

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



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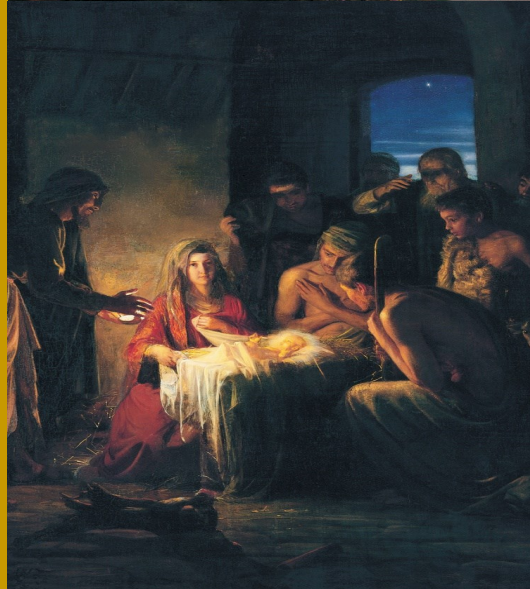
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As we reflect on the birth of Jesus during this Christmas season, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have traveled with us throughout the year. We also wish blessings upon those with upcoming tours planned, and to all of you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



## A message from our tour hosts...

**EXPERIENCING THE 5TH GOSPEL** — Our band of 34 pilgrims visited the Holy Land with Alpha 2 Omega Travel this past fall. As is the case for most church groups, our desire was to go not as tourists but as pilgrims, experiencing the land of God's salvation history. St. Jerome called the Holy Land, the 5th Gospel. "Read the 5th Gospel," Jerome said, "and the world of the four will open up to you." This indeed came true for us as we walked in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus.

Working with Linda Miller and Alpha 2 Omega Travel was an incredible blessing because of the detailed attention she gave to our tour. We were able to not rush from place to place, but to allow time to truly experience each holy site. Linda was very receptive to my ideas for the tour and made sure we were able to accomplish some very special moments along the way. These included:

- Worshipping at The Lutheran Church of our Redeemer in Jerusalem on Reformation Day
- Renewing our baptisms in the Jordan
- Holding a worship service for the renewal of vows at the wedding chapel in Cana (5 couples renewed their vows!)
- Celebrating the Lord's Supper on the Sea of Galilee with individuals cups of olive wood from Bethlehem and communion wine from Cana

From the moment we got off the plane and throughout our tour, Linda was a hands-on operator. She made sure every detail of every day was taken care of, and so we felt very cared for. Our tour guide, Shadi, was knowledgeable and fit in well with our group (I'd highly recommend him!). The bus was comfortable, clean, and our driver, Emad, kept us safe on some very narrow and busy roads. The whole tour was an amazing blessing and a great joy!

**Pr. Steven Borst, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Riverside CA**

**A Holy Land Journey...**and why every follower of Christ should make the trek. A passionate follower of Christ is one who reads and studies the Bible with an eye to the context and meaning for the original audience to which it was written. Much contextual meaning has been lost to the 21<sup>st</sup> century reader, but one of the best ways to reengage the context is to actually be in the places and cultures of the people of the Bible. For that reason, it has been my personal experience that a trip to the Holy Land will change how you see the Bible. It comes alive as you walk where the stories took place. The characters become real. Understanding culturally how living in the land must have been.

It is difficult to simply read a book about the land and just show up. You need a great guide and facilitator to make the most of your days in the Holy Land. Linda Miller and Alpha 2 Omega Travel did that for our group who just returned from glorious days of walking the land. During the whole process of planning, preparation before going, travel, arrival, and tour - communication was clear, expectations agreed upon and met, and professionalism displayed throughout. All the arrangements were first rate, and on point to make us feel safe and cared for. Our guide was fantastic as a personable, and knowledgeable man of the land. Biblical, archeological, and contemporary information and experience enriched our journey. And we had the best bus driver in Israel to get us safely through the crowded streets to our destinations. I would encourage every believer I know to plan a Holy Land journey. In fact, we are planning our next trip for 2021 with Linda and Alpha 2 Omega Travel. So should you!

**Pastor Bob Rufener, Senior Pastor Abundant Life Foursquare Church Hollister, CA**

### From our tour guests...

So many wonderful memories!!! This was my second tour to the Holy Land, so many of the places I had been before, but they were just as wonderful the second time! Highlight firsts for me this trip were being able to go up on the Temple Mount and ride a camel with my daughter! And then the time spent at the Western Wall was special both times!! It was all so amazing and your care for every detail made the trip so enjoyable!!

**Mary Rufener, Hollister CA**

I just returned from Israel, October 29-November 9th. Alpha 2 Omega Travel provided an exceptional tour. Linda made all necessary arrangements. I clearly knew every detail before leaving. I felt safe, well-informed, and ready for my first trip to Israel. I was not disappointed in any way. Often Linda accompanied us, making sure we were taken care of. Our guide, Shadi, was so knowledgeable. Each day's itinerary was well planned and executed. Linda provided a taxi and personnel at the airport to help us through customs. I would highly recommend this company and would travel with them without hesitation.

