

Important Contact Information

Find all the latest, up to date trip information (including audio-visual resources, tutorials, educational videos, etc.) on our custom webpage: <http://www.epiclesis.org/2017/08/come-israel-pastor-chris/>

Pastor Chris Alford:

PastorChris@Epiclesis.org
(916) 765-2901 (This number will be operational during the trip).

Dr. Teresa Gardner:

TGardner.RDM@Mindspring.com
(704) 564-8336 (This number will be operational during the trip).

John Brown:

The Obed Project
12143 Stainsby Lane
Charlotte, NC 28273
jbrown@theobedproject.org
(704) 681-0363

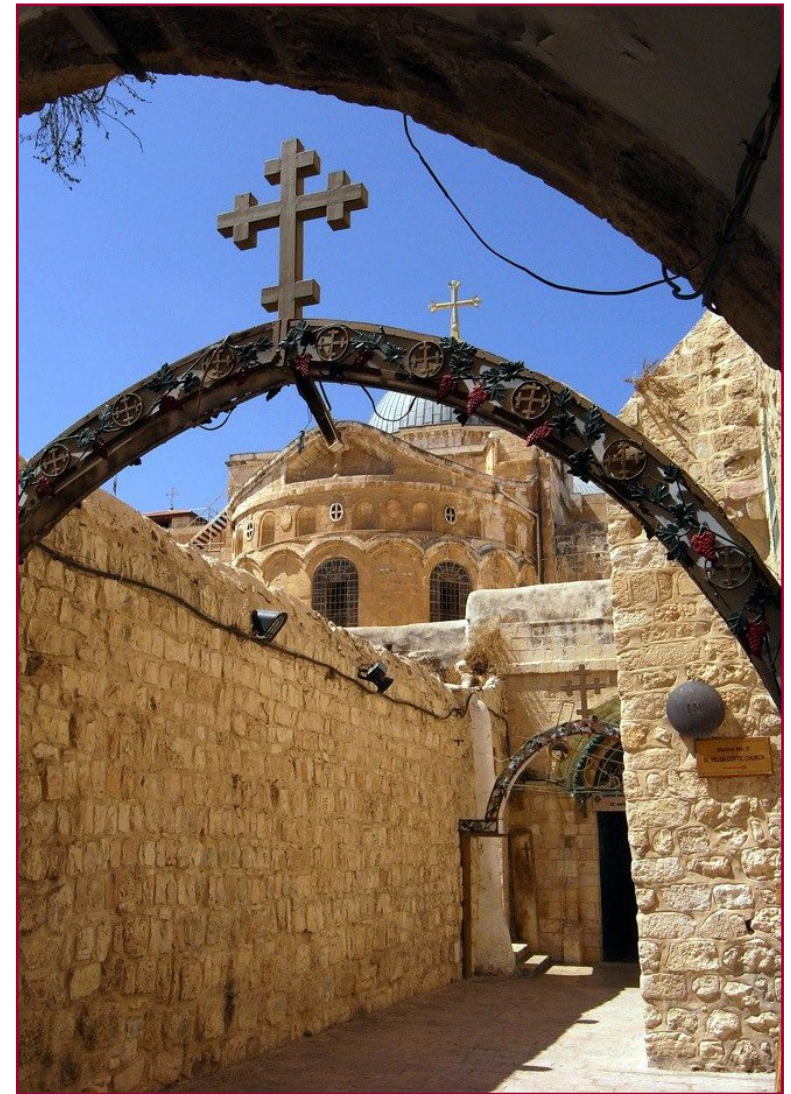


Israel Trip Local Assistant to Pastor Chris:

Linnette Hubbard
Lmhubbard39@sbcglobal.net
(916) 715-4963



Notes:



Israel, 2018

October 10-23

Sponsored by
Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
and
The Ancient-Future Faith Network

Contents of This Travel Brochure



Image, right: Alley in the Jewish Quarter

Image, cover: Via Dolorosa

Introduction and Word from Pastor Chris: Page 2

Word from Dr. Teresa Gardner: Page 3

Brief Itinerary Overview: Page 4

Detailed Itinerary: Page 6

Trip Information: Page 22

Israel Trip Quick FAQs: Page 27

List of Trip Participants: Page 29

About Our Personal Guide. Two Special Travelers: Page 30

Important Contact Information: Page 31

Our Personal Guide: Moti Kaufer



Moti writes about himself, *Upon completion of my military service, I guided desert tours in Sinai. I returned to "civilization" and completed my academic education: Geography and Political Science in Israel, and Hotel Management at the University of Houston, Texas. I am a graduate of the Society for the Protection of Nature Guiding School, and the Bar-Ilan University Tour Guides' School. My specialties are biblical tours, religions, Second Temple period, and 20th century history of the Middle East.*

What online reviewers are saying:

Moti is an outstanding professional....

