

**ISRAEL – The Land of the Bible**  
 (With extension to TURKEY)

**APRIL 26 – MAY 16, 2015**

**Day 1: April 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Departure** – on our overnight flight to **ISTANBUL** and connect to **TEL AVIV**.

**Day 2: April 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Arrive in Israel – Galilee**

**Shalom!** We will be met by our Israeli host. Drive north to visit **Caesarea**, the old Roman capital. Continue north via **Haifa** and **Mount Carmel** and stop for a panoramic view of the city and the bay. View the **Persian Garden** of the Bahai Shrine. Drive to our hotel in **TIBERIAS**. (D)



**Day 03: April 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Mt. Tabor – Nazareth – Cana**

Ascend Mt. Tabor, site of the Transfiguration, and enjoy the panoramic view. Continue to Nazareth. Visit the **Church of the Annunciation** and celebrate Mass in the Grotto followed by a visit to Nazareth Village. Drive to Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. Couples are invited to renew your marriage vows. Return to our hotel in Tiberias. (B/D)



**Day 04: April 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Mt. of Beatitudes – Tabgha - Capernaum – Boat ride**

Drive to the Mt. of Beatitudes, recalling the Sermon on the Mount. Celebrate Mass. Continue to Tabgha, recalling the feeding of 5000. Visit Capernaum, Jesus' "home town" and enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Return to our hotel in **TIBERIAS**. (B/D)



**Day 05: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Jordan Valley – Jericho**

Depart Tiberias and drive down the Jordan Valley, to see an extraordinary excavation of an ancient Roman city. Continue to Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Stop at Genesis Land to visit Abraham's Tent. Continue to our hotel in **JERUSALEM**. (B/D)



**Day 06: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 - Mt. Scopus – Pater Noster – Dominus Flevit – Gethsemane – Ein Kerem**

Drive to the top of Mount Scopus for a magnificent view of **Jerusalem** where old and new converge in ageless splendor. Visit the Mt. of Olives, Pater Noster Church where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer; the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over the city. In Gethsemane, we celebrate Mass at the Church of All Nations. Continue to the village of Ein Kerem and visit the Church of the Visitation where Mary proclaimed the Magnificat. Visit the Church of John the Baptist. Return to our hotel in **JERUSALEM**. (B/D)



**Day 07: May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015 - Pool of Bethesda – Church of St. Anne – Ecce Homo – Via Dolorosa – Holy Sepulchre – Cardo – Western Wall - St. Peter in Gallicantu**

Walk to Lion/St. Stephen's Gate. Visit the Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus cured a cripple. Continue to Ecce Homo, Sisters of Sion, and the Judgment Hall of Pilate. Walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Holy Sepulchre. Celebrate Mass. Walk through the Old City via the Cardo to the Wailing Wall, the last standing remnant of the ancient Temple. Drive to Mt. Zion and visit the Upper Room and Dormition Abbey. Visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, built over the Palace of Caiaphas and where Peter denied Jesus. Return to our hotel in **JERUSALEM**. (B/D)



### **Day 08: May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 – Dead Sea Scrolls – Jerusalem Model – Bethlehem**

Visit Yad Vashem, memorial to Holocaust victims. Visit the Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, Dead Sea Scrolls and see the miniature model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. In the afternoon visit Bethlehem where we can kneel at the Nativity Grotto. We return to our **JERUSALEM** hotel. (B/D)



### **Day 09: May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015: Masada – Ein Gedi – Qumran**

Travel through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth. At Masada, built by Herod the Great, ascend to the summit by cable car and visit the magnificent excavations. Descend to the Dead Sea. At Ein Gedi Spa, float on the Dead Sea and experience the therapeutic benefits of the Dead Sea's pollen-free, oxygen-rich air, mineral-laden waters and famous black mud. Return to our hotel in **JERUSALEM** for a farewell dinner. (B/D)



### **Day 10: May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Jerusalem – Ben Gurion Airport *Lehitra'ot!***

Our journey comes to an end as we board our flight back home to share this experience of a lifetime with family and friends.... **OR** .. Extend our stay for an exciting visit to **TURKEY**.

## **TURKEY EXTENSION**

### **Day 10: May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Arrive Istanbul – Attaturk international Airport.**

We will be met at the airport by our Turkish host who will transfer us to our hotel in the centre of this exciting city.

