

## **Israel 2018**

Friends of Providence you are invited to join Mile Two Discipleship School on a Tour of Israel! We are excited to open this trip up to anyone who wants to join our group for a 9-day journey through the Holy Land. Jeff Banman is the tour leader and can answer any questions you may have about the trip. Below are some Frequently Asked Questions to get you started. If you have other questions please email [jeff.banman@prov.ca](mailto:jeff.banman@prov.ca).

### **FAQs**

#### **Who will be going?**

The trip is originally planned for the students of Mile Two, the one-year discipleship school at Providence. These students are mostly right out of high-school and they are spending a year studying the Bible and learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. There are 11 students and 2 staff and the trip is part of their school year.

At the same time we are also welcoming friends of Providence to join the group. Every year we have had guests join our students on this trip and it has always been a positive experience for both groups. Cameron McKenzie will also be joining the group this year, focusing on teaching and working specifically with our friends of Providence who join us. It will be an eclectic group of young and “not-so-young,” but we will all be united in purpose and common goals.

#### **Where will we go?**

The tentative itinerary is posted on the Israel page. Some of these details will change, but this gives a fairly good idea of what the trip will look like.

#### **When will we go?**

We depart Feb 24 and arrive home on March 6.

#### **Can I arrive earlier or stay later?**

Talk with the trip leader Jeff Banman about this by emailing [jeff.banman@prov.ca](mailto:jeff.banman@prov.ca). You would be responsible for arranging your own flights and hotels and paying any related fees.

#### **What will the weather be like?**

You can expect daily highs around the Sea of Galilee of 15°C to 20°C; in Jerusalem of 13°C up to 16°C and at the Dead Sea of 20°C to 25°C. We may encounter some rainy days.

#### **What should I pack?**

A packing list is available by request.

#### **What currency should I bring?**

Israeli Shekels are best. You can order these at your bank or credit union. US dollars are often accepted as are major credit cards.

#### **How physically demanding is the trip?**

Some days you can expect to quite a few miles of walking, other days less. The average person does not have a problem with the daily physical demands of the trip.

**What is the cost?**

\$3750 CDN – This includes:

- Round-trip flights from Winnipeg via Toronto
- 9 nights hotel (based on double occupancy – single room supplement is \$700)
- Breakfast, lunch and supper daily
- All entrance fees to sites

**Can I pay by credit card?**

Yes. Credit card, Cash, cheque or money transfer payments are available.

**Will I receive a donation receipt?**

No. Donation receipts cannot be issued when you receive something in return for your money.

**Do I need any vaccinations?**

Always check with your doctor, but travelling to Israel is the same as travelling to the US or to Europe. Vaccinations are not required.

**Is it safe?**

Short answer – yes. Israel is in fact a very safe country for tourists to visit. Violence towards tourists is almost non-existent in Israel, especially in recent years. That being said there is always a degree of risk when travelling and visiting other major cities. Our experience over the recent years has been that we have always felt very safe. What you see on the news is not an accurate depiction of daily life in Israel. Talk with Jeff Banman if you have more concerns about this.

**Does the trip take any particular political side?**

We make every effort for this trip to be as well-rounded as possible and to help people hear several sides of the same story. Our guide is a Palestinian Christian and as such we will hear a great deal about the Palestinian experience. We will also hear from Jewish people who will share what life has been like for them and for their people. It can be complicated to know who is “right” and who is “wrong.” Thankfully that is not our goal. We hope to help people engage respectfully with all people groups and to come away with an understanding that the situation between Israelis and Palestinians is very complex. We would like to be a voice of reason and of peace and to work with those who are working for peace. If you have more questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask.

**I want to go, what do I need to do first?**

Email [jeff.banman@prov.ca](mailto:jeff.banman@prov.ca) and we will give instructions on how you can put down a \$500 deposit to reserve a spot on the trip. Space is limited. First come first serve.