

Optional Jordan Extension Now Available



## Collegium Aesculapium Presents Israel: Spring in the Holy Land, April 24 – May 5, 2010

Day 1, Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>: Today depart home and start the magnificent journey to the ancient Holy Land of Israel. Overnight on a trans-Atlantic flight\*.

Day 2, Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>: Tel Aviv – Jaffa - Welcome to Israel! As we begin our journey in this ancient land, you will notice that the mountains have hidden secrets and the old ruins have legends. For 3,000 years on this small patch of land, men have toiled and battled; prayed and worshiped; and added their own small humanity to the history of this country. Listen and let the land of Israel tell you the stories of its past. Sitting on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, Jaffa still stands as one of the world's oldest ports. Tradition claims that Jaffa was settled by Noah's youngest son when the Flood receded; and ever since it's founding, Jaffa has been a center of commerce, activity and historical events. Located in one of the small alleyways, visit Simon the Tanner's house that remains a monument to the wonderful revelation Peter the Apostle received to go and preach the gospel to all the world. Depending on your arrival time, you will have free time to stroll the beach in Tel Aviv or take a short nap in your room at the Grand Beach Hotel (or similar) before your group welcome dinner and meeting. (D)

Day 3, Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>: Haifa - Caesarea – Mt. Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth – Village of Cana – Tiberias - "And on the morrow, they entered into Caesarea...Cornelius thy prayer is heard." We begin our day at Caesarea, remains of a city founded by Herod, residence of Pontius Pilate and a prison for Paul. Sit in the well-preserved amphitheater overlooking the blue sea and hear the story of Paul's conversion of the Centurion. A short stop in Haifa with a visit to its most striking landmark, Baha'i Shrine and Gardens. The scenery begins to change to the beautiful green pastures and high rolling hills of the Jezreel Valley as we approach Mt. Carmel where the prophet Elijah and the priests of Baal contested their faith. Not far away is Megiddo, the tragic site of ancient bloody battles where nations were won and lost. Upon these same tragic fields, the great and terrible last battle of Armageddon will be fought. Journey next to Nazareth, the quaint town where Jesus Christ spent his childhood, learned his earthly vocation as a carpenter and grew and waxed strong in spirit. We will see the village of Cana, where Christ turned water into wine. Then spend the night in Tiberias at the Ron Beach Hotel (or similar) for 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 4, Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>: Mt. Tabor – Nazareth – Sea of Galilee – Our trip to the North would not be complete without a stop by the newly purchased and dedicated LDS branch building in Tiberias. Today we will return to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation where the Archangel Gabriel delivered his message to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. We will spend time at the Cliff of Jumping before moving onto Mt. Tabor. "And he lifted up his hands and blessed them...while he blessed them, he was carried up into heaven." Mt. Tabor is one of the mountains traditionally claimed to be the site of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. You will thrill to the almost hair-raising ride up the mountain, but once at the summit, you will feel the peace and calm of the surrounding valley. We will travel to the shores of the beloved Sea of Galilee. Where we will sail upon the Sea to view the area of Jesus Christ's early ministry. As the wind carries your boat, note the halo of mountains that surrounds its shores. It is special moments like this for which you came to Israel. (B,L,D)

Day 5, Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Capernaum – Tabgha – Mt. of Beatitudes - Dan Caesarea Philippi - Golan Heights - A visit to Capernaum, the place where Jesus lived and recruited His first followers is on the agenda for this morning. Stand on the Mt. of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, and ponder the great events that took place here. Visit Tabgha, site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. We will also travel further north in order to walk through the nature reserve of Tel Dan, sight of Jeroboam’s ancient Temple in Solomon’s divided kingdom. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus Christ proclaimed his divinity to his disciples, ordained Peter, and declared revelation to be “the rock” upon which the church was built. Pass Golan Heights as we travel back to the valley of Galilee. (B,L,D)

