

Proposed Itinerary and Dates for Wiebe Group Travel to Israel

Note: When making flight reservations to Israel, be sure you arrive on "Day 2" of the itinerary. Day 1 is your overnight flight from the western hemisphere.

Day 1 - Tuesday, Aug 10: **We are really going to Israel!**

Today is spent journeying from our hometowns to the Land of Promise



Day 2 - Wednesday, Aug 11: **Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv**

We finally arrive in Israel! Transfer to our Guesthouse in Tel Aviv/Jaffa near the Mediterranean Sea and spend the afternoon/evening relaxing, swimming and napping after a very long flight. Orientation meeting before **Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv/Jaffa**

Day 3 - Thursday, Aug 12: **Samaria**

After a late breakfast of swimming (in the Mediterranean Sea), our tour of biblical Israel begins. We drive east to the first location in the Promised Land mentioned in the Bible, Alon Moreh before eating lunch at an army base. Then we take in the city of Shechem, which was important throughout Bible times, and even to this day, from Mount Gerizim (home of the descendants of the Samaritan people). We stop in the ancient sites of Bethel where Isaac dreamed of a ladder and angels. Then we will be invited to join our tour operator and guide in their home at Maale Levona for a **Bar B Que dinner with some of their friends and neighbors. Overnight at the Samaria Guesthouse**



Day 4 - Friday, Aug 13: **Shiloh**

It is fitting that we begin the day with Israeli's first capitol: Shiloh, where Joshua placed Moses' Wilderness Tabernacle and where it stood for the next 369 years. **Traditional Shabbat Dinner and Overnight at the Samaria Guesthouse**



Day 5 - Saturday, Aug 14: **Samaria**



Today is Sabbath for Orthodox Jews the world over. It will be our special treat to experience a true Sabbath in an Orthodox community in the land of Israel. We will talk, play, and just plain relax. **No ordinary "tour" offers this kind of experience!** It has been one of the most memorable experiences for every one of our groups-a treasure you will never forget! **Lunch, dinner**

and overnight at the Samaria Guesthouse

Day 6 - Sunday, Aug 15: Dead Sea

We are headed east towards the Jordan River Valley, past the world's oldest town, Jericho, home of Rahab the harlot, and the location where Joshua entered the Land after 40 years in the Wilderness. We will climb the cliffs of Ein Gedi and swim in the beautiful waterfalls before arriving at the cave where David cut off part of Saul's cloak.



Bring your bathing suit. Then it's on to the Dead Sea, the world's lowest point for a swim (float). We then check into our Guesthouse for a relaxing swim and dinner. After dinner we will drive to Mount Sodom and discuss the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. **Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse near the Dead Sea**



Day 7 - Monday, Aug 16: Masada, Beersheba, Nokdim

We arise while it is still dark for a climb to the top of Masada to watch the sun rise over the Dead Sea. We will attempt to understand why King Herod would build such a fortress and discover how the Romans finally captured it after three years, only to find a great surprise awaiting them. We will return to the Guesthouse for breakfast, relaxation, a swim and to check out before traveling west to one of the most ancient archaeological sites in Israel: Beersheba. Abraham settled here and dug his well (which exists today). Here he made a covenant with the Philistine king (a covenant which would have disastrous repercussions for future generations); here Isaac and Jacob grew up. From Beersheba we arrive at a Bedouin camp to enjoy the hospitality of these desert peoples and where we will spend the night.

Bedouin dinner and sleeping in a Bedouin Tent in the Negev Desert

Day 8 - Tuesday, Aug 17: Arad, Jerusalem

After breakfast we take a camel ride into the desert before visiting the ancient, walled city of Arad. Tel Arad is one of the richest archaeological sites in southern Israel. Here Moses' spies began to encounter walled cities and returned to camp with a bad report. We head north, following the footsteps of Abraham as he obeyed God and took his son, Isaac, toward Mount Moriah (later the Temple Mount).



