Israel Study Tour
with Dr. Mark Strauss
October 1–13, 2019

Dead Sea Cliffs

the Sea of Galilee

Capernaum

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

Tuesday, October 1  Departure
Depart from Newark for your overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, October 2  Tel Aviv
Arrive in Tel Aviv this morning and board the motor coach for a short drive to Joppa. Enjoy an authentic Arabic meal for lunch and a walking tour of Joppa before transferring to the hotel in Netanya for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, October 3  Coastal Plains – Galilee
Drive to Caesarea Maritima to see the ruins of the man-made harbor city built by Herod the Great. Visit the Roman theatre, aqueduct and hippodrome. Continue north to Mount Carmel where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal in a contest to call down fire from heaven. Drive through the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the city which dominated this strategic trade route from Egypt to Mesopotamia. Explore the extensive excavations including Ahab’s stables, a grain silo, and an ancient underground water system. Approach the Sea of Galilee from Mt. Arbel for a spectacular view of the Galilee. Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel located along the Sea of Galilee.

Friday, October 4  Galilee (Northern Border Area)
Drive along an ancient trade route this morning to Hazor, the center of the coalition of kings that opposed Joshua and was subsequently destroyed by the Israelites during their conquest of the land. Continue to the Dan Nature Reserve, the center of cultic calf worship set up by Jeroboam I. Stop at nearby Caesarea Philippi (Banias) where Peter answered Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?” Drive up into the Golan Heights to Mt. Bental which will provide a spectacular view of the Golan and of Syria. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, October 5  Galilee (Around the Lake)
This morning, visit the village of Migdal to visit the ancient synagogue recently discovered in the hometown of Mary Magdalene. Stop at the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus taught on the Kingdom of God in the Sermon on the Mount. Next, see a mosaic of the loaves and fishes at the Church of St. Peter’s Restoration at Tabgha. Continue to Capernaum, the center of Jesus’ Galilean ministry, to visit the home of Peter’s mother-in-law. Drive to Bethesda and Chorazin, two of the three cities cursed by Jesus for failing to repent. Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, disembarking at Nof Ginosar to visit the Ancient Boat Museum and view the “Jesus Boat,” an ancient fishing vessel found buried in an exposed section of the lakebed during a drought in 1986. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, October 6 Nazareth – Galilee
Drive to Sepphoris, the largest city in the Galilee at the time of Christ. It was the seat of government for Herod Antipas until he built Tiberias in 19 AD. Continue to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus and nearby Mt. Precipice for a view of the Jezreel Valley. Next, travel to Ein Harod where Gideon’s army of 300 was chosen by how they drank from the spring found there. Stop at Gan HaShlosha National Park, known for it naturally warm water in which visitors may swim year round. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Monday, October 7  Jordan Valley – Dead Sea
Drive through the Jordan Valley and stop at Qasr el Yahud, the traditional baptismal site of Jesus. It lies directly across from the Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan baptismal site on the Jordanian side of the river. Continue to Jericho to see the tel of this most ancient of
cities. From Jericho, travel south to the Essene community of Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Visit Ein Gedi, a lush oasis in which David hid from Saul, and hike to the waterfall fed pools. At the end of the day, visit Masada, the last Jewish stronghold in the revolt against Rome. This desert fortress was built by King Herod, bore witness to the mass suicide of the rebels and is now used by the Israel Defense Forces for swearing in troops who have finished basic training. Dinner and overnight is at a Dead Sea spa hotel where one may take the opportunity to float in the mineral rich waters of the Dead Sea.

Tuesday, October 8 (Yom Kippur) Jerusalem
Arrive in Jerusalem this morning to view the city from the Mt. of Olives and walk down to the Church of Dominus Flevit marking the location where the Lord wept over Jerusalem. Enjoy the unique view of the city framed by the chapel's distinct window. Continue to the Garden of Gethsemane where the Lord prayed with His disciples and spend time in a private section of the garden for meditation and prayer. Journey to Herodion, a fortress and palace built by Herod the Great and where Herod’s tomb has been discovered. Drive through the area of the Shepherd’s Fields to the town of Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, October 9 Jerusalem
Today’s focus will be on the City of David to see the excavation work going on there. Visit the Western Wall, where one may meditate or pray. Visit the Western Wall Tunnel for a glimpse of the massive foundation stones which supported the temple walls and walk on what would have been street level at the time of Jesus. Located nearby is the Davidson Center where archaeological finds from the First and Second Temple periods are on display, view the ancient city wall, the Temple's southern staircase, a preserved ancient street, ritual immersion baths, and storage area. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, October 10 Jerusalem
This morning provides access to the Temple Mount, held sacred by Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. Wander through the Jewish Quarter along the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) to the Holy Sepulcher. The Holy Sepulcher houses chapels of at least seven different Christian denominations. This afternoon, visit the Tower of David Museum located near the Jaffa Gate. Housed in a medieval citadel with guardrooms converted to galleries, the museum highlights the history of Jerusalem. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Friday, October 11 Jerusalem
This morning begins with a visit to Yad Vashem, the Jewish memorial to the Holocaust to view the moving displays of this tragic time in history. Continue to the Israel Museum for a visit to the Shrine of the Book where some of the original Dead Sea Scrolls are on display and examine the Model of Jerusalem which depicts the city as it may have been around the time of Christ. The model gives one a good understanding of the layout of all the places in Jerusalem visited this week. Return to the hotel to enjoy a special dinner together to reflect on the time in the Land.

