



Christian Women's Tour of Israel

an amazing journey into the history of Christianity and women of the Bible!

July 21- August 1, 2021 (12 days including travel) with
optional Pre-Tour to Jordan departing July 18

(Schedule based on 8pm TLV arrival and 1am TLV departure – to be confirmed)

Day 1: Wednesday July 21: Depart to Israel

Depart on your overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Day 2: Thursday, July 22: Welcome to Israel

- Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. An IGT representative will meet you after passport control, escort you through luggage identification & lead you to your Tour Guide.
- Proceed to Tel Aviv.

Dinner & Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel Tel Aviv

Day 3: Friday, July 23: Drive to Northern Israel

Breakfast at the hotel, Check-out

- Drive via the coastline road to **Caesarea by the Sea (Caesarea Marittima)**, Herod's showcase port city. Walk through the Roman ruins and hear the story of **St. Peter** and his **conversion of Cornelius' household** (*Acts 10:24*). Caesarea is also the scene of **St. Paul's imprisonment** (*Acts 23:35*), his **appearance before King Agrippa** and his **departure for Rome** (*Acts 25:13-26:32*).
- Drive along the Mediterranean coastline to **Mt. Carmel**, the biblical site of **Elijah's contest** with the **prophets of Baal** (*1 Kings 18*).
- Visit **Megiddo**, the regional capital of King Solomon (*1 Kings 9:15*), the New Testament's **Armageddon** (*Rev. 16:16*).
- Continue east across the Galilee passing **Mt. Tabor** (*Psalms 89:12*), the site of the **Transfiguration of Jesus** (*Matthew 17:1-9*) and where, at the mountain foothill, **Deborah rose against Sisera** (*Judges 4-5*).
- Drive through the hills of Galilee to the outskirts of **Nazareth**, the hometown of Jesus, to stand on the **Mount of Precipice** where tradition has it an angry mob attempted to throw Jesus off the precipice (*Luke 4:16-30*).
- Enter Nazareth and the **Church of the Annunciation** situated over the cave where **Archangel Gabriel** told **Mary** she would become the **mother of the Son of God**. (*Luke 1:5-42*).
- Stop in **Cana**, a village near Nazareth, where Jesus performed His very first miracle by turning **water into wine** at the wedding feast (*John 2:1-11*).
- Check-in to your hotel in the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner & Overnight: Ein Gev Kibbutz Hotel Sea of Galilee

Day 4: Saturday, July 24: Around the Sea of Galilee

Breakfast at the hotel

- Take a breathtaking spiritual Galilee journey – sailing on a wooden replica of the famous **boats** that played a key role in Jesus' life in the Sea of Galilee
- Visit the **Ancient Galilee Boat at Ginosaur**, a boat that existed at a time when Jesus was living in the Galilee. Enjoy **Shopping** at the special store at the museum.
- Proceed to the **Mt. of Beatitudes** where Jesus preached the "**Sermon on the Mount**" (*Matthew 5 -7*)
- Visit **Capernaum** " the Town of Jesus " (*John 6:24*) to walk among the ancient ruins of the **first century synagogue where Jesus preached** (*Matthew 4:13-17*).
- **Stop for Lunch** at one of the region's fine restaurants to taste the local **St. Peter's fish**
- Continue to **Tabgha** - the chapel dedicated to the **multiplication of the loaves and fishes** - (*Mark 6:34-44*) and the site of **St. Peter's Primacy** where Jesus **bestowed church leadership** upon Peter (*John 21:9*). You will have an opportunity to Dip your toes in the water of Sea of Galilee,
- Drive to **Magdala**, a recent archeological dig, with a synagogue from the time of Christ. (*Luke 4:14-15*)
- Last stop will be at "**Yardenit** "for an opportunity to be baptized at a baptismal site on the banks of the River Jordan. \$10 fee for facility use, gown/towel. (*Mark 1:9-13*)

