

Countryside Community Church

The Best of Israel and the Palestinian Territories

"Ask for the ancient paths; ask where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls." – Jer. 6:16

With Limited Jordan/Petra Option – 20 spaces only!

Hosted by:

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.

November 3 – 16 or 19, 2019



Revised Brochure – May 2019



Dear Friends,

Regionaltour may be one of the most remarkable tours you will ever consider. An ancient historian wrote that *"the land itself is the fifth gospel."* He saw the impact of ancient trade routes and crossroads upon Bible literature. They helped to bring understanding to the power plays behind Bible narratives.

Regionaltour lets us see this, too. Standing at breath-taking vistas, viewing ancient crossroads, walking ancient Bible paths that Jesus and the prophets knew provides an exciting step toward making the pieces of the Bible fit together. This is much more than the usual crowded church shrine and souvenir shop tour.

For three wonderful days we will focus on the center of Jesus' public ministry around the regions and shores of the Sea of Galilee. We will sail the sea on a double scale replica of a fishing boat (the Jesus Boat) found in our lifetime on the northern shores of Kibbutz Nof Ginosar.

In Jerusalem we will sit on the Temple Steps in the Ophel Ridge and reconsider the Kingdom Parables of Jesus in Luke 19-21. One prominent Jewish scholar insists this is the one place where we may say with certainty that we know Jesus was at this place, and where He taught parables. We will walk on the ancient Herodian pavement that was familiar to Jesus, adjacent to the Western Wall.

Come, walk, and learn the land of the Bible with us.

Read the brochure, especially the Tour Conditions carefully. Note that today group travel includes airfares, hotels, meals, transfers, expensive entrance fees, and a scholarly guide at low prices not available for individual travel. Also included are upgraded airline seats on the log-haul transatlantic flight segments. Imagine all of this in a fully escorted tour, with friends and spiritual direction.

Return the registration form with your signature, date, deposit, and a color copy of your passport right away to assure your space.

Please join us!

Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.

For further information:

Dr. Eric Elnes

Countryside Community Church

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*Dr. Eric Elnes received his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary and serves as Senior Pastor of Countryside Community Church in Omaha, NE (www.countrysideucc.org). He is also host of the popular internet television program, Darkwood Brew (www.darkwoodbrew.org). His books include *The Phoenix Affirmations: A New Vision for the Future of Christian Faith* (Jossey-Bass, 2006) and *Asphalt Jesus: Finding A New Christian Faith Along the Highways of America* (Jossey-Bass, 2007).*



Here is Our Itinerary:

DAY 1 Sun Nov 3 USA DEPARTURE

Be at the airport at least 3 hours prior to departure for international check-in procedures. Meals and in-flight entertainment are per airline policies.

DAY 2 Nov 4 Mon ARRIVE TEL AVIV

Region: Coast of Sharon

Arrive Israel this afternoon and proceed through passport control (keep the white entry paper in passport). Meet your guide outside in the group parking lot. Depart to your hotel for lodging.

DAY 3 Tuesday Nov 5 TO SEA OF GALILEE

Regions: Coast of Sharon, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee

Visit Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10, Peter and Cornelius) to view the Roman structures: Herod's harbor, the theater, the palace (of Pontius Pilate among others), the hippodrome, and the aqueducts. If the visibility is good, proceed to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). Drive across the country to the Arbel Cliff for an overview of Jesus' mission on the lake. Finally, we visit the ruins of a first-century synagogue at Migdal (Magdala).



Caesarea Maritima

DAY 4 Wed Nov 6 SEA CIRCLE TRIP

Region: Sea of Galilee

We visit Yardenit, the modern baptismal site on the Jordan River. Then we drive to the top of the Mount of Beatitudes to consider the Sermon on the Mount. Some may opt to walk down the hill to the shore at Tabgha. We visit Capernaum, the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry. After lunch, with an option of Peter's fish, we view a boat from Jesus' time and sail the sea in a triple-scale replica of it.

