



The Roots of Faith

A Shoresh Study Tours Itinerary

February 20–March 7, 2012

Paula Whiting, Tour Host



In the steps of the ancient people of Israel and Jesus the Messiah, we'll travel from the Sinai wanderings, through the heartland of Israel, and up north to the source of the Jordan River, crowning our stay by staying in Jerusalem. The whole of the Land will become our spiritual classroom as we seek to understand God's message to His people, both in those ancient days and our own.



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Monday, February 20 Departure

Depart St. Louis this morning for a transatlantic flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Tuesday, February 21 Arrival

Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to the Neve Ilan Hotel in the Judean hills just west of Jerusalem.

Wednesday, February 22 In the Desert with the Patriarchs

Begin the day at Beit Immanuel, the CMJ ministry center in Tel Aviv. Learn of CMJ's involvement with the Jewish people and the increase of Jewish believers throughout the last decades. Travel to the Valley of Elah, the location of the battle between David and Goliath. Continue in the steps of the Patriarchs with a journey to the Negev, the southern desert region mentioned in the Bible. Visit Tel Beersheva, one of the most impressive, ancient fortified cities of the Kingdom of Judah. Conclude the day by traveling through the Wilderness of Paran and discuss the importance of Moses and the Exodus from Egypt in Jewish religious thinking and its influence on Jesus and the Gospels. Overnight at the Sde Boker Field School in the Negev.

Thursday, February 23 Out of Egypt into the Wilderness

Look over the beautiful Ramon crater and consider the true location of Mount Sinai this morning. Study the area's geology at the Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Centre, followed by a visit to the Desert Zoo. Travel through the wilderness of Zin where Moses struck the rock in disobedience then discuss how the lessons learned today can be applied to modern life. Stop at the ancient caravan city of Avdat this afternoon to discover how the ancient Nabateans made the desert bloom. Hike a short distance to a beautiful oasis in the Zin Canyon. Visit the home of the founder of Israel, David Ben Gurion, at Kibbutz Sde Boker. Ben Gurion is often called a prophet, the group will discuss the nature of biblical prophecy and the role of a prophet in the biblical period and today. End the day at Tel Arad, a pre-Abrahamic major city and an Israelite fortress. Overnight at the Astral Village in Eilat.



Friday, February 24 Free Morning & Arava Valley

The morning in Eilat is free to rest and enjoy the warm beach weather. In the afternoon, travel north for a stop at Timna and visit a reconstruction of the Tabernacle. At this ancient mining site, discuss Israel's exodus from Egypt and their long stay in the desert. Continue north through the Arava Valley to a Bedouin tent camping experience to examine their nomadic culture, shedding light on the lives of Abraham and the Patriarchs. Opportunity provided for a camel ride. Overnight at Kfar HaNokdim.

Saturday, February 25 The Desert as a Refuge

Begin the day at Masada, one of Herod the Great's magnificent fortresses and the last Jewish stronghold to fall captive to the Romans. Discuss the nature of the Herodian dynasty and Zealot ideology. Stop at the beautiful subtropical oasis of En Gedi before arriving at the site of Qumran, home to probably the most exciting archaeological discovery ever made in Israel—the Dead Sea Scrolls. Discuss the relevance of the scrolls and their impact on Christianity. End the day enjoying a float in the therapeutic, mineral rich waters of the Dead Sea. Overnight at Kibbutz Almog, Dead Sea.



Sunday, February 26 The Jordan Valley—Fire and Water

Examine the separation of the Church from the Jewish people. Leaving the hills of Jerusalem, travel up the spectacular Syrian African rift to the Galilee. Along the way, learn how that conflict was instrumental in renewing various kinds of Jewish settlement in the Holy Land throughout the last 200 years. Stop at Tel Jezreel, the site of King Ahab's winter palace and Naboth's vineyard, to engage in a quiet walk to the Ein Harod spring, where Gideon selected his small army. Travel to Kibbutz Alfa to examine a beautiful mosaic of an early synagogue floor and study the separation of the early Jewish church from its Gentile siblings. In the afternoon, visit Kibbutz Gesher, to see what is known as one of the hydraulic wonders of the world. Learn how a Jewish engineer worked to harness the Jordan and Yarmuch rivers to provide electricity for both Jew and Arab during British Mandate Palestine. At the Jordan River, discuss the ministry of John the Baptist and his relationship to the ministry of Jesus. Conditions permitting there will be time for baptisms in the Jordan River. Overnight at the Kibbutz Ma'agan, Sea of Galilee.



