city. Petra never recovered from this destruction.

Dinner is at our hotel, the Olde Village Resort, this evening **(B,D)**

### **DAY 19: SUN. 19 MAY: Wadi Rum, Amman**

From Petra, we shall drive south to the Wadi Rum or “Valley of the Moon.” Here we ride in open jeeps over what once was the bed of an ocean! Experience the desert’s vastness, enjoy Bedouin hospitality, and understand more about the Bible’s use of desert as a metaphor, and in history.

From Wadi Rum we drive up the long King’s Highway to Amman where we spend our final night before an early morning departure for home. **(B, D)**



### **DAY 12: MON. 20 MAY: Journey Home**

This morning, we depart for Amman airport and our homeward departure. Complimentary in-flight service will be provided throughout the return journey. **(B, L)**

#### **20 DAY JOURNEY PRICING**

**VANCOUVER PRICE: \$ 7429 CAD**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 1699 CAD**

Based on minimum 30 paid passengers. All inclusive, except lunch, coffee breaks & optional activities. See details on next page.

#### **BRONWYN SPILSBURY**

Pastoral Host & Journey Director

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#### **TRAVEL AGENCY: CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS**

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## BLESSING IN THE BIBLE LANDS - 20 DAYS in THREE COUNTRIES

VANCOUVER PRICE: \$ 7429 CAD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 1699 CAD (*if you travel without a roommate*)

Based on minimum 30 paid passengers. Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card.

### INCLUDED:

**As indicated, daily:** B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

**Air travel:** Round trip from Vancouver. Fares from other cities available upon request. Includes domestic Egypt flights, for cruise.

**Nile Cruise:** Reservations are for the Nile Premium ship. Expert guide for land excursions, included.

**Hotels:** First class hotels throughout. St. Catherine's Monastery Lodge, Mt. Sinai is 3\*

**Meals:** Full breakfast and dinner daily, with tea and coffee (cruise drink package is different).

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

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

**Tour Guides:** Government licensed Tour guides will accompany the group and work with the Leadership Teams to maximize the educational /spiritual benefits and enjoyment of the group.

**Air Transportation Taxes** (and fuel surcharges): Currently \$642.

**Egypt, Jordan, Israel border taxes:** \$80

**Gratuities:** Equivalent to USD\$270 (collected at time of final billing in Canadian Dollars).

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

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

### NOT INCLUDED:

**Lunches & coffee breaks:** (Unless mentioned.) Eat, as you choose, at recommended local restaurants. Average lunch: \$15-20 USD.

**Travel Insurance:** Christian Journeys requires that you have "out of country" emergency medical insurance equivalent to (or greater than) \$250,000. We have many insurance policy options to offer, including cancellation and interruption coverage.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

**Passport:** Tour participants must possess a valid passport which should not expire less than 6 months before travel. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel. Egypt and Jordan visas are taken care of by Christian Journeys.

**Reservations:** A deposit and signed booking form are required to confirm participation.

**Deposit and final payment:** A non-refundable deposit of \$400 is required along with the registration form. All cancellation charges are described on the registration form. Balance payments will be requested 60 days prior to departure.

**Currency Surcharges:** These surcharges may apply at time of final invoicing, dependent on dollar value. If the cost of the journey was to exceed 7% of the original cost, you have the right to cancel without penalty.

**Fuel surcharges:** The Air Transportation Taxes amount of \$642 includes \$532 of fuel surcharges. Any adjustments to this amount will be made at time of final invoicing.

**General Health:** Participants should be in sufficiently good health to enjoy the entire journey. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation.

### CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS

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