

Women of the Bible in the Holy Land

Day 1: Arrival - Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport and transfer to Jerusalem through the Valley of Ayalon ("Josh 10:12 "Oh sun stand still at Gibeon": and "Oh moon in the Valley of Ayalon 10:12) to Emmaus (Luke 24:13) to visit the ancient archeological site and continue along the Emmaus Road to Jerusalem. Overnight in Jerusalem.



Day 2: A Day in Bethlehem - From Rachel the Matriarch and Ruth the Moabite to Jesus Christ.

Early morning drive to the Ramat Rachel Garden of Olives (the tallest olive trees in the world). Enjoy a short walk for a panoramic view of the Judean Wilderness, of Bethlehem, Mount Herodian and the fields of Ruth and Boaz. In Bethlehem visit the Church of Nativity and the remains of ancient Bethlehem from the times of Christ (beneath the Greek Monastery). Continue to the Shepherd's Field to see the Cave Chapel, the new archeological excavation of a Byzantine farm. Visit a local olive wood workshop. Drive to the Judean Wilderness and North Mount Hebron to the desert city of Herodion to visit the ancient Synagogue, King Herod the Great's desert palace (Matt: 2:15), the underground secret passage and water cisterns. Drive to Jerusalem via Rachel's Tomb ("A voice was heard in Ramah... Rachel weeping for her children" Matt. 2:18). Meet a Jewish woman representative of the Rachel Tomb Heritage Institute. Overnight in Jerusalem.



Day 3: Women and Mountains of Jerusalem

Today we visit the mountains of Jerusalem beginning with Mount Joy: Tomb of the Prophet Samuel, the story of Anna and the miraculous birth of Samuel (Samuel I, 1). Next we visit the Mount of Olives: Tomb of the Prophetess Hulda, the Lutheran Church of Ascension, ascend the Augusta Victoria Tower for a panoramic Mary's House (Luke 10:38-42), Lazarus' Tomb (John 11).



From the Mount of Olives follow the Palm Sunday Route and descend to Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over the city (Luk. 19:41); the Church of All Nations, the Rock of Agony and the Garden of Gethsemane. Continue to Mount Moriah: view the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), the remaining wall of the destroyed Temple. Ascend the Temple Mount (where Jesus spent Tuesday and Wednesday of the Holy Week), visit the mosques of El Aksa and the golden Dome of the Rock (one of the holiest Muslim sites). Visit the Temple Mount Women's Mosque (If situation permits) and meet with a local Muslim woman; walk through the Cotton Sellers' Market. Proceed to Mount Zion to visit King David's Tomb, the Room of the Last Supper and the Valley of Gehenom (doorway to the underworld). Visit the Shalom Center - Women's Institute for inter-religious tolerance. Visit the Armenian Quarter with its' traditional ceramic workshops. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 4: Follow in the Footsteps of Jesus on Good Friday - Women in the Passion of Christ

Enter the Old City through the Lion's Gate, see the Bethesda Pool, Saint Anne's Crusader Church, the Ecce Homo Arch, the Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross - from the Pretorium to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The Ethiopian Monastic Village: story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, (1 Kings 10:1-13), dark-skinned women of the Bible, Song of Songs 1:1-4); the underground Chapel of Saint Helen, the Chapel of the Wailing Women. Proceed to the Garden Tomb and visit the Empty Tomb. Tour the garden and attend a Communion Service. Overnight in Jerusalem.



Day 5: From Holocaust to Revival - The Role of Women in New City of Jerusalem

Drive to the Israel Museum to visit the modern art exhibition and the Shrine of the Book - where the most ancient biblical texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited. Drive, via Government Hill, to visit the Knesset (Israel Parliament) and meet with a woman Member of Parliament. Continue to Israel's Supreme Court then on to the stark Holocaust Memorial of Yad Vashem.