Moti Kaufer is easily one of the best tour guides to have.

[He] made our trip unforgettable. We would not hesitate to hire him again.

When we left Israel, we knew that we have a new friend there, Moti, and that we will come back.

We always felt safe in Israel and Moti is a terrific companion. We highly recommend [him] to anyone who wants an in depth, informative, and pleasant tour of Israel....



Two Special Travelers

We're blessed to have two beloved colleagues joining us, Dr. Carl Peters and Dr. Rick Asche. They'll be contributing to a unique trip devotional guide and will supplement our journey with their pastoral care and insights. Carl is the Senior Pastor of Anchor Baptist Church (Lexington, KY); Rick is the Pastor for Intergenerational Discipleship at Epiclesis (Sacramento, CA); and both are Board Members of the Ancient-Future Faith Network.



Israel Trip Participants

Alford, Chris: PastorChris@Epiclesis.org; (916) 765-2901
Alford, Sheila: TheSheilster@Comcast.net; (916) 390-4791
Asche, Rick: PastorRick@Epiclesis.org; (916) 878-6160
Bowes, Don: DBowes23@Comcast.net; (916) 517-8247
Brown, Robert: TakeNRead@Gmail.com; (916) 288-5472
Christopher, Jo Ann: prettygoodjo@gmail.com; (865) 202-4358
Covell, Ann: ncovell@sbcglobal.net; (916) 337-1624
Covell, Norm: ncovell@sbcglobal.net; (916) 337-1624
Crotteau, Lillian: royall4@yahoo.com; (916) 434-7092
Dunaway, Wendy: wendy.dunaway@faypwc.com; (910) 263-4895
Gardner, Teresa: TGardner.rdm@Mindspring.com; (704) 564-8336
Hubbard, Linnette: Lmhubbard39@sbcglobal.net; (916) 715-4963
Kerber, Toni: toni.kerber3@gmail.com; (916) 487-8451
Lucas, Nikki: nikki.mike@sbcglobal.net; (916) 201-3828
Lucas, Mike: nikki.mike@sbcglobal.net; (916) 208-3288
Nethers, Jennie: jjnethers@hotmail.com; (916) 852-9311
Peters, Carl: drcarlpeters@gmail.com; (859) 576-7660
Pinson, Barb: bapinson@gmail.com; (916) 501-6311
Pinson, Steve: jstevepinson@gmail.com; (916) 893-5371
Richardson, Ruth: rjsrichardson@comcast.net; (916) 290-2698
Roth, Penni: Penni.roth@gmail.com; (916) 792-6307
Shirley, David: dshirley@sbcglobal.net; (916) 212-3748
Shirley, Marlene: mshirley@sbcglobal.net; (916) 214-3748
Sutter, Greg: gsgrowers@surewest.net; (916) 224-8650
Sutter, Marianne: mgsutter@surewest.net; (916) 397-3061
Worth, Suzanne: suzworth@yahoo.com; (865) 719-0745

Our personal tour guide: Moti Kaufer

Introduction and Word from Pastor Chris



It's a thrill of a lifetime to go to Israel. Right from the beginning, I told my co-host Teresa and her logistical righthand man John from The Obed Project that I wanted this to be a "legacy" trip— *one that would never be forgotten.*

But in the planning process, I've realized that the bigger blessing is that I get to do this trip with you! That you are coming along on this amazing, unforgettable journey is truly an honor for me. Welcome! And I'll say it again: I'm going to do everything in my power to help you have a trip of a lifetime, too.

Two important words, not about Israel necessarily, but critical nonetheless: Trust and flexibility. We're all investing a lot of money and time in this trip, and it'd be easy to let a detail here or there make us feel disappointed. I have the utmost trust in Teresa and her helpers, both here and in Israel. I am putting my full faith in their ability to construct and manage the trip. And, all along the way, I plan to be flexible. We all know things can change, and that's to be expected. So basic, plain ol' worldly flexibility will be really important.

But there's a *holy* flexibility, too. What do I mean? My heart's desire is that we will encounter God— *and in a myriad of ways that can't be scheduled or planned.* Let's pledge now to be flexible in a holy kind of way, and sensitive to what God is doing, where He is leading, and what He is saying. What better place to do that than in the Land of our Lord?!

So blessed to be making this journey with you...

The Lord be with you!
Pastor Chris



This trip is sponsored jointly by Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community and The Ancient-Future Faith Network. Credit and extra special thanks for the overall organization and coordination of the trip goes to John Brown of The Obed Project.



Word from Dr. Teresa Gardner

Why go to Israel? I can think of two great reasons:

The first reason is because when you go, the Bible truly does come alive.

