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THE CHRISTIAN RESOURCE GROUP Itinerary June 29-July 7, 2024

DAY 1: SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024 – DEPART THE US TO ISRAEL

Depart USA on your overnight flight to Tel Aviv

DAY 2: SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024 – WELCOME TO ISRAEL

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. An IGT representative will meet you upon arrival. (Group arrives late afternoon.) He/She will facilitate your passage through luggage identification and escort you through customs to your awaiting Tour Guide and Bus Driver. (If your air travel is with the group. If you make your own air travel arrangements, we can help you navigate your way to the hotel). Since the group is arriving late in the day, we will begin our journey by heading North to relax for the evening at the Hotel. One night **Dan Panorama Tel Aviv**

DAY 3: MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024 - CAESAREA –MT. CARMEL – MEGIDDO-NAZARETH - CANA

After a good night rest and a hearty breakfast, we begin the thrilling journey of following in the footsteps of Jesus. At **Caesarea** by the Sea, the magnificent ruins of Herod's showcase port city continue the story of Peter, with the conversion of Cornelius' household (Acts 10:24). Caesarea is also the scene of Paul's imprisonment (Acts 23:35), his appearance before King Agrippa and his departure for Rome (Acts 25:13-26:32). It figures centrally in the history of early Christianity as home to the Church father Eusebius. As we continue through the Mediterranean Coastline, we reach to **Mt. Carmel**, the Biblical site of Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). We continue eastward across Galilee passing Mt. Tabor (Psalm 89:12), a rising dome from the Plain of Jezreel. It is the mountain where Deborah had Barak summon his troops to that mountain (Judges 4:6). Christian tradition places the Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-9) at Mt Tabor. We drive through the hills of Galilee to **Nazareth** the hometown of Jesus. There are several potential options for the visit to Nazareth depending upon our travel schedule. We will stop to take in a view of the **Valley of Armeggedon**, the renowned area known from the Book of Revelation. The Mountain where they threatened to harm Jesus, the Church of the Annunciation, or other Biblical sites. The final stop of our busy day will be at **Cana** for the renewal of vows and prayers for everyone in our group. Cana is the place of Jesus first miracle recorded in the book of John—turning the water into wine.

Dinner & Overnight: Two nights in same hotel – **Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias** (or similar)

DAY 4: TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024 – AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE

After a delicious breakfast, we will spend an exciting day in the Galilee area. Our Day Starts with a **Boat Ride** across the Sea of Galilee the place where Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26), and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6). We depart the city of Tiberias to **Capernaum** (John 6:24) to walk among the ancient ruins of the first century synagogue where Jesus preached (Matthew 4:13-17). Then on to the **Mt. of Beatitudes** where Jesus preached the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7) and to Tabgha - the chapel dedicated to the **multiplication of the loaves and fishes** - (Mark 6:34-44), **Primacy of Peter** –where Jesus restored Peter. (Jesus' reinstatement of Peter with "Do you love Me more than these...") Hopefully, lunch will be a stop for a St. Peter's Fish lunch. We then proceed to The **Ancient Galilee Boat** – a wooden vessel dating back to the days of Jesus in a fascinating display. If time permits, a stop at **Caesarea Philippi** (where Peter made his confession of Christ being the Son of God). Our last stop for the day is "**Yardenit** " where we have the opportunity to be baptized on the banks of the River Jordan. (Please note: the order of the itinerary may change, but baptism is the last event of the day.) **Dinner & Overnight:** Return to our hotel in **Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias**.

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2024- MAGDALA-GIDEON SPRINGS-MT. OF OLIVES-PALM SUNDAY WALK

On our drive towards Jerusalem, we will stop at **Magdala Center**, a recent archeological dig, with a synagogue from the time of Christ. Magdala is the story of God's amazing grace is the life of Mary from Magdala, from whom Christ cast out seven demons. The next stop will be **Gideon Spring** (Judges 7). Next will be a short stop at the Roman ruins of Beit Shen. We arrive at the **Mt. of Olives** (Matthew 24:3) for a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem. We will walk along **Hosanna Road** (Palm Sunday Route) to the **Garden of 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).

