

# Visit to Israel – 22<sup>nd</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Introduction

The 8–day tour of Israel is being led by Pastor Werner Ludwig.

“We will be shown around by our Israeli tour guide and see everything that makes Israel so attractive: we will experience Lake Galilee, we will see Nazareth, we will visit Bethlehem.

There will also be walks in places where the Lord Jesus Christ walked (e.g. parts of the ‘Jesus Trail’).

And of course we will be exploring Jerusalem...

And as we travel around, we will be asking, ‘What does the Bible say about this place?’”

## How to make the tour into an educational visit

“The best tour guide is The Holy Scriptures.”

Those who are in Christian ministry can participate in a 3–part educational seminar on Israel with three further study modules available.

Eight weeks prior to the start of the tour the seminar materials will be sent out by post for participants to work through at home.

There is no charge, it is open to anyone taking part in the tour and it is completely voluntary.

## Where we will be staying

22<sup>nd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Tel Aviv / Jaffa

24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Lake Galilee

26<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> Feb. Jerusalem

## Our tour schedule

(We will be travelling by air–conditioned coach)

### Day 1 – our arrival – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. (‘Shabbat’ – the Sabbath)

Flight from Vienna to Tel Aviv. Our hotel is near the seafront.

### Day 2 – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

To give us time to acclimatise there are *no fixed visits* for this day.

We are free to **walk on the beach** or go exploring in Tel Aviv on our own.

Or we could join Pastor Ludwig for the following: an introductory walk along the beach to Jaffa (called Joppa in the Bible) to the **House of Simon the Tanner**.

Visit on foot to the old harbour, stroll back along the Promenade, visiting the Bazaar and Rothschild Boulevard (total length about 9 km / 6 m – level ground)

### Day 3 – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

From today onwards we will be travelling with our Israeli tour guide.

We will begin the day with a brief tour of Tel Aviv.

Travelling along the Mediterranean coast.

Stop in **Accho** where we will stroll through the picturesque old town (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and admire the Crusader harbour.

In Haifa we will allow ourselves a look at the **Bahai Gardens**.

Travelling on to Mount Carmel to “Muhraka” where Elijah contested with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18, from v 17).

We will pay a short visit to **Cana** (Water into Wine).

Then we will settle into our rooms in the original **Kibbutz Sha’ar Hagolan** south of Lake Galilee.

### Day 4 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

We will drive up Mount Arbel which has a lovely view over Lake Galilee.

From there we will walk into the **Valley of the Doves** along part of the “**Jesus Trail**” (a long–distance footpath from Nazareth to Lake Galilee).

This walk is 3.6 km / 2.25 m and begins with a steep climb for which you will need good walking shoes.

Those not wishing to do this walk can go back to the valley in the coach and go for a stroll there.

We will visit **various places by Lake Galilee** where Jesus stayed, where He gave the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, where He fed the five thousand, where He had fish for breakfast with His disciples (Papal Chapel, Jn 21:12ff) and where He lived (Capernaum).

We will look at Eremos, a small cave immediately above **Tabgha** to which Jesus reputedly withdrew to seek rest.

It is also planned that we have a walk here: from Tabgha to **Capernaum** takes about 30 mins.

### **Day 5 – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

Today we will visit **Nazareth**.

We will see the Basilica of the Annunciation, **Joseph’s Workshop**, and the place where the crowd wanted to throw Jesus off the cliff.

On the journey to Jerusalem we will stop at the **Dead Sea** for a bathe (you can bathe at any time of the year).

We will see the caves at **Qumran** where the famous **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found which show that the Bible hasn’t changed over the course of time (more information will be given when we are on the coach).

Then at last to **Jerusalem!**

### **Day 6 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

In the morning there will be an excursion to **Bethlehem**, the Church of the Nativity with the Cave of the Nativity and the **Shepherds’ Fields**.

Opportunity to buy souvenirs.

Then from the **Mount of Olives** we will walk into the valley, past the place called “Dominus flevit” (“The Lord wept”), through the **Garden of Gethsemane** to visit the “Church of the Nations”.

We will enter the **old city** area through the **Lion Gate** and follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the Church of the Tomb and the hill of **Calvary**.

### **Day 7 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

There are **no fixed visits** for this day.

Whoever wishes to can visit **Yad Vaschem**, the most impressive holocaust memorial in the world.

Or we can explore Jerusalem on our own.

Or we can join Pastor Ludwig who will take us on a **walk through the city** to see the following: the prison where Jesus and Barabbas were kept, the **Valley of the Kings**, the chance to attend a short open–air service at the **Mount of Olives**, visit to see the golden Menorah which was made for the third temple and have a coffee at the **Austrian Hospice** (a pilgrimage hostel run by the Austrian Catholic Church)...

A ‘must’: experience the start of Shabbat (the Sabbath) at the **Wailing Wall!**

### **Day 8 – our return home – Saturday (‘Shabbat’) 29<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**‘Shabbat’ is a day of rest.**

A peaceful end to our eventful visit!

As our flight will be in the evening, we have the opportunity to spend an additional morning in **Jerusalem**: we can go to the **Church of the Tomb** early when there aren’t many tourists about.

Or go back to the Wailing Wall...!

Return to Tel Aviv Airport to catch the plane back to Vienna.

**Both of us will stay on in Israel until the 5<sup>th</sup> March – See TT–125**