Afternoon free for independent activity. Welcome dinner at the hotel. (B/D)



**Day 11: May 6<sup>th</sup> 2015** – After breakfast at the hotel, we begin our tour at **Hagia Sophia**, built by the Emperor Justinian in the early 6th century AD. Its massive dome dominates the skyline of old Istanbul. Next we visit the 17<sup>th</sup> century **Blue Mosque**, the only imperial mosque with six minarets; **Hippodrome**, the stadium of ancient Byzantium, which held 100,000 spectators. We browse through **the Grand Bazaar**, to indulge in some shopping, Ottoman style. After we stop for lunch, we continue our tour with **Topkapi Palace**, which, from the 15th to the 19th century, was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans. We then visit the **Rüstem Pasha Mosque**, a masterpiece completed in 1563.

Dinner tonight is on our own to give us an opportunity to enjoy our favourite Turkish dishes. **ISTANBUL** (B/L)



**Day 12: May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015** - We begin with a brief visit to the 17th century **Spice Bazaar**, one of Istanbul's most colorful, bustling attractions. Next, we travel the Golden Horn on our way to an **unforgettable cruise along the Bosphorus**, the majestic strait that runs through Istanbul, linking Europe and Asia. From our cruise boat, we view the dramatic sights lining the Bosphorus' wooded shores: mosques, a bridge that for a time was the world's longest and **Rumeli Hisari**, a massive fortress built by Mehmet the Conqueror in just three months as he prepared to take Istanbul. Also noteworthy on this tour are the 19th century mansions of the Ottoman elite and the Sultans' fanciful gingerbread palaces and hunting lodges. Transfer from hotel to Airport for the flight to Kayseri. Arrival transfer from Kayseri Airport to hotel in Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight at **CAPPADOCIA**. (B/D)



### **Day 13: May 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Cappadocia (optional – early morning hot air balloon ride.)**

Breakfast will be served at the hotel and the full day tour of Cappadocia begins with the natural citadel of Uchisar, which will enable you get a panoramic view of the region, and continues with the underground city of Kaymakli or Derinkuyu which were carved as refuges from persecutors during the early Christian era. Lunch will be served en route at a typical regional restaurant. After lunch, tour continues with the visit to Goreme valley which is the highlight of the day. This valley houses the Goreme Open Air Museum with its churches hewn out of rock and the colorful frescoes which decorate them. The last sites will be Pasabag valley and Avanos. Dinner and overnight will be at the hotel in **CAPPADOCIA**. (B/L/D)



**Day 14: May 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Cappadocia - Kayseri Airport / Izmir or Denizli.**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Izmir or Denizli (depending on 2015 schedules).

Commence your tour with a visit to the ancient city of Hierapolis, the ruins of the biggest necropolis graveyard of the ancient world, Roman Baths, Basilica and the incredible Calcium Cliffs of Pamukkale – also known as the “Cotton Castle.” After lunch visit the remarkably well preserved Greco-Roman settlement. The ancient city is dedicated to the goddess of love, Aphrodite. Drive to Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in **KUSADASI** or **PAMUKKALE**. **(B/L/D)**



**Kusadasi / Ephesus / Izmir**

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Meryemana and visit the House of Virgin Mary. Continue to Ephesus, the Roman capital of Asia Minor. Visit the ruins of Odeon, Hercules Gate, the temple of Hadrian, the magnificent library, Agora and a fantastic Greco-Roman theatre. After lunch, visit the Basilica of St. John. At the end of the visit, we return to our hotel in KUSADASI or IZMIR for dinner and overnight. **(B/L/D)**



**Day 16 May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Izmir - Istanbul – Toronto**

After an early breakfast, we will be transferred to Izmir airport for our flight to Istanbul to connect with our flight to Toronto. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE**

**ISRAEL PORTION ONLY - \$2,459.00 sharing double (Land only - excluding air fare & taxes)**

**TURKEY EXTENSION - \$1,909.00 Sharing double. (Land & domestic flights in Turkey)**

**INTERNATIONAL AIR FARE - \$849.00 plus taxes \$ 552.00**

**What is Included**

- 8 Nights in Israel and 6 nights in Turkey in first class hotels throughout.
- Meals as shown in the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours with English Speaking guides in Israel and Turkey
- Private Coach for all transfers and touring.
- All entrance fees to places visited in Israel and Turkey.
- Domestic flights in Turkey: Istanbul – Kayseri – Izmir – Istanbul.
- Gratuities to Tour guides, drivers and for included meals on the itinerary.

**Not included**

- Items of a personal nature not listed in inclusions above.
- Beverages with meals.
- Tips and gratuities for meals and services not included in the itinerary.
- Travel Insurance.
- Passport and Visa fees if applicable.



**TICO Reg: 04668893**