



LIPKINTOURS
Israel the right way



Heartland to Promised Land Tour
Hosted by Dwight & Anita Widaman
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Day 1

Day 1: Shalom and welcome. Anticipation and visions!

After landing at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, we'll be met by a representative of Lipkin Tours who will welcome us to Israel and introduce you to our tour guide and coach driver. We'll have time to exchange money at one of the banks in the airport. As you board the modern, comfortable motor coach, you'll receive a packet of supplies and personal headsets for use on the tour.

And we're off! You'll take in the scenery as we travel on Israel's modern freeways through the high-tech city and suburbs of Tel Aviv to the 4-star Daniel Hotel on the Mediterranean's Herzliya Beach. Once we check in, you can walk along the beach, swim and take in the beautiful sunset later in the evening. After a leisurely dinner we'll have a short orientation for the exciting days that lie ahead.

Day 2

Day 2: Lifestyles of the rich and famous Romans and Jews of 2,000 years ago

After breakfast we will depart the hotel and drive north along the coast of the Mediterranean to Caesarea – an important New Testament city. There we will look at the ruins of Herod's ocean side palace, visit Paul's prison, a Roman amphitheater, hippodrome and the amazing Roman aqueducts. We then drive east to the Galilee Hills with a look at the Valley of Armageddon. We stop at Nazareth Village living history site for biblical inspired lunch and tour. Here, you'll see the actual wine press from Jesus' boyhood town and see live demonstrations of everyday life. We continue to Mount Precipice for a breathtaking view of the Jezreel Valley and Mt. Tabor. We then head to our Galilee Sea beach resort for check-in. Afterwards you'll have dinner and time for rest or fellowship along the beach.

Day 3

Day 3: Along the "Road to Damascus" and the Golan Heights

We will begin our day at Tel Dan Nature Reserve and the City of Dan, described in the bible as the northernmost city of Israel. We then take the nature walk to Abraham's Gate and Jeroboams altar. You'll even also see ruins of a Canaanite city. Our next stop will be the Banias—a source of the Jordan River and the site of Caesarea Philippi where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Following this we will drive to Mt. Bental in the Golan Heights and look out to the "Road to Damascus". From this wonderful vantage point you'll peer into Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Northern Israel. We will then travel to Katzrin, known as the "capital of the Golan heights," before ending the day at the Yardenit, where John baptized Jesus. For those wishing to, we'll have a baptism opportunity. In the evening there will be time to visit local stores and stroll around, taking in everyday Israeli life in a small town.

Sample itinerary - Subject to change



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Day 4

Day 4: In the footsteps of Jesus – miracles and ministry

Following breakfast and check out from the hotel we will travel to the Church of Primacy where Jesus told Peter “upon this rock I will build my church.” Next, it’s on to a view of Eremos Cave – what many experts consider the actual site of the Beatitudes. Next, we’ll visit Capernaum that in Jesus’ time was a flourishing border town that served as the home base for his ministry. We will then enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum to Lido Beach near Tiberius. We’ll enjoy lunch in Tiberius. The afternoon will begin with a drive south to Gideon’s Spring where you can put your hand into the water that still flows. Then it’s on to Beit Shean – the magnificent remains of a major Roman Decapolis City. We’ll visit the ancient hill upon which King Saul’s head was displayed on a pole and where you’ll see ruins of an Egyptian temple. On the drive south we will travel along Jordan Rift that, from eons of the collision of two continental plates, created the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. We will then enter the ancient and still vibrant city of Jerusalem. Check-in at the Prima Royal Hotel, dinner and beautiful views of the city.

Day 5

Day 5: Descending and Ascending in Jerusalem

We will begin the day at City of David excavations and encounter the newest discoveries. Here you’ll see ruins of David’s palace and other evidence that this is his city. Next we have several options: A knee-deep trek through the actual tunnel Hezekiah built or the newly opened Pilgrim’s Way – the now underground street that Jesus and other Jews used when visiting the Temple. Next is a visit to the Pool of Siloam. We will continue on to the Southern Steps of the Ancient Temple. Here you can climb the actual remains of the steps that Jesus used to enter the Temple. Were the moneychangers nearby? We will then visit the Western Wall, which is just around the corner, and explore the Western Wall Tunnel. We then stroll through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City with its bustling shops and historical sites. The afternoon is devoted to free time for shopping and exploration at your own pace.

