



# UNCOMMON

SPIRITUAL RETREATS

## **Day 1**

Places that will be visited this day based on groups arrival @ Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel the night before:

Herod's Summer Palace in Caesarea

Elijah's Cave in Mount Carmel

Tiberias on the North of Israel

Representatives of Uncommon Spiritual Retreats and their tour guide will meet our Grace Explorations group in the lobby of Avia Hotel & Resort Tel Aviv @ 9:00am and escort us and load our luggage into the tour bus waiting outside the hotel.

From the Avia Hotel & Resort Tel Aviv, we will make a short visit to Caesarea, a Roman city with many archeological findings such as a Roman theater, Public Baths, Roman styled hippodrome, and the city gate. This city is mentioned in one of the Epistles.

We will then drive to Haifa where we will visit Mount Carmel, where the biblical story of the confrontation between Prophet Elijah and the Baal prophets took place. This cave, where Elijah hid from Jezebel, overlooks the Jezreel Valley. After leaving the cave we will proceed to the hotel in Tiberias for dinner and our first night stay.

Scriptural references:

Caesarea - (Acts 10:1-48) (Acts 21:8-9) (Acts 9:30)

Elijah's Cave - 1 Kings 19

Tiberias - John 6:23

## **Day 2**

Places that we will visit today:

Nazareth

Church of Annunciation

Mary's home

Mount Precipice

Mount of Transfiguration

Gospel Trail

Sea of Galilee

After having breakfast we will start our day in Nazareth, where we will visit the house where Mary lived and the Angel revealed to her what God had planned for her. From there we will take a short walk to the Synagogue, which Jesus attended while living in Nazareth. This is also the place where he announced the beginning of his ministry after reading the scriptures from the book of Isaiah.

After spending some time at the synagogue we will continue to The Gospel Trail, located on Mt of Precipice. The Gospel Trail offers the opportunity to discover the cradle of Christianity by experiencing both physically and spiritually, the same biblical landscapes and sites of the Galilee where Jesus and his disciples once walked. The Gospel road is about 60 kilometers; however we will only walk for about forty-five minutes down the mountain, where we will see a wonderful view of Emek, Israel. From here we will drive up to spend some time at the Mount of Transfiguration.

We will drive to visit the Church of Multiplication in Tabaha, where Jesus preformed the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

We will return to the hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.

Scriptural References:

Nazareth – Matthew 2:23, Luke 1:26 / Church of Annunciation – Luke 4:17

Mary's home – Luke 1:26-38 / Mt. Precipice – Luke 4:29-30

Mt. Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-13 / The Gospel Trail – Route Jesus used

Sea of Galilee – Numbers 34:11, Luke 5:1

## **Day 3**

Places that we will visit during this day:

The Sea of Galilee (Early Sail around 9:00 am)

Capernaum

Sermon of the Mount

Lunch

4x4 jeep ride (Start at 15:45)

Our Third day will begin with breakfast, followed by a sail on the Sea of Galilee.

After we finish our sail we will take a short drive to Capernaum where Jesus spent much of his ministry years. We will be able to see the beach where Jesus called Peter and also showed up after his resurrection. From there we will visit the place where the Sermon of the Mount took place.

This will be followed by a 4-wheel drive in Jeeps, through the places where Jesus walked along the Golan Heights. The jeep ride will take us to Kibbutz Merom Golan, the first community in the Golan Heights after the Six-Day War. We will cross the kibbutz while seeing one of the most successful settlements in the Golan, 3 miles from the border fence with Syria. We will cross the Quneitra Valley and see methods for accumulating and using water properly for fruit crops such as apples and cherries alongside winter crops in the summer. From there we will drive up to the dormant volcanoes to get to a closed military area, which is the line of defense along the Syrian border, but also the back yard of the kibbutz. We will continue to an IDF outpost to see a bunker where the border is observed. The Syrian civil war is already in its seventh year. We will learn what the current situation is in Syria: Who fought whom? How does this affect Israel? How it affects the world, etc. The next stop will be in Quneitra, a ghost town since 1967. Driving along the border on one side and the local farmers on the other will bring us to the border crossing and the UN camp. Through the vineyards, we will return to Merom Golan. At the end of the drive we will have time to smoke a Cuban cigar and drink some nice Israeli red wine produced on the Golan Heights as we look back at the stunning views of the Sea of Galilee. Afterwards we will drive back to the hotel for dinner and over night.