DAY 5 Thurs Nov 7 TO UPPER JORDAN

Regions: Upper Jordan, Sea of Galilee

Follow the ancient trade route to Hazor (ancient crossroads, largest Canaanite city). Continue to Tel Dan for a walk through the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Jordan River. View the High Place of Jeroboam. Proceed to Banias (Caesarea Philippi) to consider Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ. Return to the lake.

DAY 6 Fri Nov 8 LOWER GALILEE

Regions: Lower Galilee, Jezreel Valley, Sea of Galilee

At Sepphoris, the capital city of Galilee during Jesus' mission, view the Roman-style theater, the mosaic floors, and more. Continue via the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, Armageddon of Rev. 16. Visit the tel and the water tunnel. Proceed to Nazareth and Mary's Well. Time permitting, we shall also have an overview of Nazareth in relation to the Plain of Jezreel (aka Esdraelon). Return to the Sea of Galilee.

DAY 7 Sat Nov 9 BETH-SHEAN, JERICHO, JERUSALEM

Region: Jordan River Valley, Jerusalem

Visit Tel Beth-shean (Bible crossroads) and ascend to the top of the tel to consider the demise of Israel's first king, Saul. Overview the dig of Scythopolis and motor beside the Jordan River to Jericho. Visit the tel to view the dig of the walls by Dame Kathleen Kenyon. View Herod's Winter Palace in Jericho. Continue to Mt. Scopus for a first view of the Old City. Hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 8 Sun Nov 10 JERUSALEM

Visit the Mt. of Olives for orientation to Jerusalem's Old City (Ps. 122). Walk the traditional Palm Sunday route past the Dominus Flevit Church to Gethsemane, where we take time in a garden. Depart for the City of David to explore the archaeological site known as Area G. Continue to Warren's Shaft. Descend to the Gihon Spring and walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (bring old shoes or jellies plus a flashlight for the walk through knee-deep water) to the Pool of Siloam (Jn. 9). (For those who do not wish to go through the tunnel, other options are available.) Drive to the Jaffa Gate where we disperse for lunch. After reassembling at the Jaffa Gate, we follow the "Scholar's" Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Then walk through the Jewish Quarter, viewing some of the archaeology on the way, and downhill to the Dung Gate. We meet our bus and drive to the hotel.

DAY 9 MON. Nov. 11 DEAD SEA, MASADA, QUMRAN

Drive to Masada. Ascend the mountain-fortress by cable car. View the ruins of the Jewish rebels' last stand against Roman forces, including the siege ramp and the synagogue. Continue to Ein Gedi (David and Saul). Walk to the waterfall. Drive to Qumran for a late lunch, followed by a brief overview of caves associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. Enjoy a float in the Dead Sea. Ascend the highway for Jerusalem.

DAY 10 TUES Nov. 12 JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

Regions: Jerusalem, Judean Hills

Making an early start, we enter the former Temple Mount, viewing the El Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Continue to the intact Crusader Church of St. Anne (hymn-sing) and the Pools of Bethesda. Leaving the Old City through the nearby Lions' Gate (aka Stephen's Gate), we find our bus and drive to Bethlehem. Visit shepherds' fields. Continue to Manger Square. Enter the Church of the Nativity. Take time in one of the traditional olivewood shops. We then return to Jerusalem, visiting the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum (open late today), as well as a model of Jerusalem as it may have looked in 66 AD.

DAY 11 Wednesday Nov. 13 JERUSALEM

Explore the Shephelah (lowlands), the most excavated and least toured region of Israel. We begin at Tel Lachish, site of the crucial battle in Judah's revolt against Assyria (701 BC). We buy victuals in a grocery store at Moshav Lachish and take them to our next site, Maresha, where we make a picnic. Here we visit some fascinating (standing-room) human-made caves from the Hellenistic period. We then drive to a site, either Tel Azekah or Khirbet Qeiyafa (depending on road conditions), where we can view the Valley of Elah, reconstructing the battle of David and Goliath. Return to Jerusalem.