Day 6, Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>: Jordan River - Bet She’ an – Gideon’s Spring – Jericho – Bethany – Jerusalem - Today you will stop to visit the Yardenit Baptismal Site on the banks of the Jordan River. It is here that people from around the world, representing diverse denominations, still come to be baptized. Next a short ride to the ancient Tel Bet She’an, where 6,000 years of civilization seem to unfold among the ruins. It is believed to be the very Bet She’an of the Old Testament where the former King of Israel, Saul, was fastened to the city wall without his head by the conquering Philistines. Leaving the fertile valleys of Galilee, you will stop at Gideon’s Spring, where the great lesson of trust was taught between God, Gideon, and his warriors. We will then travel down the Jordan Valley on our way to Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Leaving Jericho, we pass the Judean Wilderness where the Savior had his 40-day spiritual experience. We continue to Bethany, a small town on the other side of the Mt. of Olives, to see the tomb in which Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus. At last you will ascend to the beloved city of Jerusalem where we will stay for 6 nights at the Jerusalem Dan Panorama (or similar). (B,L,D)

Day 7, Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>: Ein Gedi - Qumran - Dead Sea – Masada - We enter the strange and barren desert of the Dead Sea. Once the Biblical Lands of Moab and Edom, the Dead Sea basin has been a refuge to prophets, zealots and outcasts throughout time. Buried in the beige limestone bluffs, the ruins of Qumran still tell the story of the Essenes, a reclusive Jewish sect that buried the now famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Further south lies Ein Gedi, the oasis where David hid from King Saul. From the desert floor, ascend by cable car to the spectacular cliff-top fortress of Masada, where a community of 960 Jews preferred death at their own hands to the indignity of surrender to the overwhelming Roman forces. While at the Dead Sea, you cannot miss the opportunity to enjoy a dip in the buoyant waters and bathe in the wonderful medicinal mud! Even Cleopatra sent her slaves to retrieve this magical mud in order to preserve her legendary beauty. (B,L,D)

Day 8, Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>: Mt. of Olives – BYU Jerusalem Center – Free Time - This morning you will have another magnificent view of Jerusalem, from the Mt. of Olives. After which, we will visit the BYU Jerusalem Center for church services and a brief tour. The setting of this magnificent building will warm your heart as you learn the story of how the Center came to be. Gaze from the windows of the chapel and see what is perhaps the most breathtaking view of the Old City and the Dome of the Rock. Afternoon free time will allow for time to relax or return to visit any sites you would have liked to linger longer at. (B,L,D)

Day 9, Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Western Wall – Old City - Dome of the Rock – Pools of Bethesda - Collegium Special Activities - This morning we begin in the Old City where we'll visit the Western Wall, the most important site in all of Jewish civilization because these rough massive stones are all that is left of the great Second Temple. Revered and honored, the Jews wait and hope for the day they will rebuild their third and final temple upon these sacred remnants. You will also visit the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount, and walk the paths Jesus trod. Above the western wall is Mount Moriah where the Islamic shrine, the Dome of the Rock, is found. In the oldest quarter of Jerusalem, follow the winding alleys and crowded streets to the Pools of Bethesda. Discover the ancient city beneath the modern streets where the old paving stones are carved with Roman games. Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, erected over what some believe to be the possible site of the crucifixion. This afternoon you'll participate in activities specially arranged for your Collegium Aesculapium group. (B,L,D)

Day 10, Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Israel Museum - Shrine of the Book - Yad Veshem Holy Land Model - Bethlehem - Shepherd's Field – Discover the treasures of the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, the site chosen to house the Dead Sea Scrolls. This unique building is shaped like the ancient pottery in which the precious scrolls lay hidden for thousands of years. We will also visit the Holy Land Model, a unique scale model of Jerusalem at the time of Christ. The model visually explains the layout of the ancient city as well as the design and magnitude of the Second Temple. One of the most memorable pages of Jewish history unfolds as we visit Yad Veshem, the official memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi-wrought Holocaust in Europe. In the little town of Bethlehem, music, bells and churches adorn for it was here that the Light of the World was given mortal life. Pilgrimages, sacred holidays and festivities occur all year long to celebrate the birth of Christ. Tradition holds that the small humble inn with just a stable for lodging was located where the Church of the Nativity now stands. Shepherds still tend their flocks on the fields overlooking Bethlehem just as they did over 2,000 years ago when the angel appeared bringing them glad tidings of great joy. Gathered on these fields, we sing the beloved hymns and listen to the wondrous story – a Christmas celebration to be cherished for years to come. (B,L,D)