**Sheilah Bellew, Riverside CA**

I would recommend to anyone, "Take this trip to Israel!" I had such an excellent time. It has changed the way I read the Bible. Portions of scripture now have a real setting in my mind to draw upon. It has come alive! Also, for those who are concerned about safety, I never felt we were in any way endangered. We had a professional tour team to help lead us through the different areas making the trip safe, educational, and spiritually enlightening. Thank you, Linda, Shadi, and Emad for all your efforts! They are much appreciated!

**Seth Howell, Abundant Life Foursquare Church, Hollister CA**



Thanks so much for the blessed tour of the Holy Land. There were so many wonderful and beautiful experiences shared. My most favorite was the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem, a beautiful emotional experience. I was really moved by the service in three languages and sharing Communion with so many people of so many different places. Beautiful church, I felt honored to be part of it.

**Georgiana Lostlen, Riverside CA**

One of my highlights of this trip was being at the Sea of Galilee....and our time on the 'Jesus boat,' complete with sacred music and communion served to us, the certificate personalized for each one of us, and the tiny wooden communion cup as a special memory. I'm still trying to put together my photos and the daily journal. Thank you for all the special details that made this trip so dear to me. Your personal attention to so many details made this journey extra nice. All of the bookmarks, postcards, and especially the panoramic picture of Jerusalem, are icing on the cake! Thank you!!

**Susan Almaraz, Irvine CA**

Thank you for the amazing tour you took us on. I will be reflecting on those experiences for years to come. The planning and extra work you put in is greatly appreciated. I will be encouraging my friends to go on your next tour with the Hollister church family.

**Peace be with you, Roy J. Cadalbert, San Juan Bautista CA**

Our trip was so awesome! The Sea of Galilee is really a large lake that is calm, until the eastward wind comes in like our Santa Ann Winds in California. On our way to the Dead Sea, we stopped for a camel ride. Everyone definitely needs to go in the Dead Sea, what an experience. We saw so many beautiful churches and they are amazing. Prayed at the Western Wall. Time went by so quickly, but I did get all my prayers in. Yes, I had a list and followed it. Linda planned out the biblical tour very well. The coordinating, planning, timing, and attention to detail was top notch. Those that have been in business management would be impressed by the organization skills. When you have a chance, take the trip to Israel with Linda and Alpha 2 Omega Travel. Meat lovers, take some beef jerky with you because lamb is not the same.

**John Martinez, Hollister CA**

We want to thank you, Linda, for a wonderful trip! What an amazing time we had. Looking back on our trip we were amazed on how much of Israel we got to enjoy. We felt extremely safe and comfortable with Shadi leading us to and around each site. Even in the highly populated tourist areas he knew the right way to lead us to avoid the crowds. The fact that so many citizens in the area knew him by name and were friendly with him, showed us what a great person he is. His knowledge of both biblical and archaeological history made the trip all the better! The use of the "whisper" was wonderful. I am hearing impaired. With the headphones that I had brought with me on the trip, I was able to clearly hear everything that was said throughout the trip as we visited the sites. Without them, I would have been struggling to understand everything. That was a real gift to be able to utilize that system! The bus driver was amazingly capable and got us through many a place that I know we would have had trouble navigating! We couldn't have felt any safer with his fabulous skills! Each hotel had its own high points along the way, each clean and modern. The dinners were superb with the choices offered in the buffets. The weather at this time of year was perfect, cool and sunny. I am so happy you offered this trip at this time of the year for those of us who can't handle high heat. We appreciate the way you checked up on us personally throughout the trip and quickly and calmly handled any glitch that might pop up. You are an absolute pro! If I can offer an advice to future travelers, follow Linda's packing advice to the letter. There are so many things I packed that were unnecessary. She had suggested to pack items that you can leave there. I did for some items, which helped to lighten the load for returning home, but I wish I had done more. I didn't need my big camera after all. I mainly used my Iphone and it took beautiful shots! For those who are hearing impaired, bring a set of your own headphones to use with the listening system. Thank you again for this amazing experience!

**Ruben and Anne Garcia, Perris CA**

## Christmas Psalm

Love came down to earth at Christmas  
your Word became the flesh of humanity.

Now love is exalted to the heavens  
and Christ is King of all the world.

It's God's love that rules over all things  
stronger than death and greater than evil.

The love of other people helps us see divinity here  
and by loving, we too can share in your action.

Nothing is more powerful than our love wanting  
what is best for another will always conquer the world.