DAY 12 Thursday Nov. 14 JERUSALEM

Proceed to the southern excavations of the Ophel Ridge to tread the ancient Herodian pavement and touch the huge stones of the Temple wall. Continue to the Temple steps from Jesus' time, the one place where we can be sure Jesus walked and taught (Lk. 19-21). We then visit the Western Wall (once known as the Wailing Wall), where Bar Mitzvah celebrations will be in progress. Returning to the Dung Gate, we find our bus and drive to lunch. We continue to the YadVashem Holocaust Memorial.

DAY 13 Friday Nov. 15 JERUSALEM

9:00 A.M. private tour and communion at the Garden Tomb. The balance of the day is at leisure for personal interests in Jerusalem. This evening celebrate a Farewell Dinner.

DAY 14 Sat Nov 16 ARRIVE USA

Transfer early morning to the Tel Aviv Airport for the return flight to the USA. Fly while reliving the experiences of having walked and learned the land of the Bible. Clear customs upon arrival at the USA. Continue the journey to your home.

TOUR PRICE: Omaha r.t.

\$4835 – 25 or more persons

Price is per person, double occupancy.

(price adjusted for fewer than 25 persons)

PRICE INCLUDES: American & Turkish Airlines group economy airfare (non-refundable) r.t., standard & superior 1st class hotels (twin bedded, dbl. occ.), daily breakfast & dinner, special Farewell Dinner, English-speaking guides, group airport transfers, entrance fees, portage of one suitcase, \$115 local tips (guides, drivers, porters, dining & hotel desks), air taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change).

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: American Airlines baggage fees (\$30 for the first bag, each direction), daily lunches, beverages other than tea or coffee at breakfasts, personal services requested.

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$1060

ISRAEL LAND ONLY PRICE: \$3825 – Air transportation and individual airport transfers (taxi) are not included. If schedules permit, Land Only persons may use the group airport transfers. Land Only participants must declare to IGM TOURS prior to 90 days before departure.

JORDAN OPTION

\$650 – 15 to 20 Persons

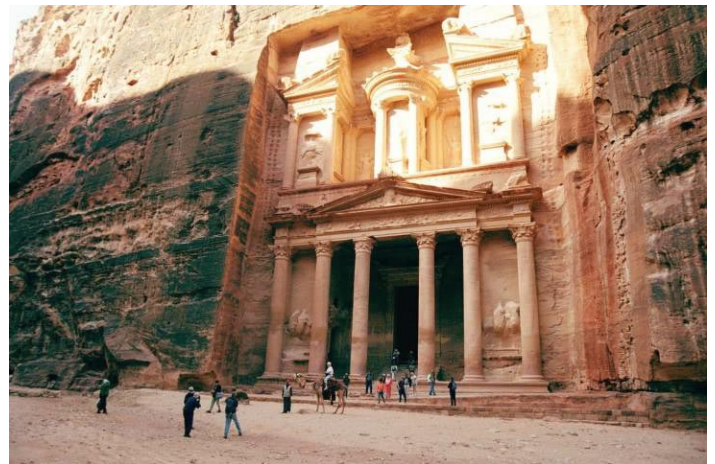
\$795 – 10 to 14 Persons

Tour price is per person, double occupancy, includes tips and a Jordan visa. Single room supplement: \$190.

DAY 14 Sat Nov 16 MT. NEBO, TO PETRA

Regions: Ammon, Edom, Moab

Depart Jerusalem for the Allenby Bridge (King Hussein). Change to Jordanian services and proceed to Madeba to view the Byzantine mosaic map of the Jerusalem Cardo. Continue to Mt. Nebo for Moses' views of the Promised Land. Travel on the desert highway to Ein Musa (Spring of Moses). View the distant Mt. Horeb, and arrive Petra for dinner and lodging.



The Treasury - Petra

DAY 15 Sun Nov 17 PETRA FULL DAY

Walk about 2 1/2 miles via the Siq to explore the Rose City. The Nabataean ruins include hundreds of burial chambers and the famous Treasury House. Nearby, the Roman theater seats 3000. Optional is an ascent to the High Place of Sacrifice. Return to your hotel.

