

ALPHA 2 OMEGA TRAVEL



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

Inside this issue:

A message from 2
one of our hosts

Messages from 3-7
our tour
participants

Join a Tour 8

Coupon 8

A2Ω Travel Tribune

Volume XI, Issue III

Spring 2023

HE IS
Risen

HE IS
Risen

HE IS
Risen

HE IS
Risen

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

A message from our tour host...



The land of Resurrection –Happy Easter!

The Easter celebration comes alive for folks who have visited the Holy Land. There is no substitute for having walked down the Mount of Olives when celebrating Palm Sunday. Never again will you be able to hear about the crowds waving their branches without seeing in your mind's eye the Temple Mount and the walls of the Old City. Or for that matter, Maundy Thursday will forever be linked to those old, gnarled olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the rock in the chancel of the Church of All Nations. When you go to worship on Good Friday, you'll remember being in the home of Caiaphas and walking the Way of the Cross in the Old City of Jerusalem.

And then there is Easter. Having been to the church of the Holy Sepulcher—the place of the Resurrection-- and visualized what it might have looked like by your experience of the Garden Tomb is certainly helpful; but it has been surprisingly less important to my faith than the other sites you can visit. Why? Because Christ is risen! He is Risen, Indeed! That means that the heart of the faith is not a monument, but the living stones that continue to bring the love and peace of the Risen Lord to the world. And, you can certainly catch glimpses of the power of Easter in the Holy Land—within the people, the ministry that continues, the conversations that enlighten and challenge you to think deeper and more profoundly about your faith.

So, here is to the power of having walked where Jesus walked; and to the mystery of the Resurrected Lord whose Spirit continues to bless the world well beyond your pilgrimage.

Peace! Pastor Jeff Frohner, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion Iowa.



Messages from our tour participants...

Thanks again for all your expertise on our well-coordinated trip! It is hard to encapsulate our wonderful trip with one picture. It was a crash course in biblical, political, and geographical history! Linda Miller, our travel agent, did a great job selecting hotels and restaurants. Our guide, Ibrahim Awad, was extremely knowledgeable and personable. We had so many amazing experiences, including walking the stations of the cross, sailing on the Sea of Galilee, and visiting the majestic Roman ruins. The trip really gave us a realistic picture of the world when Christ was on earth. One of the most impactful things for me was visiting the Parable House in Taybeh. The picture I selected is not one of the numerous awe inspiring photos, but the Parable House revealed how the birthplace of Jesus may have looked. It was a cave with an area below for animals to come inside for protection from predators and the weather. The family lived above them - it was close quarters! The trip really reset the backdrop for the stories in the Bible. Thank you Alpha 2 Omega Travel for the trip of a lifetime!

Rachel Buzzell, State College, PA

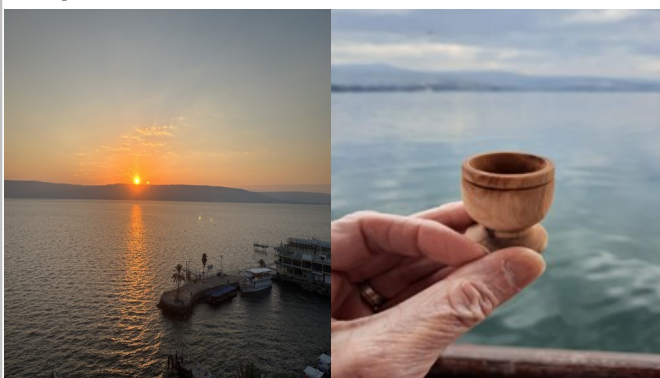
I really enjoyed sailing on the Sea of Galilee. They raised the American flag and played hymns during our outing. We had communion while sailing on calm waters. A relaxing time.

Darlene McGovern, Marion, IA

The Sea of Galilee was so peaceful. Beautiful sunrise photo.

Celebrating communion on The Sea of Galilee!

Sally Immerfall, Marion, IA



We visited Rachels Tomb outside of Bethlehem. This was shocking to see high security walls that surround Bethlehem. Not at all like the hymn—Oh Little Town of Bethlehem-- we sing at Christmas. We visited the Shepherd's Fields outside of Bethlehem. Not like the story we are used to. The sheep were kept in a cave at night for safekeeping from predators. We visited the Church of Nativity site where Jesus was born. It is surrounded by an old Church now. Not the "Away in a Manger" that we hear at Christmas. It is a cave. Our Lunch that day was at a nice restaurant where we were entertained by music and dancing after Lunch. We were able to do a little line dancing ourselves!

Marlin Oeltjen, Marion, IA



Messages from our tour participants continued...



Thoughts from a repeat pilgrim...

I have made two trips to the Holy Land, both with Alpha 2 Omega Travel. The first was in July 2013, where we visited significant historical and biblical sites in and around Jerusalem and the Galilee. I recently returned from a second trip that was quite a lot longer. We revisited many of the same sites, but also went to ancient Samaria and to Jordan, where I checked an item off my bucket list by spending a day at Petra. Wow!