Though I've been nearly 50 times, I still vividly remember my first trip to Israel and the overwhelming realization that all of those places we read about in the Bible are real places! We drive past where the sun and moon stood still for Joshua and the valley where David slew Goliath, walk through gates where Abraham walked, and around the caves where David hid from Saul, where the 12 tribes crossed over into the Promised Land, and where John baptized Jesus. We spend time in Capernaum and on the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus taught, on the same Sea of Galilee where Jesus called his disciples, walked and calmed the storms, and at so many other places in the Galilean ministry of our Lord. There really is a mountain where fire came down for Elijah, and there really is a valley of Armageddon for that last great battle. Wow! And, then, there is Jerusalem – awesome, glorious, the city of our great King! The place where our Lord and Savior died and rose again. And for the rest of our lives, when we read about the places in the Bible, we will see them.

And the second reason? Because you will never be the same.

With each trip, it is as though God is your personal tour guide—pointing out what He wants you to see and understand, sharing His heart for the land and people, and how we fit into this historic and prophetically fulfilling time in His Story. At each biblical site, I believe we experience at least three things: the history of the location, the biblical account and significance of the location, and what the Lord wants to say to us about Who He is and how He wants to work in our own lives. For He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

I can't wait to experience it all over again with you!

Shalom...
Dr. Teresa Gardner



What about medical requirements, shots, etc., needed before going?

No special shots or inoculations are needed.

Can the itinerary or schedule change?

Yes, and it probably will (especially when we're in Jerusalem). Your trip will be so much more pleasant if you are flexible. Reasons may include speed of the group, teaching/worship times, traffic, local schedule changes, etc. Also, we may hear of an opportunity not on the itinerary we can take advantage of if we're flexible.

Will there be a lot of walking?

Yes. Bring good shoes, sunglasses/sunscreen, hat, etc. For those people who want to walk in the Hezekiah Tunnel in Jerusalem, some inexpensive water shoes will be very helpful. Note: There are also plenty of options for rest (or to opt out) for people who have mobility problems.

What about the "Temple Mount Archeological Dig" project?

During our time in Jerusalem, we have the option of participating in an actual archeological project where we will assist in sifting materials found on the Temple Mount. The activity lasts about 2 hours and includes a presentation from an archeologist. By the way: Several rare coins were recently found. See the trip webpage for more information.

The material says that all tips are included. Does that really include all tips-- all the guides, hotel staff, etc.?

All tips are included in the price.

What about guides using microphone/headset on walking tours?

Yes. Our tour guide uses a microphone/headset.

On the itinerary, there is something called the "Dead Sea Experience." What is it?

It's time for you to float in the Dead Sea, play in the mud, relax by the pool, or book a private spa treatment (each person pays individually for those). You may want to bring a separate bathing suit for mud activities.

Will there be Air Conditioning in all hotels and all buses?

Yes, there is AC on the buses and in the hotels. There are certain times of the year when some hotels turn off their AC.

Regarding Eilat - Will there be a chance to go scuba diving/swimming/submersible, or see the underwater observatory?

Not likely on the second night, but perhaps the first. Our final, set itinerary will determine this kind of timing (as it will on all extra excursions you want to make along the way). See the trip webpage for Eilat ideas!

Israel Trip Quick FAQs

Is this trip safe?

Yes. We are not going to places with known issues requiring extra security (armored buses, etc.). The reality on the ground is that the country is a safe destination for tourists because Israel is a world leader in security. Our guide is in constant contact with tour managers who give updates on all kinds of news and information, from traffic congestion to potential safety issues. Obed's motto is "Adventure without Danger."

Regarding money: What is the best way to travel - Credit Card, Debit Card, cash exchanged in advance?

Most credit cards are accepted, U.S. dollars work almost everywhere, and there will be opportunities to exchange money. Keep in mind that if you use U.S. dollars, change will be returned in shekels.

Is trip insurance available?

Yes. The AIG Gold Policy is what the Obed Project recommends, but AIG has another one called "Travel Guard Plus." Feel free to call (800) 826-4919 and ask for a comparison between the two. Another tour participant (and frequent international traveler) recommended an Allianz travel insurance policy, called One Trip Basic Plan, for \$334. It covers trip cancellation and emergency medical and repatriation (up to \$50,000). Find more information at Allianz: (866) 884-3556.

What about airline delays or cancellations?

Airline schedules, delays, or cancellations are completely out of our hands. Mechanical, schedule, or other delays/cancellations result in some obligations to us on the airline's part. Weather delays do not. We'll pray, be flexible, and handle things as they come.

Do I need a current U.S. Passport?

Yes, it is a must. Your passport must be valid until 4/23/19 (Israeli requirement). No other IDs or Visas are required.

What about cellular phone service?