DAY 16 Mon Nov 18 TO JERASH, AMMAN

Regions: Edom, Moab, Genesis

Depart Petra for the largest of the Decapolis cities, Jerash (Gerasa). Visit the city gates, the Cardo Maximus, the Roman Forum, the colonnaded street, and Hadrian's Arch. Continue to Amman for dinner and lodging.

Day 17 Tue Nov 19 TO USA

Transfer very early this morning to the Amman airport for the flight to Istanbul and the USA. Clear customs upon arrival at Chicago. Claim your baggage and continue to Omaha.

REQUESTED HOTELS

NETANYA: Leonardo Plaza Hotel

TIBERIAS: Ron Beach Hotel

JERUSALEM: Gloria Hotel

PETRA: Old Village Petra Hotel

AMMAN: Grand Millennium Hotel

TOUR CONDITIONS:

1. **DEPOSITS:** Registrations require a signed and dated IGM form and a \$400 deposit per person. Late Deposit fees are: \$50 for less than 100 days and \$150 for less than 60 days (after invoice period) before departure. Late registrations risk airspace not being confirmed.

2. **FINAL PAYMENTS:** Final payments must be received 60 days prior to departure. Payments received later will be assessed \$50 per person and must be paid by a Cashier's Check or Money Order. If final payment is not received by 40 days prior to departure, the participant's tour space will be canceled and the deposit forfeited.

3. **DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS:** Deposits and Final Payments are payable to IGM TOURS.

4. **CREDIT CARDS:** VISA, MasterCard and Discover credit cards may be used for deposits and Final Payments

5. **FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final tour documents (including airline tickets and any itinerary adjustments) will be available one week before departure to facilitate any last minute changes.

6. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS:** Written cancellations must be sent directly to IGM TOURS. Cancellations (for any reason whatsoever) are subject to a **\$50 IGM administrative fee.**

90 days prior: an additional \$100 per person plus \$150 airline fee.

40 days prior: the full tour price is charged.

There are no refunds for international tickets once issued!

7. **AIR TRANSPORTATION:** American and Turkish Airlines group economy airfares (10 persons flying the same route) are non-refundable and issued about 40 days prior to departure. Changes in names, cities, or dates are not permitted without penalty. Airfare taxes are subject to change until ticketed. Requests for special seat assignments are not guaranteed. Those wishing to upgrade should travel as Land Only participants, which must be declared to IGM TOURS prior to 90 days before departure.

8. **HOTELS:** Prices are based on 1st class hotel rooms (twin bedded, dbl. occ.). If changed, similarly priced hotels are used. Single room occupants (for any reason) must pay single room surcharge.

9. **MEALS:** Daily breakfasts & table d'hote or buffet dinners. Coffee/tea are only included with breakfasts.

10. **GROUP TRANSFERS & ENTRANCE FEES:** Overseas group transfers and entrance fees are included. Individual transfers are not included for those who deviate from tour itineraries.

11. **PORTERAGE:** Overseas portage of 1 suitcase is included. The fee for additional suitcases/flight bags is \$1 per hotel.

12. **LUGGAGE:** Group touring is limited to one normal size suitcase (not to exceed 50 lbs), one camera case, and one flight bag. American Airlines baggage fees are not included (\$30 for the first bag, each direction).

13. **PASSPORTS & VISAS:** Each participant is responsible for a valid passport with 6 months validity for USA return, and must mail or e-mail to IGM a legible copy (do not fax). Data is required 60 days prior to departure. A visa is required on the Jordan Option for U.S. passports, included in the tour price. Other than U.S. passports must advise IGM at the time of registration.

14. **NO SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on coaches or flights.

15. **ITINERARY CHANGES:** The itinerary has been planned under the direction of your tour leader. It is possible that the daily itinerary may be adjusted by unforeseen circumstances.

16. **PRICING FLUCTUATIONS:** Tour prices are based upon estimated airfares, current tariffs, agreements and exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure production, May 2019. These factors are outside the control of IGM, and will be defined by IGM at least 60 days before departure. If the fuel surcharges increase any time prior to ticketing you will be assessed.

