

ORANGE COUNTY INTERFAITH TOUR OF EGYPT, JORDAN AND ISRAEL
MARCH 11-25, 2018

MAR 11 SUN BEGIN OUR ADVENTURE/ DEPART LAX FOR CAIRO, EGYPT
Depart this afternoon on our transatlantic flight.

MAR 12 MON ARRIVE CAIRO/MEET AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL
Upon arrival in Cairo, we will be met and assisted through customs and transferred to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

MAR 13 TUE GIZA/SPHINX/CAIRO MUSEUM/ KHAN EL KHALILI BAZAAR
After breakfast at the hotel, begin our Tour with a visit to the Pyramids of Giza. Cheops Pyramid, the largest of the three, was built in the 3rd Dynasty about 2690 BCE, and is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. In front of the Pyramids of Chepren, we find the Sphinx, carved from a single piece of stone, in the shape of a lion with a Pharaoh's head thought to be a portrait of the Pharaoh Chephren. Then continue to the amazing Egyptian Museum, famous for its antiquities from Egypt's Pharaonic Period. This dates back some 50 centuries and includes the fabulous treasures of King Tutankhamen. Continue to the crowded, colorful, and exciting Khan Al-Khali bazaar full of all kinds of goods and shiny baubles. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**MAR 14 WED OLD CAIRO/BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE /COPTIC MUSEUM/
DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COPTIC RELIGION**
After breakfast, visit the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Coptic Cairo, which is the oldest Jewish Temple in Cairo, dating from the 9th century CE. The 19th century discovery of a huge cache of documents in the synagogue's treasury recorded the history and transactions of Cairo's Jewish community from the 11th century. Visit the Coptic Museum with the largest collection of Egyptian Christian artifacts in the world. Continue to the Coptic Monastery in the Moqattam Hills, called Samaan El Kharraz, and meet with Father Abraham, the head of the Monastery, to learn about the Coptic Religion and life. See the Cairo skyline after dark on a relaxing two-hour Nile River dinner cruise, and watch belly dancers and Tanoura performers take the stage as you enjoy a full buffet dinner. Return to the hotel for overnight.

**MAR 15 THU MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ARTS/MEET WITH GRAND IMAM /FLIGHT
TO JORDAN**
After breakfast and checkout from our hotel, visit the Museum of Islamic Arts, which is considered one of the greatest museums in the world, with its exceptional collection of rare woodwork and plaster artifacts. Meet with the Grand Imam for discussion and interaction about Islam before departing for the airport for your flight to Amman. Upon arrival in Amman, we will be met and assisted through customs and transferred to our hotel. During dinner at the hotel, meet a member of the Jordanian Interfaith Christian and Muslim group. Overnight at the hotel.

**MAR 16 FRI PANORAMIC TOUR OF AMMAN/MT. NEBO/MEDABA/KERAK
CASTLE/ PETRA**
After breakfast, visit the Citadel, a walled, hilltop collection of antiquities above the city of Amman. See the Roman amphitheater, which is carved into a hillside. This stunning 2nd-century structure is the most notable remnant of Philadelphia, the ancient city that once stood on the site of Amman. Continue to Medaba and see its Byzantine mosaics - including the oldest map of the Holy Land. The town dates to 2000 BCE. Then to Mt. Nebo for a wondrous view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Historians believe Moses' tomb lies in this region. Time permitting we will see Kerak Castle, a large Crusader castle

located in al-Karak, Jordan. It is one of the largest crusader castles in the Levant. Arrive in Petra for dinner and overnight.

MAR 17 SAT PETRA/EILAT/DEAD SEA

After breakfast, enter Petra, “The Red City Half as Old as Time”, another of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (and a setting in “Raiders of the Lost Ar”!). From Wadi Moussa, travel on foot, chariot or horseback (optional) through a narrow gorge in the Nubian sandstone and arrive abruptly at the phenomenal Red Rose City with the Treasury before you. Visit the Nabatean Tombs, Temples and dwellings, which were hewn from surrounding rock formations of multicolored stones. Petra was one of the most important caravan centers during Biblical times. It was lost to the world for over 500 years until rediscovered in the year 1812. Drive through the Jordanian desert in the afternoon and arrive at the Aqaba border crossing into Eilat, Israel. We will have a brief view of this resort town before driving north to the Dead Sea for dinner and overnight.

MAR 18 SUN DEAD SEA/MASSADA/EIN GEDI/QUMRAN/ JERICHO/ TIBERIAS

After breakfast in the hotel, you will have some time to float in the Dead Sea or in the hotel swimming pool (which is filled with Dead Sea water). We start our tour at legendary Masada where we take a cable car up to the mountaintop fortress. Here the heroic defenders held out for three years against the Roman Army and then committed suicide rather than be taken into slavery. Continue to the oasis of Ein Gedi, where David found refuge from the rage of King Saul. Pass the caves of Qumran where the Essenes hid the Dead Sea Scrolls nearly 2,000 years ago. See Jericho, believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world and the city with the oldest known protective wall in the world. Stop at Beit Shean where King Saul fell fighting the Philistines. Beit Shean is an amazing archeological discovery containing 18 levels of civilization. Continue to Tiberias for dinner and overnight at a Kibbutz in the Galilee.

