

A2O Travel Tribune

Volume XI Issue II

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*From the
beginning to the
end, you'll
enrich your
faith and
experience the
best!*

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As we reflect on the birth of Jesus during this Christmas season, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have traveled with us throughout the year. We also wish blessings upon those with upcoming tours planned, and to all of you who may travel with us in the future. May the gift of the Christ child bring you peace and joy, today and always.

Silent (But Not So) Silent Night



I arrived in Israel last night. I think it might be my 11th or 12th time. I'm not sure. Our team took a short (45 minutes) bus ride to Bethlehem for our first part of our stay in Israel. The first night is never a good night of sleep as my body is getting used to the 10-hour difference in time. I finally got up and went out on our balcony that overlooked the town of Bethlehem. One of the first things I noticed was the lights of all the houses that dotted the city at that time in the morning. It was quiet, very still. Nobody was moving about. It was peaceful. The second thing I noticed was the stars. It was the very same star patterned that is above my house at that time of the morning back home. It was very comforting.

I thought about the song, "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"...

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

We all like that image of Bethlehem, a sleepy, quiet village of about 2,000 people. Yet, in reality, since the birth of Jesus, the town is no longer silent event.

- Luke 2 talks about the noise of the angels rejoicing in heaven over the glorious birth of Jesus. The shepherds heard this.
- Matthew 2 talks about the crying of the moms whose babies had been massacred by Herod as he killed all the babies 2 years and under in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:18 (NLT) — 18 "A cry was heard in Ramah—weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead."
- A church was built over the location of Jesus' birth in 325. It was burnt down in 529 A.D.
- A new basilica was built in 565 A.D. and has seen many insurrections and changes over the years – including the Crusader period.

Now the town is about 25,000 plus in population. It enjoys the tourist dollars that come from people all over the world who want to visit the sight of Jesus' birth, but it is also a town (on the West Bank) of tension. It is a Muslim based community with some Palestinian Christians hosting a birthplace that is sacred to Christians all over the world. As a result, tension survives.

Jesus came as a light to the whole world, no matter what nationality or religion you may be part of. Unless a person finally sees that light, the noise of this world, the tensions of this world will continue to surface and make a lot of noise. When we finally see the light that Jesus offers us, the tensions and striving will finally cease. It is then that we will have peace in our hearts the way that God intended for it to be in the beginning.

Hesperia, CA

Growing up in a pastor's home, I never missed weekly worship or Sunday School. We had old Sunday School lessons and learned all about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Those stories are real and the people in them lived and breathed as surely as you and me. In my little mind, I had always kind of seen the Holy Land through the eyes of these lessons, books, and artistic renderings. Jericho, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, and all of it was in my mind's eye as simple paintings and two-dimensional maps.

Alpha 2 Omega Travel, and Linda in particular, put actual pictures, experiences, and the Biblical narrative to life. On our recent tour there were two places that stood out to me and my wife. The first moment was in the church next to the Garden of Gethsemane. The church was packed with people all taking pictures and doing their tourist thing. In the center of the church a Catholic Priest was leading Mass for about 50 pilgrims. During the din and the selfie sticks, the priest led the people with the words, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible." Of course, he was leading in the Nicene Creed and my wife and I started to confess the faith alongside of these pilgrims and with tears in our eyes finished, and then joined them for the Lord's Prayer. Our tour had led us to see how big the Church of Jesus Christ truly is. America has a way of "congregationalizing" the faith, and my wife and I were reminded that the church of Jesus Christ is much larger than we thought.

The second moment for me was at Capernaum nearing the end of our trip. We saw where the miraculous of fish was, the feeding of the 5000, and that same day we were in Capernaum. The synagogue in Capernaum was excavated and it was very clear where it was, what it was all about, and exactly where Jesus was. Standing in the place where he cast out a demon and healed many [Luke 4:31-44] was moving. It made all the old stories real.

Artistic renderings are like cartoons. Now in my mind's eye I have live video, pictures were taken in through my eyes and now those pictures are a part of me. The Biblical Narrative now is full color, with sounds and textures and an understanding of God's people and, most exciting, the pathways of Jesus, to the cross, the tomb, the resurrection. It's all real as can be.

