



You are invited on an interfaith journey to:

Israel

November 1-12, 2014

Hosted by
Rabbi Albert M. Lewis
&
Father Steve Cron



320 Elton Hills Drive NW • Rochester MN 55901 • USA
(507) 289-3332 • (800) 658-7128 • Fax: (507) 281-9747
Email: tours@ed-ventures.com • www.ed-ventures.com

Day 1 - Saturday, November 1, 2014

- Depart US for Tel Aviv

Day 2 - Sunday, November 2, 2014

- Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport: Welcome to Israel!
- Explore Jaffa Port, one of the most ancient port cities in the world, now restored and preserved as an outdoor museum.
- Enjoy tons of galleries and a good selection of outdoor cafes.
- Orientation, meet the staff and people on your trip
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 3 - Monday November 3, 2014

- At the Peres Center for Peace, meet with Palestinians and Israelis and discuss the issues that have been at the heart of the ongoing Mid East Conflict.
- Visit Caesarea where the sea meets history. This ancient port, where Jews lived among Romans, was built by King Herod. Enjoy a 3D animated reconstruction of the old harbor area of Caesarea during the Roman period.
- See a panoramic view from Mt. Carmel and learn the biblical stories about Elijah and the prophets.
- Visit the Druze village, learn and recognize a new culture, have a traditional and tasty Druze Lunch.
- Visit the spectacular Baha'i Gardens; a uniquely designed and truly breathtaking hillside garden combining geometrical shapes and exquisite detailing spreads out along the northwestern slope of the Carmel Mountain. There are 19 terraces and more than 1,500 steps sweeping down towards a panoramic view of Haifa.
- Visit the Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery and learn about the Carmelites.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Sea of Galilee area.

Day 4 - Tuesday, November 4, 2014

- A boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, followed by a tour of a Kibbutz.
- Continue to Tabgha to visit the traditional site of the Multiplication Miracle of Loaves and Fishes and on to the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, wherein lies the Rock of Mensa Christi. We will have a mass at the church.
- A short journey to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' Ministries. See the remains of the ancient Synagogue and the House of Peter.
- Visit **Bethsaida**, one of the sources of the River Jordan at Banias, the site of Caesarea Philippi,
- Explore the narrow alleyways of **Tsfat**, one of the four holiest cities of Judaism. Located in the hills of Galilee with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries. Tsfat is the center of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah, recently made famous by the pop star Madonna.
- Dinner and overnight: Sea of Galilee area

Day 5 - Wednesday, November 5, 2014

- Drive to **Cana**, the scene of the wedding feast, where Jesus turned the water into wine. Drive to the town of **Nazareth** to visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well and the Church of St. Gabriel. Visit the Blessed Cave and view Mary and Joseph's house.
- Visit "The Boat" a unique and exciting find that gives us an idea of the sort of boat used during the time of Jesus.
- See the Mt. Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the "Sermon on the Mount".
- Experience the Yardenit ("little Jordan") a popular Baptism site. Here, the water flows into the Jordan river, eventually flowing into the Dead Sea located more than 100KM to the south. This site is believed, by some traditions, to be the actual site where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3: 13 : "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John").
- Travel to Jerusalem via Jericho (overlook)

- Welcome to Jerusalem with a special Shechehiyanu ceremony. The "Shechehiyanu" is the prayer which may be recited at times of new experiences and blessed events of all occasions. Here, we learn about the Holy City of Jerusalem and about the people of all faiths who cherish its beauty.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 6 - Thursday, November 6, 2014

