

12 Inclusive Days

The Honors College

Israel 2014

“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

Hosted by:

Ted L. Estess and William F. Monroe

Guided by:

Steve Langfer, Ph.D.

May 12 – 26, 2014



Dear Friends,

Regionaltour is 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 Biblical characters 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. On other days, we may choose to overview the route of Joshua’s victory from Gilgal over the Benjamin Plateau on the edge of Jerusalem. Or, we may choose to visit the Valley of Elah and reconstruct the battle between David and Goliath.

In Jerusalem we will sit on the Temple Steps in the Ophel Ridge and reconsider the Kingdom Parables of Jesus. One prominent Jewish scholar insists this is the one place where we may say with certainty that Jesus was at this place, and where He taught parables. We will walk on the ancient Herodian pavement when we visit 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. Imagine all of this in a fully escorted tour with a spiritual leader you respect.

Return the registration form with your signature, date and deposit right away to assure your space.

Ted Estess and William Monroe

For Further information:

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Houston, TX 72004-2001
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TOUR PRICE: Houston IAH r.t.

\$4,075 — 30 or more participants

\$4,175 — 20 to 29 participants

Price is per person, double occupancy.
(price adjusted for less than 20 persons)

PRICE INCLUDES: Estimated Turkish Airlines group economy airfare (non-refundable) r.t., standard 1st class hotels (twin bedded, dbl. occ.), daily breakfast & dinner, English-speaking guides, group airport transfers, entrance fees, portage of one suitcase, \$90 local tips (guides, drivers, porters, dining & hotel desks), estimated air taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change), group travel insurance.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: \$20 Turkey visa, daily lunches, beverages other than tea or coffee at breakfasts, personal services requested.

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$650

NOTE: The tour prices are based on projected airfares. After airspace and fares are confirmed (June 2013) price and itinerary adjustments may be made.



SCHOLARSIPS: Honors College students will receive a \$500 scholarship toward the cost of the trip; hence the cost to Honors students will be either \$3,550 or \$3,675.

Here is your itinerary:

Day 1 May 12 Mon USA DEPARTURE

Be at the airport at least 3.0 hours prior to departure. Hot meals and in-flight entertainment are per airline policies.

BLR = Bible Lands Resource: daily interfaced readings. BLR: p. 2 - Roads, Rivers & Crossroads

Day 2 May 13 Tue ARRIVE TEL AVIV

Region: Coast of Sharon

Arrive Tel Aviv and proceed through passport control (keep the white entry sheet folded in your passport). Meet our guide, Dr. Steve Langfur, outside in the group parking lot. Depart to seaside hotel at Netanya. *BLR: p. 2 - Roads, Rivers & Crossroads*

Day 3 May 14 Wed TO LAKE OF GALILEE

Region: Coast of Sharon, Jezreel Valley, Sea of Galilee

Depart for Caesarea Maritima to view the Herodian harbor, hippodrome, theater and palace (later occupied by Pilate). Proceed to Muhraqa on Mt. Carmel (Elijah encounters the prophets of Baal). After lunch, depart to the Arbel cliff for an overview of the Lake of Galilee. Those who wish may descend the Arbel Cliff. Proceed to your lodging. *BLR: p. 6 - Coastal Plains*

Day 4 May 15 Thu SEA CIRCLE TRIP

Region: Sea of Galilee

Cross the lake in a triple-scale replica of a Roman fishing boat. Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes (Mt. 5-7). Descend to Capernaum, the center for Jesus' Galilean ministry. In the afternoon visit Nazareth, including a view of the Jezreel Plain. Return to lodging on the lake. *BLR: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, Overview, #4 Upper Galilee, #5 Lower Galilee, p. 7 - Jesus at Galilee.*

Day 5 May 16 Fri LOWER GALILEE

Region: Lower Galilee, Sea of Galilee

After a humane wake-up call and a leisurely breakfast, drive via the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the New Testament Armageddon (Rev. 16), for a thorough exploration of a First Testament archaeological site (a Tel Megiddo). Return to the Sea of Galilee with the balance of the day at leisure. *BLR: p. 6 #6 - The Jezreel Valley*