Linda organized our tour in a marvelous way. We started with tons of energy and did the hardest parts, with the most walking, out the shoot. Our tour guide, was a Christian, and led us remarkably from Abraham, to David, to Rome and Jesus. His expertise and kind demeanor provided huge amounts of data and more important, the linkages from place to place. After we did the hard part, Linda led us to Galilee and all arrangements were expertly put together and we had zero hiccups.

I'm so grateful to Alpha 2 Omega Travel, and especially to Linda who loved our people, led them gracefully, and prepared us all for a very warm and joyful Christmas.

Orange, CA

Linda, the owner of Alpha 2 Omega Travel, provided us with one of the most professional and exceptional guides for our tour to Israel in October. From the beginning of the tour to the end, Ibrahim's care for us was appreciated very much. His historical, biblical, and cultural knowledge and insights taught us all so much. We learned from him, shared with him, and gained a deeper understanding of Israel that has enriched our faith. It was because of his caring attitude and teaching ability that we had such a wonderful tour. Thanks so much!

BG, Hesperia CA

I like to start by saying what a wonderful experience the tour was from start to finish. The tour guide was full of a ton of knowledge and was an awesome guy. It is most definitely a trip that you want to take and bring your family. One of my favorites was a worship session on the Sea of Galilee. Trip of a lifetime! A big thank you to Linda at Alpha 2 Omega Travel.

FP, Hesperia CA



Thanks again for the great trip! It was nice getting to know you a bit! We really enjoyed ourselves and will read our bibles with new insight, picturing the places written about!!

Thanks again!

CR, Orange CA

Sending heartfelt thanks and gratitude for a spectacular Holy Land journey and tour, it was a wow every single day. Thank you! Every day brought an experience that was in some respects even better than the day before. There was so much to see and do. A favorite was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, raising the flag with the morning music playing, a prayer reading with

the moment of silence, enjoying the sun shining, sea breeze, and each other's company~ it all felt sacred, as did the 12 day tour, every step of the way. Again, many thanks and much love for an extraordinary opportunity and life experience, all expectations were exceeded.

L & S, Newport Beach CA

Linda, it was a very outstanding tour. You and your staff did a fantastic job. My favorite moment was to sail on the Sea of Galilee, and I read to the group the events of Mark 4:35-41 of how Jesus calmed the Sea.

ES, Hesperia CA

Thank you so much, Linda, for everything and for an experience I will never forget. Amen.

EO, Hesperia CA



Thanks to Alpha 2 Omega Travel we had a wonderful trip to Israel. All I could think about as we rode in our tour bus through traffic and the maze of streets in Jerusalem, while not being able to read many of the signs, was I'm glad we didn't try to do this on our own! Thanks to Linda, all the trip details were taken care of well in advance of our arrivals- meals, hotels, and all the sites. Our trip was filled with the historical and religious significance of each site. Every day was full of site seeing, education, and time for reflection at all the holy sites.

There was even time to get a feel for the cultures of the region. We realized that Israel was not only the center for Christianity and Judaism, but was also a center for Romans, Babylonians, and many ancient civilizations. We give Alpha 2 Omega Travel high marks for making our trip a life changing experience and one that will be full of many memories for a lifetime.

D & A, CA



Alpha 2 Omega thoughtfully put together an itinerary mindful of crowds, where we seemed to always arrive earlier than other tours. Our most favorite place was on the Sea of Galilee listening to praise music knowing our Lord Jesus walked there. At the Temple Mount of Old Jerusalem, praying at the Western Wall, leaving my written prayers inside the wall was most memorable. We have learned so much from this tour and will never read the Bible the same without reflecting on what we saw.

SC, Orange CA

We felt that the experience exceeded our expectations. Specifically, we enjoyed every stop of the tour because your planning was spot on. The sites were crowded, but we seemed to get in everywhere, earlier than any of the other tour buses. Especially at lunch, we always were one step ahead of the next bus. Very well planned. The high point for me was singing psalms on the Sea of Galilee, and Caesarea Philippi, where we know it was the turning point for Jesus, signifying that His ministry was now headed to the cross. It made this more personal than most of my study of the Bible could have achieved. We were transported to that time and place. Thank you in Christ because you made us feel comfortable, cared and confident.