Unlocked smartphones can be outfitted with a pre-paid SIM card beforehand, or purchased once you are in Israel. Locked phone owners will must arrange for international plans/minutes with their carriers. Note: Roaming charges are very expensive. (Teresa reports that she turns off her cellular data before arriving). Wireless internet is available on the buses, hotels, and in many places we visit (free in most places).

Special dietary needs - How are they dealt with?

We know that gluten-free can be accommodated, but would need to know about specific and/or severe dietary needs in order to get those questions answered in advance.

Brief Itinerary Overview

Please remember that this schedule is subject to change (e.g. Some sites in Jerusalem can't be confirmed until 3 months out).

- **Wednesday, October 10th**

Depart the U.S. for Israel (See flight details in the "Trip Information" section of this booklet, p. 22).

- **Thursday, October 11th**

Arrive in Israel 11:30 PM. Overnight Tel Aviv (See hotel details in the "Trip Information" section of this booklet, p. 22).

Dead Sea Area

- **Friday, October 12th**

Drive by Jaffa. Stop at Ein Gedi. Off to relax at the Dead Sea Experience.

- **Saturday, October 13th**

Masada. Lunch, then off to Eilat. Stop at Timna National Park and see the Tabernacle replica. Enjoy a free afternoon in Eilat.

Petra

- **Sunday, October 14th**

Day trip to Petra. Overnight in Eilat.

Sea of Galilee Area

- **Monday, October 15th**

Depart Eilat. Qumran. Jordan River Baptism Site across from Jericho. Arrive in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

- **Tuesday, October 16th**

Boat ride on Sea of Galilee. Mount of Beatitudes. Synagogue in Magdala. Tabgha. Capernaum. Yardenit/baptism in the Jordan.

Northern Israel Area

- **Wednesday, October 17th**

Dan and the Judge's & Abraham's Gates. Caesarea Philippi. The Valley of Tears and a look into Syria. Golan Heights.

Heading to Jerusalem

(Remember that the order and timing of sights may change, especially in Jerusalem).

- **Thursday, October 18th**
Megiddo. Mt. Carmel. Caesarea Maritima. Off to Jerusalem.
- **Friday, October 19th**
Yad Vashim. Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Jewish Quarter. Cardo. Western Wall.
- **Saturday, October 20th**
Mount of Olives. Garden of Gethsemane. Upper Room. St. Peter Gallicantu. Garden Tomb.
- **Sunday, October 21st**
Southern Steps and Street Ruins. Rabbi's Tunnel. City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel. Archeological sifting.
- **Monday, October 22nd**
Depart Hotel about 1 PM. Friends of Zion Museum. Israel Model & Shrine of the Book.

Saying Goodbye

Farewell Dinner (Abu Gosh).

Arrive at Ben Gurion about 10 PM.

- **Tuesday, October 23rd**
Plane scheduled to depart Tel Aviv at 1 AM.

Notes:

Israeli shekels. We suggest having some small bills with you (at least \$25 in dollar bills), because it's much easier than using large bills or credit cards for purchasing items along the way.

As of 6/8/2018, the exchange rate was 3.57 Israeli New Shekels per dollar.

Traveling as Part of a Tour Group

Pray for the tour and each participant. Flexibility and a sense of humor are a must since some inconveniences and schedule changes will occur. It's very important to cooperate fully with your guide and tour hosts. The tour schedule is full, and it is important to be on time (stay on schedule with the group). It is imperative that participants always let leaders know where they are. Roaming on your own can be dangerous.



While on the bus, be respectful to the guide and others who want to learn (stop talking when the guide is speaking on the microphone). We will also want to keep the bus neat and tidy.

Stay Hydrated!

You must drink a lot of water, both on the plane and while touring. The biggest health problems most often reported have to do with people becoming dehydrated. Carry water with you at all times. Small water bottles are available on the bus (\$1).



Audio-Visual Helps

We have assembled (and are constantly adding) a wide variety of wonderful helps, tutorials, and educational items on the Israel Trip webpage we've created just for you:



<http://www.epiclesis.org/2017/08/come-israel-pastor-chris/>

Categories include articles, Bible references, maps, tips for packing or food, short historical/educational videos, longer documentaries, websites, and photo albums. Find the page at www.Epiclesis.org under the "News" section, or type the specific web address listed above into your internet browser.

One more thing: Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the webpage to see all the links.

Electric Current/Adaptors

The electricity in Israel is 220 volts, not 110. If you plan to take electric appliances (hair dryer, electric razor, etc.), you will need both a voltage converter and an adapter plug.



However, IF your appliances are dual-voltage, you will only need an adapter plug. Hotels sometimes have 110-volt outlets for low wattage appliances (marked “For Shavers Only”); Do not use them for other high wattage appliances. Teresa recommends the “Conair Travel Smart Adapter Plug for Southern Europe & Middle East” from Amazon.

