

Spiral of Life Tour - May 26- June 6, 2018

Hosted by L. A. Marzulli & Mondo Gonzales

Day 1 - Saturday, May 26

Depart US and fly to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

Flights will arrive the following day.

Day 2 – Sunday, May 27

Land in Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv. You will be met and greeted by a representative of Lipkin Tours who will welcome you to Israel and introduce you to your tour guide and driver.

We will then ascend to Jerusalem, the Holy City of Zion. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, we will experience a breathtaking panoramic view of Jerusalem at Haas Promenade. Continue to our centrally located hotel for check in, introduction & welcome dinner. Free time to rest, relax and enjoy your first evening in Jerusalem.

Overnight at Jerusalem hotel

Day 3 – Monday, May 28

Following breakfast, we will enter the Old City via the Dung Gate and visit the Western Wall (Ha Kotel)– the holiest site in Judaism and one of the original ancient walls that retained the Temple. We will continue to the Temple Mount archeological excavations. Here we will visit the “Southern Steps” – the archaeological reconstruction of the Temple Steps where Jesus walked so often. We will visit the unearthed southern end of the western wall, the paved street and the Robinson’s Arch.

Next, we will visit the Western Wall tunnels running along the Western Wall. The biggest stone in the Western Wall often called the Western Stone is also revealed within the tunnel and ranks as one of the heaviest objects ever lifted by human beings without powered machinery. Some are of the opinion that such constructions as this shown above are the work of what are commonly called the Nephilim, long before the time of Herod. “The Nephilim were on the earth in those days ...when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.” (Genesis 6:4). We will continue our old city exploration and walk through the historic Jewish Quarter, visiting the Temple Institute and learning about the holy work they are carrying out in preparation for the Third Temple.

Overnight at Jerusalem hotel



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Day 4 – Tuesday, May 29

We will start our day with a visit to Tel Gezer National Park. Over 3000 years ago the Gezer was a major city strategically situated above a coastal byway that serviced traders, warriors and travelers for thousands of years. Gezer's most mysterious and impressive treasure is the collection of monumental stones – the Middle East's very own Stonehenge! Several scholars believe these to have been built as a Monolith temple, which served as a venue where alliances between tribes or city-states were forged or renewed.

We will then travel through the Elah Valley, where David fought Goliath and pick up a stone like David did when he killed Goliath.

Next, we will head to the top of the Mount of Olives to stand where the Lord ascended into heaven (Acts 1). From the Mount of Olives, we take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the city across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate where the Prince of Peace will enter (Ezekiel 44). We will travel to the Garden of Gethsemane where we will see 2,000 year old olive trees that date back to the time of Christ. We then continue to the Garden Tomb, where we will celebrate the resurrection with a time of communion and prayer (Luke 23).

Overnight at Jerusalem hotel

Day 5 – Wednesday, May 30

We will begin the day by heading to the new city of Jerusalem and drive past the Knesset, the Israeli Supreme Court, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to visit the Shrine of the book at the Israel museum, where the Dead Sea scrolls are housed. We will also see a full size model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.

Afterwards, we will depart and drive to the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea.

Our first visit will be Qumran, where we will walk through the ruins of this ancient Essene community. In this spot, an amazing cache of ancient biblical texts were discovered in 1947 - commonly called the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will have lunch here and plenty of shopping for Dead Sea Products.

We will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea and arrive at our hotel to relax and enjoy the Full Spa facility where you can walk to the beach and float in the salty water of the Dead Sea and take a dip in the beautiful swimming pool of our resort hotel. You can also take this opportunity to enjoy the Dead Sea famous mud and mineral treatments at our hotel's spa.

