

# HOLY LAND and PETRA TOUR

## March 8-20, 2012



### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

**AIRFARE:**

Round trip from McAllen, TX

**MEALS:**

Full breakfast and dinner daily plus three lunches as outlined in the itinerary

**TRANSFERS & SIGHTSEEING:**

Per itinerary via deluxe air conditioned motorcoach with the services of a licensed English-speaking tour host.

**ENTRANCE FEES:**

As outlined in the itinerary

**PORTERAGE:**

One piece of luggage per person at each hotel and airport, where available.

**GRATUITIES:**

For tour guides and meals

We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary or arrangements due to circumstances beyond our control.

Passport must be valid for 6 months following our return.

DATE	NIGHTS	HOTEL	CITY, COUNTRY	BOARD
03/09/12-03/12/12	4	The Olive Tree Hotel	Jerusalem, Israel	Standard - Includes Breakfast & Dinner
03/13/12-03/14/12	2	Rimonim Mineral Beach Hotel	Tiberias, Israel Sea of Galilee	Same
03/15/12	1	Misk Hotel	Amman, Jordan	Same
03/16/12	1	Petra Guest House	Petra, Jordan	Same
03/17/12	1	Rimonim Royal	Dead Sea, Israel	Same
03/18/12	1	City Hotel	Tel Aviv, Israel	Same

<p><b>LAND &amp; AIR from McALLEN BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY</b></p> <p>Air quotes from other gateway cities available on request!</p> <p>*Air Price not firm until air ticket is purchased</p>	<p>\$4769.00*</p> <p>PER PERSON</p> <p>\$500 Deposit</p>
<p><b>LAND &amp; AIR from McALLEN BASED ON SINGLE OCCUPANCY</b></p> <p>*Air Price not firm until air ticket is purchased</p>	<p>\$5379/00*</p> <p>PER PERSON</p> <p>\$500 Deposit</p>

# 12 Day Holy Land & Petra Tour 2011 Itinerary

## Thursday, March 8, 2012

Depart McAllen for Houston, Newark and Tel Aviv. Some may meet us in Houston or Newark.

## Friday, March 9, 2012

Morning arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv. We will meet our guide, board our motor coach and begin the first day of tour of the Holy Land. Our first stop will be at the **House of Caiaphas** (St. Peter's in the Gallicantu) on the eastern slope of **Mt. Zion**. Then we will visit the "**Room of the Last Supper**". Continue to our hotel for check-in. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem, Israel

## Saturday, March 10, 2012

Today our tour will take us to two Palestinian controlled cities, **Bethlehem**, Jesus birthplace, and **Jericho**. We will drive to **Bethlehem** (meaning City of Bread as a result of the wheat crop that grew in the region) via **Nativity Circle**; visit the cave where Jesus was born and **Manger Square**, where Jesus was placed after his birth. Also visit the **Greek** and the **Catholic Churches** and the **Milk Grotto**, where Mary fed her son. Overview the **Shepherd's Field** and visit the church. Depart for the **Judean desert**. On the way we will view the **Inn of the Good Samaritan**. Overlook the breathtaking view of the moon landscaped Judean desert. We will make a short stop at sea-level and continue to **Jericho** - the oldest city in the world. Stop at the **Zacheus' Sycamore**, the oldest known Sycamore tree which Zacheus climbed in order to see Jesus walking by. We will visit the **Mound of Ancient Jericho** where 25 ancient cities were uncovered. Jericho was founded in 8000 BCE and is famous from the Biblical story in which spies were hosted there. Jericho is also the oldest Jewish settlement, captured by Joshua and Israel in 1200 BCE. Stop for an overview of the **Mt. of Temptation** where Satan tried to tempt Jesus and an overview of the **Oasis of Jericho and Elisha's spring**. Return to our Israeli guide and then to our hotel. (B, D)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem, Israel