- We start our pilgrimage in Jerusalem with a drive to the top of the Mt. of Olives, from which Jesus ascended to heaven after his resurrection. From the top of the Mount there is a magnificent view of ancient and modern Jerusalem, the center of the biblical world. We visit the holy shrines on the Mount and walk on down the "Palm Sunday Road" visiting the Chapel of Dominus Fleavit (Jesus wept) en route to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. We visit the House of Caiaphas where Jesus was scourged. See a pit where he may have been held for the evening and the ancient hillside steps he walked as he was taken to be condemned.
- Next we enter the old Walled city of Jerusalem. We visit the Pools of Bethesda and walk along the Via Dolorosa, following the 14 Stations of the Cross from Pilate's Judgment Hall to the empty tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
- Tour of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, for a reminder of the Nazi horrors inflicted on Jews as well as many other people during World War II. Gain a clear understanding of why Israel exists. Walk through the Museum, the Children's Hall, and the Memorial Hall and view the recently constructed Memorial to the Deportees.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 7 - Friday, November 7, 2014

- Visit the Israel Museum which features ancient and contemporary art and a Second Temple Model of Jerusalem during the time of Herod. It is the largest historical museum in Israel and the home of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book and several exceptional archaeological finds. Optional Shabbat Worship opportunity.
- We ascend to Mt. Zion where we will stop to see the Upper Room (site of the Last Supper), the Tomb of King David and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu which is built over the Palace of Caiaphas.
- Visit the New Generations Center at the Western Wall Plaza where you will find an unusual and enchanting fusion of many creative elements: music, sculpture, archeology and light effects that together create a masterpiece to delight all the senses.
- Take a tour of the Jewish Quarter that was reconstructed after the city was unified at the conclusion of the Six-Day War in 1967. A special point of interest in the Jewish Quarter is the "Cardo", meaning the "heart" of this ancient Byzantine City. View the unearthed Roman thoroughfare and ancient marketplace lined with columns.
- Touch and feel the Kotel (Western Wall): the holiest site in the world for the Jewish people which has stood the test of time for over 3000 years and remains the focal point for Jews throughout the world
- Preparing for Shabbat
- Candle-lighting
- Welcome Shabbat: Kabbalat Shabbat, and praying in a special atmosphere
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 8- Saturday, November 8, 2014

- As we drive towards the shores of the Dead Sea, we pass the Inn of the Good Samaritan.
- Then to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.
- Stop at Jericho, the world's oldest city. Close by, view the Mt. of Temptation where Jesus was tempted

- Arrive at Masada, where we ascend to the cliff-top fortress by cable car. Explore the ancient remains of fortifications, King Herod's palaces, storerooms and baths.
- Take in the beauty of the Ein Gedi Waterfall. Experience a small slice of heaven as you hike along a waterfall oasis, whose beauty exudes vibrant colorful hues.
- Continue along the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth and a rich source of minerals for export. Let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else but the sea and the salt all around you.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 9 - Sunday, November 9, 2014

- We drive through the New City, passing the Knesset (Israel's Parliament building), and on into the hill country to a "City of Judah" which today is called Ein Karem. Time permitting, we will stop and view the magnificent Chagall Windows.
- We visit the Church of the Visitation, which by tradition is built over the house of Zacharias, where the Virgin Mary came to visit. Here John the Baptist was born. Celebrate Mass at this beautiful church.
- Drive to Bethlehem, the royal city of David, the place of the birth of Jesus in the Grotto of the Nativity. We visit the Shepherd's Field and drive past Rachel's Tomb before returning to Jerusalem.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 10 - Monday, November 10, 2014

- Free Day in Jerusalem with Rabbi Al and Father Steve.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Jerusalem

Day 11 - Tuesday, November 11, 2014

- Learn the story of the City of David that began over 3,000 years ago, when King David established it as the unified capital of the tribes of Israel. Years later, David's son, King Solomon, built the First Temple next to the City of David on top of Mount Moriah, the site of the binding of Isaac, and with it, this hilltop became one of the most important sites in the world
- Near Beit Shemesh, we view the beautiful wonders of nature, when we pay a visit to the magnificent Stalactite and Stalagmite Caves.
- Drive via the Elah Valley, where the famous battle took place in which David slew Goliath.
- If time permits, we will visit Beit Govrin National Park, where many caves were carved in the surrounding hills in the course of the years, thus transforming it into a mysterious underground labyrinth.
- Visit the Latrun Monastery, also known as the Monastery of the Silent Monks. The Monks are Trappists, part of the Catholic Church's Benedictine Order, which was established in Italy in the 6th century. Abbott Paul Saouma is the driving force behind the winery and has been living at Latrun since 1945.
- Dinner at the hotel and overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 12 - Wednesday, November 12, 2014

