



# PLAINVIEW FIRST

ASSEMBLY OF GOD



## ISRAEL & GREECE: 13 LIFE-CHANGING DAYS

### Day to Day itinerary

#### 29 Apr Mon - DAY 1

We leave the States for a journey to the land where the Bible will unfold before our eyes. We will walk, see, feel, and touch the roots of our faith, encounter the divine, and sense His presence.

Restaurants

- [Maganda](#)

#### 30 Apr Tue - DAY 2

Flying over the Atlantic Ocean and Europe, we reach the shores of God's land. Upon our arrival at the Ben

Gurion Airport, we will be met by our guide and continue to our hotel, located on the beautiful shores of the Mediterranean Sea,

for a wonderful buffet dinner and a good night's rest.

#### 01 May Wed - DAY 3

After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel at Caesarea, the city of Cornelius the Centurion, the

first Gentle convert

(Acts 10). We visit the Roman theatre, walk on the pier used by the apostle Paul on his way to Rome, and see the impressive water aqueduct built by Herod the Great. Leaving the Mediterranean, we will travel north to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah held the contest with 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). After lunch, we travel to Tel Megiddo, or Armageddon, for a short tour of the remains from Solomon's days (1 Kings 9). Here, we experience a magnificent view of the Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon) and see the significance of this site for the end of days (Rev. 16). As we continue our trip to Galilee, we stop at the Nazareth Village, demonstrating life in first-century Nazareth. At the end of the day, we will drive by Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2) before we continue to our hotel in the beautiful region of Galilee for dinner and rest.

## **02 May Thu - DAY 4**

Today will be dedicated to the spectacular northern part of Israel. Following the accounts described in the Gospel of Luke chapter 9, we will drive through the Hula Valley to reach Mt. Hermon, mentioned in Psalm 133. We will visit the Banias, one of the headwaters of the Jordan River, and the site of Caesarea Philippi, where Peter confessed Christ's divinity. From there, we continue to the Dan Nature Reserve. After a refreshing walk through the beautiful reserve, we discover Jeroboam's Altar (1 Kings 12). We will also see a city gate from the time of Abraham the Patriarch and learn about the importance of the gate in the social life of the city in the Old Testament times. Then, at Korazim, one of the cities cursed by Jesus (Mat. 11:20-24), we will visit the beautiful synagogue made of basalt. We will notice a carved seat used by the community's most respected members, known in ancient sources as the Moses Seat (Mat. 23: 1-7). We will also see the ancient ritual bath that has been reconstructed near the synagogue, along with two large dwellings.) We continue our journey to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), where we can appreciate the beautiful surroundings and views unchanged since the time Jesus delivered his seminal sermon. After an optional lunch of St. Peter's Fish, the next stop is Tabgha, where Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 14), followed by a visit to the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, or Mensa Christi, where Jesus reappeared and made breakfast for His disciples after His resurrection (John 21). Our next stop is Capernaum or Kfar Nahum, where Jesus resided during His ministry (Matthew 4). We then visit the ongoing excavations at Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene, with its freshly excavated synagogue, where Jesus surely taught.

## **03 May Fri - DAY 5**

We start the day with a spectacular boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a visit to Ginosar, where we will see the remains of a fisherman's vessel discovered on the shores of the Sea of Galilee dating from the time of Jesus. Leaving the Sea of Galilee behind us, we go to the Yardenit Baptismal Site, where those who wish can be baptized in the waters of the Jordan River, as Jesus was. We will then drive through the Jordan River Valley by Mt. Gilboa to Beth Shean (1 Sam. 31), built where the Jezreel Valley meets the Jordan Valley. Here, we tour the amazing Roman-Byzantine remains of the leading city of the Decapolis

mentioned in the Gospels. We will walk the ancient streets and view the Roman steam baths, theatre, coliseum, market, and temples. Continuing through the valley, we enter the Judean Desert, where we will pass ancient Jericho (Josh. 3) and view from a distance this city, famed as the oldest in the world. To the east of Jericho along the Jordan River Valley (Qeser El Yehud) is the Israeli side of Bethany. Beyond the Jordan. In this area, Jesus was born by John the Baptist, Elijah, and Elisha crossed the Jordan, and the children of Israel, led by Joshua, entered the Promised Land. We will then ride on a portion of the Old Jericho Road, once used by pilgrims to ascend to Jerusalem in Jesus's days. As we make a stop along the desolate road, we will learn the meaning of Psalm 121 and better understand the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25). We will also view one of the amazing, isolated monasteries of the area, where the monks still try to follow the example of Jesus on the Mount of Temptation. Crossing a part of the Wilderness of Judea, we will become acquainted with the Bedouin life and start ascending to JERUSALEM, and for the first time, get to see the Golden City of the Mighty King. A wonderful hotel and dinner await us.