Charging Smart Phones? Consider a multi-port USB travel charger with adapter plug.

See recommendations on the trip webpage.

Miscellaneous

An extra pair of glasses, contact lenses, or prescription sunglasses are a good idea. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended.



You may want to bring a travel pillow for the flight. (Pack it in your carry-on!) A small, battery-powered travel alarm and flashlight are also handy items.

Local time in Israel is GMT+3 hours. This means that Jerusalem will be 10 hours ahead of Pacific Time and 7 hours ahead of Eastern Time. (Paris is one hour behind Israel: GMT+2).

Medications

You may want to take over-the-counter medications for headache, motion sickness, upset stomach, or diarrhea, etc., in your carry-on bag. Be sure to take a sufficient supply of any prescription medications. You may also want to have a copy of your prescriptions with you. Most standard medications may be purchased in Israel, but you will need the technical description of anything special.



Money

Most major U.S. credit cards are widely accepted in Israel and there are ATMs that give out shekels. Most places will take either American currency or



Detailed Itinerary

(Please remember that this schedule is subject to change (e.g. Some sites in Jerusalem can't be confirmed until 3 months out).

• Wednesday, October 10th

Depart U.S. for Israel. (See complete flight details in the “Trip Information” section of this booklet, p. 22). San Francisco flight (Air France) departs at 3:05 PM. Fly through Paris (de Gaulle).

• Thursday, October 11th

Arrive in Israel at 11:30 PM. Overnight in Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Crowne Plaza. (See complete hotel details in the “Trip Information” section of this booklet, p. 22).



Image right: Tel Aviv.

Headed toward the Dead Sea Area

**Some Places of Interest to Note (alphabetical order).
Please also see audio-visual resources on our trip webpage.**

The **Dead Sea or Salt Sea** lies 1,292 feet below sea level and covers an area of 360 square miles with its greatest depth at 1,300 feet. Because of its high mineral content of 30%, nothing can live in the Dead Sea. Today on its southern shoreline is a wonderful hotel/resort area. (See Genesis 13:8-13; 19:1-28; Ezekiel 47:7-10).

Ein Bokek is a hotel and resort district at the southern end of the Dead Sea. According to tradition, it was along these shores that the Lord rained fire and brimstone on the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt (See Genesis 19:24 and Genesis 26).

Ein Gedi is an oasis fed by many fresh springs and is situated on the western shore of the Dead Sea. This is the area where David hid out from Saul and his armies. (See 1 Samuel 23:24-29; 24:1-22).

Jaffa is the southern and oldest part of Tel Aviv and an ancient port city. Jaffa is most famous for its association with Jonah, Solomon, and Peter. (See 2 Chronicles 2:13-16; Jonah 1:1-3; Acts 9:32-36).

Masada is a spectacular fortress/palace built by Herod that sits atop a 1,300 foot plateau. It is also the site of one of the most dramatic episodes in Jewish history (66-74 AD).

Tel Aviv is a modern city established in 1909 by 60 families. The nation's second largest city stands as symbol of vitality and the determination of contemporary Israel. The name was taken from Ezekiel 3:15.

- **Friday, October 12th**

We'll sleep in a bit, then drive by Jaffa on our way out of Tel Aviv. Stop at Ein Gedi (and go to overlook). Off to relax at the Dead Sea (David D.S. Resort and Spa) before dinner and Dead Sea experience!

Some Places of Interest to Note (alphabetical order).

Please also see audio-visual resources on our trip webpage.

Eilat is Israel's southernmost city and is a busy port and popular resort. Located on the tip of the Red Sea, the city's beaches, coral reef, nightlife, and desert landscapes make it a popular destination for domestic and international tourism.

Petra is an historical and archaeological city in southern Jordan. Petra lies in a basin and is home to some of the most stunning ruins of the ancient world. Petra is believed to have been settled as early as 9,000 BC, and was possibly established in the 4th century BC as the capital city of the Nabataean Kingdom.

Timna National Park is the beautiful location of the world's first copper mine. The park features great scenery, wild ibex, and acacia trees. We'll take a guided tour of the reconstructed wilderness Tabernacle. (See Joshua 15:10; Judges 14:1-5).

- **Saturday, October 13th**

Leave the hotel and head to Masada. Lunch, then off to Eilat.

Stop at Timna National Park and see the Tabernacle replica. Enjoy a free afternoon in Eilat. Tonight we stay at the beautiful Yam Suf Hotel.

Notes:

Meals in Israel

A full Israeli breakfast and evening meal is included in the price of the tour (you pay for drinks ordered from a waiter). The food is delicious! Some of the foods served may be new to you. All of the food served to you in the hotel should be safe to eat. However, if you purchase foods in open-air markets, use common sense. You may want to consider bringing along some snack foods to eat on the bus (or airplane) while traveling. **Note:** Lunches are not included in the price of the tour.



