



Bucks County
Christian Coalition



You Are Invited To Participate

Fall 2012 Joint Jewish – Christian Tour to Israel

Saturday evening October 27, 2012 – Tuesday morning, November 6, 2012

For the third time in less than ten years, friends from the Greater Philadelphia area Jewish and Christian communities are taking a joint trip to Israel. Why not join us as we walk through Israel together, explore historical and biblical sites, enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Israel, hear expert briefings on current issues, and gain a lasting appreciation for both communities. The tour will be led by an experienced Israeli guide and will take you to places most groups never see.

There is no other trip to Israel quite like this joint tour. The trip is co-hosted by The Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey, The Friends of Israel, the Bucks County Christian Coalition and the American Jewish Committee of Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

Saturday Evening, Oct. 27, 2012 Philadelphia, PA United States – Day 1

We assemble at **Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)** to begin our historic joint Jewish – Christian trip to Israel. Our US Airways Flight No. 796 departs at 9:15 p.m. and arrives at **Ben Gurion Airport** in Tel Aviv on October 30 at 2:05 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012 Tel Aviv, Israel – Day 2

Upon arrival at **Ben Gurion Airport** in Tel Aviv we will be welcomed by our Israeli tour guide. On the way to our hotel, we will stop at **Independence Hall** in Tel Aviv where Israel's leaders assembled on May 14, 1948 to announce to the world the establishment of the modern State of Israel. Afterwards, we will check in at **Kfar Maccabian Suites** and enjoy our first Israeli dinner together.

Monday, Oct. 29, 2012 Coast & Galilee, Israel - Day 3

After an early breakfast, we will check out of our hotel and travel north to the ancient Roman city of **Caesarea Maritime** on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. We will gather in the ancient amphitheater to explore the significance of this historic city, view the Roman ruins and see the famous Roman aqueduct. Our journey continues to the **Mount Carmel Overlook** where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. This site provides a breathtaking view of the Jezreel Valley before heading to our lunch in a Druze home in the village of El Carmel. Following lunch, we will make our way to **Tel Megiddo**, stopping by the **Rolling Stone Tomb** for a quick look at an ancient burial site. **Tel Megiddo** is the strategic location of many of Israel's ancient battles and is the site of biblical Armageddon. Here we will see archeological excavations of the ancient city, including a well-preserved water system.

Leaving **Megiddo**, we will travel to **Kibbutz Lavi Guest House** and check in before enjoying a dinner at the kibbutz. After dinner we will experience a unique tour of **Ramat David IDF Air Force Base**, in the Jezreel Valley hosted by the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces (FIDF).

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012 Galilee, Israel – Day 4

Day four begins with breakfast at Kibbutz Lavi before heading east to the ancient **Galilee Boat**, dating to the time of Jesus, on the banks of the **Sea of Galilee**. Our journey takes us along the **Galilee** shore to visit the ancient 2nd century **Synagogue at Capernaum**, the site of Jesus' many teachings. We continue on to the traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the **Mount of Beatitudes**. Our next stop is the ancient city of **Gamla**, sometimes called the "**Masada** of the north." It is located in the lower **Golan Heights** on a steep ridge that rises to a height of nearly 1,000 feet above the surrounding terrain. It is remembered today for its role during the Great Jewish Revolt against the Romans in 66 A.D. The balance of the day will focus on Israel's current struggle for the **Promised Land**. We will visit the **border** on the **Golan Heights** looking into **Syria** before traveling west to **Kibbutz Misgav Am** on the **Lebanese border** for a briefing on the security situation in the north. Tuesday evening will find us enjoying a unique Israeli dining experience at the **Decks Restaurant** located on the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias.

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012 Galilee & Up to Jerusalem – Day 5

After breakfast at Kibbutz Lavi we will check out and make our way to the **Ethiopian Absorption Center**, to learn of the challenges Ethiopian Jews face settling into modern Israeli society. Our next stop is the magnificent Roman ruins at **Beit Shean**, the Pompeii of the Middle East. **Beit Shean** is the biblical city where Saul and his sons were nailed to the walls by the Philistines. As we begin our journey up to Jerusalem, we will stop at **Gideon's Springs** to recall the miraculous victory that God gave to Gideon and his 300 men over the Midianite army. Upon our arrival in **Jerusalem**, we will stop for a visit at the **International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem (ICEJ)** to hear the remarkable story of how Evangelicals from Europe came together to place an Embassy in Israel's capital at a time when the nations of the world refused to do so. Our travels on day five end at the **King Solomon Hotel** in **Jerusalem** where we will check in and enjoy dinner.

Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012 Jerusalem – Day 6

We begin our first full day in Jerusalem with breakfast at the King Solomon Hotel and then head to the **Mt. of Olives** for a panoramic view of Jerusalem, overlooking the **Temple Mount** and the walled **Old City of Jerusalem**. We can also see the biblical **City of King David** where we will head next to view the recent archaeological discoveries before descending on a walking tour into the ancient **Water Tunnel**. Our next stop is Mount Zion for a visit to **King David's Tomb** before making our way to the **Garden Tomb**. Tonight we will enjoy a wonderful dinner at the **Olive & Fish Restaurant**. After dinner we will be treated to a tour of the **Western Wall Tunnel**.

