

EXPERIENCE TRAVEL TOURS

FOR A TRULY UNFORGETTABLE AND LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Witness Tour of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel

19 – 29 October 2020

This tailor-made itinerary is designed to help Christians engage their faith with the struggle of the Palestinian people, in response to the call of Palestinian Christians for help, issued in the Kairos document of 2009, "A Moment of Truth: a word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering" as they live under Israel's occupation.

The Tour will provide an opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the political realities of the region and people of other faiths and none are most welcome to join this tour. The first part of the tour is spent in the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT), which has been under military occupation for 52 years, and will then move to Israel to learn about life for Palestinians living in an apartheid state. Opportunities are provided to visit several historic Biblical sites and places of worship and there will be numerous encounters with local Christians, Jews and Muslims to learn about their lives and the issues they face.

The itinerary includes over thirty encounters thus facilitating an outstanding opportunity to:

- **meet** with inspiring key people and organisations who work on the cutting edge providing political analysis, education, humanitarian assistance and legal representation
- **look** at issues concerning housing and water rights, displacement, refugees, mental and physical health, travel restrictions, settlements, closures, women, children, education and the struggle to preserve Palestinian heritage
- **learn** about genuine media reporting and the security needs for all people
- **gain** insight about the elements required for obtaining a just and sustainable solution for both Palestinians and Israelis based on international law
- **discover** what brings hope to the locals and what they want us to do when we return home
- **participate** in daily evening debriefing sessions to discuss the day's programme and end each day with devotions



Israel's Separation Wall that snakes into Bethlehem

Experience Travel Tours (ETT), founded in 1999, has established a strong track record in providing alternative issue-based study tours to Palestine/Israel for hundreds of internationals from many countries.

ETT tours are done in conjunction with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD), established in 1997 as a peace and human rights organisation. Core analysis is provided by its Director, Dr Jeff Halper who is an author, lecturer, political activist and former Nobel Peace Prize nominee whose perspectives are much sought after globally by the media, politicians, NGOs, religious bodies, peace activists, and diplomats. The tour will be led by an award-winning campaigner in conflict resolution, who has fronted the tours since their inception and including during times of high tension. Over the years she has founded two leading organisations, has engaged extensively with British and international NGOs and charities on the issue of Palestine/Israel and has lobbied in Britain, at the EU and the UN.

Assistance will be provided by Revd. David Stephenson and Revd. Sue Parfitt from Bristol as they organise study and preparation meetings prior to the Tour and they will lead the devotional session at the close of each day.

Travel will take participants to the different geographical areas in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, the Jordan Valley, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Haifa and Jaffa. See layers of history from before the time of the Romans, including ancient terraces, ruins, and olive trees more than 2000 years old. Experience the culture in a variety of ways from cuisine to markets, to traditional dress and embroidery, art and architecture and with the living reminder that this area is home to the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The cost per person is £1360 which includes the full tour programme with accommodation at Mary's House in Bethlehem, run by the Bridgettine Sisters and at the three-star Galilee Hotel in Nazareth at half board (bed, breakfast and evening meal), sharing a twin-bedded room with ensuite facilities, tour leader, guides, fees, donations and tips. Not included are flights, lunches, and travel insurance. A supplement for a single room is available for an additional £275. A £300 non-refundable deposit is required once the application and booking forms have been received. The balance payment is due by 17 August 2020. Spaces are limited to a maximum of 18 participants.

All interested parties should be physically fit, able to climb steps and walk over rough terrain, with the stamina to cope with a full daily programme. There is no need for special inoculations.

Contact info@experiencetraveltours.org for an application form and the completed booking form will form the contract between ETT and the participant. An information pack with a suggested reading list, details about the people and organisations visited and practical guidance concerning travel, currency, weather, dress, shopping, etc is provided for those joining the tour and information following the tour is also provided. Participants are given personal guidance and any questions are answered to help prepare for this ETT Witness Tour. Throughout the tour your security is our top priority. We only work with the best of those on the ground who are highly experienced and trustworthy. Therefore, the safety of the participants is always paramount.



Experience Travel Tours

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