**MAR 19 MON KIBBUTZ TOUR/BOAT RIDE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE/
CAPERNAUM/MT. BEATITUDES/ BANIAS/ GOLAN HEIGHTS/SAFED/ZIV
HOSPITAL/TIBERIAS**

After breakfast, begin the day learning about life on a Kibbutz. Then board a boat on the Sea of Galilee to Mt. Beatitudes, sight of the “Sermon of the Mount”, and enjoy the magnificent view over the Sea. Descend to Capernaum (Kfar Nahum), the ancient synagogue on the Sea of Galilee. Go up to the Golan Heights, the stronghold of the Syrians until 1967. See the underground fortifications and the new settlements of the Golan. Drive to the Banias Spring (Caesarea Philippi), one of the sources of the Jordan River. Continue via Kiryat Shermona to Zefat (Safed), the birthplace of the Kabbalistic movement and former center of Jewish mysticism. Visit Ziv Hospital and learn about the humanitarian work done to help the injured Syrian refugees. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight at the Kibbutz.

**MAR 20 TUE NAZARETH/ MEET WITH ARMY OFFICER/ZICHRON YAAKOV
KIBBUTZ BEIT EL/ ECO-PEACE/BEIT HAGEFFEN INTERFAITH CENTER/HAIFA**

After breakfast, leave the Sea of Galilee. Pass olive groves and arrive at Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood. Visit ancient Nazareth and the Arab bazaars. Meet with an Arab army officer who assists Arab youth that want to serve in the Israeli Army. Continue to Zichron Yaakov and learn about Christian Kibbutz Beit El, which is the 2nd largest employer in the city. Meet with Mira Edelstein, Projects Manager of EcoPeace, a unique organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists working cooperatively to protect their shared environment. End the day in Haifa, compared by some to San Francisco, and drive halfway up the mountain to Beit Hagefen – an Interfaith Community Center established in 1963 for the purpose of bringing together Arabs, Jews, Christians and Druze working towards coexistence, neighborliness and tolerance by means of cultural, sport and artistic activities. Continue to our hotel in Haifa for dinner and overnight

**MAR 21 WED PANORAMIC TOUR OF HAIFA/BAHA'I TEMPLE AND GARDENS
DRUZE VILLAGE/MEGIDDO/ CAESAREA/ TEL AVIV**

After breakfast, enjoy a short panoramic tour of Haifa, then visit the Temple and Gardens of the World Headquarters of the Baha'i Faith, a World Heritage site. Baha'i's believe that there is only one God and that He has revealed himself to humanity through a series of divine messengers, each of whom has founded a great religion. The messengers have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Continue to the Druze Village of Isfiya for lunch and a discussion to learn about these unique people, their life and faith. Leaving Isfiya, we visit Megiddo. See the excavation, King Ahab's water tunnel, and King Solomon's stables. Then travel along the Sharon Valley to Caesarea as we visit the Roman Theatre and Crusader fortifications. Arrive in Tel Aviv ("The City That Never Sleeps"), Israeli's most cosmopolitan city, for dinner and overnight.

MAR 22 THU JAFFA/NEVE SHALOM-WAHAT AL-SALAM/ YAD V'SHEM

After breakfast, share a short panoramic tour of Tel Aviv with a stop in Jaffa, the southernmost and oldest part of Tel Aviv-Yafo, an ancient port city in Israel famous for its association with the Biblical stories of Jonah. It is filled with winding alleyways interspersed with art galleries, historic stone buildings, mosques and churches. Begin your breathtaking ascent to incredible Jerusalem. Stop on the way to visit Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam (Oasis of Peace) – a community of Arabs and Jews established in 1970 to show that two peoples can live side by side peacefully. Enter Jerusalem and visit Yad V'Shem - the World Holocaust Remembrance Center with the Holocaust History Museum and the Avenue of the Righteous - before arriving at our Jerusalem hotel for dinner and overnight. Enjoy an evening stroll in a scenic part of the city.

MAR 23 FRI OLD AND NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM.

Drive to the top of the Mt. of Olives to see the magnificent view over the City of Jerusalem and the Temple area. Take the Palm Sunday route down the Mt. of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane. Visit the City of David and exit at the Davidson Archeological Park. See the historic Western Wall and descend and walk through the underground tunnels. Walk along the Via Dolorosa and see the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. You will have some time to explore in the fascinating bazaars of the Old City. Return to the hotel for Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Einstein.

**MAR 24 SAT AT LEISURE IN JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM/GARDEN TOMB/WALK
THROUGH NEVE SHAANANIM/AL AQSA MOSQUE**

Breakfast in hotel, then enjoy a morning at leisure in Jerusalem, or:

1. Attend services at one of the Synagogues
2. Tour to Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus
3. Visit and enjoy communion at the Garden Tomb
4. Walking tour through Neve Shaananim
5. Pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque

The group will depart the hotel and visit the Israel Museum to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Model City of Old Jerusalem, and Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture, AHAVA (in Hebrew letters). Everyone will enjoy a delightful farewell dinner in the Jerusalem Hills before transferring to the airport. Depart Israel just before midnight.

MAR 25 SUN ARRIVE IN LOS ANGELES/ PLAN REUNION!