Friday, Nov. 2, 2012 Jerusalem – Day 7

One of the most interesting days on the tour begins with an early breakfast at King Solomon Hotel before traveling to the ancient Jewish historical site of **Hebron** in the **West Bank**. Our

first stop will be at the ***Tombs of the Patriarchs*** before we meet with Rabbi Danny Cohen at the ***Chabad Center*** in Hebron. Rabbi Cohen will brief us on the uniqueness of the Hebron's Jewish community. Over lunch in Efrat, we will meet Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, who will explain the work of ***The Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation*** (CJCUC). Our journey back to Jerusalem takes us to the ***Shrine of the Book***, which houses the ***Dead Sea Scrolls***, and a view of the ***Model of Jerusalem*** from the 2nd Temple Period. As sundown approaches, we will gather at the ***Kotel (Western Wall) Plaza*** to join in the ***welcoming of Shabbat*** (Sabbath). Back at the King Solomon Hotel we will enjoy Shabbat Dinner together.

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012 Jerusalem – Day 8

After breakfast at the King Solomon Hotel, we'll attend Shabbat services at a nearby ***Synagogue***. Following lunch, ***Dr. Edward Rettig***, Director of AJC Jerusalem, will meet with us and share the exciting work of the AJC in Israel before we take a walking tour of the ***Old City***. The balance of the day is at leisure followed by a Havdallah dinner at King Solomon Hotel. In the evening, you can choose one of two walks, either to the famous ***Ben Yehuda Street*** or the new ***Mamilla Shopping Mall***.

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012 Dead Sea – Day 9

A good breakfast at the King Solomon Hotel will serve you well as we journey down to the ***Dead Sea***. The wilderness of ***Judea*** holds many treasures, such as the ***Caves of Qumran*** where the ***Dead Sea Scrolls*** were found. A visit here would not be complete without a stop at ***Ein Gedi Spa*** for lunch and a float in the ***Dead Sea***. After a view of the ***Ein Gedi Nature Preserve***, we will visit spectacular ***Masada***, a monument to Israel's continuing struggle for survival. Upon our return to Jerusalem, we will eat dinner at the King Solomon Hotel.

Monday, Nov. 5, 2012 Jerusalem – Day 10

Our last day in Israel will be an emotional experience. After breakfast at the King Solomon Hotel we make our first stop at the ***Yad Vashem Memorial*** to the victims of the Holocaust. Afterwards, we will visit ***Mt. Herzl National Military Cemetery***, the resting place of Israel's fallen soldiers and heroes. Following these two somber stops, we will enjoy the interactive experience of the ***Theodore Herzl Museum***, dedicated to the visionary for the modern Jewish State of Israel. Afterward we head to ***Kibbutz Ramat Rachel*** for lunch and an overlook of ***Bethlehem***. The remainder of the afternoon will be free time. Our ***Closing Banquet*** will be held at a restaurant in Jerusalem. Following dinner, we will check out of the King Solomon Hotel and drive to ***Ben Gurion Airport***, Tel Aviv. Our US Airways Flight No. 797 departs at 11:50 p.m. and is scheduled to arrive at ***Philadelphia International Airport*** (PHL) at 5:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012 Jerusalem – Day 11

We conclude our unforgettable joint Jewish – Christian trip with our arrival at ***Philadelphia International Airport*** (PHL), scheduled for 5:30 a.m.

Trip Includes:

Roundtrip airfare via US Airways direct from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv
1 night Dan Panorama Tel Aviv
2 nights Kibbutz Nof Ginosar, Galilee
5 nights Dan Panorama Jerusalem
Air conditioned coach bus
Water bottles on the bus (2/person/day)
English speaking licensed Guide
Entrance fees and seminars as per itinerary
Breakfasts and Dinners Daily, and 3 Lunches
Transfers, portorage and airport taxes

Costs:

Trip cost \$3,850.00
(includes \$615 fuel surcharge, subject to change)

Land only cost \$2,500.00

Single Supplement \$815.00

Travel Insurance – optional (Contact: Susan Blum, Gil Travel, 800-223-3855, ext. 238 for details)

For Registration or questions, please contact one of the planning committee members:

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Cancellation Penalties:

\$50 per person charge if canceled prior to 90 days
\$350 per person charge if canceled 89-60 days prior to departure
\$750 per person charge if canceled 59-30 days before departure
\$1,500 per person charge if canceled 29-15 days prior to departure
No refund if canceled 14 days or less prior to departure

Note: The tour sponsors may make changes in the itinerary, due to local conditions and/or for any other reason(s) deemed in the best interests of the touring experience.

