

STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL & JORDAN

8th – 27th April 2018



Moreton Rivers Presbytery
Uniting Church in Australia



Escorted by the
Rev Dr Robert McFarlane & Andrea McFarlane
(Mission Education Officer, Moreton Rivers Presbytery)

When people hear the words “Holy Land” they often think only of what lies within modern Israel, including the Palestinian Territories. However, much Biblical history also happened in surrounding countries such as modern day Jordan, most importantly events in the Exodus. Since Biblical times, this wider Holy Land has been the focal point of the three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. As we travel we will constantly delve into the multiple layers of the sites we visit, from OT times, through the life of Jesus and the early church, the beauty of Byzantine churches, the emergence of Islam, the Crusades, all the way up to the formation of the modern states of Jordan and Israel, and the present.

“Wow factor” highlights of our trip include a day at the incomparable Petra, looking into the promised land from where Moses stood on Mt Nebo, walking the streets Jesus walked around Galilee, following Jesus’ final days through the traditional sites in Jerusalem, the deeply moving Yad Vashem holocaust museum, ascending by cable car to the stronghold of Masada, floating on the Dead Sea, imagining the Light Horse charge at Beersheba, and walking among the 20th century architectural treasures of cosmopolitan Tel Aviv. Not to mention the food and shopping!

Your experience will also be enriched with a booklet of spiritual resources as well as historical, cultural and theological background information for each day and the trip as a whole.

This tour requires an appropriate level of fitness, as it includes a significant amount of walking, sometimes whole days on our feet, such as Petra and Jerusalem.

The Rev Dr Rob McFarlane is Mission Education Officer with the Uniting Church in the northern region of Brisbane. He is a highly experienced adult educator, Biblical scholar and occasional archaeologist. His PhD thesis focussed on the social background to the NT, and equips him well to lead reflections on the place of the Bible and church in both the ancient and contemporary worlds. As a Uniting Church minister he combines these academic insights with spiritual and missional reflection. This combination is a unique feature of his tours of biblical, archaeological and spiritual sites in the Mediterranean. Rob has previously led four study tours covering Jordan, Israel, Turkey, Greece, Malta and Italy.

Andrea McFarlane is an academic, PhD student and researcher in early childhood professionalism and leadership at Macquarie University. She has been co-leader with Rob on previous tours of Turkey, Greece, Malta and Italy. Andrea brings organisational and community-building strengths to the group.

DAY 1: Sunday 8 April DEPART SYDNEY

Depart Sydney, Brisbane or other Australian airport on our evening Emirates Airlines flight to Amman via Dubai.

DAY 2: Monday 9 April ARRIVAL IN AMMAN, MADABA, MT NEBO

Arrive into Amman at 9.40 am. Visit Madaba (Byzantine churches including floor mosaics), continue to Mt Nebo (from where Moses saw the Promised Land, and where tradition has it that God buried him), Transfer to our Petra hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: Tuesday 10 April PETRA

Enjoy a full day of Petra sightseeing. Enter the Siq (narrow canyon), where you’ll walk to the impressive Treasury of Petra, carved into the red rock. Explore the amphitheatre, monastery and many other sites. Dinner and overnight hotel in Petra.

DAY 4: Wednesday 11 April WADI RUM, KERAK CRUSADER CASTLE

Begin the day with a jeep tour of the magnificent wadi rum wilderness. On the way to Amman we visit the Kerak Crusader Castle. Dinner and overnight hotel in Amman.

DAY 5: Thursday 12 April ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, AMMAN CITY TOUR

Visit Jordan Archaeological Museum (with artifacts from Petra and the Dead Sea Copper Scroll) in Amman. City tour

in Amman taking in the amphitheatre & citadel (including lunch) Dinner and overnight hotel in Amman.

DAY 6: Friday 13 April JERASH, AJLOUN CASTLE, PELLA, TIBERIAS

After breakfast we visit the well-preserved Roman ruins at Jerash (including RACE “Roman Army & Chariot Experience” hippodrome show), Ajloun Castle (Islamic stronghold during the Crusades) and Pella (one of the cities of the Decapolis, and where Christians fled after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE). Cross Sheik Hussein Border into Israel. Meet your Israeli guide and transfer to Tiberias. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Tiberias.