Dinner & Overnight: Ein Gev Kibbutz Hotel Sea of Galilee

Day 5: Sunday, July 25: Upper Galilee & Golan Heights

Breakfast at the hotel

- Visiting the **Tel Dan Reserve** is like stepping into a wonderland: scores of bubbling brooks feed into a running river and tall treetops reach for the sky, Tel Dan National Park combines a lush nature reserve with a biblical archaeological experience with three easy hiking.
- Travel due north to the **Banias -Caesarea Philippi** (*Matt. 16.13; Mark 8.27*), where **Jesus was recognized as Messiah** by His disciples.
- **Golan Heights Winery**, Israel's leading producer of quality wines, invites you for a guided group tour and tasting at the Visitors Center. Experience Israel's wine country in a place that brings together love, soil, landscapes and wine.
- At **Mount Bental**, you will come to an observation point near the Syrian border giving you a clear view of the whole region, including "**The Road to Damascus**".
- There is a place in the heart of the Galilee, in the village of Kanna, where Jewish and Arab women work in equality and mutual respect: **Sindyanna** of Galilee's factory and Visitors Center for fair trade. It is a place with a vision of a just society with peace and equal opportunity for all.
- Drive to the Dead Sea Area (3 hr. Drive)

Dinner & Overnight: Herods Dead Sea Hotel

Day 6: Monday, July 26: Dead Sea-Masada-Jericho

Coffee & cake at hotel

- Depart hotel to travel to **Masada** for sunrise. Hike 50 minutes up the Snake Trail or ride the gondola to the top and join for worship as the sun rises over the Dead Sea and Jordanian Moab Mountains. Sunrise at Masada is something magical and unforgettable, a unique experience that visitors will never forget. Masada is a fortress constructed on top of a rock plateau built by Herod. About one hundred years later, a group of Jews took refuge at Masada while fleeing from the Romans and made decisions that affected generations to come. Masada is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Israel.
 - Drive back to your hotel for Breakfast & Free time at the **Dead Sea & optional spa treatments**.
 - At the lowest point on Earth, the Dead Sea, the world-famous cosmetics company **AHAVA** welcomes visitors into its factory to learn the secrets that lie in the Dead Sea mud. Guests will receive a guided tour of the factory, an informative multimedia presentation, and expert advice from a cosmetologist
 - Stop for overview at **Ein Gedi**, (if time permitting) where **David** hid in a cave when running from Saul (*1 Samuel 23*) and may have composed several of his Psalms.
 - Visit **Qumran**, administrative center of an ascetic Jewish community that flourished at the 1st century AD. Many scholars associate **John the Baptist** with this community and Jesus may have even spent time here. The community members were mostly scribing responsible for the copying and preservation of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**,
 - Continue to Jericho, called "the oldest town in the world", Tel Jericho, is the site of ancient and biblical Jericho and today a UNESCO-nominated archaeological site (Joshua 6:1-21)
 - View the **Mount of Temptation** where the Christ was tempted by Satan during his 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew (4:1-11) and Luke (4:1-13)
 - After dinner, meet **Israeli Parliament member Sharren Haskel** a Canadian-born 31-year-old Likud party member. Haskel's arrival in the Knesset marked an all-time high of 30 female lawmakers — 25 percent — in the 120-seat Israeli parliament. She served as a Border Police officer and was the commander of the first Bedouin woman combat soldier. Sharren holds a graduate degree in international relations and political science.
- Dinner & Overnight:** Herods Hotel Dead Sea

Day 7: Tuesday, July 27: Jerusalem

Breakfast at hotel, Check-out

- Ascend to Jerusalem – Enjoy a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem from the crest of **Mt. of Olives** (*Matthew 24:3*).
- At the Church of **Pater Noster** on the Mount of Olives, Christians recall Christ's teaching of the Lord's Prayer to his disciples, the cave is also believed to be associated with Jesus' teaching about his Second Coming (Matthew 24,25). This church was built by Queen Helen, mother of King Constantine.
- Walk along **Hosanna Palm Sunday Road**, 'Hosanna to the son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (*Luke 19:41-44*).
- Stop at **Dominus Flevit** marking the spot where **Jesus wept over the impending destruction of Jerusalem**. (*Luke 19:37-42*)
- Arrive at **Gethsemane** to visit the **Church of All Nations** that stands on the Rock of Agony where **Jesus was betrayed by Judas** (*Matthew 26:36-57*).
- Go deep into Jerusalem's biblical history with a tour of the **City of David**, a 3,800-year old site. Trace the story of Jerusalem through the ages as you explore archeological excavations. See the First Temple homes at the Royal Acropolis, and visit the Citadel that protected Gihon Spring, Jerusalem's main water source. (2 Samuel,5:6-7). If weather permits, we might walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** (optional) and visit the Pool of Siloam where Jesus sent the blind man to be healed. (John 9:1–11)
- Drive to **Mt. Zion** to visit the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** meaning "cock's-crow" commemorating Peter's triple rejection of Jesus "... before the cock crows twice." (*Mark 14:30*)