See food tips on our trip webpage.

Climate

The following are historic average temperatures (highs/lows in °F) for October: In Tel Aviv: 80/66; at the Dead Sea: 90/75; in Eilat: 92/70; in Petra: 83/57; in Tiberias 86/70; and in Jerusalem 77/62.



Clothing

Israel is a very casual country and comfort will be key on our trip. Keep in mind that you will either be walking or riding a bus/plane for long stretches of time. Jeans, slacks, and shorts are appropriate, and wash and wear items are very helpful. Consider a light sweater or jacket for the airplane.



Note: Many religious sites prohibit both men and women from entering if their knees or shoulders are not covered. You must have appropriate clothing to wear when we visit those sites. You will be notified ahead of time when these rules apply.

As the weather and temperature can vary a great deal in October, it is helpful to wear layers. Remember to pack a bathing suit to use at the Dead Sea, Eilat, or the Jordan.

More about Shoes

Comfortable walking shoes with nonskid soles are a must for this trip. There will be a great deal of walking during the tour, often over uneven terrain and smooth (perhaps wet) stones. You may want to bring a pair of water shoes (for Hezekiah's Tunnel, for example) or hiking sandals.



Hotel Accommodations

(To be confirmed once the rooming list is complete).



We have contacted all the hotels and each report having hairdryers and irons (though the hairdryers might not be as powerful as you're used to). All of them have laundry service (for send out) but it is expensive. Many of them have electrical adaptors, but they are in high demand.

Oct. 11: Tel Aviv: Crowne Plaza: 011-972-3-520-1111

Oct. 12: Dead Sea: David DS Resort: 011-972-8-659-1234

Oct. 13-14: Eilat: Yam Suf: 011-972-8-638-2222

Oct. 15-17: Tiberias/Galilee: U Boutique: 011-972-4-900-6666

Oct. 18-21: Jerusalem: Dan Panorama: 011-972-2-569-5695

Packing

DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT OR AIRLINE INFORMATION. KEEP THOSE ITEMS WITH YOU.



You may want to make an inventory of what you pack. Keep a copy in your carry-on and leave one at home. It is also a good idea to carry a copy of your passport.

You will need to keep your passport with you at all times, as well as airline boarding passes and any money you may take. Therefore you might want to bring a backpack or shoulder bag.

Some things that you may want to pack in your carry-on (to take on the plane): a change of clothes, essential toiletries (do not take glass or aerosols), necessary medications, tissues, snacks, neck pillow, sleeping mask, and a good book.

TRY VERY HARD NOT TO OVERPACK.

Be aware of airline baggage restrictions and that you must personally handle your own luggage in the airports/through customs. Leave enough room to pack purchases made in Israel.

Please go to the Air France Website for current security, baggage and weight restriction information.

Do not forget your Bible. You may also want to bring materials for taking notes and journaling.

See packing tips videos on our trip webpage.

Images below: Masada.



Off to Petra

- **Sunday, October 14th**

Day trip to the amazing "City of Stone," Petra. Back to overnight in gorgeous Eilat. Specific details about the day's schedule (departure, amount of time while there, return, etc.) are still coming together as of this printing. It's likely to be an early departure and a very long day. There will be a meal at a hotel nearby. Horse-drawn carriages are available for those not wanting to hike.

Images below: Eilat, Petra.



Trip Information

Please note: We have posted many helpful tutorials and audio-visual helps on our trip webpage related to packing, food, and other travel-related items.

Current Flight Information (Air France)

(Information is subject to change. All times are local. Estimated total flight time is included).



Departure Date: Wednesday, October 10th

From San Francisco (SFO): Flight AF083 at 3:05 PM. (9 hours 45 min).

Arrive Paris (de Gaulle): Thursday, October 11th, 10:50 AM.

Depart Paris: 6 PM, flight AF1120. (4 hours 25 min).

Arrive Tel Aviv, 11:25 PM.

Return Date: Tuesday, October 23rd

From Tel Aviv: Flight AF1121 at 1 AM. (4 hours 45 min).

Arrive Paris: 5:05 AM.

Depart Paris: 10:10 AM, flight AF084. (10 hours 31 min).

Arrive San Francisco: 12:30 PM.

Important notes about airline tickets and check-in:

- There will be no paper tickets. All that you need at check-in is your passport.
- Arrive at the airport 3 hours before the flight (SFO International Terminal). Arrive at your gate 1 hour before the flight.
- (East Coasters, give Chris and Teresa your flight details. Arrive at your designated airport 3 hours before departure).
- West Coasters, contact Chris Alford via cell phone when you get through security at SFO (916) 765-2901, and meet him at our assigned departure gate one hour before the flight.