Overnight at Dead Sea hotel



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Day 6- Thursday, May 31

After breakfast we will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit one of the most spectacular sites in Israel – the 1,500 feet mountaintop fortress of Masada. Built by King Herod, Masada is famous for being the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. We will ascend to Masada by cable car and discover the 1st century Synagogue, Herod’s Bathhouse and many other sites. Be sure to bring your sunglasses and hat. **FOR THOSE THAT WANT A REAL CHALLENGE, SOME OF US WILL CLIMB THE STAIRS UP TO THE TOP OF MASADA.** Next we will visit the oasis of Ein Gedi, where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (1 Samuel 23). It was here that David composed several of his Psalms. *Please note, you can stop at the first waterfall which is not strenuous. But for those adventures types, you will not want to miss climbing to the top waterfall!

Overnight at Dead Sea Hotel

Day 7- Friday, June 1

After breakfast, we will begin our trek north to Galilee.

On our way we will stop at Qumran and take a short hike to Cave 1 where the actual Dead Sea scrolls were found. We will make a short stop at Old Testament Jericho where the walls came crashing down as we read in the book of Joshua.

Afterwards, we will continue through the Jordan Valley and the Beth Shean valley to the ancient city of Beth Shean (Mark 5.20, 7.31) for a visit of this remarkable archeological site. This is where Saul and Jonathan’s bodies were hung on the city gates. We will end the day at Yardenit the wonderful baptismal site on the Jordan River for those who want to be baptized. You will receive a beautiful certificate. Afterwards, we will continue to the famous city of Tiberias to check into our hotel. The hotel is located right in the heart of the ancient city of Tiberias and faces the beach promenade on the shores of the Sea of Kinneret, which is what the locals call the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight at Tiberius Hotel

Day 8- Saturday, June 2

We will travel to the Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5,6,7,8), where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount and where the famous chapel, constructed in 1939 by the noted architect Antonio Barluzzi is located. As we enjoy the breathtaking view and beautiful grounds, you can picture Jesus speaking here on the hill. We will then continue on our journey to the 2,000 year old remains of Capernaum (Matt. 4.13 13.54, 17.24, Luke 7, Mark 1.2, John 4.46-54). Here we can stand in what is left of the synagogue in which Jesus ministered! It was from this very city that Jesus did most of his Galilee ministry, where he performed many miracles, and where Peter’s mother-in-law lived and was healed. Afterwards, we will visit the Capernaum Farms Olive Oil Factory where we will see a demonstration of how the olives are pressed then and now. We will have opportunity to taste the finest olive oils and try the skin care products. We will then travel to Kibbutz Ein Gev Restaurant where we will enjoy a St Peter’s Fish Lunch and afterwards, we will then board a beautiful Wooden boat and sail across the Sea of Galilee as we worship on the water. We will dock at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar and visit the ancient boat “Jesus Boat” before returning back to our beautiful hotel for relaxation.

Overnight at Tiberius hotel



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Day 9 – Sunday – June 3

After Breakfast, we begin with a visit to Gilgal Rephaim, the Circle of Og, King of Bashan, also known as the Circle of the Refaim. In 1 Chronicles 6:71, we are told that the half-tribe of Manasseh later inhabited “Golan,” in Bashan. The most explicit description of the size of the people of Bashan is found in Deuteronomy 3. “King Og’s iron bedstead is kept at Rabbah... and measures thirteen and a half feet long and six feet wide.” The Refaim “were a large and powerful tribe, as tall as the Anakim(giants). In Chronicles 20, the last of the Anakim is killed. And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot: and he also was the son of the giant.