- Also, on Mt. Zion, is the **Room of the Last Supper** (*Luke 22:14-20*) and the traditional site of **Tomb of King David**.
- Check-in to your Jerusalem hotel

Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel hotel city center Jerusalem

Day 8: Wednesday, July 28: Jerusalem

- Breakfast at hotel
- The **Temple Mount** in Jerusalem, where the two Jewish Temples were located, is the holiest site in Judaism. Called Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) by Muslims, the site contains the al-Aqsa Mosque, which is considered to be the third holiest site in Islam, the iconic Dome of the Rock (which is not a mosque), and many other small structures.
- Walk to the **Southern Steps**, which served as the main entrance to the entire **Temple Mount** complex. We know from Scripture that Jesus went to the Temple several times throughout His life.
- Walk in the Old City to the **Western Wall** (“Wailing Wall”), the most religious site in the world for the Jewish people. It is the western support wall of the Temple. Prayers are either spoken or written down and placed in the cracks of the wall.
- Greatness is truly discovered when you descend underground to the **Western Wall Tunnels**. The tunnels run along approximately 1600 feet of the Western Wall, giving visitors a taste for the challenge that stood before Herod the Great during this biggest of all his immense building projects—the expansion of the Temple Mount.
- Enjoy going to the **Mahane Yehuda Market** (aka The Shuk), the largest market in Jerusalem and one of the most famous in the Middle East. Once a shopping and dining center for the working class, the Shuk has transformed into one of Jerusalem’s main cultural centers. Locals and visitors alike flock there for incredible culinary experiences, an unforgettable Thursday nightlife scene, concerts and, of course, shopping.
- Visit the **Friends of Zion Heritage Center** which brings the stories of Christian love for Israel to life in a unique multimedia and interactive way

Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel hotel city center Jerusalem

Day 9: Thursday, July 29: Jerusalem & Bethlehem

Breakfast at hotel

- Start the day at the **Israel Museum** and visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. Visit the **model of Second Temple** Jerusalem to view Jerusalem as it looked during the time of Jesus.
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, spend time at the Museum with its Hall of Names, the Children’s Memorial and Walk along the Street of the Righteous where Oscar Schindler and many others are memorialized.
- **Visitation church** in the village of Ein Kerem (Karem), on the west side of Jerusalem, is named after virgin Mary’s visit to the summer house of the parents of John the Baptist. Elizabeth (Elisheva) was the cousin of Mary, mother of Jesus. Per Luke, Mary visited Elizabeth when both were pregnant (hence the name – Church of Visitation). During the visit, the baby leapt with joy in Elizabeth’s womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, knowing that Mary is about to give birth to the son of God. Mary then stayed with her cousin for 3 months until John was born. (Luke 1:39)
- “And Rachel died, and was buried on the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day.” — (Genesis 35:19-20)
Rachel’s Tomb is the site considered the burial place of Rachel, the Jewish Matriarch. It is a site considered holy to all three Abrahamic religions. It is mentioned in the Jewish Tanakh and the Christian Old Testament. Rachel, who died in childbirth, was buried here by her husband Jacob, by the road between Hebron and Bethlehem. It is Jewish belief that Jacob foresaw the future and that many Jews would be exiled and pass by her tomb, praying and finding solace there.
- Drive to **Bethlehem** the birthplace of Jesus. Meet a new guide for the visit **Manger Square** where the **Church of**

the Nativity stands. It's one of the oldest churches in the world and was built above the cave where, according to the Bible, Jesus was born. (Luke 2: 1-7)

- Continue to **Shepherds' Fields**. Imagine watching over flocks of sheep by night in the traditional location of an angelic announcement of Jesus's birth. (Luke 2:8-20),
- The story of **Naomi, Ruth and Boaz** (Ruth 1–4) is one of the most moving accounts in the Bible. People often describe the book of Ruth as a love story. But as the story unfolds, we realize that it is about more than the love between two people. It's about God's amazing love for all humankind. (Ruth 1–4)
- If time allows, a drive by and brief stop by the American Embassy in Jerusalem for pictures and a prayer.
- **(After Dinner) Night Spectacular, Sound and Light at the Tower of David**, the walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a nighttime show which is a celebration of sight and sound. Amidst the archaeological remains in the Citadel's courtyard and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem unfolds through giant breathtaking, virtual reality images. Dinner and overnight

Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel hotel city center Jerusalem

