



M A R A N A T H A T O U R S I N C .



Holy Land

Walk with Jesus in His land

A L L T A X E S A N D T I P S I N C L U D E D

Garden Tomb

TOUR HOST:



Phillip Shuford,
Director of Missions

Tour Coordinator



Velma Merritt

March 11 – 20, 2024
\$4,555 from DALLAS

(Based on minimum of 20 passengers)

ISRAEL BEGINS HERE

DAY 1 - Monday, March 11, 2024

DALLAS / ISTANBUL

Today we will meet at the Dallas / Ft Worth International Airport for our flight to Istanbul via wide-body aircraft arriving the next day. Meals served on board.

DAY 2 - Tuesday, March 12, 2024

ISTANBUL / TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS

This afternoon we will arrive in Istanbul and transfer to our flight to Israel. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv we are met by our guide who will be with us for the time we are in the Holy Land. Continue past Tel Aviv, the largest city in Israel, to the famous Sea of Galilee in Tiberias where we check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 - Wednesday, March 13, 2024

DAN / CAESAREA PHILIPPI / MAGDALA

"The Head of all those Kingdoms" (Joshua 11:10) The Sources of the Jordan. This morning our drive takes us to the northern limits of Jesus' travel as we cross the River Hatzbani to Dan. Here we combine a nature walk beside the Upper Jordan with views of the ancient ruins, topped by the Israelite high place that supported a golden calf (1 Kings 12). Then a short drive to Banias (Caesarea Philippi), dedicated to Pan the Greek god of pastures, flocks and shepherds; here Peter made his great profession of faith, recognition of Christ Jesus (Matthew 16). Driving along the foot of Mount Hermon, we ascend onto the Golan Plateau for a magnificent view of upper Israel. On our return we will stop at Chorazin and then on to Magdala, one of the oldest synagogues dating back to the first century AD. Home of Mary Magdalena and was the fishing center where Peter would have brought his catch to be sold or processed. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 - Thursday, March 14, 2024

SEA OF GALILEE / CAPERNAUM / BEIT SHEAN

This morning we enjoy a relaxing boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, landing at Nof Ginosar where we will see the New Testament Boat found below the sea. Continue our morning tour with a visit to Capernaum, Tabgha and the Mount of Beatitudes.

In the afternoon we follow the Rift Valley the Rift Valley running parallel to the Jordan, along the route Jesus most frequently traveled to Jerusalem. We visit Bet Shean at the foot of Mt. Gilboa, where King Saul was slain, see the evidences of Egyptian, Roman, and Byzantine occupations, and view the ancient tel, Roman Theater and church mosaics. Our last stop today will be at the Jordan River where we may have the opportunity to be baptized (provided a pastor is traveling on the tour), then return to the hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 - Friday, March 15, 2024

CANA / NAZARETH / CAESAREA / JERUSALEM

"We are going up to Jerusalem." (Matt. 20:18). This morning we travel west passing Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first Miracle, turning water into wine (John 2). Continue on to Sepphoris, birthplace of Mary. Next we make our way to Nazareth and ascend the Mount of the Precipice at the brow of Nazareth overlooking the Valley of Jezreel, synonymous with Armageddon. Continue on to Mt. Carmel, site of Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal.

From there we drive towards the Mediterranean coast traveling south along the coastal highway to Caesarea by the Sea. We enter Caesarea Maritima to explore this Roman bridgehead to the east, which became the Christian springboard to the west. After the visit to this ancient harbor, we board our bus and we head up the historic Beth Horon road (Joshua 10:10) to the Benjamin Plateau, passing ancient Gibeon and continuing on to Jerusalem. Finally, atop Mt. Scopus, we behold majestic Jerusalem. Check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6 - Saturday, March 16, 2024

MASADA / QUMRAN / DEAD SEA / JERICHO

Today we drive to Masada and ascend by cable car to the magnificent ruins of the fortress where, from 70 to 73 AD, Jewish defenders made their last stand in the Judean revolt against Rome. We see the remains of storehouses, cisterns and a sixth-century Byzantine church. Continuing alongside the Dead Sea, 1,300 ft. below sea level -- the lowest spot on earth -- we proceed to Ein Gedi where time permitting we will walk the path to see the waterfall in the desert.

