



A Stillspeaking Journey through the Holy Land
including a two-day Spiritual Discovery hike along The Jesus Trail through Galilee
Led by Pastor Sal Sapienza of the Douglas United Church of Christ

October 21st – 28th, 2020

Plus an optional 2-night post-trip extension to Petra, Jordan

October 28th – 30th, 2020

Within 2 weeks after our 2018 pilgrimage walking the *Camino de Santiago* in Spain, Pastor Sal had already decided that the next Douglas UCC trip would be to the *Holy Land*. His intention was definite – to lead a group from our Congregation to visit all the key sites associated with Jesus’s life, death and resurrection: from *Bethlehem to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem*, and everywhere in-between.

Join our beloved and inspirational Pastor Sal Sapienza as he leads us on an 8-day, 7-night *Stillspeaking Journey* through the Holy Land. There are many people who would love to go to the Holy Land, but could never dream it possible, or think about going alone. This is the opportunity to discover your journey, along with insights from Pastor Sal, and traveling with like-minded progressive Christians from our own Spiritual Family, the Douglas UCC. More importantly, this is also an amazing personal transformational journey, where we will experience the awe-inspiring, life-changing energy that millions of Pilgrims have felt throughout the centuries. This *Stillspeaking Journey* has been carefully curated to assist in capturing every aspect of this powerful and sacred passage.

On this adventure, we will not only walk in the footsteps of Jesus and many other ancestors of faith, but also see how God is still speaking in the Holy Land today. On our journey, in addition to Pastor Sal, we will be shepherded by local guides, who will make this a unique opportunity for a continuing and deeper experience of our Still-Speaking God. On the *Jesus Trail*, we will walk where Jesus walked, and experience the Holy Land in ways you've never dreamed of.

Every aspect of our adventure is exceptional, experiencing this striking landscape in a truly remarkable way. Each morning, Pastor Sal leads us with his spiritual insights, setting the tone for the day's journey of discovery. Practically speaking, we will have professional, knowledgeable, English-speaking guides throughout the entire trip. Our hotels have been carefully selected to offer all the modern comforts, also with authentic atmosphere particular to each location. Stunning scenery will inspire, spiritual moments will abound, and artistic and natural beauty will preside.

Our journey is divided between *Tel Aviv*, walking the *Jesus Trail* along the shores of the *Sea of Galilee*, and *Jerusalem*. Christians, Muslims, and Jews all recognize the sacred places to which we will travel. These places form the foundations of each of these three distinct spiritual traditions.

Come join this Spiritual Journey through what the world recognizes as the Holy Land. Return with a deeper faith, a clearer understanding of your own spirituality and the Bible, and memories that will last a lifetime.



mediterranean beaches.
 the hills of tuscanly.
 one-of-a-kind tours.
this is living.



Tel Aviv & Nazareth

October 21st – 23rd

Modern *Tel Aviv* and the ancient port of *Jaffa* make for two beautifully contrasting locations. Our adventure begins in Tel Aviv, where we experience the best of both modern and ancient. Discover Tel Aviv's centuries-old beginnings and its modern development, and how it got to where it is through vision, innovation and determination. Starting on *Rothschild Boulevard*, we explore the city's commercial, cultural, and culinary center; then continue into *Neve Tzedek*, the oldest and most picturesque neighborhood in Tel Aviv. Finish the day in the old port town of Jaffa, where Egyptian, Roman, and Biblical influences still flood the streets. And don't worry, there's even time to take a walk on the golden sands of the Mediterranean coastline.

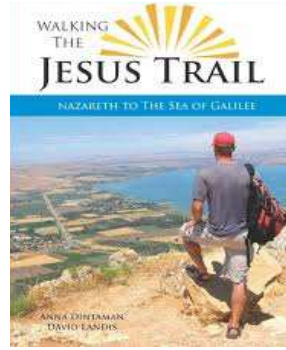
En-route from Tel Aviv to The Jesus Trail, we stop in the holy city of *Nazareth*, the childhood home of Jesus and the place of the *Annunciation*, where Mary received the message that she would give birth to Jesus.