Saturday, October 12 Jerusalem
Start the day at the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the paraplegic man. Visit the Crusader era St. Anne's Church to experience the outstanding acoustics of this church which marks the spot of the home of the maternal grandparents of Jesus. See Antonia Fortress, built by Herod the Great and the site of the trial of Christ. After lunch, visit the Garden Tomb for a special worship and communion service. The remainder of the day is free for more exploration, shopping or packing for your return to the U.S. Enjoy a final meal at the hotel and return to Tel Aviv for the flight home.

Sunday, October 13 Arrive in US
Arrive back into the U.S. with fond memories of your time in the Holy Land and a new perspective on the Bible.
TOUR PRICING & INCLUSIONS

Tour Price:
$5,999 per person
(based on two people sharing a double room)

Single Supplement: $1,825

Payment Schedule:
• $500 per person is due upon registration
• $1,500 per person due by May 15, 2019
• Final payment is due August 1, 2019

Deposits received after June 25, 2019 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

Group Travel Insurance:
• $472 for coverage up to $6,000
• $550 for coverage up to $7,000
• $629 for coverage up to $8,000

Travel Insurance is OPTIONAL If insurance is desired, payment is due at time of registration for immediate cancellation coverage. The insurance is available for purchase up to the time of final payment, but coverage does not begin until payment for insurance is received.

Included:
• Round trip air fare from Newark Liberty International Airport*
• Accommodations in five-star deluxe hotels
• Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
• Services of an English-speaking, licensed tour guide
• Driver and transportation in air-conditioned motor coach with bottled water (3 bottles per day)
• Sightseeing and entrance fees to sites listed in itinerary
• Service charges and local taxes
• Gratuity for all service providers during the tour

Not Included:
• Domestic airfare to/from Newark Liberty International Airport*
• Beverages with lunches and dinners
• Rental of baptismal robe & towel (about $12)
• Passport fees
• Optional Group Travel Insurance
• Items of a personal nature

*Raptim Humanitarian Travel would be pleased to assist you with connecting flights to Newark Liberty International Airport. If you would like our assistance, please note your city of origin at registration. A suggested air schedule and special add-on fares will be emailed to you for your approval.

Online Registration Available:
http://www.bsfinternational.org/strauss
Rates & Fare Information: Rates are based on a minimum of 40 people traveling together. Fewer tour participants will result in a price increase. The quoted tour price is based on the current rate of exchange. Fluctuation in the foreign exchange rate can result in price increase. Transportation from your home to departure city and return, specialty beverages with dinners, passport or visa fees, travel protection plan, excess baggage fees, domestic air travel and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included.

Deposit and Payment Schedule:
$500 deposit per person due upon registration
$1,500 per person due by May 15, 2019
Final payment due by August 1, 2019

Raptim Cancellation Conditions: The cancellation conditions outlined below apply to all passenger initiated cancellations. Should circumstances require that the passenger cancel, written notice of cancellation must be received by Raptim Humanitarian Travel to secure any available refund.

Prior to May 15, 2019                      $250 cancellation penalty
From May 15 to August 1, 2019      $750 cancellation penalty
After August 1, 2019                        No refund

Cancellation policies apply when tour member or tour host cancel for any reason, such as illness, change of mind, acts of nature, war or terrorism. There is no refund for any unused services or portion of the tour package.

Protect Your Investment: Group travel protection coverage is available to cover medical expenses, medical evacuation & repatriation, trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage and personal effects loss, baggage delay and accidental death & dismemberment. A pre-existing condition exclusion waiver is available if coverage is purchased up to and including time of final payment. Further information can be found on the Travel Insurance tab of the tour registration website or by contacting your Raptim consultant.