This afternoon we continue to Qumran and the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We will have a stop for lunch and time for those that want to swim in the Dead Sea. We travel to Jericho, the world's oldest city. From the excavated tel atop the ruins of ancient Jericho we view the lush green Jordan Valley, Elisha's spring and Qarantal, the Mount of Temptation. We will head up to Jerusalem and return to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 7 - Sunday, March 17, 2024

MT. OF OLIVES / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE / SHEPHERD'S FIELDS / BETHLEHEM

"If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace." (Luke 19:42) Our drive this morning takes us past the Chapel of Ascension and Paternoster to the Mt. of Olives for an orientation view of Jerusalem and the opportunity of a group photograph overlooking Jerusalem. We then walk the traditional Passion walk. We descend to the church known as Dominus Flevit ("Our Lord weeps"). After viewing the Golden Gate, we walk downhill to Gethsemane, where we take time to meditate on the Gospel text and view the Church of All Nations. Enter the Old City and make our way to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, before we proceed to the Jerusalem Archeological Park where we see the Steps that entered the temple and the Southern Wall. It was here that Jesus would have taught the disciples. See a video that shows the temple as it was at Herod's (or Jesus') time.

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord". (Luke 2:10-11). This afternoon we drive south to one of the possible sites for Shepherds' Fields. We continue into Bethlehem itself, walking through the restored old town to the Church of the Nativity and visiting the manger and see the cave of St. Jerome. We drive back to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 - Monday, March 18, 2024

JERUSALEM / RABBI TUNNEL / SIFTING PROJECT / YAD VASHEM / SHRINE OF THE BOOK

This morning we will board our bus for our exciting tour to the famous Rabbi Tunnel. Here we will enter by the Western Wall Plaza and go down to the foundation of the Second Temple. We will see a model that will demonstrate where we are in location to the Temple in the time of Christ. Continue along the tunnel as we proceed to the Gateway of the Priests entry to the Holy of Holies. We continue to the Temple Mount Sifting Project on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Here we have the opportunity to sift through rubble that originated in ancient buildings from the Temple Period and learn about findings from archaeologists and expert guides at the site.

This afternoon we will head to Yad Vashem and see the Museum of the Holocaust. Continue to Shrine of the Book and the model city of Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9 - Tuesday, March 19, 2024

OLD CITY / VIA DOLOROSA / GARDEN TOMB

"He has risen!" (Mark 16:6) After breakfast we transfer to the Dung Gate, where we ascend to the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque, considered the third holiest site of Islam, located on the site of the ancient Temple Mount. Here the first and second Temples once stood. Just to the north we find the Pools of Bethesda (John 5) and St. Anne's Church. The church is perfectly preserved from the Crusader period -- with remarkable acoustics. Continuing on we see Pilate's Judgment Hall, the Chapel of

Flagellation, Lithostrotos, and the Arch of Ecce Homo (Behold the Man). We then follow the Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa) through the bazaars as far as the Holy Sepulcher. From there we walk from the Christian Quarter along the Arab Souks through the Cardo Maximo and past the Armenian Quarter. Continuing on to Mount Zion we visit the Upper Room and the Tomb of King David, and then to the grounds of a church called Peter in Gallicantu, which affords the best view of early Jerusalem from the west. (Here, the Assumptions Fathers suggest, was the house where the High Priest Caiaphas interrogated Jesus). We board our bus to the Garden Tomb where we will end our day with a special visit and the possibility of having a private communion on the grounds outside the city walls. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 - Wednesday, March 20, 2024
JERUSALEM / TEL AVIV / USA

We transfer to the Ben Gurion Airport for our flight home with unforgettable memories to cherish always. Knowing we have walked in the footsteps of Jesus and the early Christians on such a memorable tour will bring new meaning to our Bible reading.

You Will See What the Bible Says...

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family and from your father's house, To a land that I will show you."

Genesis 12:1

I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Genesis 17:8

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

Hebrews 11:9

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

Matthew 26:36

And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

John 19:17-18



You can have an unforgettable journey into the Holy Land. Many places you have studied you can see and experience.

Picture yourself sailing in a boat similar to the one the disciples would have sailed on the Sea of Galilee. See the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem, walk the streets of Jerusalem, and experience the Lord's Supper at the Garden Tomb. You can be baptized in the Jordan River.

God picked this land for his chosen people. There is no place like it! You will feel His presence as you tour and will be awe-struck by all He has done. It was in this land that your roots were planted and your Christian heritage was born. The land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is your land—your spiritual home. When you seek Him here, you will never be the same. Before you travel you read the Scriptures in black and white, but after you have been to Israel you will read those same Scriptures in bright, beautiful color.

At the end of this tour two things will most certainly be changed—you and your understanding of the Bible.

Join us and like-minded friends as we together journey and grow in our faith.