Two nights in Tel Aviv are at the *Fabric Hotel*, the city's newest stylish boutique hotel, combining the cosmopolitan and urban culture of modern Tel Aviv. Built within a former sewing factory (hence the name), the Fabric Hotel is in the midst of the city's coolest shops, markets, and hangouts. It's also just a short walk away from the city's main attractions, including the famous *Carmel Market*, popular *Rothschild Blvd*, and fashionable *Neve Tzedek*. www.atlas.co.il/fabric-hotel-tel-aviv

Our time in Tel Aviv includes these highlights:

- Two nights in Tel Aviv at the *Fabric Hotel*, the city's newest stylish boutique hotel. www.atlas.co.il/fabric-hotel-tel-aviv
- Welcome dinner in Tel Aviv, featuring an organized discussion with locals about life in Israel today, including the three main religions and what Israel means for them; the different ethnic groups co-habiting (or not) in Israel; and LGBT life/rights in Israel, also including inter-ethnic relationships, both straight and gay.
- Walking tour of Tel Aviv, exploring the city's commercial, cultural, and culinary center on *Rothschild Boulevard*; then continuing into *Neve Tzedek*, the oldest and most picturesque neighborhood in Tel Aviv.
- Visit the historic sites of the *Old City of Jaffa*, one of the oldest port cities in the world.
- Discover the holy city of *Nazareth*, and the *Basilica of the Annunciation*, standing on the location where Mary received the message that she would be giving birth to Jesus.





The Jesus Trail

October 23rd – 25th

On the *Jesus Trail*, we will walk where Jesus walked and experience the Holy Land in ways we've never dreamed of. Our walk itself is approximately *10 miles each day*, for *2 consecutive days* ("A Piece of Cookie" for Camino veterans!) Hiking the Jesus Trail is an unforgettable walk through history, culture and spirituality; a well-known trail which takes in the full landscape of the place where Jesus chose to carry out his ministry. Return with a deeper faith, a clearer understanding of the Bible, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Our first day on the Trail begins outside Nazareth, with our first destination of the day being '*The Horns of Hattin*', a battle site during the *Second Crusade* in 1187. Awe-inspiring 360-degree panoramic views greet us from atop this extinct volcano. Next, we continue on the Trail to *Nebi Shu'eib*, the holiest place for the entire worldwide *Druze* community. Sometimes following old Roman roads, the final stretch of the day transports us back in time, through old olive groves and ancient scenery seemingly untouched by history, as we make our way to *Mount Arbel*.

Our second day on the Trail begins where we left off the previous day, at *Mount Arbel National Park*. We are soon greeted with one of the greatest views on the planet - *The Sea of Galilee* in all its glory glistening in the morning sunlight! The trail takes us down the hillside and into a Bedouin village, before guiding us onto the Galilean coastline. Along the coast, we visit *Tabgha*, the traditional site of the *Feeding of the 5,000*. Pass the modern village of *Migdal*, the traditional site of *Magdala* and the town of *Mary Magdalene*. Our final destination is now in sight: *Capernaum*, the place where Jesus chose to base his ministry. After congratulating ourselves upon our arrival to Capernaum, we are able to explore the ancient site. We have just walked through the Galilee region to Capernaum - just like Jesus did! If we have the energy, we can consider one more walk...to the *Mount of Beatitudes*, the traditional site of the *Sermon on the Mount*. Today the site is a tranquil garden with a Franciscan church featuring the eight beatitudes in stained glass, and provides a good vantage point to view the Sea of Galilee towards Tiberias and Capernaum.

Two nights along The Jesus Trail are spent at the *Vered Hagalil Guest Farm*, set high on the rolling hills of Galilee, overlooking the *Sea of Galilee* and the *Golan Heights*, very near to the *Mount of the Beatitudes*, *Capernaum*, and *Tabgha* (site of Jesus feeding 5,000 people). Founded in 1961, Vered Hagalil has a strong reputation across Israel for its high quality accommodation, warm hospitality, unbeatable location, as well as its horseback rides. The farm is on 30 acres of lush vegetation, landscape, orchards and grassy expanses, with the accommodations crafted of wood and local basalt stone, with individual views of the Sea of Galilee or the Galilee Mountains. The on-site restaurant, where we will have dinner both nights, is crafted of authentic field stone and pine wood, and features an eclectic Israeli menu plus traditional American-style dishes. This tranquil setting provides the perfect enhancement of our personal and shared experiences along the magical Jesus Trail.

www.veredhagalil.com

Two days hiking The Jesus Trail include these remarkable highlights:

- Two nights at the Sea of Galilee at the *Vered Hagalil Guest Farm* www.veredhagalil.com
- Two days hiking *The Jesus Trail* (approximately 10 miles each day), accompanied by our English-speaking dedicated guide the entire way.
- Hike past '*The Horns of Hattin*', a battle site during the *Second Crusade* in 1187. Awe-inspiring 360 degree panoramic views greet us from atop this extinct volcano.
- Continue on the Trail to *Nebi Shu'eib*, the holiest place for the entire worldwide *Druze* community.
- Visit *Tabgha*, the traditional site of the *Feeding of the 5,000*.
- Pass the modern village of *Migdal*, the traditional site of *Magdala* and the town of *Mary Magdalene*.
- Discover the ancient site of *Capernaum*, the place where Jesus chose to base his ministry.
- Hike to the *Mount of Beatitudes*, the traditional site of the *Sermon on the Mount*.