At the Paris layover:

- All tour participants: Please meet at our departure gate one hour before flight time. (East Coasters also need to make arrangements with Chris about verifying their presence at the airport when they first arrive from the U.S.).

Later on Monday, October 22: Saying Goodbye

Farewell Dinner at Abu Gosh. (Famous for its food, a town just outside Jerusalem called the hummus capital of Israel).

Arrive at Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion airport about 10 PM.

- **Tuesday, October 23rd**

Plane scheduled to depart Paris at 1 AM. Arrive SFO at 12:30 PM.

Notes:

Headed toward the Sea of Galilee Area

Some Places of Interest to Note (alphabetical order).

Please also see audio-visual resources on our trip webpage.

Caesarea Philippi is located at the southern base of Mount Hermon. Home to the springs of Banias, one of the sources that feeds the Jordan River, the city was constructed by Philip, son of Herod the Great. This is the place where Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (See Matthew 16:13-20).

Capernaum is a city on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus made his home when he was in the area. Many of his miracles were performed here. (See Matthew 8:5-17; 9:1-13, 18-38; 11:20-24; 12:9-14).

The **Golan Heights** is a mountain range in northern Israel bordering Syria and is of great strategic and military importance.

The **Mt. of Beatitudes**, situated in the hills above the Sea of Galilee, is the traditional site where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. (See Matthew chapters 5-7).

Nof Ginnosar is a kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee where an ancient boat dating to the time of Jesus was found and is now preserved.

The **Sea of Galilee (Yam Kinneret)** is the lowest freshwater lake on earth and the largest lake in Israel. This body of water is fed by the Jordan River which has its beginning with three springs located in the north. Much of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee was centered here. (See Matthew 2:19-23; 3:13; 4:12-25; 17:22-23; 19:1-2).

The **Synagogue in Magdala** is the oldest known synagogue in Galilee. A coin found here from 29 AD proves that the site dates from the first century. Since we know that Jesus taught throughout the Galilee region, it is almost certain that he came to this very spot. Magdala is the hometown of Mary Magdalene. (See Luke 8:1-2; John 20:1-18).

Tabgha is situated on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee and the traditional site of the "loaves and fishes" miracle. A 4th century church here features a floor mosaic of fish and bread. (See Mark 6:30-46).

Tel Dan (and Abraham's Gate) is a nature preserve where one of the three springs that flow into the Jordan River originates. Also the site where Abraham entered the city gates of Laish, the tribe of Dan settled here some six centuries later. (See Genesis 14:12-16).

Tiberias is an ancient city established about 20 AD and named in honor of the 2nd Roman Emperor. Herod Antipas made it the capital of his realm in the Galilee.

The **Valley of Tears** was the scene of a major tank battle on the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Yardenit is a baptismal site prepared and operated by the Israeli Government on the Jordan at the southern shore of the Galilee.

- **Monday, October 15th**

Depart Eilat. Qumran. Jordan River Baptism Site across from Jericho. Arrive in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Our hotel is the lovely, sea-side U Boutique Kinneret Hotel.

Images below: Qumran, Tiberias.



- **Monday, October 22nd**

Depart Hotel about 1 PM. Friends of Zion Museum. Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book & Jerusalem Model.

Images below: Shrine of the Book and Jerusalem model.





- **Sunday, October 21st**

Southern Steps and Street Ruins. Rabbi's Tunnel. City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel. Archeological sifting.

Images above: City of David archeological site, Hezekiah's Tunnel.



- **Tuesday, October 16th**

Boat ride on Sea of Galilee. Mount of Beatitudes. Synagogue in Magdala. Tabgha. Capernaum. Yardenit and baptismal renewal in the Jordan River.

Images above: Sea of Galilee.

Northern Israel Area

- **Wednesday, October 17th**

Dan and the Judge's & Abraham's Gates. Caesarea Philippi. The Valley of Tears & a look over into Syria. Golan Heights.

Images below: Abraham's Gate (Tel Dan), Caesarea Philippi.



- **Saturday, October 20th**

Mount of Olives. Garden of Gethsemane. Upper Room. St. Peter Gallicantu. Garden Tomb.

Images below: Garden of Gethsemane, Garden Tomb.





Friday, October 19th

Yad Vashim. Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Jewish Quarter. Cardo Maximus. Western Wall.

Images above: Jewish Quarter, Church of the Holy Sepulcher (inner Edicule),

Heading to Jerusalem

(Remember that the order and timing of sights may change, especially in Jerusalem).

**Some Places of Interest to Note (alphabetical order).
Please also see audio-visual resources on our trip webpage.**

Going up to Jerusalem...

Armageddon or Jezreel Valley is the location of many battles and victories by the Israelites and believed by many to be the site of a major, future battle in Christian eschatology. (See Revelation 16:13-16).