Day 11, Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>: Room of the Last Supper - House of Caiphas - Mt. of Olives – Orson Hyde Park – Gethsemane - Garden Tomb – Located in the Old Quarter of Jerusalem is the site believed to be the Room of the Last Supper. Devoid of gilded statues or ornate chapels, the quiet simplicity and elegance of this room helps one to focus on the words of Christ and the poignant last moments with his beloved disciples. Enter the House of Caiphas where Jesus was imprisoned within its dark dungeon before his final day in mortality. Visit the Mt. of Olives with its breathtaking view of the Old City. Journey along the 2,000 year-old olive grove to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Feel the spirit here as you envision the events which took place at this sacred site. Just up the hill, we walk to the Orson Hyde Memorial Park, where Orson Hyde dedicated the land to the return of the Jewish people. From the Garden, we travel to the beautiful Garden Tomb, believed to be the site of the Jesus' burial. At the beautiful garden tomb, there is a limestone hill that many revere as Golgotha, site of the crucifixion. After dinner we depart home to the USA. (B,L,D)

Day 12, Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Arrive home mid-morning after a life-changing experience in the Holy Land.

\*\*Itinerary details are subject to change without notice.



May 4 - 8, 2010



## Collegium Aesculapium Optional Extension Jordan: Petra, Amman & Mount Nebo

Day 1, Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>: Start your tour extension with a relaxing evening and overnight at the Jerusalem Dan Panorama Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 2, Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>: Allenby Bridge –Jerash - Amman - This morning we drive to the Allenby Bridge to cross the border into Jordan. Our first stop will be a visit to Jerash - city of the Decapolis, located about 45 km north of Amman in the fertile heights of Gilead. This city is considered one of the most important and best preserved Roman cities in the Middle East. While there we'll see colonnaded streets, ancient theaters, baths, hill top temple, the triumphal arch and more. We finish the day with a sightseeing tour of Amman. We overnight in Amman for 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 3, Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>: Wadi Musa – Petra – Great Treasury - We travel south to Wadi Musa; the new name of the city of Petra. One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Petra (meaning "Rock") was famously described as "a rose-red city half as old as time". We will ride on horseback into the "Siq", a narrow passage through the mountains which has inspired awe for centuries, then walk up to the Great Treasury which suddenly appears at the end of the gorge. We'll continue into the heart of this ancient city carved into the mountains, passing hundreds of tombs, monuments and a spectacular Amphitheatre which once held 3,000 spectators. After lunch near the village of Wadi Musa, we will drive back into Amman for the night. (B,L,D)

Day 4, Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>: Madaba – Mosaic Map – Mount Nebo - Drive to Madaba, known as the "City of Mosaics". Here we will get to see the famous Byzantine-era ancient mosaic map of the Holy Lands, as well as other mosaics and ruins of this historical site. Continue on to the spectacular Mount Nebo, from where Moses stood and first viewed the Promised Land. From this vantage point you can see the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and on a very clear day Jericho and Jerusalem. This evening we drive to the Jordan River and cross the border back into Israel. Travel to the Tel Aviv airport for your flight home. (B,L,D)

Day 5, Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>: Arrive home mid-morning after a spectacular two week trip through the Holy Lands. \*\*Itinerary details are subject to change without notice.

- Double occupancy \$895 per person
- Single occupancy \$1,105 per person

To confirm your optional excursion, submit registration form for the Israel tour and mark "JORDAN EXTENSION" box. Final payment is due February 15, 2010. Call for airfare. If paying by cash or check, take \$50 off per person. \*Not included: Airfare, border crossing fees, drinks & souvenirs.

### INCLUDES:

- 3 Nights 4\* Hotel Accommodations
- Deluxe Motorcoach for entire tour
- Local Expert Guide with group
- ALL Meals as Listed
- ALL Entrance Fees as Listed
- During Travel Insurance
- Taxes and Tips

For more information contact BOOMERANG TOURS at 801-277-6070

[info@boomerangtours.com](mailto:info@boomerangtours.com) or visit us on the web at [www.boomerangtours.com](http://www.boomerangtours.com)