Scriptural References:

Capernaum – Matthew 4:13 / Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5-7

Golan Heights – Territory taken by Israel through the war of 73.

## **DAY 4**

Places that will be visited during this day:

Mount Arbel

Synagogue

Lunch

Site of First Miracle

Valley where the 5000 were fed

Our Fourth day will begin once again with breakfast, after which we will travel to Mount Arbel, which is the very spot where Jesus spent all night praying before walking on the water to meet the disciples in the Sea of Galilee, in the middle of a storm. Here we will have an opportunity to spend a few hours individually praying and meditating before God.

Afterwards we will visit a synagogue below Mount Arbel, which Jesus attended during his itinerant ministry in the area. From here we will descend and travel across into the valley where Jesus fed the 5000.

This will be followed by a visit to Kfar Cana where we will spend time in the place where Jesus performed his first known miracle turning water into wine while in attendance at a wedding before we head to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Scriptural References:

Mount Arbel – Hosea 10:14, Luke 6:12

Synagogue – Matthew 4:23

Site of First Miracle – John 2:1-11

Site of the feeding of 5000 – Matthew 14:13-21

## **DAY 5**

Places we will visit today:

Jordan Valley

Aliyah Return Center (Possibly)

Baptism site of Jesus in Jordan River

Lunch

Mount of Olives in Jerusalem

After checking out of our hotel in Tiberias, we will head south into and through the Jordan Valley, passing Beth She'an where we will stop at Kaser El Yahud, the traditional and real baptismal site where it is believed John baptized Jesus. This is also the same place where the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan under Joshua's leadership into the Promised Land. Here everyone will have a chance to be baptized should they choose to.

This will be followed by a drive to Jerusalem, where we will be stopping on the Mount of Olives. This is the very point from which all of Jerusalem (THE CITY OF GOLD) can be seen during sunset.

From here we will proceed to our Yehuda hotel in Jerusalem where we will have dinner and stay every night while we are in Jerusalem.

Scriptural references:

Baptismal Site – Matthew 3

Mount Olives – Matthew 21:1, Matthew 26:30

## **DAY 6**

Places we will visit today:

Bethlehem

Visit Three Arches Shop

Lunch in Bethlehem

Shepherd's Fields

Our Sixth day will begin with the customary breakfast. This will be followed by a drive to Bethlehem, where we will visit the Church of the Nativity. This is believed to be the birthplace of Christ. We will also visit the Shepherd's field, believed to be the place where an angel announced the upcoming birth of Christ. We will give you a chance to buy some souvenirs at the infamous Three Arches store.

We will then visit a few sites that will shed light in helping us understand the Lord's prophecy about Jerusalem.

This afternoon will be free time to rest and relax at the hotel. In the evening we will have a visit from my Father in Law who was one of the first soldiers from the Israeli Army to reach the Western Wall when Israel took it back from Jordan during the 6 day war. He will speak for a short while about that days events as well as the war of 1973 and will then be open to take questions from the tour delegates.

Scriptural references:

Bethlehem – Micah 5:2, Numbers 24:17, Matthew 2:16, Luke 2:4-6

Shepherds Field – Luke 2:8:20

## **DAY 7**

The places we will visit today are:

The Dead Sea

MASADA

QUMRAN

Our day will begin with breakfast, followed by a drive through the Judea Desert to the area where The Dead Sea is located. We will first drive through to Masada, which is situated on an isolated cliff in the desert. This site was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

This is the place where instead of walking up as some do, we will ascend by cable car to the fortress, which was the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their war against the Romans. Once there, we will visit all the excavations, King Herod's palace, the synagogue, bathhouse and much more. We will also have time to be able to enjoy the breathtaking views of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea.

