

## **Israel – An Interfaith Wonder**

**Led by Pastor Michael Wallace and**

**Rabbi David Komerofsky**

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

**and Temple Israel of Canton, OH**

**February 4 – February 15, 2023**

**with optional Petra extension**

*(As of 12/14/22)*

*Traveling in the Holyland is an opportunity to encounter the wonders of this ancient land. We'll grow through our shared experiences in the Holy Land, as we explore together!*



### Day 1: Saturday, February 4, 2023: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

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### Day 2: Sunday, February 5, 2023: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to check in.
- This evening, we enjoy our **welcome dinner** together at our hotel.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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### Day 3: Monday, February 6, 2023: TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we follow the **Independence Trail** through the **Rothschild District**, discovering the architectural, cultural, and intellectual foundations of this great city along the way, including a stop by the famed site of Israel's **Independence Hall** (currently set to reopen after extensive renovations in 2023).
- We stop at **Rabin Square**, the site of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- Next, we embark on a walking tour through the ancient port of **Old Jaffa**, where we take in the view of historic landmarks, including **St. Peter's Church** and the **House of Simon the Tanner**.
- Our discovery of Tel Aviv continues with a tour of **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People** (formerly the **Diaspora Museum**), recently renovated and featuring interactive audio-visual exhibits that bring life and color to the vibrant history of the Jewish people outside the land of Israel following the destruction of the Second Temple.
- We enjoy **dinner** together at our hotel.



### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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#### Day 4: Tuesday, February 7, 2023: THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, where we view the ancient inscription of Pontius Pilate and the surrounding ancient ruins, including the Roman theater and the aqueduct.
- We stop at **Megiddo**, identified as the site of Armageddon, the valley that will host the “war to end all wars”.
- We continue to **Tzippori (Sepphoris)** to see the famous mosaic known as the “Mona Lisa of the Galilee”.
- Next, we visit **Mount Precipice** overlooking the Jezreel Valley.
- We pass by **Cana**, where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine, and then by **Mt. Tabor**, the site of the transfiguration.
- We travel to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz, followed by **dinner** together this evening.

#### Overnight in the Galilee

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#### Day 5: Wednesday, February 8, 2023: THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we visit the **boat museum**, then set out on a **boat ride** on the **Sea of Galilee**.
- Our next stop is at the **Mt. of Beatitudes**, where Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount.
- We continue to **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught his disciples during the days of the Second Temple and see the ancient synagogue, church and home of Saint Peter, with time for personal worship.
- We continue to **Tabgha** to visit the **Church of Multiplication**, where the mosaic floor depicts the miracle of a basket with loaves and two fishes, a symbolic reference to the miracle where Jesus was able to feed the multitudes.
- We visit **Yardenit**, a baptismal site located on the Jordan River.
- This evening, we return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together.



#### Overnight in the Galilee

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## Day 6: Thursday, February 9, 2023: MYSTICAL ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, to see the center of Kabbalah study and practice, where we visit the Ha'ari and Caro synagogues and have time to shop in the artist's quarter.
- Next, we visit **Caesarea Philippi**, where the Baniyas spring, source of the Jordan River, is located. Here Saint Peter made his confession of Jesus as the Messiah and the "Son of the living God".
- We travel up to the **Golan Heights**, passing old Syrian bunkers on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views of the Syria and learn about the Israeli security situation today.
- Later this afternoon, we visit **Amiad Winery** for a tour and **wine tasting**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.

## Overnight in the Galilee

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## Day 7: Friday, February 10, 2023: THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We begin our day at the ancient Roman ruins at **Beit Shean** one of the most expansive ancient cities in the Holyland, to see the city of Jesus' time.
- We pass by **Jericho** the world's oldest city, and the **Mount of Temptation**, where Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights to successfully resist Satan's temptations.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and drive to the top of the **Mt. of Olives**. As we look out over the "City of Gold" for the first time, we participate in a Jewish tradition and say the "Shehecheyanu" blessing. This is said to celebrate special occasions and to be thankful for new and unusual experiences.
- We walk down toward Jerusalem, passing the **Church of Dominus Flevit**, where Jesus wept over the foreseen destruction of the Second Temple. We also pass by the **Church of Pater Noster** and the **Virgin Mary's tomb**.
- We continue to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, a beautiful green space believed to have been a garden even in biblical times. It is believed that Christ and His disciples retreated to the garden after the Last Supper, and it is here that Christ gave his last sermon to his students.
- Next, we visit the **Church of All Nations**, said to enshrine a part of the bedrock where Jesus prayed before his arrest.
- In the afternoon, we visit the **Western Wall** and experience the atmosphere of this holy place as the people of Jerusalem prepare for **Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat)**.
- We check into our hotel and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set, we enjoy **Shabbat** as a group, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.