ABOUT OUR LEADERS

Velma Merritt is a published author (velmamerritt.com) and has led numerous tours of Israel. As a young woman she met and married her college sweetheart, who became a pastor, fulfilling her calling of being a pastor's wife. During the course of their ministry together they lived in seventeen different areas including two European countries and four states. Today Velma lives in Nixa, Missouri located between her three children and nine grandchildren. There she continues to minister through writing and teaching.



As Director of Missions with the Tri-County Baptist Association, **Phillip Shuford** is a pastor to pastors and a missions catalyst for churches in three southwest Missouri counties. He is fluent in Spanish and has done mission work in Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and Honduras. He holds three Master's degrees and the Doctor of Ministry degree. He and his wife Elsy (originally from Venezuela) have two children



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<http://www.maranathatours.com/Shuford-Merritt-Mar-2024->

ISRAEL

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Make checks payable to "Maranatha Tours, Inc."
and mail to the above address.

REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed is my/our \$ _____ deposit (\$500 per person)

Legal Name: _____

First/Middle/Last (As it appears on your passport)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birth Date: ____/____/____ Age ____ ☐ M ☐ F

Birth Date: ____/____/____ Age ____ ☐ M ☐ F

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship _____

☐ Please try to accommodate me with a Roommate

☐ I do request a single room @ ISRAEL \$1040.

Travel Protection Plan

For more information on the available plan, get a quote, or to enroll, go to:

<https://maranathatours.travelexinsurance.com/index.aspx?location=03-0261&go=bp&navigation=off>

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reserve domestic air from _____

Velma Merritt - #240326 Departure Date March 11, 2024

By signing below, I certify that I have read the Terms and Conditions understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to additional fees that may apply if full payment has not been received.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

minors require parental or guardian signature

*** (ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE)

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATIONS: First class hotels based on twin occupancy with bath. Single-room supplement totals are ISRAEL \$1040.

MEALS: Unlimited buffet, ISRAEL BREAKFASTS 8 and DINNERS 8 are included. No meals are provided in USA. Extra charge for coffee, tea or other beverage not included in the menu of the day. If a passenger chooses not to have a meal, there will be no refund for unused meals.

AIRLINE ROUTES & TICKETS: In order to keep prices low, MTI does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once "printed" or "issued", airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. Full payment is due 45 days prior to commencement of travel. If the passenger cancels within 45 days of departure or after air tickets are written (whichever comes sooner), then 100% of airfare will be forfeited by passenger. All airfares are subject to government approval and change without notice. AIR-cost and schedules could change. Please Note: An overnight may be necessary for groups misconnecting on the outbound or return. Airline tickets are issued 45 days prior to departure, seat assignments can be requested but are not guaranteed as most group seat assignments can only be finalized at the airport upon check in.

ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES: You may incur additional airline baggage and optional fees (food, Excess Baggage, Items of a Personal Nature etc...) and will be charged by the airline at check in.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips to guides & drivers, gratuities to porters, restaurant and hotel servers, fuel surcharges, foreign departure taxes and visas (for US passport holders) are included in the tour cost. (Increases in government taxes, fuel surcharges, gratuities and visas fees are subject to change). The taxes as of print are: ISRAEL \$748, the tips as of print are: ISRAEL \$144 per person.

SIGHTSEEING: By modern motor coach including services of English speaking guides and entrance fees to places included in the itinerary. Where available all groups will be provided with portable listening devices. Passengers are responsible for loss or damage of the device.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport, laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters and after-dinner coffee or tea, meals not included in the itinerary, room service, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned. Baggage fees and surcharges are different for every airline therefore please contact the airline for specific baggage allowance and fees. Maranatha Tours Inc. is not responsible for these related fees as this is solely the responsibility of the passenger.

PASSPORTS, VISAS: A valid passport is required for all passengers. If you do not have a passport please contact your local passport office. Passports must be valid for 6 months after return date. For all non-US citizens please consult the consulate for each country you will be entering as a VISA may also be required and will be the responsibility of each passenger to obtain.

TOUR PRICE: Price is based on international tariffs and rates in effect on Date of proposal and is subject to change should there be a revision in AIR or LAND rates prior to payment in full of the tour price. Price is based on a minimum of passengers using double occupancy. In the event that a minimum of passengers does not book the tour within 91 days of departure the agent reserves the right to cancel the tour. You will be notified immediately upon any increase and will have the option of paying the difference or cancelling with full refund. Late booking or changes may result in an additional fee. Maranatha Tours Inc. reserves the right to correct invoices, itineraries, and/or brochures without notice. **PRICE INCREASES:** All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change if not paid in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. Participants will be notified immediately upon discovery of an increase and will have the option of accepting and paying the increase or of notifying Maranatha Tours in writing within 10 days of receipt of the increase notification that they do not accept the increase and request the tour be canceled with a full refund.