Day 10: Friday, July 30: Samaria & Jerusalem

Breakfast at hotel

- Visit **Ancient Shiloh**, Shiloh was the religious capital of Israel during the times of the Judges and spans 4,000 years of continuous settlement starting from the 18th century BC (Middle Bronze II). Shiloh was an assembly place for the people of Israel and a center of worship. Its sacred area (Tabernacle - Mishkan) in Shiloh housed the Ark of Covenant, Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense and Golden Lamp stand. Shiloh is the place of the story of **Hannah's prayer** and consecration to God that He might grant her a son is beautiful and touching. Hannah was given a son in answer to her prayers — a son who was destined to be one of the greatest of prophets and a man whose exemplary life would be an inspiration for all.
- On the way back to Jerusalem, we will stop near **Beit El** settlement which still carries the name of the ancient biblical city and the secret site of Jacob's dream. Using the Bible, we'll understand the geography of the site in biblical times and why this exact site is matching to Beit El's location, not just according to research but according to the Bible too.
- Enter the Old City through **St. Stephen's Gate**, also known as **Lions Gate**. From here begins the **Via Dolorosa - the Way of the Cross**,
- Visit the **Pool of Bethesda** - site of the miraculous **healing of a paralyzed man** by Jesus (*John 5:2-9*), and the Crusader **Church of St. Anne**, where groups love to sing hymns
- Continue to traditional sites commemorating Pilate's **Judgment Hall, the Chapel of the Flagellation**, and the **Ecce Homo Arch** (*John 19:13*) here **Jesus was tried before Pilate** (*Mark 15:6*).
- Continue through the **Muslim Quarter** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, containing the last 5 Stations of the Cross, traditionally believed to be the site of **Golgotha** "the place of the skull" where **Jesus was crucified**, (*Matt. 27:33–35; Mark 15:22–25; John 19:17–24*).
- Enjoy Free time in the **Old City Market**
- Continue to **Garden Tomb & Golgotha**, the garden and tomb where **Jesus was buried and then and rose from the dead**. We will have time for our **Communion**.
- **Shabbat of a Lifetime** invites you to experience Friday night prayers at the Western Wall followed by an authentic Shabbat dinner (Jewish Sabbath feast) in the heart of Jerusalem. Meet your host before Shabbat and receive an "Introduction to Shabbat". Discover the Biblical significance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people and learn about the history and importance of the Western Wall. Observe and understand the diversity of worshipers who gather at the Western Wall and learn about the unique prayers that welcome the Shabbat. Participate first-hand in a traditional Shabbat dinner with a family at their home while feasting on a variety of home-made cuisine from nine Jewish communities around the world.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel hotel city center Jerusalem

Day 11: Saturday, July 31: Elah Valley & Tel Aviv -Jaffa

Breakfast at hotel, Check-out

- Our last day in the Holy Land will start with a drive to the Elah valley, historically known as the **battlefield site between David and Goliath** (1 Samuel 17 1-4, 50). The valley is a beautiful countryside region also named as 'The Tuscany of Israel',
- Proceed to Tel Aviv. **Ayalon Institute**. Between 1945 and 1948, hidden from the British Army, more than 2 million 9mm bullets were secretly manufactured in an underground factory of this Kibbutz. Descend into the factory to see where this best kept secret made a crucial difference in establishing a Jewish Homeland.
- Known in Hebrew as Shuk HaCarmel, the **Carmel Market** is Tel Aviv's largest and most central marketplace known for its charm and vast culinary culture. It is not only a wonderful place to experience a variety of local delicacies, exotic dishes and worldly tastes but also considered a trendy spot for coffee shops, restaurants and bars as well as chef-owned food stalls.
- (Time permitting) **The Center for Israeli Innovation** is a cutting-edge visitor's center presenting the Israeli Start-Up Nation. The center's exhibition presents the leading Israeli technology companies as well as successful and promising start-ups. Time permitting
- Continue to Old Jaffa (Time permitting) Tour **Old Jaffa** Visit sites linked with Biblical miracles and stories such as **Simon The Tanner's House** where St. Peter had his vision (Acts 10:32) on the rooftop & raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36); **King Solomon** built his Mediterranean port (2 Chron. 2:16) **Jonah the Prophet** set sail to Tarshish. (Jonah ,1:3)
- Stop for a **Farewell Dinner** (not included)
Transfer to **Ben Gurion Airport** for your overnight flight back home.

Day 12: Sunday, August 1: Arrive back to the US

Arrive back in the US