Day 6 May 17 Sat TO UPPER JORDAN

Region: Upper Jordan, Sea of Galilee

Depart the lake on the ancient trunk road to Hazor, the largest Canaanite city, and visit a palace that shared the same culture as the Mycenaean palaces of which we read in Homer. Proceed to Tel Dan. Walk through the Nature Preserve beside the Jordan River. View the High Place of Jeroboam son of Nebat (1 Kings 12). Float on the Jordan River in rubber boats. Visit the region of Caesarea Philippi (Mt. 16). Return to the lake via the Golan Heights, with a view toward Damascus. *BLR: p. 7, The Upper Jordan*

Day 7 May 18 Sun BETH-SHEAN, JERICHO, JERUSALEM

Region: Jordan Valley, Jerusalem

Depart the Lake of Galilee for Tel Beth Shean, which is one of the major archaeological sites from the First Testament, Roman, and Byzantine periods. From its top consider the demise of Saul, Israel's first king. View ruins of the Roman city, then known as Scythopolis. Drive down the Jordan River Valley and continue to First Testament Jericho Drive up to Jerusalem. Take in a view of the city from Mt. Scopus. *BLR: p. 6 #8 Mannaseh, #9 Ephraim, p. 8 #18 Lower Jordan*

Day 8 May 19 Mon JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

Region: Jerusalem, Judaeen Hills

Proceed to the Mt. of Olives for orientation to the Old City. Walk the Palm Sunday route to Dominus Flevit, then on to the Garden of Gethsemane. Depart for the Judaeen Hills and Bethlehem. Visit Shepherds' Fields, the Church of the Nativity, and an olivewood shop. Return to Jerusalem. *BLR: p. 7 #12 Judaeen Highlands*

Day 9 May 20 Tue JERUSALEM

Region: Jerusalem

Ascend the Haram e-Sharif (once the Temple Mount) to view the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque from outside. (Only Muslims are permitted inside the shrines.) Continue to the intact St. Anne's Crusader Church and the Pools of Bethesda (John 5). Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Exit through the Jaffa Gate. After lunch, continue to the Israel Museum, with the Shrine of the Book, the model of ancient Jerusalem, and the main archaeological section. *BLR: p. 7 - Jesus at Jerusalem*

Day 10 May 21 Wed MASADA, EIN GEDI, QUMRAN

Region: Dead Sea

Depart Jerusalem for the Dead Sea. Ascend Masada by cable car. View the ruins of the rebels' last stand against Rome. Descend to the Dead Sea for lunch and a float. Then cross the road to Ein Gedi for a hike to a waterfall. On the route back toward Jerusalem, visit Qumran to view a cave where many of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

Day 11 May 22 Thu JERUSALEM

Region: Jerusalem

Enter the original Jerusalem, the City of David, and descend Warren's Shaft. From the Gihon Spring, walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (bring old shoes for walking in water, as well as a flashlight) to the Pool of Siloam (John 9). After re-donning modest dress, walk to the Western Wall, once known as the "Wailing Wall," to view the Bar Mitzvah celebrations. Then enter the Ophel Ridge to visit the Temple walls and steps. Lunch. Proceed to Yad va Shem, the Holocaust memorial (open late today).

Day 12 May 23 Fri JERUSALEM, FREE DAY

Explore the Old City of Jerusalem and visit other sites in Jerusalem with other members of the group.

Day 13 May 24 Sat TO ISTANBUL

Transfer to the Tel Aviv Airport for the flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival purchase a Turkey visa for \$20 cash just prior to passport control. Clear customs and meet your guide and driver. Visit the ancient Roman Walls that encircled the ancient city of Constantinople. Take a short cruise on the Bosphorus Sea which separates Europe from Asia. Proceed to your hotel in the Old Town. The Grand Bazaar (alleged to have over 4,000 shops) is in easy walking distance.