MC, Orange CA



Linda, thanks so much for making our stay so memorable. My most memorable experience was the Garden Tomb. It was such a humbling experience to possibly be in the same place as Christ. It felt like I was part of that most amazing miracle. God bless you and thanks again.

L&B, Murrieta, CA

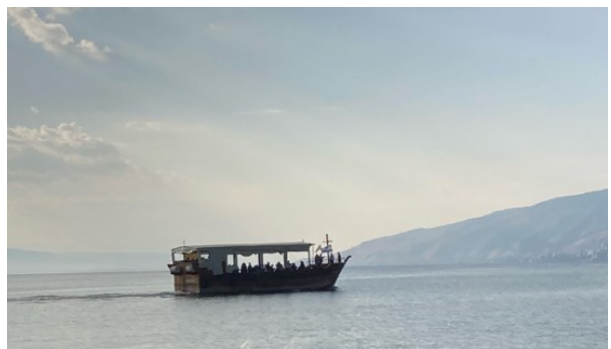
I loved everything Linda planned for us! I didn't know what to expect. I was surprised by the beauty of the Sea of Galilee and really enjoyed the boat ride, knowing Jesus had sailed those same waters. I loved the archeology and the beauty of ancient ruins and how clever people were

even back 2000 years ago. Our guide was very knowledgeable. He gave us safety tips as well as great shopping opportunities. I felt safe because we were a large group. I highly encourage visiting the Holy Land..its beautiful and where our Lord walked this earth among us.

CG, Irvine CA

I recently went to Israel on a 10-day tour through Israel with Linda from Alpha 2 Omega Travel, and I can't recommend Linda more highly. Prior to leaving the U.S., Linda had our team prepared for everything we would need (travel arrangements, types of clothing to bring, bag sizes, etc.) to make our experience smooth and seamless. Once in Israel, the accommodations were excellent, the guide and bus driver were amazing, and Israel and all the sites were simply incredible. I have wanted to go to Israel for many years, and I am so pleased that I was able to travel with Linda and Alpha 2 Omega Travel. It was a once in a lifetime experience.

GM, Hesperia CA



If you're thinking of touring Israel, do it! And do it with Alpha 2 Omega Travel. Linda's knowledge of the area is priceless, and her staff are so knowledgeable and excellent at what they do. Thanks to them we were always one step ahead of all the other tours which made for a better experience with less crowds. Not only did they get us to all the great spots and shared so much history with us, but they coached us the daily ins and outs of touring Israel (when we could use our credit card safely, what we needed to wear, what to expect, how to deal with street vendors, and much more). I felt completely safe the entire time. They also managed to fit so much into every day. The number of places we went, and things we saw was phenomenal. One of my most memorable experiences is when we went to the spot where it is believed that Jesus taught his Disciples the Lord's Prayer, and our pastor led our group in the Lord's Prayer. I was literally brought to tears. The other moment was when we were on a boat on the Sea of Galilee and the driver turned off the engine and we listened to the water lapping against the boat and thought of Jesus having the same experience. It was powerful.

JB, Placentia CA

Thank you, Linda, the owner of Alpha 2 Omega Travel, for such a fantastic tour. Our guide was not only fun, but extremely qualified and provided an outstanding tour. The knowledge that Ibrahim shared with us was phenomenal. We will never read about Israel or read our Bibles in the same way again. We gained so much insight! Anything that we needed, he took care of for us. We never had to worry about anything. We were able to see so many places and learn so much.