Monday, February 27 Around the Sea of Galilee—The Life of Jesus' Disciples

Today is spent visiting various sites around Lake Galilee picturing the ministry of Jesus and the lives of His disciples. Begin the day with a view from the traditional site of the Mount of Beatitudes to study His teachings of the Kingdom of God. Stop at the "cursed" cities of Chorazin and Capernaum and discuss Jesus' relationship to the Pharisees. Time permitting, visit the possible ruins of Bethsaida and Kursi. Along the way study the New Testament fishing industry and their relationship to the miracles of Jesus. After a fish lunch and contemplative time by the shores of the Lake, visit Kibbutz Ginossar to see a fishing boat from the time of Jesus and set sail on the Lake. Before heading back to the hotel, visit Beit Bracha, a CMJ centre on the shores of Galilee to hear about the work of this ministry. Overnight at the Kibbutz Ma'agan, Sea of Galilee.

Tuesday, February 28 Free Day in the Galilee

Today is free for rest and reflection on the shores of the Galilee. Later in the day, those who wish to be baptised in the Jordan River will travel to a baptismal site. Overnight once again at the Kibbutz Ma'agan, Sea of Galilee.



Wednesday, March 1 Exploring the Golan—The Kingdom of God & Biblical Imagery

Climb the magnificent Golan Heights near Israel's highest mountain and discuss the Transfiguration and its relationship to the Hebrew Scriptures. Visit Baniyas, in the region of Caesarea Philippi, where Peter made his famous confession that Jesus is the Messiah. Stop at the nature reserve of Dan and enjoy a pleasant walk along a stream which is the main source of the Jordan River, and discuss the meaning of "living water" in the Scriptures. See the incredible archeological site of Dan, including the place of pagan worship and city gate from the time of Abraham. In the afternoon, visit a reconstructed biblical village at Katzin and examine life in New Testament times and the use of everyday imagery in Scripture. Overnight at the Kibbutz Ma'agan, Sea of Galilee.

Thursday, March 2 Light to the Nations

Today's focus is on the political, social and religious turmoil existing in and around the first century C.E. Visit the site of ancient Nazareth to see how this climate influenced Jesus' home life,

town and early ministry. On the way to the coast, travel the route of the ancient Via Maris. Passing through the Jezreel Valley, a candidate for the location of the battle of Armageddon, stop and visit Tel Megiddo. The journey is devoted to discussing Jewish apocalyptic literature and the Book of Revelation. Visit Mount Carmel for a spectacular view over the North of Israel and study Elijah's defeat over the prophets of Baal and then examine Jesus' relationship to Elijah and His first miracle. The day concludes at the fabulous remains of the Roman city of Caesarea Maritima, the location from which Paul left the shores of Israel and set sail with the Good News to the Gentile world. Make the final ascent to Jerusalem—the City of the Great King. After dinner, enjoy a short stroll for a rooftop panorama of the Old City and talk with Shores Director Yoel Seton. Overnight at Christ Church Guesthouse in Jerusalem.



Friday, March 3

Rachel Weeping for Her Children

Travel to a vantage point overlooking the hills of Ephrata to see Bethlehem and the possible location of where shepherds first heard of the advent of Messiah. Return to the Old City to tour the Citadel Museum directly across from Christ Church for a great overview of Jerusalem's history and view from one of the towers overlooking the city. Overnight at Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem.



Saturday, March 4

Shabbat in Jerusalem

Today day is free for rest and relaxation. The Israel Museum is open for those interested in seeing the Old City model and visiting the Shrine of the Book showcasing the Dead Sea Scrolls. There is also opportunity to worship with Messianic believers in Jerusalem. Overnight at Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem.

Sunday, March 5

Discovering Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus

The day is devoted to learning about Jerusalem in the Second Temple era. Travel up to the Temple Mount to consider some of Jesus' activities there. After a visit to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, explore the tunnels under the Western Wall plaza, for an exciting opportunity to walk in Jerusalem at what was street level in the time of Jesus. Travel through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City to palatial mansions once the homes of the Sadducees and study Jesus' attitude toward the priesthood and the Sadducee beliefs. Pass the Broad Wall, built by King Hezekiah during the Assyrian siege to visit the excavations at the base of the Temple Mount wall and discuss Pentecost on the Southern Steps where Jesus walked. The day ends with a visit to the City of David to watch a brief movie about its history and then walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel. Overnight at Christ Church Guesthouse, Jerusalem.