- Visit Neot Kedumim: The Biblical Landscape Reserve in Israel. A unique endeavor to re-create the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail. Far more than a "garden" showing various biblical plants, Neot Kedumim embodies the panorama and power of the landscapes that helped shape the values of the Bible. Here we will take part in a long time tradition of planting a tree in the Land of Israel.
- Visit Independence Hall where David Ben-Gurion established a Jewish State in the Land of Israel. Today it is a historic site important to many Israelis and Jewish people both inside and outside of Israel.
- Visit Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, which tells the unique and ongoing story of the Jewish people
- Visit Rabin Square, the geographical center of modern Tel Aviv and location of many rallies and municipal events. Learn about Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who was assassinated there on Nov. 4, 1995.
- Close to midnight we depart for the airport.

TOUR PRICE: \$2,599* *per person, land only*

\$1400 *Estimated Air from Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Single Supplement = \$770

**Price is per person based on a minimum of 20 paying participants, double occupancy.*

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- **Land transportation** via private, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- **Accommodations** (double-occupancy) in superior tourist & moderate first class hotels
- Services of a **multi-lingual guide** throughout the tour
- **Meals** as indicated in itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities listed on itinerary
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person at hotels
- All **taxes and tips** excluding coach driver, tour leader and hotel and restaurant staff
- **Border taxes and Visa**

NOT INCLUDED:

- **Air transportation from Grand Rapids to Tel Aviv and return** including estimated related taxes and fees
- Meals not indicated on itinerary
- **Beverages** except tea and coffee with breakfast and dinner
- **End of tour gratuity** for driver (\$3 per day recommended) and guide (\$5 per day recommended)
- Hotel and restaurant tips in Israel
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees (*Passport must be valid for six months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and highly recommended*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 is due with registration. Final payment is due 90 days before departure. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. *Early registration is encouraged.*

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing and the date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to the departure date. From the time of deposit to 90 days before departure, a \$50 per person administrative fee and any lost airfare deposits will be assessed. From 89-46 days, a \$150 per person penalty plus any nonrefundable deposit to ground suppliers as well as penalties imposed by the airlines will be assessed. From 45-31 days, a \$200 per person penalty plus any nonrefundable deposit to ground suppliers as well as penalties imposed by the airlines will be assessed. From 30-15 days, a \$250 per person penalty plus any nonrefundable deposit to ground suppliers as well as penalties imposed by the airlines will be assessed. Airline tickets once issued are generally not refundable. Anyone canceling less than 14 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

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Registration Form

Tour Code:
RLFC14

Interfaith Journey to Israel

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Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Legal Name: _____

(Nickname): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Legal Name: _____

(Nickname): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Dietary needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Deposit Payment Information

(please fill out if paying by check):

Enclosed is my check made payable to
Ed-Ventures, Inc. in the amount of:

_____.

Deposit Payment Information (please fill out if paying by *credit card*):

Credit Card Number: _____

Visa/MasterCard/Disc: _____ Card ID Code:* _____

Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card*

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds

Roommate name: _____

Single supplement (call for pricing): _____ Yes _____ No

Travel Insurance (please check one): Yes, sign me up No, I decline

Insurance Payment Information: Charge my card below Check enclosed

Credit Card Number: _____

Card ID Code: _____ Visa/MC/Disc: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Amount: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions. Please sign me up for the trip!

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____

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9.10.13 land only