We will then drive up to the Golan Heights, along the way we will stop at Givat Bazak where there are hundreds of dolmens (prehistoric megalith tombs), which were erected at the early middle bronze period (about 30 C BC). The tombs may have been of nomad tribes who buried their dead in central holy places. Our next stop will be the site of the ancient Gamla, in the Golan Heights, destroyed by the Romans in 68AC. Known as the Golan’s Masada, Gamla offers magnificent views over the Sea of Galilee, the highest waterfall in Israel and it is also an important archeological site. We will then continue to Tel Bental - one of the chain of extinct volcanoes. Tel Bental offers spectacular panoramic views at the crossroads of three countries. Lastly, we will visit Tel Hazor National Park, the site of ancient Hazor, located in the Upper Galilee, north of the Sea of Galilee, in the southern Hula Valley overlooking Lake Merom. In the Middle Bronze Age (around 1750 BCE) and the Israelite period (ninth century BCE), Hazor was the largest fortified city in the country and one of the most important in the Fertile Crescent. It maintained commercial ties with Babylon and Syria, and imported large quantities of tin for the bronze industry. In the Book of Joshua, Hazor is described as “the head of all those kingdoms” (Josh. 11:10).

Overnight at Tiberius Hotel

Day 10 – Monday, June 4

We will begin our day with to visit Nimrod’s Fortress, which is named after a biblical hero, the hunter Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-9) who, according to local tradition, dwelt on this summit. The fortress overlooks the deep, narrow valley separating Mt. Hermon from the Golan Heights and the road linking the Galilee with Damascus (in present-day Syria). The fortress was founded in the Middle Ages, probably by the Crusaders, to defend the city of Banias in the valley below against Muslim incursions. Then on to Banias and ancient Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16.13 and Mark 8.27), where Jesus said “on this rock I will build my Church”. We will then travel to Tel Dan. The city of Dan represented the northern border of the Biblical kingdom of Israel. It was here, 2,900 years ago, that King Hazael of Damascus punctuated his invasion of Israelite territory with the erection of the famous House of David inscription, the oldest document to mention the historical King David. Visitors can explore King Jeroboam’s temple, which the Hebrew Bible indicates was established to house the golden calf and challenge the Jerusalem Temple for religious supremacy. It was here that Bronze Age inhabitants constructed the world’s oldest known gated archway more than 1,500 years before the Romans supposedly invented the arch. In the late afternoon we will drive through the natural Hula Valley and the Upper Galilee region back to the Sea of Galilee. Return to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight at Tiberius Hotel



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Day 11- Tuesday, June 5

On our last touring day we will have a relaxing drive along the Lower Galilee and the Jezzerel valley to the Valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16). We will Visit Megiddo (1 Kings 4.28, 9,15, 2 Kings 23,29 & Revel. 16.16) and see the remains from Solomon's days, and view the site where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought. A very sobering realization. Our Next stop will be Mount Carmel (Muchraka), where Elijah issued his challenge to the False Prophets. We will then drive to the beautiful coast of the Mediterranean Sea to stop at Caesarea Maritime (Acts 9.30 Acts 10 24-48), which was the center of early Christians. Here Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10), and it was also here where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26).

We will continue to Haifa for a panoramic view of the city and not far off the coast of the village of Atlit in the Mediterranean Sea, near Haifa in Israel, lies the submerged ruins of the ancient Neolithic site of Atlit Yam. The prehistoric settlement, which dates back to the 7th millennium BC, has been so well preserved. The site was first discovered in 1984 by marine archaeologist Ehud Galili, and since then underwater excavations have unearthed numerous houses, stone-built water wells, a series of long unconnected walls, ritual installations, stone-paved areas, a megalithic structure, thousands of flora and faunal remains, dozens of human remains, and numerous artifacts made of stone, bone, wood and flint

We will finish our day driving to Tel Aviv and will end our journey visiting Jaffa (Joppa) and walk through the narrow passages of Old Jaffa, believed to be the oldest port city in the world. Here we will celebrate the end of our tour with great fellowship, new friendships and a delicious farewell dinner at a Middle Eastern restaurant. After dinner we will drive back to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and say our farewells before our return flight back home.

Petra Extension group departs back to Jerusalem hotel.

Day 12- Wednesday, June 6

Today you will arrive back in the States and start planning for your next journey back to Israel and bring someone with you!

FOLLOWING THIS TOUR THERE IS AN OPTIONAL JORDAN EXTENSION TOUR.

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