As we enter Jerusalem—the "City of Gold"—we will learn the difference between the names Jerusalem, City of David, Zion and the Temple Mount. **Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse in Jerusalem**



Day 9 – Wednesday, Aug 18: Jerusalem & King David's Life

We enter the City of David and walk over the area of King David's palace and then take out our flashlights for a walk through one of the marvels of King Hezekiah's reign: the Water Tunnel. Leaving the Tunnel, we will stand beside the recently discovered Pool of Siloam. We will view Bethlehem

where David and Jesus were born and continue to the valley of HaElah, where we will each choose 5 smooth stones from the battleground of David and Goliath. **Dinner** with Christian home schooling families. **Overnight at the Guesthouse in Jerusalem**

Day 10 - Thursday, Aug 19: Jewish, Moslem & Christian Jerusalem

After breakfast, we expect to be among those allowed entrance to the Temple Mount. We have the unique privilege of working alongside archaeologists as we sift through soil from beneath the Temple Mount looking for ancient Temple-era artifacts. We now visit Shorashim, our favorite Old City Jewish store where the owners will discuss the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. We now visit Machne Yehuda, Jerusalem's famous outdoor market. **Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse in Jerusalem**



After dinner, we will walk to Ben Yehuda, also known as the "City Center" with its pedestrian shopping streets.

Day 11 - Friday, Aug 20: Christian Jerusalem

Today we walk the streets of the Old City, following the footsteps of Jesus: The Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa and the Pool of Bethesda. There will be time for shopping in the exotic Moslem Quarter. Then we will continue to the Garden Tomb, possible site of Jesus' burial.



Day 12 - Saturday, Aug 21: Northern Israel

We say our goodbyes to Jerusalem as we head north along the Jordan River Valley to the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Along the way we will discuss many of the biblical incidents that occurred in these areas: David's flight from his son, Absalom; Jacob wrestling with an angel; the hometown areas of Elijah and Elisha; and many more. Upon arrival at the Sea of Galilee we will relax and swim. We will be returning to this resort for the next few days so that all can swim and relax in the Sea. **Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse on the Sea of Galilee**



Day 13 – Sunday, Aug 22: Jesus' Ministry Area

This is our day to encircle the Sea of Galilee and become intimately acquainted with the towns and areas of Jesus' ministry as written in the Gospels. **You will never read your New Testament the same after today!** We will explore Tabgha, Capernaum (where Peter's house has been

discovered along with the synagogue where Jesus taught), and the Mount of Beatitudes. We will see the cliff where the demon-possessed pigs lunged to their deaths. Be sure to bring your waterproof camera because we are now going to raft the Jordan River! **Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse on the Sea of Galilee**

Day 14 – Monday, Aug 23: Galilee

Traveling north we visit Banias (biblical Caesarea Philippi) where we will learn what Jesus meant when He spoke of "the gates of Hell". We then move on to Tel Dan, one of the sources of the Jordan River. We'll hike through the Tel with its rushing streams and arrive at the remains of the ancient altar of King Jeroboam. (Now we can say we have been "from Dan to Beersheba", the entire length of biblical Israel). We will return to the Jordan River where we may baptize our children or be baptized. We end the day with an evening boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.



Dinner and overnight at the hotel in the Galilee



Day 15 – Tuesday, Aug 24: Galilee, Airport

On our last day in the Holy Land we stand atop Mt. Carmel with its breathtaking view of the Valley of Armageddon to tell the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Our next destination: the restored city of Caesarea, built by King Herod and site of the prison that held the apostle, Paul. Here Pontius Pilot ruled. We will sit in the arena and walk the floor of

the great Hippodrome where chariot races were held and where Christians were torn apart by wild beasts. We end the day in the oldest port town in the world: Jaffa. Here Peter was staying with Simon the tanner when he received his vision to speak to the Gentiles in Caesarea. We will read the book of Jonah as we stand in the very place where Jonah fled from the call of God. We say our final **"farewells" at dinner** before our departure for the airport and our flight home. Goodbye, Israel, until we return again.

Cost for Tour

\$1725 adult (2 adults and 2 children) plus flights (est. \$1250 each)

\$1629 child (per child sharing room with parents) plus flights (est. \$1250 each)

For more information please call 877-436-2317