En route to the Dead Sea, we will be able to see the site of the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. From here we will proceed nearly 1,300 feet below sea level to the Dead Sea, which is the lowest point on the earth's surface. We will have ample time to swim, "float", and relax on the salty, mineral rich water of the sea.

From here we will return to Jerusalem for our overnight stay.

Scriptural References:

Dead Sea - Deuteronomy 3:17, Numbers 34:12, Joshua 3:16

Masada - 1 Samuel 22-24 (Possibly mentioned by David)

Qumran - Place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found

## **DAY 8**

The places we will visit today are:

The Garden of Gethsemane

Mary's Tomb

Mount Zion

The tomb of King David

The Upper Room – site of the Last Supper

Room where Pentecost took place

Caiaphas House

Our Eighth day will begin with breakfast in the hotel. Afterwards we will visit The Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was captured, and often prayed with his Disciples.

Around this area we will also visit the tomb of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We will then proceed to visit sites on Mt. Zion: the Gallicantu Church, which was built over the ruins of the Palace of Caiaphas, the High Priest before whom Jesus was brought for trial. We will visit the Tomb of King David, followed by visiting and having communion in the Upper Room - the site that commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples, as well as the place, where according to history, Pentecost took place. We will then return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Scriptural references:

Garden of Gethsemane – Luke 22:39-53

Mount Zion – Psalm 124:1, Joel 2:32, 1 Thessalonians 2:3-7

The Upper Room – Matthew 26:17-30

Place where Pentecost took place - Acts 1:13

Caiaphas house – Mark 14:53-65



## **DAY 9**

The places we will visit during today are:

The City of David

Hezekiah's water tunnel

Pool of Bethesda

Via Dolorosa

Jesus place of crucifixion

Jesus Tomb

Western Wall

Our day will begin with an exciting tour to the site where much of the Bible was written, the City of King David. Here archeologists found King Hezekiah's 2,700-year-old water tunnel, one of the wonders of early engineering, and the seal impression of Jeremiah, son of Shaphan, possibly the scribe of King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 36:10). We will travel down the dry tunnels under the City of David and also have an opportunity to see Jerusalem and the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Then we will visit the church of St. Anne and Bethesda where Christ healed the paralyzed man (John 5).

Next we will visit the Garden Tomb where we will have a chance to see and enter into the empty tomb of Christ. We will have time to pray for each other and have communion together. From here we will visit the Jewish Quarters in Jerusalem, where we will explore the Roman Cardo, the Madaba Map, and the world famous Western Wall.

Then we will drive to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Scriptural references:

The City of David – 1 Chronicles 11:5, Luke 2:4 / Hezekiah's Tunnels 2 Kings 20:20

Pool of Bethesda – John 5:1-15 / Golgotha – Matthew 27:33

Garden Tomb – John 19:41 / Western Wall – 1 Kings 6

## **DAY 10**

The places we will visit during today are:

The Israel Museum

Mamilla Mall in Jerusalem for some shopping

Emmaus Road

Ammunition Hill (Next to Emmaus Road)

Part of the group to airport and the other part to Jordan

After breakfast we will check out from the hotel and spend time at Yad VaShem the Israel Museum where the original scroll of the book of Isaiah can be seen amongst other things. Lunch and a walk through the modern mall in Jerusalem called Mamilla will follow this.

From the mall we will drive to see Emmaus Road where Jesus showed up and walked with two men after His resurrection. From there we will cross over the highway to see one of the Ammunition Hills used during the war between Israel and Jordan. This last place will conclude our retreat. Some of the attendees will be driven to the Airport to catch their flights home and others will depart to Jordan to see Petra and other sites.

Scriptural references:

Emmaus Road – Luke 24:13-35