Jerusalem, The Dead Sea, & Bethlehem

October 25th – 28th

Jerusalem

In Jerusalem, there is deep history, grounded in architecture that reflects a commitment to preserve an ancient and sacred time. There are broad skies and narrow streets. The smile we see on a stranger's face often hides the trouble with which they live every day; their effort to embody faith and make the most of what can be a conflicted life in a troubled city within a troubled country, in a troubled part of the world.

In Jerusalem, there is an ever-present impulse to rehearse sacred stories that we have heard from early childhood as we walk through this holy city. Almost every neighborhood longs to tell a sacred story. On the hill overlooking *Old Jerusalem*, you can hear echoes of the *Passion* and *Crucifixion*.

We discover the *Old City of Jerusalem* with a private guide. We enjoy the panoramic view from the top of the *Tower of David Museum* followed by a visit to the *City of David*, birthplace of Jerusalem. Go back in time to the year 3,000 BC as we take a mysterious, magical journey between ancient shafts, walls and fortresses of the City of David. From *Mount Zion*, we first visit the tomb of *King David*, then the *Upper Room* where Jesus celebrated the *Last Supper* with the Disciples. Passing through the narrow biblical alleys of the Old City, we arrive to the *Western Wall* – Judaism's holiest site. Walk down *Via Dolorosa (The Way of The Cross)*, and into the *Church of the Holy Sepulchre*, identified as the place both of the *Crucifixion* and the *Tomb of Jesus of Nazareth*.

Masada & The Dead Sea

Passing through the *Judean Desert*, we arrive to the fortress of *Masada*; ascending via cable car to the mountain-top where the ancient fortress sits. Overlooking the biblical *Moab Mountains*, Masada was built in the year 30 BC by *King Herod*. Here, at the top of the mountain, in middle of the desert, we discover the history of one the greatest Jewish symbols of hope and pride.

Afterwards, descend to the world's largest natural spa – *The Dead Sea*, an intimate utopia of rejuvenation and natural minerals, *1,412 feet below sea level*. After a royal lunch at the *Lot Hotel*, cover yourself in mud and lose all sense of gravity while floating at the private beach of the hotel.

Bethlehem

Explore *Bethlehem* - the birthplace of Jesus. Walk through *Manger Square* to visit the *Church of the Nativity*, the oldest church in the Holy Land and one of the oldest in the world, with its ancient limestone columns and remains of mosaic floors. Descend to the *Grotto of the Nativity*, where a *Silver Star* in the floor marks the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born. Visit the *Chapel at Shepherds' Field*, where according to the Gospel of Luke, an angel announced the birth of Jesus to the local, lowly shepherds.

Around noon we head back to Jerusalem to visit the recently renovated *Israel Museum*, where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* are exhibited. In addition to the scrolls, there is a large model of *Ancient Jerusalem*, as it used to look in the 2nd Temple period. The museum itself has a vast priceless collection of archeological finds and artifacts.

Three nights in Jerusalem are at the *Harmony Hotel*. Unite in Tranquility. Located in the center of Jerusalem's most popular sites, guests love the Harmony Hotel for its ideal location, excellent breakfast, happy hour, and helpful staff. The rooms are modern and stylish, designed to combine timeless design elements with everyday comforts. The tranquil sun-filled lounge exudes the unique character of Jerusalem in its brick walls, sleek decor and stunning photographic ceiling depicting the colors, faces, and fabrics of this captivating city.

www.atlas.co.il/harmony-hotel-jerusalem

Our time spent in Jerusalem and the surrounding area include these amazing highlights:

- Three nights in Jerusalem at the *Harmony Hotel*. Unite in Tranquility.
www.atlas.co.il/harmony-hotel-jerusalem
- Private walking tour of the *Old City of Jerusalem*.
- Visit the major sacred sights of the *Upper Room of the Last Supper*, the *Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross)*, and the *Church of the Holy Sepulchre*, built on the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.
- Visit the *Western Wall*, the holiest site in Judaism.
- Discover King Herod's ancient fortress of *Masada*, built in the year 30 BC, and one of the greatest Jewish symbols of hope and pride.
- Visit and float in the *Dead Sea*, the lowest location on Earth at 1,412 feet below sea level.
- Explore *Bethlehem*, walk through *Manger Square* to visit the *Church of the Nativity*.
- Descend to the *Grotto of Nativity*, where a *Silver Star* in the floor marks the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born.
- Visit the *Chapel at Shepherds' Field*, where an angel announced the birth of Jesus to the local, lowly shepherds.
- Visit the recently-renovated *Israel Museum*, where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* are exhibited.