Dinner & Overnight: for the next 4 nights in same hotel--**Dan Panorama, Jerusalem** (or similar)

DAY 6: THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024– JERUSALEM DAY -OLD CITY –UPPER ROOM – GARDEN TOMB

Today we will continue our journey to Mt. Zion where we visit the **Room of the Last Supper** (Luke 22:14-20) – and the same sight of the "Upper Room" and the day of Pentecost. We will share Peter's Sermon from Acts 2 together. We will visit the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** on the site of Caiaphas' House. A transforming stop of the day will be at the **Garden Tomb & Golgotha**, where we will have time for communion after visiting the empty tomb. We may be able to tour around the archaeological finds i.e., **Robison Arch or Southern Steps and/or possibly The City of David**. There are several highlights of Jerusalem's Old City we will be touring including the **Sacred Western Wall** where we pray together before spending time alone in prayer at the Wall. In the Old City, these may be some of the sites we will see - Stephen's Gate,

also known as **Lion's Gate or Sheep Gate**, and visit the **Pool of Bethesda** - site of the miraculous healing of a paralyzed man by Jesus (John 5:2-9), and the **Church of St. Anne** where groups love to sing hymns as they visit. We will walk along to **Pilate's Judgment Hall**, the **Chapel of the Flagellation**, where Jesus was tried before Pilate (Mark 15:6). We may have lunch in continue through the **Old City bazaars** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. (The exact order of the itinerary on this day—or any day—may change based upon scheduling of the sites).

Dinner & Overnight Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

DAY 7: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024- YAD VASHEM, SHRINE OF THE BOOK, BETHLEHEM

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust commemoration project began in 1953 with the task of perpetuating the memory of Holocaust victims and documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust so they will be remembered by future generations. Continue to the Israel Museum. We will visit the detailed **model of Jerusalem** from the time of the Jesus, Second Temple and the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. Drive to **Bethlehem** the birthplace of Jesus. 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. Continue to **Shepherds' Fields**. Imagine watching over flocks of sheep by night in the traditional location of an angelic announcement of Jesus's birth. If time allows, a drive by and brief stop by the **American Embassy in Jerusalem** for pictures and a prayer.

Dinner & Overnight Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

DAY 8: SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024 – EXCURSION TO QUMRAN, AHAVA FACTORY, MASADA, AND A FLOAT IN THE DEAD SEA.

This early start to the morning, we drive via the **Judean Desert** to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth. A beautiful new road takes us south along the shores of the Dead Sea passing the Inn of the **Good Samaritan** (Luke 10:25-37). We will stop and view the Qumran community and to see the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We may be able to take a quick stop at En Gedi. On to **Masada**, a truly remarkable piece of history. We ascend Masada by cable car to walk among the magnificent ruins of the fortress where from 70-73 A.D., the Jewish defenders made the last stand of the Judean Revolt against Rome and where the remains of storehouses, cisterns and a sixth century Byzantine church are still on view. **Floating in the Dead Sea** is a must do!! Just lay back, relax and enjoy this natural phenomenon. **Dinner & Overnight Dan Panorama, Jerusalem**

**DAY 9: SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024, PACK FOR TRAVEL – FLEXIBLE DAY
DEPENDING ON GROUP FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS. POSSIBLY: SHILOH—
BETHEL--VALLEY OF ELAH—JAFFA--TRAVEL TO USA.**

Today we will be checking out of our hotel and packing for the trip back to the USA. Depending upon the time of the flight back to the United States, we may have the opportunity to see some great Biblical sites on the way to the airport, depending upon time schedule. **Shiloh** is the location of the “Tabernacle in the Wilderness.” The site includes active an archeological dig. Next stop will be **Bethel** where Jacob encountered God in a special way. The **Valley of Elah** is the place where David met the giant, Goliath, in battle. The final stop on our journey together will be in **Jaffa**, outside the House of Simon the tanner, where Peter had his vision on the rooftop (Acts 10:32). This is also the town where Peter raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36). The Old Jaffa Port is where Jonah set sail to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3) and King Solomon built his port (2 Chron. 2:16).

The group will see sites through the day and have a farewell dinner together before being dropped off at the airport for their overnight flight back to the USA. The group flight is tentatively leaving just after midnight. (Flight arrangements can’t be made until 11 months before the Tour).

Please note that every attempt will be made to accommodate all the sites named in this itinerary, however, there may be adjustments, changes, and deletions depending upon many different circumstances.

Our tour is different than most, as the spiritual aspects of the journey are the most important – “capturing the moment.” It is also participatory, as there are times for sharing and reflecting on a special touch or moment you personally learned from an event or experience.

Every attempt has been made in making this Tour a “trip of a lifetime” and at the same time keeping the cost reasonable for people to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Touring part of the pilgrimage is usually 8 AM until 5 PM (or so depending on traffic) with the evenings left as free time. On most days of Touring the required walking is 5000 to 6000 steps.

Prayer is paramount to the experience and lives are changed during this trip. The Bible comes alive and can be seen in 3-D.

A Hebrew guide is used to help explain the site, but the spiritual touchstones are the most important part of our Holy Land tours.