*Christ  
Our Savior  
is born!*



Diane and I had sworn off travel, other than by our own, due to past experiences. You and your team have proved a great time can be had as part of a group travel experience. We enjoyed the trip immensely. The itinerary was well planned from travel to and from Israel as well as in country. We were able to feel the connection to the Bible as we journeyed the ancient paths. We had time to feel each location visited and not be rushed. Our daily start time and end day gave us time to enjoy and rest at the end of each day. The hotel accommodations were really good. It is a pleasure to have a clean and well cared for place to spend each night. Each hotel provided us with excellent breakfast and dinner food selections of the country. Lastly, we want to thank you for picking the driver, Emad. He really commanded that behemoth of a bus around on our travels. Your guide selection of Shadi, what can we say! We wanted to take him home! What a guy! A traveling encyclopedia! Of course, all of it is your doing! Thank you, Linda, for a wonderful 56th wedding anniversary year trip! Yes, we were able to renew our wedding vows in Israel as well.

**Marlin and Diane Brandt, Riverside CA**



**Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2019**

Sept 3-13, Sept 12-22, Oct 22-Nov 1

**Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2020**Feb 24-March 5, Mar 5-15, Apr 20-30, Apr 30-May 10, May 11-21, May 20-30, May 28-Jun 7  
Jun 8-18, Jun 16-26, Jun 25-Jul 5Jul 6-16, Aug 24-Sept 3, Sept 1-11, Sept 9-19, Oct 1-12, Oct 12-23, Oct 23-Nov 3  
Nov 2-12, Nov 12-21**Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2021**

Mar 18-28, Apr 5-15, Apr 14-24, Apr 22-May 2, May 3-13, May 12-22

May 24-Jun 3, Jun 2-12, Jun 14-24, Jun 23-Jul 3, Jul 5-17, Jul 15-25, Aug 30-Sept 11

Sept 22-Oct 2, Oct 1-11, Oct 11-21, Oct 20-30, Nov 1-11, Nov 10-20

**Host a tour - Discounted - Israel, January and February 2020**

Jan 6-15, Jan 13-22, Jan 21-30, Feb 3-12

Complete package starting at \$3299.00 per person Land only package starting at \$2499.00 per person

**Host a tour - Discounted - Israel, January and February 2021**

Jan 4-13, Jan 12-21, Jan 20-29, Jan 28-Feb 6, Feb 8-17

Complete package starting at \$3399.00 per person Land only package starting at \$2599.00 per person

**Join an existing tour****Israel, June 16-28, 2019** Complete package starting at \$4398.00 per person**Israel, November 14-24, 2019** Complete package starting at \$3399.00**Israel, November 4-15, 2019** Complete package starting at \$4199.00 per person**Israel and Samaria, February 12-23, 2020** Complete package starting at \$3999.00**Israel and Jordan, February 2020 – dates and prices coming soon!****Israel, February 23-March 6, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Rome, Athens, Istanbul and the Seven Churches of the Revelation, March 18-April 1, 2020**

Complete package starting at \$4653.00 per person

**Israel, April 13-22, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Israel, April 20-30, 2020 - prices coming!****Israel, May 4-14, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Israel, October 1-12, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Israel, October 12-23, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Israel and Jordan, October 23-November 3, 2020 - prices coming soon!****Israel, November 3-14, 2020** Complete package starting at \$3996.00 per person**Israel, February 21-March 5, 2021** Complete package starting at \$4199.00**Israel, March 4-15, 2021** Complete package starting at \$3899.00**Israel, March 15-26, 2021- prices coming soon!****VISIT:**Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion, Temple Mount, Western Wall, Yad Vashem, Bethlehem, Old City Jerusalem, Garden Tomb, Dead Sea, Jericho, Jordan River  
Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Beit She'an, Cana, Nazareth, Megiddo, Sea of Galilee, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea Maritime, and more!**INCLUDES:**

Accommodations, airfare, breakfast and dinner daily, deluxe charter bus, professional English speaking guide, all entrance fees, and tips

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*Enrich your Faith!*

## Christmas in Bethlehem

Christmas is very important in Palestine as Bethlehem, the town in which Jesus was born, is there. Bethlehem is in the West Bank and is about six miles south of Jerusalem. In Hebrew and Aramaic, Bethlehem means "house of bread" and in history was famous for growing wheat to make bread. In Arabic, Bethlehem means "house of meat."

On Christmas Eve there is a parade through the town. This is very important to the Christian population. There are bagpipe bands in the parade, which you might not expect! Playing the bagpipes is a tradition from when the British army

occupied the area. People also dress up as Santa Claus and give out sweets. The streets and main square are decorated with lights.

Perhaps the most famous part of Christmas in Bethlehem is the service at the Church of the Nativity. It is held on Christmas Eve afternoon/evening/midnight. The Church is built over the place where it's traditionally thought that Jesus was born. There's a small door into the Church called the Door of Humility. The Grotto of the Nativity, which is under the main altar, has a silver star which marks the place of Jesus' birth.



## \$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 the time of final payment. Coupons cannot be combined.

Alpha 2 Omega Travel (760) 985-3540 [www.alpha2omegatravel.org](http://www.alpha2omegatravel.org)

Coupon valid when groups total at least 20 or more participants. Coupon must accompany registration form. Discount will be applied at the time of final payment. Coupons cannot be combined.



## 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.