Monday, March 6

In the Steps of Jesus—Crucifixion, Burial and Resurrection

Visit a tomb from the time of Jesus this morning. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Old City from the Mount of Olives, and walk down to Gethsemane to learn about the crucifixion, burial and resurrection according to Jewish sources outside of the Bible. This sheds new light on the narrative at the heart of the New Testament, the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Time permitting, visit the Sisters of Zion Convent, the possible location of the Antonia Fortress and see evidence of games carved into the stones by Roman soldiers. Explore the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. End the day with a time of prayer and reflection at the Garden Tomb. This evening celebrate a Jewish Passover meal at Christ Church.



Tuesday, March 7

Morning Arrival in St. Louis

Drive across the Sharon Plain this morning to Tel Aviv for the return flight home. Arrive in St. Louis this evening.

Please note: Itinerary and accommodation subject to change if conditions necessitate.

For more information & details about the tour contact:

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Beit Mayim Chayim
Home of Living Waters
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paulawhiting@comcast.net

Travel Arrangements by:

MTS TRAVEL

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Tour Price from St. Louis, MO: \$3,964 per person based on double occupancy

Land Only: \$2,655 per person, based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$680

Tour Features and Conditions

Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully.
Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

Air Transportation: Air transportation is restricted to the services of any IATA carrier, in economy class based on nonrefundable fare. Travelers are responsible to provide their names as they appear in their passport. Ticketing will be made 30-45 days prior to departure, after which there will be a charge for name corrections. Tour price includes current airline taxes and fuel surcharges of \$611, which are subject to change until ticketed. *Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.*

Seat assignments: Seat assignments for groups are handled differently for groups than for individuals. Requests can be made, however, exact seat assignments are advised by the airline only at check-in.

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge of \$680. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily. Opportunity will be given for participants to purchase lunches on their own. Beverages with dinners are not included.

Transfers and Baggage: Transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included in the tour price, including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. *Due to limited luggage storage space on motor coaches, it is important that each person bring only ONE piece of checked baggage. In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.*

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motor coach or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations are included. Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for personal services are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

Not Included: Passport fee, travel protection insurance, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to St. Louis International Airport and return is not included. Checked luggage fee(s) charged by the airline.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$500 per person. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due January 11, 2012.

MTS Cancellation Conditions: Refund of full deposit (less \$150 administrative fee) will be made up to November 15, 2011. If cancellation occurs between November 16, 2011 and January 10, 2012, a fee of \$500 plus any unrecoverable airline, hotel and tour operator payments. There is no refund after January 11, 2012, or for unused tour services.

Protect Your Investment: MTS TRAVEL strongly recom-

mends purchasing this primary insurance coverage. If you purchase the protection plan upon enrollment with your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. If protection plan is purchased after the deposit is received, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage, which you will receive upon receipt of deposit. You will have ten days to review coverage and cancel your policy.

Following is a brief description of coverage:

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Medical Evacuation: \$250,000
- Medical Expenses: \$25,000
- Baggage loss/delay: \$1,500/\$250

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until September 14, 2012. A visa for Israel is not required for U.S. citizens.

All rates and fares are based on current information and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 32 persons traveling together.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred.

The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

In the ever-changing world situation, MTS TRAVEL recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit www.mtstravel.com and click "U.S. State Department Travel Warnings" in the middle of our home page.

Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire in advance about whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility

Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/A MTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserve the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

Reservation Form
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hosted by Paula Whiting

Space is limited and reflects special group rates.

Deposits received after October 21, 2011, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

**To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this form, along with your deposit of \$500 per person to:
MTS TRAVEL, 124 E. Main St., 4th Fl., Ephrata, PA 17522, .**

Please reserve space as follows:

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ _____ (\$500 per person.)

Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL or complete the credit card payment information below.

(Please Print)

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Birthdate: _____ Birthdate: _____

Passport Copies: Please provide a clear photocopy of the photo and signature page of your passport. This is required for all international tours.

Room Type: Twin/Double
 Single

Rooming With: _____

Travel Protection Insurance—Check One:

I/we wish to be covered by cancellation insurance.

(Include \$244 per person with your deposit check. The \$244 is not refundable.)

I/we do NOT wish to be covered by the cancellation insurance.

Credit Card Information:

Please Charge: My Deposit of \$ _____ + \$ _____ Travel Insurance = \$ _____ Total Charge

Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Credit Card Information: (NOTE: a 3% service fee is required. Please add 3% to your total charges.)

Name as it appears on card (printed): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

I have read the Tour Features and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____