A2Ω Travel Tribune

Volume XII, Issue III

5pring 2024



ALPHA 2 OMEGA TRAVEL P.O. Box 402128 Hesperia, CA 92340 Phone: 760-985-3540 CST-2101939-50

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



Alpha 2 Omega Travel wishes you a blessed and joyous Easter Season! Alleluía! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluía!



As the Gospel of Mark recalls the Resurrection of Jesus, the mysterious young man at the tomb tells the women: "But go, tell his disciples



and Peter that he is going ahead of you...." (Mark 16.7). This is the promise of Easter....that the risen Lord is always there ahead of us! And perhaps this is the best way to approach our visit to the Holy Land! I'm sure your itinerary will include stops at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the synagogue in Capernaum, and probably an excursion to the Dead Sea and Herod's fortress of Masada. Wonderful. These sites are definitely a must see and your trip to the Holy Land wouldn't be complete without the opportunity to walk in these amazing places. There really is no better Christian Education experience than traveling in the Holy Land with your Bible by your side and experiencing the land itself as what many refer to as a 'fifth Gospel.' And I have no doubt that you will encounter Jesus in these places.

But I want to call your attention to those 'living stones' that won't be on your itinerary. These are

the people who call this wonderful place home. I encourage you to see them as a part of your pilgrimage experience and to approach them with love and respect. We are, after all, guests in their land. The shop keeper in the old city who is selling spices that you can take home and add to your rice or an ancient oil lamp that connects you to the history of the places you visit. What is his/her name? How long have they lived there? Or the little boy who precociously is trying to get you to buy a wooden camel or scarf; even if you aren't going to buy anything, perhaps a playful smile might be better than acting aloof. Would you like to take a picture of someone? Ask for their permission. And if they are there trying to make a living, an offer to give a small sum in exchange is often a common courtesy. If you have the opportunity,



try to learn about the different worshipping communities, cultures, their customs, and beliefs. Take the time to see the vibrancy of not only the past stories, but the current narratives as well. Watch the local children run and play—how similar are they to your own kids? Perhaps, it is especially in the people where we see the spirit of the Risen Christ most clearly.

So, you're going to the Holy Land! Great! Remember to be watchful for the risen Lord who goes before you; and who might just be found in the people along the way!

Pastor Jeff Frohner, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion IA





Upcoming Tours

During the next few months, we are actively seeking tour hosts for the 2024-2026 tour seasons. If you

have hosted a tour in the past, please give us a call to schedule dates for your next tour. If you haven't traveled with us before or haven't traveled to the Holy Lands, we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can contact our office directly at (760) 985-3540 or

email us at office@alpha2omegatravel.org.

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2024 Sept 3-13, Sept 9-19, Sept 16-26, Sept 23-Oct 3, Sept 30-Oct 10 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 \$3599 Land only package starting at \$2799

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2025

Feb 3-13, 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 - June 9-21, 2024 - \$4850 Israel - October 29-November 8, 2024 - \$4399 Israel - November 8-19, 2024 - \$4399 Israel - Feb 11-21, 2025 - \$4099.00 Israel and Jordan - February 20 - March 5, 2025 - \$4199 Israel - March 4-14, 2025 - \$3999 Save \$\$\$\$ when purchasing a complete package!

> > Save 20% when purchasing a complete package! We also offer tours to other biblical destinations! Greece, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, and Rome

Page 4

Travel Tips

Money Concerns

Debit/credit cards are used in the Middle East. Contact your bank prior to leaving and give them the dates of your travel plans. Please remember to request an international number from your credit card or bank when you give them your travel dates. It makes it much easier to contact them, in the event that you need to do so. In most cases, when you pay in U.S. dollars, you will receive back foreign currency. It is wise to carry quite a few smaller bills; \$1's, 5's, and 10's. You can use these for small purchases. Money belts or pouches are highly recommended to keep passports and money secure.

Passports

Make sure to have a valid passport, with a date of at least six months remaining from return date of the tour. If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. You can obtain information on applying for or renewing your passport at http://travel.state.gov. rage 5



Safety

Safety in a foreign country is of great concern to most people. Many people are not comfortable traveling to a place with which they are unfamiliar, and may perhaps have heard that it is unsafe. It is sometimes easier to avoid visiting a country you

have always wanted to visit. Your safety is our concern. Tour operators will always have the most current information on the safety in each country, and any reports that are issued. Security issues in Israel and other countries are many times overly exaggerated. It is, in all probability, safer than where you live. Rest assured that millions of people travel to Israel and the Middle East every year, without any safety or security issues.