Day 6

Day 6: Memorials, markets and memories of Shabbat

Today we will begin at the world-class museum Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, learning about Jewish life and culture before World War II and remembering and honoring the six million who were killed in the Holocaust. We’ll continue on to Friends of Zion Museum to celebrate the friendship of Christians and Jews over the years in an interactive experience. We will continue on to the famous outdoor Machane Yehuda to enjoy lunch and explore this bustling market place that amazes everyone who experiences it! A short drive back to the hotel allows us to refresh and then take the bus to the Old City to meet locals and welcome in Shabbat. You’ll see the festive sights and sounds of young Israeli’s worshiping and dancing in preparation for their day of rest. Take this opportunity to step up to the Western Wall to pray and place your own note in the crevices there with the thousands of others. Back at the hotel we will enjoy a Shabbat dinner and a peaceful evening of rejuvenation and reflection on all the wonderful things we have seen.

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Day 7

Day 7: Walking the footsteps of the Passion of the Christ

After breakfast we start our pilgrimage in Jerusalem with a drive to the top of the Mt. of Olives, from which Jesus prayed before His crucifixion and from where he ascended to Heaven at Pentecost. We will travel down the Hosanna Path that Jesus took back to Jerusalem after praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of his trial. A unique stop is the Cave of Prophets believed to be the burial site of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Next is the beautiful Dominus Flavit Franciscan church commemorating the spot where Jesus wept over the destruction of Jerusalem. Next is the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of Mt. of Olives. We enter into the Old City through the Lion's Gate and continue to Pool of Bethesda and St. Anne Church for a group sing. We continue on to the Church of Holy Sepulcher that was built by the mother of Constantine in 326 AD over the site of the crucifixion. We'll eat lunch in the Christian Quarter before visiting the Tower of David Museum, viewing a Crusader structure and the original front entrance of Pontius Pilate's palace that Jesus entered for his trial. Last visit is to the peaceful Garden Tomb for time of personal reflection and the Lord's Supper/Communion. After Shabbat ends in the evening, Jerusalem comes back to life! Visitors and Israelis gather at Ben Yehuda Street for coffee, live street music, shopping and more. It's a fun experience not to be missed!

Day 8

Day 8: The "heartland" of ancient Israel – Samaria

Today we travel a bit northeast of Jerusalem to Samaria. Our first stop is Bethel to visit the site of Jacob's dream of the ladder. From there we proceed to ancient Shiloh – the site where the Tabernacle stood for 369 years, and what was once the center of Jewish life. You'll see the actual stones and blocks that formed the outline of the tabernacle and learn how we know this is the actual spot! From there we will make our way to Elon Moreh, a city from Biblical times where Genesis says God gave the land to Abraham and his descendants. Upon arriving back to the hotel you are free to rest, walk to the historic King David Hotel for coffee or climb the clock tower of the historic YMCA.

Day 9

Day 9: Life springs anew in the Dead Sea region

After a good night's rest we rise and head towards the Dead Sea! Our first stop is Ein Gedi where David hid from Saul and where you'll wade into the pools if you like and see the caves and waterfalls that David saw. It's a lush and picturesque experience. We will continue travelling south a few minutes to tour Masada – the ancient fortress palace of King Herod. After our cable car ride to the top we'll take in sweeping vistas of the Judean landscape including the Dead Sea, Jordan and surrounding desert. We'll visit a great museum that tells the story of the Jewish rebels who were the last holdouts in a free Israel until Israel was reborn in 1948. Who wants to float? We will then travel to Dead Sea and enjoy a float in the soothing and therapeutic salt waters before travelling back to Jerusalem. On our way back see the hills and caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. You'll see the actual scrolls the next day!

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Day 10

Day 10: Links in the chain of history bring it together

After having packed the night before, we check out of the hotel. This is your chance to be an archaeologist! We visit the Emek Tzurim Sifting Project where you will help sift rubble taken from Second Temple period. Everyone is almost guaranteed to find something interesting. When Anita and I did this, a woman found a priceless Roman perfume bottle! We will continue to the Israel Museum to see the amazing outdoor model of the Second Temple period of Jerusalem. We'll also see the Dead Sea Scrolls and learn how they prove the Bible's accuracy. Next we drive to the bustling city of Tel Aviv and visit the Taglit Innovation Center inside the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. We'll learn about (and try out) new Israeli technology that is changing the way the world drives, eats, drinks, communicates and lives. Next we'll visit Jaffa where Jonah set sail and where Peter had the vision that the Gospel was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. It's appropriate ending to our sightseeing. We'll then go to a lovely restaurant (included) for our farewell dinner where we will laugh and reminisce about all the things we saw and experienced. Then it's a short drive to the airport for our evening departure. Shalom and goodbye to Israel!

Day 11

Arrival in the US

Time to reflect on the wonderful trip and give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity to visit the Holy Land

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