Included throughout our entire Journey:

- Each morning we gather with Pastor Sal to begin the day with prayer and words of guidance and inspiration relating to our journey.
- Full time dedicated services of an English-speaking guide who offers knowledgeable insights throughout our journey, and to assist every step of the way.
- All transportation services in a fully air-conditioned private mini-coach.
- Group transfers at designated times from the Ben Gurion Airport (Tel Aviv) to the Fabric Hotel on October 21st, and from the Harmony Hotel in Jerusalem back to the Ben Gurion airport on October 28th.
- Entrance fees to all sites listed in the program.
- Dining together is one of the most special parts of our experience; two meals each day, including wine, are also included throughout our adventure.

Not Included:

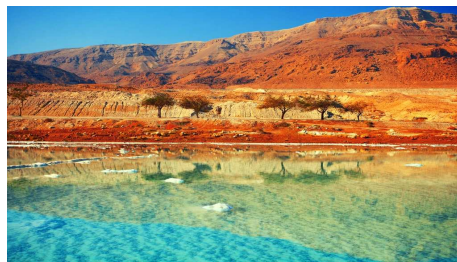
- Expenses of a personal nature
- One meal per day maximum is not included. (Most meals are included)
- Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff
- Israeli Departure Tax – 101 NIS, per person (Approximately \$30 USD)

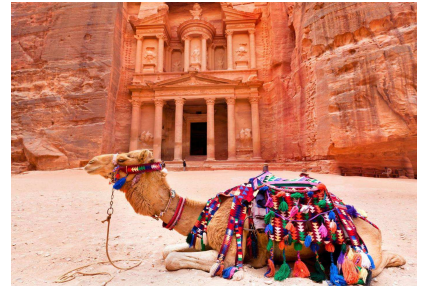
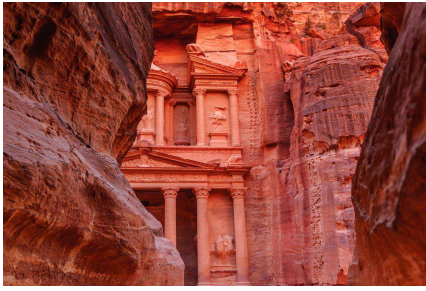
Our soul will be enriched by experiences with the people and places of this beautiful land. Absorb past glory and encounter present need. See ancient culture and touch today's pain. Merging both the origin and evolution of our faith is a spiritual exuberance, the likes of which cannot be duplicated anywhere else.

God will be known, felt, heard, and loved; whose face will be seen everywhere we go. Our journey offers us an opportunity to encounter sacred presence, in a truly sacred space, while traveling with and encountering sacred people.

We are grateful for this Sojourn into the Mystic.

God is Still Speaking....





A Stillspeaking Journey
post-Holy Land 2-night extension to
Petra, Jordan
hosted by Pastor Sal of the Douglas UCC
October 28th – 30th, 2020

Explore the wild beauty of the Arabian Peninsula, with this add-on to Petra and Wadi Rum, Jordan. The perfect combination of relaxation, education, and adventure.

There are few places in the world that can instill more mystery and awe than the ancient city of Petra, Jordan's premier national treasure. Undiscovered for more than a millennium, Petra is the legacy of the Nabateans, an industrious Arab people who settled in southern Jordan more than 2,000 years ago. Admired then for its refined culture, massive architecture and ingenious complex of dams and water channels, Petra is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Much of Petra's appeal comes from its spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge (Siq). This rock-hewn ancient city is one of the world's archaeological jewels, and even today, new sites are being discovered and new mysteries are slowly being unraveled.

We discover Petra just as the Bedouin tribes did over 2,000 years ago—through its winding one kilometer-long Siq, a magnificent gorge flanked by high rock cliffs on either side, famous for its enthralling rose-colored rocks, and as a filming location for “Indiana Jones”. This is where we'll get the first hit of Petra magic, as we emerge from the Siq at the iconic Treasury, the masterpiece of the ancient city, in time to see the sun creeping down the intricate face of this awe-inspiring tomb, which is carved directly into the mountain. The city dates from the first century AD, and its design reflects the advanced Nabataean civilization. Listen to the legends of the locals, some of whom were born in the very caves we walk past, and learn what it was like to live and trade here in ancient times.

After our visit to Petra, we head to Wadi Rum for dinner and overnight under the desert stars.