Drive to the village of Ein Karem, birthplace of John the Baptist and walk through the picturesque old village to Mary's Spring and the beautiful garden of the Sisters of Zion (meet with a resident nun). Drive to the Amiel Forest in the Judean Hills (located near Tsorah - the home town of Manoah's wife, mother of Samson the Hero (Judges 13:2), to plant an olive tree with your own hands in the Holy Land. Visit the Kibbutz Tsorah Wineries and taste the local wines. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 6: Jericho and the Dead Sea



Drive through the Judean Wilderness, via the Good Samaritan's Inn, to Jericho: the lowest and most ancient city in the world: View the Mount of Temptation, the ancient Tel Jericho and the city walls (Josh. 2-6; Mark 10:46; Luke 19:1), the Zacheus tree and

Elisha's Spring, meet a local Palestinian woman leader. Drive to the Jordan River, where Christ was baptised, the site of the assumption of Elijah the Prophet, where the Holy Ark was brought to the Promised Land and then on to the Dead Sea. Visit the Ahava Cosmetic Factory of Kibbutz Mizpe Shalem and then on to the Dead Sea Resort of Ein Bokek to enjoy bathing and mud treatment in the Dead Sea. In the evening a lecture and demonstration of the Dead Sea Cosmetics. Overnight in a Dead Sea hotel.

Day 7: Jordan Valley and the Samaritan Mountains - From the Garden of "Songs of Songs" to the Samaritan Woman's Well

Drive to the Ein Gedi Oasis for a walk in the garden of "Song of Songs ("My lover is to me like a cluster of Henna blossoms from the Vineyards of Ein Gedi" Song of Songs 1:12-14). Proceed to Qumran: where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found; visit the archeological excavations and the Visitors' Center. Continue along the Jordan Valley to the Samaritan Mountains and on to Nablus. Visit Sebastia and the Well of Saint. James (story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman). Visit the local market place and a stone workshop. Overnight in Tiberias.



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Day 8: Sea of Galilee - Follow in the Footsteps of Jesus and Mary Magdalene in the Birthplace of Christianity

Drive through Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene. Ascend the Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5-7) where Jesus uttered the immortal words of the beatitudes, as written in the Gospel of Matthew. After a brief service an easy walk down a Galilee hill to the Saint Peter's Church (John 21) on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Following the path of Jesus during his ministry in the Galilee we will reach Tabgha, the site of the Multiplication of the Five Loaves and Two Fish, where Jesus fed the multitudes (Feeding of 5000; Mark 6). Along the lake, that looks the same as it did 2000 years ago, we will reach Capernaum (Matt. 4:13), where both Jesus and Peter lived.



The archeological remains enable us to visualize how Jesus taught in the Capernaum synagogue, healed Peter's mother-in-law; where he was anointed by a sinful woman and healed the demon-possessed Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3). Drive along the upper Jordan Valley to Caesar Phillipi to visit the archeological site of Phillip's Castle (home of Salome and Herodius) and the Baniyas Spring, source of the River Jordan. After a short rest and dinner we will board a boat for a night cruise on the Sea of Galilee. During the cruise under the starry sky, the engine will be turned off in the middle of the lake for you to listen to the silence and enjoy a spiritual experience in the very spot where Jesus walked on the water. Overnight at a Sea of Galilee hotel.

Day 9: Coast to Coast - From the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean Sea - Nazareth, Mount Carmel and the Coastal Plain.

Drive through Cana of Galilee to Nazareth to visit the Basilica of the Annunciation: the Holy Grotto, the ancient village of Nazareth during the time of Christ, the archeological museum, Saint Joseph's Workshop and the ancient Jewish-Christian purifying bath. Drive to Mount Tabor, (where the Prophetess Deborah judged Israel under the palm tree (Judges 4:4-7) to the Kenite Stream in the Menashe Heights: homeland of Yael the Kenite, the woman who killed Sissera in her tent (Judges 4:17-22). Mount Carmel (1Kgs.18), we will walk up to the monastery roof built on the site where the Prophet Elijah proved to the Prophets of Baal who was the only God. To enjoy some Israeli ethnic cuisine we will stop at a Druze village on Mount Carmel for lunch and also learn about their way of life (meet a local Druze woman and hear about the status of women in the Druze society). Visit the local market place (including a handicraft and weaving workshop). Farewell dinner in Jaffa (including optional tour): Artists' Quarter, Tabitha's House (Acts 9:36) and place of Peter's vision to eat unclean food on the rooftop of the house of Simon the Tanner. Overnight in Tel Aviv.



Day 10: Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departure

For more information or Tour quote, please contact:

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