## Sunday, March 11, 2012

Enter the Old City of Jerusalem at **Jaffa Gate**. First we will visit the **Citadel of David Museum** featuring the history of Jerusalem. We will then continue to explore the Temple Institute dedicated to the building of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple. Walk along the **Cardo**, the excavated original Roman street of the 2nd century. See the **Broad Wall** and **Hurva Synagogue**. Continue to the **Herodian Houses**, ruins of a prosperous residential district where wealthy families of the aristocracy and priesthood lived. Make your way to the **Kotel Plaza** to visit the **Western Wall** and the excavations at the **Southern Wall**. Lunch en route. After dinner at our hotel we will return to the **Citadel of David** for a **Sound & Light Show**. (B, D)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem, Israel

## Monday, March 12, 2012

This morning we will drive to the other side of the City of Jerusalem where our first visit will be to the **Israel Museum**. Walk through collections of centuries old Israeli artifacts including the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, followed by a guided walk through an accurately detailed model of Biblical Jerusalem. Next we have planned a special visit to the **Bible Land Museum** which brings to light the most significant and influential civilizations of the ancient world connecting history to the Holy Scriptures. An understanding of the historical backdrop to the emergence of Judaism and Christianity is presented through various subject matters. We will then enter Jerusalem's **Golden Gate** where we will stop along the **Stations of the Cross**. Continue to the pool of **Bethesda** where Jesus cured the invalid and the **Church of St. Anne**. See the **Praetorium**, site of the public trial of Christ and His condemnation. View the ancient remains in the **Fortress of Antonia**. We will now make our way to the **Garden Tomb** where we will have time for a tour and meditation. (B, D)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem, Israel

## Tuesday, March 13, 2012

We take our leave of Jerusalem this morning and travel north via Itzack Rabin Highway to **Caesarea**, where Peter converted the centurion and Paul was imprisoned. Visit the **Roman Theater**, the **Crusader city**,

the **Byzantine street** and the **Aqueduct**. Ascend **Mt. Carmel** for a beautiful view of the city of **Haifa**. Visit the **Carmelite Monastery** and **Elijah's Cave**. Continue to **Megiddo**, Armageddon of the Bible. Visit the museum; ascend the tel to see the excavations and the interesting water system and sarcophagi. Drive to **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, and visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation** and the **Church of St. Joseph**. Drive, via **Cana**, where Jesus performed his first miracle - changing water into wine at a wedding. It is off to our hotel on the **Sea of Galilee** for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**Overnight:** Galilee, Israel

### Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Today we begin tour with a visit to the **ancient boat** from the time of Jesus. We will then board our own **wooden boat for a ride on the Sea of Galilee**. Drive to **Tabgha** and visit the **Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes**. Continue to the **Mount of Beatitudes** to commemorate the Sermon on the Mount. Ascend the **Golan Heights to Caesarea Philippi (Banyas)**, one of the sources of the **Jordan River**. Return to the Sea of Galilee to visit **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' ministry in the north. See the reconstructed remains of the town and synagogue often mentioned in the New Testament. Experience **St. Peter's Fish Lunch** at noon. Before returning to your hotel we will visit the **baptismal site** on the Jordan River. Return to **Tiberias** for the "**Galilee Experience**", multi-media presentation. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Overnight:** Galilee, Israel

### Thursday, March 15, 2012

This morning we will leave the Galilee area for Jordan. We will stop and visit the new excavations at **Beit She'an**. Here we will see the excavations of the city where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. Then we will make our way to the Northern border crossing to **Jordan**. (Israel departure tax must be paid in cash approx \$25pp). After the border formalities, we will meet our Jordanian guide and driver and continue to **Jerash**. Often noted as the twin to **Beit She'an**, you can now make your own comparisons. Said to be the most complete and well preserved city of the **Roman Empire**, it is nestled in a green and well-watered valley in the Biblical land of **Gilead**. Wander among the original temples, theaters, plazas, paths and colonnaded streets, all enclosed within the remaining city walls. Within the city walls have been found the remains of settlements dating from the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad and Abbasid periods, indicating human occupation at this location for more than 2,500 years. We now make our way to **Amman** and check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