## Overnight in Jerusalem



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### Day 8: Saturday, February 11, 2023: DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon our arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouses, as we learn about the Jewish Zealot's last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and stop at the **Ahava Factory** for a chance to shop for their famed Dead Sea products.
- We head to the beach for lunch (on own) and an unsinkable swim in the healing salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- Later this afternoon, we stop at the **Qumran caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a local shepherd and hear about the special connection to John the Baptist.
- We return to Jerusalem to enjoy **dinner** together at our hotel.
- **Optional:** Later this evening we walk to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the new **Sound & Light show spectacular!**

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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### Day 9: Sunday, February 12, 2023: OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Those who wish are invited to attend Sunday morning worship.
- This morning, we enter Jerusalem's **Old City** and explore the **Jewish quarter** on the way to **Mt. Zion**, where we stop to see **King David's tomb** and the **Upper Room**, the site of the Last Supper, as well as the **Dormition Abbey**.
- We return to the Old City, where we stroll along the **Via Dolorosa**, noting the Stations of the Cross as we walk through the colorful bazaars to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in the **Christian quarter**.
- We continue with a tour at **Ir David, the City of David**, where the stories of the Biblical King David come to life through the palace excavations.
- Tonight, we enjoy a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.



### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 10: Monday, February 13, 2023: THE JERUSALEM HILLS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. We pause for a moment to remember those who lost their lives.
- We pass by the **Knesset**, Israel's parliament building, where we have a unique photo opportunity by the amazing outdoor bronze menorah sculpture.
- Next, we pass by the nearby **Supreme Court**, where we see the ancient mosaics recovered from the synagogue at Hamat Gader.
- We continue with a stroll through the famous **Machane Yehuda**, where we take in the sights, smells and sounds of Jerusalem's bustling marketplace.
- This afternoon, we tour the newly renovated **Israel Museum**, including the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- We return to the city for a stop at the **Garden Tomb**, believed by some to be the site where Jesus was resurrected. We take a moment to reflect and worship.
- We enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 11: Tuesday, February 14, 2023: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Later, we drive to **Bethlehem**, passing by **Rachel's tomb**, and stop at the **Church of the Nativity**.
- While here, we visit the **Bethlehem Star Olive Wood Factory**, where items have been handcrafted by professionals since 1971.
- We stop to see **Shepherd's field**.
- Next, we visit **Gush Etzion** for a dialogue with **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Shaul Yudelman**, the founders of the **Shorashim/Roots** program. Shorashim fosters a grassroots movement of understanding, non-violence and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.
- Later this afternoon, we enjoy time at leisure for last-minute shopping.
- This evening, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner**, recalling all that we have experienced together on this journey.



### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 12: Wednesday, February 15, 2023: DEPARTURE/EXTENSION

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel. Our luggage will be stored for the day.
- Enjoy the day at leisure doing some last-minute shopping or exploring on own.
- Early this evening, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States via JFK, landing in Cleveland tomorrow afternoon.

## OR JOIN OUR PETRA EXTENSION

- We transfer to the Allenby border and cross on our drive to **Petra**.
- Along the King's Highway, we stop atop **Mount Nebo**.
- We check into our hotel, where we enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

### Overnight in Petra

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## Day 13: Thursday, February 16, 2023: PETRA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a tour of **Petra**, the Red Rose City.
- We explore the **Nabatean City** (as seen in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*). We walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temples, then discover the famous **Treasury** and **Roman theater** and more at this Eighth Wonder of the World.
- We stop for a jeep ride through **Wadi Rum**, a protected desert wilderness with sandstone mountains and natural arches.
- We return to our hotel for **dinner** together tonight.

### Overnight in Petra

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#### Day 14: Friday, February 17, 2023: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel north to **Madaba** and explore the amazing **Madaba Map**, a detailed mosaic map from the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE on the floor of a then-Byzantine church (and later mosque) charting the Holy Land as it existed then.
- Time for lunch on own.
- We transfer to the Allenby border and cross back into Israel, then drive a short distance to ancient **Jericho**, where we view the well and sycamore tree.
- We have time for dinner on own in Jericho before we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States via JFK, landing in Cleveland tomorrow afternoon.

### The Memories Last Forever!!

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