Overnight at Memories Aicha Luxury Camp. There is no better way to fully relish the other-worldliness and magic of the Wadi Rum's desert landscapes than to spend the night at a luxurious camp, savoring the local delicacies, and gazing at the endless, starry skies. The Memories Aicha Luxury Camp is a perfect oasis in the middle of this sea of sand, yet with spectacular mountains in the distance, where your dreams of an ultimate Arabian adventure can come true. The Junior “Tents” are lavishly decorated, equipped with either one King Bed or two Twin Beds, and are handsomely fitted with hand-made furniture, brass lighting, mirror, and a long chair. Of course, the “tents” also feature an en suite bathroom and shower. Settle into this luxurious environment in the heart of the Wadi Rum Magical Desert, reaching to the highest stars, setting free your Mind, Body, & Soul, and indulging in a true Arabian experience. www.mlc.jo

Wadi Rum (“Valley of the Moon”) lies in the far south of Jordan, set on a high plateau at the western edge of the Arabian Desert. Wadi Rum is Jordan's largest desert, one of the most spectacular desert landscapes in the world, and the closest you'll ever come to visiting Mars. It's an otherworldly experience you shouldn't miss in your lifetime. The Wadi Rum desert has been the location for the filming of countless movies, including 1962's “Lawrence of Arabia” by David Lean and 2000's “Red Planet” by Antony Hoffman.

Prepare yourself for an adventure in one of the most beautiful landscapes on earth! A 4 hours off-road vehicle tour will take us to the renowned places as well as the less frequented and less famous ones. Sandstones and granite rocks make up this vast valley, the largest in the Hashemite kingdom. Stop for a short camel ride to get the full desert experience. Seal this day with a typical Bedouin lunch.

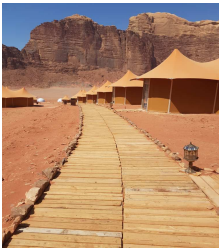
Final night back at the Fabric Hotel in Tel Aviv, in anticipation of morning flights home with everlasting memories of Israel & Jordan. Shalom. God is Still Speaking...

Our Journey into Jordan includes these amazing highlights:

- One night at Memories Aicha Luxury Camp in Junior “Tent” for the ultimate Arabian experience. www.mlc.jo
- One night at Fabric Hotel in Tel Aviv. www.atlas.co.il/fabric-hotel-tel-aviv
- Two full days of sightseeing excursions with private air-conditioned vehicle as per the program.
- Two days with a dedicated English-speaking tour guide.
- Round-trip domestic flights from Tel Aviv to Eilat, Israel.
- Private transfer, meet & assist, and escort from Eilat Airport, through the Jordanian border and into Jordan.
- Entry visa to Jordan (non-restricted nationalities).
- Four-hour off-road vehicle tour & short camel ride in Wadi Rum.
- Private transfer, meet & assist, and escort from Jordan, through the Israeli border and to the Eilat Airport.
- Private transfers from/to the Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv to Fabric Hotel in Tel Aviv.
- All meals: both breakfasts, lunch in Petra, dinner and Bedouin lunch in Wadi Rum, farewell dinner in Tel Aviv.
- Entrance fees to all sites listed in the program.

Not included:

- Jordanian departure tax of 10 JOD, per person (approximately \$15 USD)





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Led by Pastor Sal of the Douglas United Church of Christ
October 21st – 28th, 2020

plus a Petra, Jordan optional extension October 28th – 30th, 2020

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____ **E-Mail** _____

YES! I want to visit the Holy Land with Pastor Sal October 21st – 28th, 2020
 ___ \$3,300 per person, double occupancy
 Single Supplement is \$800

YES! I want to stay for the Petra extension, October 28th – 30th
 ___ \$1,500 per person/double occupancy
 Single Supplement is \$300

Deposit of \$500 per person is required to reserve your place.

Personal checks accepted.

Please return this form with the \$500 per person deposit, payable to:

Villas and Vines
PO Box 131
Douglas, MI 49406

MasterCard and Visa accepted with a 3% per person surcharge added to the final payment.

Final payment is due by August 7, 2020 (75 days prior)

*This tour includes all hotels, ground transportation, bi-lingual tour guide, activities, meals, and wines as outlined in the program. We reserve the right to make any unplanned changes in the itinerary due to weather or any other unforeseen circumstances. **Air is NOT included to/from Tel Aviv, Israel.***

***CANCELLATION:** If canceled up to 75 days prior, there is a \$500 per person cancellation fee. If canceled between 75 – 30 days prior, the penalty is 50% of the total cost of the trip. The trip is non-refundable if canceled within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.*

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