Day 14 May 25 Sun ISTANBUL

Visit the Archaeology Museum of Istanbul. View the ornate sarcophagus associated with Alexander the Great. Continue to the gallery of biblical inscriptions. View the Gezer Calendar (from Israel), the inscriptions from the Hezekiah's Tunnel beneath the City of David and the warnings to the infidels. Continue to the 17th century Blue Mosque with its six minarets, and the famous Hagia Sophia church, which was the most prominent church of Christianity for over 1,000 years. Visit the Topkapi Palace, seat of the Ottoman Empire for over 400 years. *BLR: p. 4 - Biblical Chronology, p. 8 - Istanbul*

Day 15 May 26 Mon TO THE USA

Transfer to the Istanbul Airport for the early afternoon departure to Houston. Arrive this evening.

REQUESTED HOTELS:

NETANYA: Seasons Hotel, TIBERIAS: Ron Beach Hotel, JERUSALEM: Gloria Hotel, ISTANBUL: Kent Hotel



Mt. Arbel views of the Sea of Galilee



Dr. Steve Langfur

TOUR CONDITIONS:

1. DEPOSITS: Registrations require a signed and dated **IGM** form and a **\$300** 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: Payable to **IGM TOURS.**

4. CREDIT CARDS: **VISA, MasterCard and Discover** credit cards may be used for deposits and Final Payments. A 1.5% surcharge applies to American Express 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 an **IGM \$50 administrative fee.**

90 days prior: an additional \$100 per person plus applicable airline fees.

40 days prior: the full tour price is charged.

There are no refunds for international tickets once issued!

7. AIR TRANSPORTATION: **Turkiah Airlines** group economy airfares (10 persons flying the same route) are non-refundable and issued about 40 days prior to departure. Tickets do not permit changes in names, cities, or dates without penalty. Airfares are subject to change until ticketed. **Bonus and discount coupons are not applicable.**

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 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. GUIDES: English-speaking guides are provided.

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

13. LUGGAGE: Group touring is limited to one normal size suitcase (not to exceed 50 lbs), one camera case, and one flight bag.

14. PASSPORTS & VISAS: Each participant is responsible for a valid passport with 6 months validity from the scheduled end of the tour, and must mail to IGM a legible copy (do not fax). **Data is required 60 days prior to departure.** A Turkey visa is required on this tour for U.S. passports (to be purchased in cash upon arrival at Istanbul). Other than U.S. passports must advise **IGM** at the time of registration.

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

16. 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.

17. PRICING FLUCTUATIONS: Tour prices are based upon current tariffs, agreements, and exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure production, April 2013. These factors are outside the control of **IGM**, and will be defined by **IGM** at least 60 days before departure. **But if the fuel surcharges increase any time prior to ticketing you will be assessed.**

18. DEVIATIONS/CHANGES: Deviations/changes must be requested in writing to **IGM** (\$50 per person plus airline fees) at least 90 days before departure. And subject to airline regulations. Requests **less than 90 days** (invoice period) require an added \$75 fee per person. They are **not** accepted less than 60 days. No exceptions.

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

20. TRAVEL INSURANCE: **IGM strongly recommends** the purchase of travel insurance for protection of one's tour and luggage investments. Coverage may commence from the day of tour deposit throughout the tour duration.

21. 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.

22. AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY: The participating airline, 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.

Israel 2014 – Registration Form

Group: Estess – May 12, 2014

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!)

I request single room lodging.
(\$650 supplemental surcharge)

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 \$_____ (\$300 per person).

Signature(s)

Date

Mail deposit to:

IGM TOURS
P.O. Box 20488
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 727-0380
(510) 538-8777 fax
E-mail: igmtours@aol.com

Credit card payments: Call IGM TOURS about a week after you have mailed your registration form to advise the card number, name on the card, expiration date, security code and billing zip code.

