



Ein Gedi. Photo credit: Israel Tourism

Via Dolorosa. Photo credit: Pedro

Hear stories and visit sites significant to biblical women. Reflect on Jesus' life in places he lived and taught, visit with staff from NGOs working for peace, and enjoy the land's natural beauty. Kathy Bergen belongs to a variety of organizations working for peace and justice in the Middle East. She spent 16 years living in Israel/Palestine and organized study tours for international groups. Shirley Redekop, president of Mennonite Women Canada, is an experienced tour leader who will act as logistics manager. Optional extension available to Ramallah in the West Bank, October 4-7, 2019.

Main Tour Itinerary

Tuesday, September 24 Tel Aviv

Arrive in Tel Aviv, settle into your hotel, and meet your fellow travellers for an orientation and welcome dinner.

Wednesday, September 25 Nazareth

At Jaffa (biblical Joppa), see a panoramic view and receive an orientation to the region. Walk through the Old City and artists' quarter. Meet with the Women's Coalition for Peace, an umbrella organization of women's groups in Israel working towards a just solution to the conflict between Jews and Palestinians. In the afternoon, continue across the Jezreel Valley and drive up to the Hill of Precipitation. Notice the sites of the battle of the Waters of Megiddo, led by Deborah. Continue to Nazareth for the night.

Thursday, September 26 Nazareth

At Nazareth Village see what Jesus' childhood hometown looked like, go on a guided parable walk, and enter a replica of a first-century synagogue. On a tour of modern Nazareth, see Mary's Spring, the Church of the Annunciation, and the bazaar. Time permitting, visit Sepphoris. Meet with the Nazareth Women's Centre and Violette Khoury of Sabeel, a movement initiated by Palestinian Christians who seek a just peace. Violette co-founded Nasijona, a women's project to keep Palestinian traditions and culture alive. We hope to organize a discussion with Christian and Muslim women, a cultural program, and time for one-on-one conversations.

Friday, September 27 Sea of Galilee

Drive to Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee and up to the Mount of Beatitudes. Visit Tabgha. Continue on to the nearby ancient city of Capernaum. Visit Beth Saida and Kursi, then continue to where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee. Scan the landscape of Jesus' ministry from a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

Saturday, September 28 Sea of Galilee

Ascend the Golan Heights and visit the ancient city of Gamla, Kuneitra overlook and Tel Dan. Enjoy the natural beauty in Banias Nature Reserve and see the Jordan River headwaters and remains of temples at Caesarea Philippi. Visit an ancient synagogue discovered at Magdala, the likely home of Mary Magdalene.

Sunday, September 29 Dead Sea

Travel to Beit She'an, located at the strategic junction between the Jordan Valley and the Jezreel Valley. See the magnificent Roman and Byzantine ruins, and visit the Passover altar. Continue to Nablus and Samaria, viewing important locations like Mount Gerizim and the Mount of Temptation. Visit Jericho. Spend tonight on the Dead Sea, where you'll have the chance to swim (or float!) in the surprisingly salty waters.

Monday, September 30 Bethlehem

Visit Masada, site of Herod's palaces and of the last stand of Jews who rebelled against Rome. Take a short nature walk at the oasis of En Gedi. View the salt formation known as Lot's Wife. See St. George's Monastery, a monastery built into the cliffs of Wadi Qelt. Get your first glimpse of the holy city of Jerusalem from Mt. Scopus. Tonight's accommodations are part of a women's empowerment program which you will learn about.

Tuesday, October 1 Bethlehem

See the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a site sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Meet with Christian Peacemaker Teams to learn about their activities in supporting peace and human rights. Get a hilltop view of Bethlehem. Visit Solomon's Pools and the Hortus Conclusus monastery. Visit the traditional site of the Shepherd's Field. Walk through the restored old town of Bethlehem to the Church of the Nativity. Meet with Lucia Thaljieh of the Women's Program at Wi'am, the Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre. Wi'am's Women's Program works to engage women in community issues and empower their leadership roles at domestic and societal levels.

Wednesday, October 2 Jerusalem

From the Mount of Olives get a panoramic view of Jerusalem. Walk the Palm Sunday road to the Church of Dominus Flevit. Stop at the Church of Mary Magdalene. Gather for prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. In Kidron Valley, see Zechariah's Tomb, the Tomb of the Sons of Hezir, and Absalom's Tomb. Travel up Mt. Zion to the church of Peter in Gallicantu. Continue up the mountain to the Upper Room, and King David's Tomb. Possibly meet with Mennonite Central Committee tonight to hear about their work.

Thursday, October 3 Jerusalem

Visit the Pools of Bethesda and the adjoining Crusader Church of St. Anne. Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Take time to celebrate communion at the Garden Tomb. This afternoon in Jerusalem, shop, sightsee, or relax on your own. Over a farewell dinner, reminisce about your experiences.

Friday, October 4

Transfer to Tel Aviv. Travel home with rich new insights about your faith and the Bible.

Ramallah Extension**Friday, October 4 Ramallah**

Visit the Tent of Nations, an educational and environmental farm near Bethlehem dedicated to building bridges between people. If the olive harvest has begun, help with picking the olives. In the afternoon, meet with Sahar Vardi, who is the Israeli program coordinator for American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Jerusalem. AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice.

Saturday, October 5 Ramallah

In the morning, take a tour of the Old City of Nablus, a Palestinian commercial and cultural centre. In the afternoon, tour an olive oil factory in Canaan north of Nablus. The olive oil that Ten Thousand Villages sells comes from this factory.

Sunday, October 6 Ramallah

Meet with Gerard Horton, a lawyer who works with children in prison, and Selwa Duaibis, who assists the families after the children are released from prison. Both are with Military Court Watch, an organization which monitors the treatment of children in military detention. Then meet with Amira Hass, the West Bank reporter for the Israeli daily, Ha'artez. Israelis are not allowed to enter the West Bank, except Jewish settlers who live in the settlements and drive on separate roads. The afternoon is free to relax, or visit the Ramallah baths at an additional cost.

Monday, October 7

Depart for home.

Main Tour Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$4,443; Single Supplement \$935

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,471; Single Supplement \$690

Main Tour Fare includes

- All transportation by coach within the tour
- Group airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- Donations to organizations visited
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Expert leaders & knowledgeable local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Main Tour Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfers outside of main group
- All lunches, drinks with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 08/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Ramallah Extension Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$768; Single Supplement \$34

USD: Double Occupancy \$590; Single Supplement \$25

Ramallah Extension Fare includes

- Transportation within the tour
- Departure transfer
- Hotel accommodations
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Expert tour leaders
- Donations to organizations visited
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Ramallah Extension Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Airport transfers outside of main group
- Lunches
- Drinks with meals
- Turkish baths and associated costs
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Canadian contact:

501 - 20 Erb St W
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2

USA contact:

2308 Wood Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: 519.885.2522

Fax: 519.885.0941

Toll-free: 800.565.0451

office@tourmagination.com

www.tourmagination.com

TICO # 5001432