DAY 7: Saturday 14 April CANA, SEPPHORIS, NAZARETH, MT TABOR, TIBERIAS

After breakfast drive onto the village of Cana, where Jesus’ first Miracle at the Wedding was performed. Next visit Sepphoris (Zippori) to see one of the most beautiful mosaics in the land, known as the Mona Lisa of the Galilee. Continue to Nazareth: the Church of the Annunciation and Synagogue Church. Enjoy a visit also to Nazareth Village. Proceed to ascend to Mt. Tabor: we will ride shuttles to the top of the mount. Return to our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8: Sunday 15 April CAPERNAUM, TABGHA, MT. BEATITUDES, KURSI, TIBERIAS

Start the day enjoying a boat ride, sing & praise on the Sea of Galilee. Arrive in Ginosar where we will visit the Igal Alon Center at Nof Ginosar (kibbutz) to view the ancient 1st



century fishing boat recently found on the shores of the Galilee. Continue to Capernaum, the home base of Jesus' Galilean ministry, where we will visit an ancient synagogue and Peter's home. Then we travel on to Tabgha, the site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes where we will hold a private communion service. Continue to the Mount of the Beatitudes. Continue to Kursi on the Eastern side of Lake Galilee (Byzantine monastery ruins and traditional site of Jesus' exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac). Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Tiberias.

DAY 9: Monday 16 April

TEL DAN, CAESAREA PHILIPPI, KORAZIM, BETH SAIDA, TIBERIAS

This morning we journey to the Tel Dan National park and after to the headwaters of the Jordan River at Caesarea Philippi and travel through the Golan Heights. We will also visit Kal'at Nimrod Crusader Castle, Chorazin (Korazim) and Bethsaida (Beit Saida). Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Tiberias

DAY 10: Tuesday 17 April

MEGIDDO, MT CARMEL, CAESAREA, TEL AVIV (EVE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY)

We leave the green north and drive to the Holy City of Jerusalem. First stop at Megiddo (Armageddon) and Mt Carmel (Muchrakah). Continue on to visit Caesarea by the Mediterranean, Pontius Pilate's capital. Option to visit Acre, subject to time constraints. Dinner and overnight hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 11: Wednesday 18 April

CITY OF DAVID, DAVIDSON CTR, TEMPLE MOUNT, MT ZION, (REMEMBRANCE DAY)

Start our day very early with a visit to the Temple Mount, and have a close inspection of Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock (visit is subject to security clearance). Visit the City of David and enjoy an interesting walk to the Siloam Pools and Hezekiah's Tunnels. We will walk underground in the new tunnel that connects the City of David with the Davidson Center and visit this educational centre. Arrive at the Western Wall. Walk through the Jewish Quarter on the Roman Cardo and visit the Palatial Herodian Mansion and Burnt House, which form part of the Wohl Museum. Arrive at Zion Gate. Dinner and overnight hotel in Jerusalem

DAY 12: Thursday 19 April

NEW CITY, ISRAEL MUSEUM, YAD VASHEM, HERODION, BETHLEHEM (INDEPENDENCE DAY)

Drive to the New City of Jerusalem to see the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited, including a model of Jerusalem. Visit Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust and emotionally moving museum. In the afternoon drive to the Herodion, believed to be where Herod is buried. We continue to Bethlehem and visit The Church of Nativity and the Shepherd's Fields including Balluzzi Church. After dinner, drive to the Jaffa gate and into the Tower of David for a Sound & Light show!

DAY 13: Friday 20 April

JERUSALEM, MOUNT OF OLIVES, VIA DOLOROSA, TOWER OF DAVID AND OPTIONAL "SIFTING PROJECT"

Our day begins with a panoramic view of the Old City from the Mount of Olives. We walk to the Garden of Gethsemane. We walk into the Christian Quarter to explore the Via

Dolorosa (incl. Pools of Bethesda) ending at the Holy Sepulchre. From here we will visit the Tower of David Museum. Visit to the Time Elevator. The sifting Project at Emek Tzurim will give you the opportunity to uncover the past of the Temple Mount; sift through rubble that originated in ancient buildings from the Temple Period and learn about findings from archeologists at the site. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 14: Saturday 21 April

DAY AT LEISURE

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 15: Sunday 22 April

JERICHO, QUMRAN, EIN GEDI, DEAD SEA

Today we drive to the Dead Sea area. First stop to visit Jericho, considered the oldest city of the world. We will ascend to the top of the Mount of Temptations by cable car. Enter Qasr el Yahud, the baptismal site on the Jordan River. Continue to Qumran: the Essene monastery and caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Next is Ein Gedi to visit the waterfalls and maybe catch a glimpse of ibex and other wildlife. Swim and float in the Dead Sea. Drive to our hotel by the Dead Sea for dinner and overnight.

