

Pilgrimage to Israel 2018 – Irene & Mike Holmes

We started on the day of our wedding anniversary and El Al had us in different rows but with help of the group we managed to sit together. Our flight took us from Heathrow to Tel Aviv, arriving at midnight at our overnight stay and up at 0600 the next morning.

Day 1 saw us at Caesarea and Herod's palace the port from where Paul sailed from and the place of Cornelius the centurion in the Italian regiment. (see ACTS 10) then onto Megiddo, named in the Book of Revelation as the setting for a future battle between the forces of good and evil, is for archaeologists perhaps the most important site in Israel dating from biblical times.

The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth stands over the **cave** that tradition holds to be the home of the Virgin Mary. A sunken **grotto** that contains the traditional cave-home of the Virgin Mary. This is where Jesus as a boy would have lived.

A visit to Nazareth and the Basilica of the Annunciation the largest in the Middle East.

Day2 Mount Tabor is the traditional site of the Transfiguration of Jesus. The first churches on the mountain were built in the 4th century ad. At the summit of the mountain there are a Franciscan church and hospice and a Greek Orthodox church. From atop the summit, there is a panoramic view of Upper Galilee. Ruins of crusader fortifications are numerous.

A visit to Capernaum a small fishing village on the Sea of Galilee, Memorial built over the house of St Peter



And onto a Kibutz at the Sea of Galilee and seeing a 2000 year old boat and then an hour of reflection on a boat trip on the sea.

Day 3 Tel Dan and the springs and Abrahams and Israelite gates and onto Caesarea Philippi was an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon. It was adjacent to a spring, grotto, and related shrines dedicated to the Greek god Pan. Now nearly uninhabited, Caesarea is an archaeological site in the Golan Heights.



The Mount of Temptation and forty days in the wilderness.

Much easier using the cable car to get up to it.

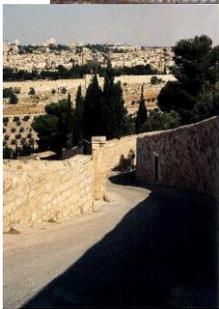
BET-SHE'AN

Bet She'an, is a city in the Northern District of Israel which has played an important role in history due to its geographical location at the junction of the Jordan River Valley and the Jezreel Valley. In the Biblical account of the battle of the Israelites against the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, the bodies of King Saul and his son Jonathan were hung on the walls.



The Mount of Olives or Mount Olivet is a mountain ridge east of and adjacent to Jerusalem's Old City. It is named for the olive groves that once covered its slopes. The Mount has been used as a Jewish cemetery for over 3,000 years .

Following the Way of Palm Sunday to Gethsemane to honour Jesus. Amazing place.



St Peter denies Christ 3



times

Home for last 3 days was the Jerusalem continuous lift so no hands have to be

Gate Hotel and, on the Sabbath, a used,

Day 6 starts at Herodium and then onto Bethlehem and the



Church of the Nativity and Manger Square.

Our afternoon was at the Israel National Museum and the Dead Sea Scrolls

We saw a sample of the scrolls and some of the storage jars



Masada Built by Herod as a residential palace, again using cable car to reach the top.

It was the place the Sicarii fought off the Romans for 3 years but when they realized they would lose the 960 Jews committed suicide and Flavius recorded this from the sole two women survivors.



A visit to Qumran – caves of the Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in a series of twelve caves around the site known as Wadi Qumran near the Dead Sea in the West Bank (of the Jordan River) between 1946 and 1956 by Bedouin shepherds and a team of archeologists.



Then onto the Dead Sea for Leisure time

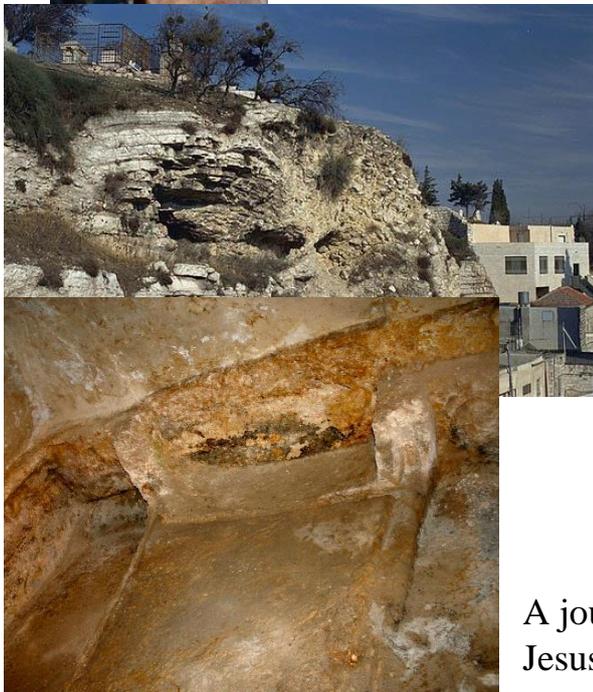
A Mud bath to help with skin complexion and you can only swim on back ie float



Day 8 starts at the City of David and then onto the walls of Jerusalem. We saw the parades of Bar mitzvah families and the scrolls from the wailing wall being taken by the young men.



Holy Sepulchre Church a special place and we walked the Via Dolorosa and realized what a horrible journey it must have been, struggling up the road with that wooden cross.



Jesus Tomb at Mount Calvary, seeing where Jesus body was wrapped and the rock it was placed on.

To see the place that held the cross, we feel this is the place of the crucifixion. We also held a communion service here in a private chapel.

A journey of discovery and knowing you walked in Jesus footsteps. Getting to feel the spirituality of it all.