### **04 May Sat - DAY 6**

We will spend today exploring the Judean Desert. We will pass the "Inn of the Good Samaritan" on the ancient route pilgrims would have followed to Jerusalem on our way to the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. Following the coast of the Dead Sea, we will arrive at Masada, the tabletop fortress built by King Herod and used by Jewish Zealots for their last stand against the Roman Empire. Having toured the site, we will continue to the desert oasis of En Gedi, prominent in King Saul's pursuit of the young David (1 Sam. 23-24). Following lunch, you are invited to take a short float in the mineral-rich lake of the Dead Sea before continuing to Qumran, where an ancient Jewish sect chose to live at the time of Jesus and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

### **05 May Sun - DAY 7**

After breakfast, We will spend the morning at Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, and the Church of the Nativity, the oldest Church in the Holy Land; admire the ancient limestone columns and remains of mosaic floors; descend to the Grotto of the Nativity, where a silver star in the floor marks the spot where Christ is believed to have been born. We will also visit the Shepherds' Fields, where David raised his sheep, and where the Good News about Jesus's birth was received (Luke 2). After lunch, we head back to Jerusalem, to the area surrounding Mount Moriah, where we will visit the Western Wall and the Ophel Archaeological Park and Museum, with remains of the city streets and Temple steps Jesus would have walked on (Luke 19, Matthew 21). This is also the place where Peter delivered his sermon on the day of Pentecost, and 5,000 were added to the Church. We will visit the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel, ending at the Pool of Siloam, before ascending Mount Zion to visit Peter in Galllicantu, believed to be the site of Caiaphas' house and dungeons (Luke 22), as well as the Upper Room, where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, and the disciples were filled with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

## **06 May Mon - DAY 8**

We begin the day at the Mt. of Olives with a magnificent overview of Jerusalem and an explanation of its history. We will walk in the footsteps of Jesus down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane, the site of Jesus' betrayal (Luke 22). Here, we will have a special devotional time in the Garden before continuing to St. Stephen Gate to enter the old city. We will visit the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the lame man (John 5). After an time of singing in St. Anne's Church, we make our way to the Ecce Homo Convent and stand at the site of Pilate's condemnation and flogging of Jesus (John 19). We will continue by the Way of the Cross out of the Damascus Gate and finish our day by celebrating Communion at the Garden Tomb, the site of Golgotha, and the Empty Tomb. Return to hotel for a farewell dinner and prepare for travel to Athens.

## **07 May Tue - DAY 9**

\*\*\* Depends on flight hour to Athens

We check out from our hotel, and we will visit the Israel Museum, including the Dead Sea Scrolls housed in the iconic Shrine of the Book and the impressive model of Jerusalem from the Second Temple Period. We make our way to Ben Gurion airport, where we begin the second part of our tour – Athens, Greece. Upon arrival in Athens, you are met by your guide and bus driver. Transfer to your hotel with the rest of the day at leisure – dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## **08 May Wed - DAY 10**

Today, we explore Athens, one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of Western civilization as we know it today. For twenty-five centuries, the panorama of this city has been dominated by the Areopagus, the rock of the Acropolis; we see the ruins of the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, and the Propylaea. We will ascend Mars Hill where Paul spoke to the ancient Athenians about the one and only God (Acts 17). From here we have an excellent view of the ancient agora, the former center of Athenian public life. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## **09 May Thu - DAY 11**

We board this morning our coach for Corinth, taking the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea. Short stop for pictures and continue to the site of ancient Corinth, Paul's beloved city and the site of his most extensive ministry (Acts 18). Dominated by the Acro-Corinth rising 1700 feet above the ruins, the marketplace is laid out exactly as it stood in the days of the great Apostle. We see the Bema (the judgment seat) where Paul stood before Gallio and preached (Acts 18). The museum contains a superb collection of artifacts portraying life in ancient Corinth. Time for leisure at the port of Cenchreae (Acts 18). Return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

## **10 May Fri - DAY 12**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, with the life-long memories of a marvelous, life-changing journey.



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[info@gordonbooking.com](mailto:info@gordonbooking.com)

Israel address - 24 Raul Wallenberg St. Tel Aviv, Israel