DAY 16: Monday 23 April

MASADA, BEIT GUVRIN

After breakfast, drive to visit the fortress mountain, Masada. Ascend the mountain by cable car and see where the Jewish zealots made their last stand against the Roman 10th Legion after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Visit the Bell Caves at Beit Guvrin. Transfer to Beersheba. Dinner and overnight in Beersheba

DAY 17: Tuesday 24 April

BEER SHEVA

Start the morning with a visit to the Beer Sheva War Cemetery where many ANZAC soldiers are buried. Visit the new museum commemorating the Battle of Beer Sheva. Overview of the battlefield from Tel Sheva. Drive to Tel Aviv, rest of the evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 18: Wednesday 25 April

TEL AVIV

Start the day with a panoramic city tour. See the UNESCO listed Bauhaus architecture. Explore Neveh Zedek and Rothschild Avenue. Onto Rabin Square, Dizengoff Circle, Carmel Market and trendy Shenkin Street. Explore the ancient alleyways and artists shops at Old Jaffa. Enjoy a festive farewell meal in an authentic Middle Eastern restaurant. Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 19: Thursday 26 April

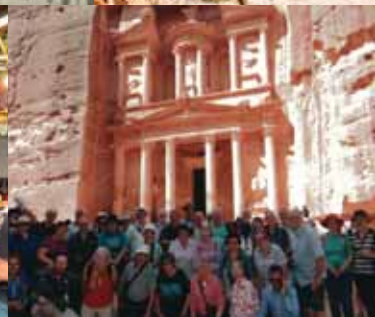
DEPARTURE

This morning after breakfast, proceed to the Allenby Bridge border crossing for your transfer back into Jordan. Meet your coach and drive to Queen Alia International Airport for your departure flight.

DAY 20: Friday 27 April

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back in Australia late this evening (or in the early hours of Saturday morning) with wonderful memories of our fantastic study tour!



TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE:

AUD \$8,390* per person (twin share)

Single supplement: **AUD\$1,975**

* Conditions apply. Subject to change. Price estimate is based on minimum of 25 paying participants
Actual prices and schedules will be known by June 2017.



HOTELS TO BE USED (or similar)

Petra	Petra Moon/Petra Panorama (2 Nights)
Amman	Geneva Hotel/Amman Cham (2 Nights)
Tiberias	Golan Hotel/Leonardo Tiberias (4 Nights)
Jerusalem	Olive Tree/Leonardo Jerusalem (5 Nights)
Ein Gedi	Kibbutz Ein Gedi (1 Night)
Beer Sheba	Leonardo Beer Sheba (1 Night)
Tel Aviv	Metropolitan/Mercure (2 Nights)

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Lunches (unless otherwise specified)
- Beverages with meals
- Jordan Visa if not crossing with main group
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return economy class fares with Emirates to Amman (via Dubai) from Brisbane or Sydney
- Current airport & departure taxes - subject to change
- 17 nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfasts and Dinner daily in hotels
- All entrance fees as per itinerary
- Air conditioned luxury coach as per itinerary
- English speaking guide for all touring & transfers
- All transfers
- Border Crossing fees and taxes and Group Visa for Jordan
- Porterage, tips and gratuities

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Rev Rob or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$350 per person is required by Friday, 28th July 2017 (unless sold out prior)
3. Full payment is required by 8th February 2018.

ATTEND EITHER of the INFORMATION EVENINGS:

Join us for an informative, entertaining and interesting evening, have your questions answered and meet your fellow travellers. Sample some delicious Middle Eastern treats as well!

BRISBANE

WHEN: Friday, 14 July, 2017 at 7.00 pm
WHERE: Moreton Rivers Presbytery Office,
22 Ashgrove Ave, Ashgrove

SYDNEY

WHEN: Monday, 17 July, 2017 at 7.00 pm
WHERE: Lindfield Uniting Church
Cnr of Pacific Hwy & Provincial Rd, Lindfield

RSVP: by 7th July to Rob McFarlane: rjmcfarlane@hotmail.com or 0400 825 739

WHO TO CONTACT:



Rev Dr Robert McFarlane

Rev Dr Rob McFarlane
Ph (office): 07 3366 0236
Ph (home): 07 3603 2071
Ph (mob): 0400 825 739
Email: rjmcfarlane@hotmail.com

Moreton Rivers Presbytery
Uniting Church in Australia



Olive Tree Travel Katrina Maggs

Suite 1, level 1
230 Balaclava Road, North Caulfield VIC 3161
T: +61 3 8488 9696 or 1300 55 08 30
katrina@olivetreetravel.com.au
www.olivetreetravel.com.au



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