Caesarea Maritima began as a small port built by the Phoenicians in the 3rd century BC. The city rose to greatness under Herod and was named after Caesar Augustus. Cornelius was the first Gentile converted here and Paul was imprisoned while here. (See Acts 10:1-48; 18:18-22; and chapters 23-26).

Megiddo overlooks the fertile Jezreel Valley and is one of the most important archeological dig sites in Israel. Standing at a crossroads, its excavations have revealed over 25 civilizations dating back to 3,500 BC. (See 2 Chronicles 35:20-24).

Mt. Carmel, "Vineyard of God," is a mountain range which includes the peak (Mukraka) where Elijah triumphed over the prophets of Baal. It overlooks the Valley of Armageddon. (See 1 Kings 18:17-46).

In and around the Holy City...

The **Cardo Maximus** is the ancient heart of the Holy City. A restored main street dating back to the 2nd century, it remains a place to stop, browse, and shop even today.

The **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** is the site where most scholars and biblical historians believe Christ was crucified and buried. A site for major Christian pilgrimages since the 4th century, it was recently restored. The inner tomb is enclosed by a separate structure called the Edicule. (See Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-37).

The **City of David** is place where David established his kingdom and is situated outside the current location of the Zion Gate of the Old City.

The **Friends of Zion Museum** is an exhibit located in the heart of Jerusalem near the Old City that tells the story of how Gentiles have played important roles in aiding the Jewish people.

The **Garden of Gethsemane** is located on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives. Opposite the Eastern Gate of the Old City, this is the site where Jesus prayed on the night of his arrest. (See Matthew 26:36-46; John 18:1-11).

Golgotha and the Garden Tomb are located northeast of the Damascus Gate and the site some Christians believe to be the place of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Also known as Gordon's Calvary, it is now run by a British Society called the Garden Tomb Association. (See Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-37).

Hezekiah's Tunnel is a water tunnel carved under the City of David in ancient times. (See 2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:1-5).

Jerusalem, the Holy City, is located 38 miles east of the Mediterranean and 14 miles west of the Dead Sea. Beautifully situated about 2,740 feet above sea level, today's population is about 870,000. (See Genesis 14:17-24; 2 Samuel 5:6-16; Psalm 48:1-3; John 19: Acts 2).

The **Jewish Quarter** is the part of the Old City occupied by Jews. The other three sections are the Christian Quarter, the Muslim Quarter, and the Armenian Quarter.

Kidron Valley, valley running between the Mt. of Olives and the Old City. It is also known as the Valley of Kings and the Valley of Jehoshaphat. (See 2 Kings 23:4; Joel 3:1-2; John 18:1).

The **Mt. of Olives** is one of the most well-known and biblically significant mountains around Jerusalem and stands 300 feet above the city. (See Matthew 21:1-11; 23:37-39; Acts 1:1-12).

The **Rabbi's Tunnel (Western Wall Tunnel)** is an excavation that began shortly after 1967 and it runs along the retaining wall of the Temple Mount. The tunnel provides an opportunity to see more of the area surrounding the ancient Temple, touch the bedrock of Mt. Moriah, and get closer to the location of the First and Second Temples where the Holy of Holies and the Ark of the Covenant once rested.

Shorashim is a bookstore and gift shop in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City owned by two Orthodox Jewish brothers. Spending time in their shop hearing their perspective on Israel (including current events) is a highlight for many visitors to Jerusalem.

The **Shrine of the Book** is a part of the Israel Museum and contains the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also here is the Israel Model, a scale replica of the City of Jerusalem during Jesus' time.

The **Southern Steps** are ancient steps that Jesus had to have traveled to enter Jerusalem and the Temple area.

St. Peter Gallicantu (Caiphass' house) is the home of the high priest where Jesus was held the night before his crucifixion and the place where Peter denied Jesus. "Gallicantu" means cock's-crow.

The **Temple Mount Archeological Dig**, located outside the city walls, is where we will assist in sifting through debris rescued from a dump site after being illegally removed during construction of mosques on the Temple Mount.

The **Upper Room** is the traditional location of the Last Supper and the place where the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. (See Luke 22:1-30; Acts, 1:13-14; 2:1-42).

The **Western Wall or Wailing Wall (Kotel)** is the holiest site in the Jewish world and is a portion of the massive retaining wall that once stood around and supported the western side of the Temple Mount.

Yad Vashem ("Monument & Name") is the Holocaust Museum and national monument that sits atop Mt. Herzl.

- **Thursday, October 18th**

Megiddo. Mt. Carmel. Caesarea Maritima. Off to Jerusalem. We are staying at the Dan Panorama Hotel.

Images below: Mount Carmel, Caesarea Maritima.