I had a different perspective this second time. The Bible stories were the same, of course, and the political realities of the Middle East continue to confound the mind, but I had a greater curiosity about Palestine (the occupied West Bank area) and the complexities of the layers that impact the daily lives of Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Also, the February weather lent an interesting angle to our experience. The crowds were small and there were a couple of blustery days. This helped me to remember that life was difficult in biblical times. In sunny, warm July it is easy to overlook this; in February, I could fully appreciate that they did not have waterproof clothing, sturdy shoes, or central heating back then. Nor did they have fabulous buffets waiting for you at the hotel every evening.

I thoroughly enjoyed both trips and would encourage anyone wanting to travel to the Holy Land to use Alpha 2 Omega Travel. Linda Miller handles the logistics extremely well and hires very knowledgeable and personable local guides. Is it safe? Yes, it is. Also, Linda works with the pastor leading the trip to customize the itinerary to provide added interest.

My most memorable memories of my most recent trip to the Holy Land involved meeting people. In Bethlehem, we visited Father Frederick, a Syriac Orthodox priest and had a thoughtful conversation about life in Bethlehem today for the few remaining Christians. He has made his home there with his wife and children. In Nablus, we met Samaritan Priest, Husney Wasef, a colorful man eager to share the history of the Samaritan community. Did you know there were still Samaritans? I didn't! And, of course, the indescribable Petra. I'm so glad I made the decision to return!

Linda Howard, Dana Point, CA





Messages from our tour participants continued...



This picture of a shepherd boy was captured as we drove through Jordan one of our last days. It spoke to me because of seeing a sight that was common to see in books as I was growing up, and to realize I was in the Holy Land country where real people still are shepherds. Seeing what looks like a young shepherd boy from afar brought my childhood understandings to life. Praying and reflecting on the Sea of Galilee. Tears still come to my eyes as I think about our time on the Sea of Galilee. I think it was mainly because that morning we were in Capernaum where so many miracles are recorded in the Bible. Then, to be on the sea where stories continued with Jesus really reached my heart. Many years ago, I read a book entitled "If You Want to Walk on the Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. That book was influential for me to take some risks that helped me to be successful in my personal life and career. Once sailing on the water during this trip, all those thoughts and feelings came back with thanksgiving to our God! Powerful experience!

Julia Jensen, Marion, IA



Thank you for the incredible trip of a lifetime. Toby and I had an amazing time. Our favorite place was Petra. Of course, we loved the entire trip, but as an outdoors family, the adventure found at Petra is hard to beat. It was an exhausting, glorious day for us. Our favorite experience on the trip was learning about and interacting with people from different cultures. I knew it was a complicated area, but I had no idea just how complicated it was. I still don't understand it, but I listen much more intently for news from that region and analyze it much more critically. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus was pretty wild, too. It has certainly influenced how we interpret and understand the bible stories. Thank you for sharing this incredible experience with us.

Brian & Toby Soenen, Marion, IA

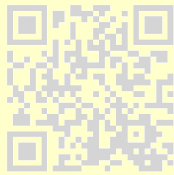


ALPHA 2 OMEGA TRAVEL

P.O. Box 402128
Hesperia, CA 92340

Phone: 760-985-3540
info@alpha2omegatravel.com
CST-2101939-50

We're on the Web!
alpha2omegatravel.org



Scan to go to our website!



Host a Tour in 2024-2025

Host a tour - Discounted - Israel 2024

Jan 2-11, Jan 10-19, Jan 17-26, Jan 23-Feb 1

Complete package starting at \$3599 Land only package starting at \$2799

Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2024

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 16-26, Sept 23-Oct 3, Sept 30-Oct 10

Oct 28 - Nov 7, Nov 4-14, 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 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, July 3-12, 2023, - \$4399

Israel and Jordan, November 9-20, 2023- \$4699

Israel and Samaria, February 15-26, 2024 - \$3799

Israel and Jordan, February 26 -March 8, 2024 - \$4399

Israel, March 7-18, 2024 - \$3839

Israel and Jordan - June 9-21, 2024 - \$4850

Israel - October 29-November 8, 2024 - \$4399

Israel, Samaria, and Jordan - November 10-20, 2024 - \$4599

Israel, February 11-21, 2025 - \$3899

Israel, February 20-March 2, 2025 - \$3899

Israel and Jordan, March 3-13, 2025 - \$4399

Israel and Egypt - January 2025

Israel, Greece, and Istanbul- dates and prices coming soon!

Israel, Istanbul, and Seven Churches - dates and prices coming soon!

Israel, Istanbul, and Cappadocia- dates and prices coming soon!

Israel, Rome, and Istanbul - dates and prices coming soon!

Israel and Germany - dates and prices coming soon!

Save \$\$\$\$ when purchasing a complete package!

\$100 discount when you make all payments and deposits in
cashier's check, personal check, or money order.

\$100 OFF

Alpha 2 Omega Travel (760) 985-3540 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.