**Overnight:** Amman, Jordan

### Friday, March 16, 2012

A drive to **Mt. Nebo** begins our morning. This is the place where **Moses** gazed at the **Promised Land** before he died and is his alleged burial place. You will visit the old monastery and overlook the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea, Jericho and Jerusalem. Proceed to **Madaba** where you will find the famous mosaic 6th century map of Palestine in **St. George's Church**. Afterward we drive to **Petra** for our overnight (B,L,D)

**Overnight:** Petra, Jordan

### Saturday, March 17, 2012

This morning we will depart for **Petra**, the **Red Rose City**, and the premier attraction of Jordan. **Petra** was first established around the 6th century BCE by the **Nabataean Arabs**, a nomadic tribe who settled in the area and laid the foundations of a commercial empire that extended into Syria. After the conquest by the Romans, 106 AD, Petra declined in importance. In the early 19th century the Swiss explorer Johann L. Burckhardt discovered the city again. Upon arrival you will begin an unforgettable trip on foot, on horse back or by horse-drawn carriage to the canyon (additional cost for horseback and carriage), the so called **Siq**, and then by foot to the most beautiful monument: the **Treasury**. The local guide will give a brief history of the city. Among other monuments you will see are **Pharaoh's Castle**, the **Triumphal Arch**, the **Amphitheater** and **Monastery**. At the end of the tour we will board our bus and make our way to the southern border with Israel.. After border formalities (departure tax approx \$20) we will cross back into Israel via the **Allenby Bridge**. Meet our guide and motor coach and drive to the **Dead Sea**. Check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

**Overnight:** Dead Sea, Israel

## Sunday, March 18, 2012

After breakfast we will have time to use the facilities of the hotel and "float" on the **Dead Sea** (remember your swimming suit). We now will travel about 30 minutes to the mountain fortress of **Masada**, truly a remarkable piece of history. We will ascend by cable car to visit the magnificent ruins of the fortress where the **Jewish Zealots** made the last stand of the Judean revolt against Rome. Today the remains of Herod's buildings, palaces, storehouses, cisterns, and a 6th century Byzantine church are still in view. Then we'll drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to **Ein Gedi**, a green oasis in the middle of the desert, then travel to **Qumran** to see the caves where some of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found. We will then drive to Tel Aviv and check into our hotel. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

**Overnight:** Tel Aviv, Israel

## Monday, March 19, 2012

Following breakfast in our hotel, we will pack up our luggage and load the bus before we begin our last day in Israel. Our first stop will be **Independence Hall**. Eight hours before the termination of the British Mandate in what was then Palestine-the members of the **People's Council and Executive** invited leaders to gather in the museum hall. They listened with emotion as **David Ben-Gurion**, head of the People's council, the Zionist Executive and the Jewish Agency, declared the creation of the State of Israel. The hall where it happened looks exactly like in those days. We will now continue to Jaffa, the picturesque ancient port from which **Jonah** set sail before being swallowed by the whale, where King Solomon imported the **Cedars of Lebanon** to build the Temple in Jerusalem and where Peter had his vision at Simon the Tanner's home. We now make our way to **Machon Ayalon** (Ayalon Institute) where you will first view a film on the story of a secret factory that manufactured ammunition, built underneath a limestone hill. On the surface it was used for training groups of young people for Kibbutz life. After the film we will go underground to see the secret ammunition factory. We now will drive through the Valley of **Elah** where David slew Goliath. Here we will visit **Beit Guvrin** which is noted for its long history, architecture, man-made caves and for its flowers. It has a vast collection of anemones, a perennial herb walk through the **"Bell Caves"**. The caves were quarries which were excavated at different times in history, but it is claimed some date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The largest of the chambers is over 5 meters high. The walls are made of beige colored limestone. After this full day of sightseeing we will make our way to **Naora Bawadi Restaurant** in Abu Gosh. Enjoy the numerous salads and meats before heading toward the airport for our flight home. (B, D)

## Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Early morning arrival in Newark where we will clear customs and continue to McAllen or the city of your final destination.

**Chuck Olson Tours.3827 N.10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste 203.McAllen, TX 78501**

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**06-13-11**

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