LAND ONLY: From time to time a tour may be canceled due to not materializing. If you choose to purchase a land only package and arrange your own domestic and international flight independently, Maranatha Tours Inc. is not responsible for any international flight schedule changes. If domestic tickets are purchased by an individual, all penalties and fare differences will be paid by the client.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations received within 90 days or less from departure may incur an additional late fee plus any additional fees based on air availability at that time of registration. For reservations received 90 – 61 days prior to departure a \$100 late reservation fee will be applied (plus additional airline & land fees). For Reservations received 60 – 31 days before departure the late fee will be \$200; for reservations received 30 – 1 days prior to departures the late fee will be \$300 per person. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

TOUR PROTECTION PLAN (optional): Maranatha Tours Inc. recommends you purchase a Tour Protection Plan for Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay, and more. To view/download the Policy, go to: <http://policy.travelexinsurance.com/356A-0920>

DEPOSIT, PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATION: A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure reservations, which will be applied to the price of the tour. An additional 25% of the remaining balance will be due at 200 days prior, 120 days prior, and 60 days prior to the departure. The remaining balance to be paid in full not later than 45 days prior to departure of the tour. If payment is not received 45 days prior to departure, a \$100 late payment fee will be assessed. All cancellations must be in writing by letter, fax or e-mail to Maranatha Tours and will be in effect on the date of receipt by Maranatha Tours. There is no exception to cancellation fee. Any exceptions must be in writing from Maranatha Tours, Inc. Air penalties are not part of the percentages below and vary based on the airline policy at the time of ticket issue. Returned checks incur a \$30 NSF fee. Cancellation Fees:

- 121+ Days Prior: \$100.00 per person administration fee
- 120-91 Days Prior: \$200 for international tour, \$500 for international tour and cruise
- 90-61 Days Prior: \$500 for international tour, \$700 for international tour and cruise
- 60-46 Days Prior: 50% of tour cost
- 45 Days Prior or less: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY: Land arrangements including surface transportation: Maranatha Tours, and the participating Tour Operators operate the land tours offered under this program only as agents of the railroads, car rental contractors, steamship lines, hotels, bus operators, sightseeing contractors and others which provide the actual land arrangements and are not liable for any act, omission, delay, injury, loss or damage or non-performance occurring in connection with these land arrangements. International air carriers and other IATA carriers, steamship lines and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by these companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage. The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary, delete or substitute sites when tour operator feels it to be in the best interest of the tour. Maranatha Tours does not provide additional assistance to any passengers that have physical or mobility limitations as tour itineraries require full mobility. Please advise Maranatha Tours if you have any limitations that may impact your tour. All changes not received in writing by Maranatha Tours at least 45 days prior to departure will incur a \$75 change fee per person for each revision (that is in addition to any other charges per revision once the basic or pre/post tour package has been confirmed).

FIT TO TRAVEL: By registering, passengers accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Many sites are not accessible to physically challenged and may limit the overall tour experience. Maranatha Tours does not provide additional assistance to passengers with physical or mobility limitations as tour itineraries require full mobility. Please advise Maranatha Tours if you have any limitations that may impact your tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to emergencies. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged the cost of the additional hotel accommodations, meals and single rooms supplements required. Should sights be missed due to necessary changes, no refund for missed touring will be given.

CHANGES & DEVIATIONS: All changes and deviations will incur a \$125 fee, plus any other additional costs associated with services included in the basic or pre/post tour and change requests must be received at least 90 days prior to departure of the tour. Transfers are included in our group round-trip programs, passengers who deviate or purchase land only packages will be responsible for arriving and leaving independently and must transfer at their own expense.

CREDIT CARDS: All prices already include a 5% discount for payment by cash, check or money order.

EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS: Foreign currency exchange rates fluctuate daily. For example, in 2012, Euro rates versus the US Dollar fluctuated from a low below 1.10 to almost 1.70 (meaning that one Euro cost \$1.10 to \$1.70 US). It is very difficult to set the price of a tour when we cannot predict what exchange rates will do. We price our tours at \$1.10 = € 1 and adjust for fluctuations at final billing. If the rate drops below the original rate, we pass the savings on. If rates increase, we must pass those costs on.

For full terms and conditions go to <https://www.maranathatours.com/resources/terms-and-conditions>