17. **DEVIATIONS/CHANGES:** Deviations/changes must be requested in writing to IGM (\$50 per person plus airline fees) at least 90 days before departure and are subject to airline regulations. Requests less than 90 days are not accepted. Persons requesting to provide their own air transportation must notify IGM at least 90 days prior to departure.

18. **REFUNDS:** Refunds are made only per the guidelines listed below.

19. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** IGM strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for protection of one's tour and luggage investments. An optional policy from Travel Guard is mailed to registered tour participants. Additional coverage, including Pre-existing Conditions, may be available if purchased within 15 days of the tour deposit payment.

20. **TOUR OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY:** IGM TOURS, Inc., herein and hereafter referred to as IGM and/or its agents, act only in the capacity as a broker agent for the passenger in all matters connected with hotel lodging, sightseeing, tours and transportation, whether by air, rail, motorcoach, boat, or any other means and as an agent holds itself free of responsibility for any damage or expense resulting from any cause whatsoever. IGM is a bonded wholesale travel broker, which complies with California's "Seller of Travel State Law": CST#2018950-50. IGM and/or its agents will not be responsible for any damage or expenses or inconvenience caused by late registrations, late airplanes, trains, boats, or changes in any of their schedules due to strikes or any other reason whatsoever. IGM operates 9:00am to 5:00pm weekdays excluding holidays. IGM will not be responsible for the loss or damage to luggage or any passenger's personal belongings. IGM recommends the purchase of Travel Insurance to cover such events. IGM reserves the right to refuse any person as a tour member at any time before or during the actual tour. IGM reserves the right to cancel, change, or withdraw the tour in whole or in part at any time. The sole obligation of IGM is to refund payments received in connection herewith if not acceptable by tour members. Refunds for canceled airfares and services abroad for any reason will be made only after having been received from the airlines, hotels, or companies performing these services, less any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the operation resulting from those cancellations and will follow the guidelines herein contained for cancellations. Requests for any refund due to absence from the itineraries abroad must be submitted to IGM in writing not less than 60 days prior to departure and are subject to agreements with overseas Operators. Any dispute arising out of these tours will be settled in the courts of the City of Hayward, CA.

21. **AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:** The participating airlines, American & Turkish Airlines, is responsible only for the air travel portion of this tour performed for it on behalf of tour participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of their individual passage contracts and subject to the applicable laws, treaties and regulations governing air transportation. Tour services, including but not limited to carriage by land or sea, guide services, hotel accommodations, restaurants and all services other than carriage by air, are furnished by contractors who are independent and do not act for or on behalf of the above airline and the above airline shall not be responsible for any act, omission or event occurring prior to the tour participants embarkation upon or after his/her disembarkation from the aircraft. The usual passage contract by the airline when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participants and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour, the tour participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. The above airline is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board its aircraft.

The Best of Israel and the Palestinian Territories

Registration Form

Group: **Elnes – November 3, 2019**

Name: _____
(Gender and names exactly as printed on passport!)

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone (area code): _____

E-mail: _____

Citizenship: _____
(Country issuing passport)

Passport #: _____
(Mail a copy of passport to **IGM TOURS**, do not fax.)

Departure City: _____

Roommate: _____
(Singles must pay surcharge!)

☐ Yes, include me on the Jordan Option (acceptance is based on space availability).

☐ I request single room lodging - \$1060 supplemental surcharge, plus \$190 for Jordan Option.

☐ I request to be a "Land Only" tour participant. I will arrange my own air transportation. I understand that I am free to utilize the group airport transfers. If my air schedules necessitate individual transfers they are my responsibility.

I have carefully read the brochure and Tour Conditions and agree to these terms and conditions as a binding contract when my registration and deposit are received by **IGM TOURS**.

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____ (\$400 per person).

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Mail deposit to:

IGM TOURS

P. O. Box 20488

Castro Valley, CA 94546

PH: (510) 727-0380 / FAX: (510) 538-8777

E-mail: igmtours@aol.com

VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express credit cards are accepted.
Please call **IGM TOURS** one week after you mail your registration form.