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. Air tickets will be issued 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, which are subject to change until ticketed. Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

Baggage, Seating and Frequent Flyer Information: Please advise your travel consultant of any special seating needs due to health or mobility, or note under “Airline Seat Request” when registering. All seat requests and frequent flyer information is submitted to the airline at the time of ticketing. There is no guarantee that all seat requests will be honored by the contracted airline and changes should be requested at check-in by the traveler. To ensure proper crediting, present frequent flyer information to the airline agent at check-in and retain your boarding passes to verify your mileage credits after travel. Each passenger is allowed one suitcase, not to exceed 62 dimensional inches (L + W + H) or weigh more than 50 pounds. Due to limited luggage storage space on tour buses, it is important that each person bring only ONE piece of checked baggage. Any carry-on luggage must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.

Not Included: Beverages with lunches and dinners, passport fees, travel protection plan, checked baggage fees, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to departure city and return is not included.

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. If you choose to make your own travel arrangements (not through Raptim Humanitarian Travel), we are not responsible for any charges or cancellation fees you may incur at any time.

Transfers, Accommodations and Meals: Group transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included, as well as handling of ONE piece of luggage at hotels upon check-in and check-out. Pricing is based on two people sharing a room in deluxe hotels. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge. If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge. In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. During the tour, breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided daily.
Gratuity, Taxes and Entrance Fees: A healthy gratuity has been included in order to bless and thank the people who serve us along our journey. All taxes and fees for accommodations and sightseeing are included as indicated in the itinerary, using private tour buses or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary. Tips for personal services (taxis, room service, etc.) are not included.

Passport, Visa & Health Requirements: A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. For more information on obtaining or renewing a U.S. passport can be found at http://travel.state.gov. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until April 10, 2020. A visa for Israel is not required for U.S. citizens. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible to fulfill entry requirements for countries to be visited by contacting the appropriate consulates. No inoculations are required, but please check with your physician for their recommendation. In the ever-changing world situation, Raptim recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit http://www.state.gov/travel/.

Accessibility and Physical Abilities: Regulations for persons with disabilities while traveling outside the U.S. are very limited. Few international destinations have modified hotel rooms and tourist sites are not required to have ramps or elevators. Tour participation is available to all travelers and will not be withheld if the traveler can furnish the requirements that may be needed to travel safely and comfortably. Most tours require guests to have the ability to climb stairs without assistance, walk long distances at a modest pace over uneven terrain and transport personal luggage to/from the motor-coach. Travelers that have a medical condition which might limit participation in activities, should consult their physician before booking. Should any traveler’s participation somehow add materially to the tour operator’s cost, the participant will be expected to pay any additional costs. The tour planner and/or tour guide retains the right to require any non-sufficiently mobile persons to stay behind when deemed necessary, and also terminate the participation of any traveler displaying disruptive behavior, delaying or endangering fellow members and/or interfering with the operations of the tour.

NOTE: If you require assistance during travel, it is necessary for a traveling companion to accompany you at your own expense.

Tour Operator Itinerary Changes: 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.

Tour Preparation: Due to the physical demands of the terrain covered on this pilgrimage, we do not recommend the tour for persons needing wheelchairs or walkers, or for young children. Most of the sites do not have handicapped access that travelers from the United States are accustomed. It will be worth your time and energy to physically prepare for the journey beforehand. On many days tour participants will walk 6 or more miles over rough and uneven terrain. Some treks include hundreds of steep and narrow steps in poorly lit areas. You will need to build your endurance for this trip. Although luggage handing will be provided at hotels, there may be times when you will need to handle your own suitcase. Pack light!

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE

Raptim Humanitarian Travel and Bible Study Fellowship, their employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff act only as independent third parties to connect customers with the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. Raptim Humanitarian Travel and Bible Study Fellowship, their employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, anticipated to be used or which is used, either wholly or in part, in any travels. Raptim Humanitarian Travel and Bible Study Fellowship, their employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff are not and will not be responsible and the passenger fully releases Raptim Humanitarian Travel Bible Study Fellowship, their employees, agents, officers, shareholders and staff for and from any act, error or omission, or any resulting expense or any injury to person or property (including death), other 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 including but not limited to any steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, or through any sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes, and all such losses, injury and expenses must be and will be borne solely 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 reserves the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air or other 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.

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Travel Arrangements by:
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