Hesperia CA

Sending you a huge thank you for all the work and planning that went into our most amazing Israel trip. John and I have always wanted to travel to Israel, but honestly were afraid of the political turmoil and daunted by the task of trying to organize what to see and how to get there. Your tour was so well designed. The pace of the tour was challenging, but the itinerary was manageable. Everything was considered for us including admission to the many sites, dining, and accommodations. That was a huge advantage and even the beds and showers were fantastic! We were overwhelmed by the avalanche of history, culture, and biblical information we experienced firsthand. The guide added so much to our understanding of the culture and history by giving comprehensive overviews and then patiently repeating details until we could understand. Biblical sites familiar to us came to life and other events like Masada were unfamiliar to us and totally astounding. We even floated in the Dead Sea! We appreciated learning about both the secular and religious history. To walk through Jerusalem, meditate on the Sea of Galilee, and stand on the ground where Jesus was born was indescribable. Since returning, we have spent hours and hours reviewing our photos and continuing to learn. The adventure will be with us for a lifetime, and we will continue to be blessed by having seen the Holy Land and applying our impressions into our Bible study and worship.

I & J, Santa Ana CA

We just returned from a trip to Israel that touched our lives and will remain in our hearts. We walked where our Lord walked, we experienced where Jesus preached and taught, where He spent the last week of His life on earth and where He died and was resurrected. The memories of our visit are memorialized in the hundreds of pictures we brought home. Thank you!!!

B & J, CA





*Christ
Our Savior
is born!*

ALPHA 2 OMEGA TRAVEL
P.O. BOX 402128
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760-985-3540
WWW.ALPHA2OMEGATRAVEL.ORG

\$100 OFF Tour Price

Coupon valid when group materializes to the minimum number of participants prior to final payment due date. Coupon must accompany registration form. Discount will be applied at final billing. Coupons cannot be combined.

Alpha 2 Omega Travel (760) 985-3540 www.alpha2omegatravel.org

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2023

Jun 5-15, Jun 12-22, Jun 19-29, Jun 26-Jul 6, Jul 3-13, Jul 10-20
Aug 28-Sept 7, Sept 4-14, Oct 9-19, Oct 16-26, Oct 23-Nov 2
Oct 30-Nov 9, Nov 20-30

Host a tour - Discounted - Israel 2024

Jan 2-11, Jan 10-19, Jan 17-26, Jan 23-Feb 1
Complete package starting at \$3399 Land only package starting at \$2699

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2024

Feb 5-15, Mar 4-14, Mar 11-21, Apr 1-11, Apr 8-18, May 6-16, May 13-23
May 20-30, May 28-Jun 7, Jun 17-27, Jun 25-Jul 5, Jul 2-12, Sept 3-13, Sept 9-19
Sept 16-2, Sept 23-Oct 3, Sept 30-Oct 10, Oct 28 - Nov 7, Nov 4-14, Nov 11-21
Nov 18-28, Nov 25-Dec 5

Host a tour - Discounted - Israel 2025

Jan 6-15, Jan 13-22, Jan 20-29, Jan 27-Feb 5
Complete package starting at \$3399 Land only package starting at \$2699

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2025

Feb 3-13, Feb 11-21, Feb 19-Mar 1, Feb 27-Mar 9, Mar 17-27, Mar 25-Apr 4
Apr 2-12, Apr 21-May 2, Apr 30-May 10
May 8-18, May 19-29, Jun 2-12, Jun 10-20, Jun 18-28, Jun 26-Jul 6, Aug 28-Sept 7
Sept 1-11, Sept 9-20, Oct 2-11
Oct 9-19, Oct 20-30, Oct 28-Nov 7, Nov 5-15, Nov 13-23, Nov 24-Dec 5, Dec 3-13

Join an existing tour- Space Available

If you have a small group, join with one of our existing tours!

Israel and Jordan, February 4-21, 2023 - \$5199
Israel, July 3-12, 2023, - \$4399
Israel and Jordan, November 9-20, 2023- \$4699
Israel, February 15-26, 2024 - \$3799
Israel and Jordan, February 26 -March 8, 2024 - \$4399
Israel, March 7-18, 2024 - \$3839
Israel, Istanbul, Cappadocia, and Ephesus - May 16-27, 2024 - prices TBA
Israel and Jordan - June 9-21, 2024 - \$4850
Israel and Egypt - October 18-November 2, 2024 - prices TBA
Israel, Greece, and Istanbul - November 10-21, 2025 - prices TBA
Israel and Germany - May 31-June 15, 2026 - prices TBA
Israel, Istanbul, and Seven Churches - dates and prices coming soon!
Israel, Rome, and Istanbul - dates and prices coming soon!



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