

ALPHA 2 OMEGA  
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*From the  
beginning to the  
end, you'll  
enrich your  
faith and  
experience the  
best!*

**Inside this issue:**

**A message from** 2-3  
**our tour hosts**

**Testimonials** 4

**Travel Tips** 5

**Safety** 5

**Testimonials,** 6  
**Cont.**

**Host a Tour** 7

**Upcoming Tours** 7



# A2Ω Travel Tribune

Volume VII, Issue III

Spring 2019

HE IS  
*Risen*


HE IS  
*Risen*

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*Risen*

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*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....

 I just had the joy of hosting a small group from our church on their first ever trip to Israel. This was my fourth trip to the Holy Land; it was so much fun being with a group of people for their first time. It is the first time I have used Alpha 2 Omega Travel. The owner, Linda Miller, did the most amazing job to make this trip so successful. Everything went according to plan. Based on the feedback I have received from my group, I know that this Easter will be very different for all of them. Being in Israel makes the Bible come alive. Being able to “see” where Jesus walked, taught His disciples, died, and was resurrected has a tremendous impact on you for the rest of your life. When we were at the garden tomb, everyone in our group had a very moving spiritual moment. I was able to watch their faces turn from being a tourist just looking around to talking to and worshiping Jesus right in that tomb. In fact, on our last night in Israel, I asked everyone what their favorite part of the trip was. All of them told me the same two things: the Garden Tomb and the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. None of us will ever forget that boat ride. On that day it rained, the wind blew, and the boat shook. We all remembered the story of Jesus stopping the storm and rescuing the disciples, just like He does today in our lives. He stops the storms and rescues us. As I asked our group what they are taking back from this trip, I was surprised to hear what they felt was most important. It was not what they learned, and they learned a lot of wonderful things about our Lord and the land of Israel. It was what they experienced, it was what they felt, it was what moved them closer to the Lord. I know as we are about to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord in just a few days, our whole group will see and experience this very differently because they went to Israel. As you celebrate Easter this year, I pray you will also have a “moving” experience, not just the knowledge of who Jesus is, not just the knowledge of Jesus being raised from the dead, but the “experience” of being a child of God, a follower of Jesus, and a blessed believer. I also pray that if you have never been to Israel that you will do whatever you can to go at least once. It will change your life. **Tom Barkey, Ph.D., Lead Pastor, Church of Grace, Yorba Linda, CA**





### A message from our tour host....

Over and over, I hear the statement "I would love to go to Israel!" Many of the people who say that never actually go, and as a result spend all of their lives simply dreaming about it instead of actually "living the dream." Today, I want you to set your heart toward Israel and make a commitment that you will actually go! On our latest trip (last month), we took a lady who is in her 80's, used a motorized scooter to get around and she was awesome...had the time of her life! It's not too big for you, it's not too costly and everything about it is in your reach and very doable! Why Israel? Why the time, why the cost, why the commitment? To know that there is a place on the earth that's been chosen by God and is still under covenant with Him with a very obvious grace on it, is extremely unique. It is the only place in the world where so much biblical and world history intersects with modern culture. It is a place unlike any other. Walking the streets and hills where Jesus Himself walked and seeing yourself among the thousands who stood at His feet and witnessed the miracles of heaven unfolding is truly life-changing. I sat on a wall in the garden at the Mount of Beatitudes, overlooking the beautiful Sea of Galilee with a gorgeous sun shining down on me, and it became a moment of covenant between myself and the Lord. With all my U.S. distractions laid down, I found the time to hear the heart of God and the whisper of my Father over my life. God was meeting me right where He has met so many others and where He wants to meet you. I have yet to take anybody to Israel who did not come back forever changed. Is it the place, is it the people, is it the experience? Yes! It's actually all of the above. The hand of God's favor and mercy is upon Israel and the Bible literally comes alive right before your eyes, but more importantly, in your heart. As we celebrate this resurrection, I have been to both the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as well as the Garden Tomb. While historians and theologians might disagree which is the original site, one thing is not up for argument. The body of Jesus cannot be found in either place! He not only rose from the dead, but conquered death, hell, and the grave and took away the keys from the enemy once and for all! That's good news for you and I and for the whole world. The death of Jesus was a sacrifice, but the resurrection of Jesus is the triumph of heaven! Today, as you dream of Israel, whether you've been there and have blessed dreams of all that you've experienced, or have never been and dream of going one day, my prayer for you is that the Lord of Resurrection would fill your heart, mind, and life with His abundance of faith, hope, and love! **Pr. Scott Reece, New Hope Church, Moline IL, Lover of God and Israel**



## Messages from our tour participants....



Our recent trip to Israel was an incredible experience, and one we will never forget! When reading through the scriptures, having been to the Holy Land, the richness of the Bible comes alive even more. I remember when we returned home, one verse specifically referred to His Resurrection and I distinctly



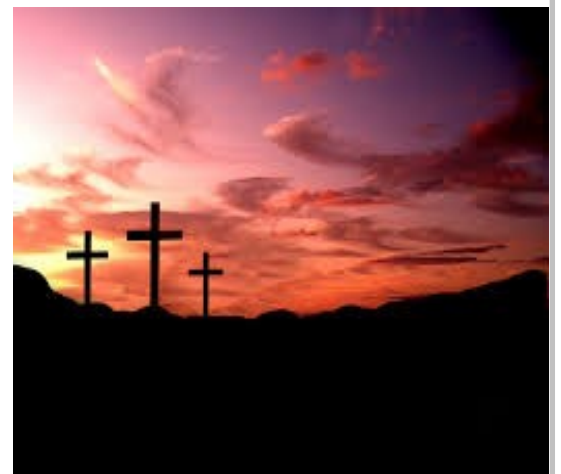
remember standing at the TOMB and experiencing the presence of the Lord there. Talk about the Bible coming alive! Now as I'm reading scripture, it's so easy to imagine the sights and sounds having just been there. One experience which was among my most memorable was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Sailing on a wooden ship and even experiencing a bit of a storm that day really brought home the story of Jesus on the Sea with His disciples. Partaking in communion on the boat was an awesome memory. From the streets of Jerusalem, to the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, Megiddo, Masada, and more. I could go on and on. Linda, THANK you for arranging such a wonderful trip for us. Your expertise, insight, knowledge, and personal touch was so much appreciated! Another thing is that we never felt that our security was in question. You often hear of the turmoil in the Middle East, but that certainly was not our experience. We felt safe and secure, and I of course remember your telling us that in advance as well. Our guide, Shadi, was very knowledgeable and a terrific asset to the group. Oh, and by the way, we're coming back, and you will be our expert once again!

**David and Kathy Novak, Church of Grace, Yorba Linda, CA**



I can't thank Linda Miller enough, the owner of Alpha 2 Omega Travel for another wonderful trip to Israel and Jordan. I was amazed to be in the same place where Jesus was and to walk in the same footsteps that Jesus walked. It was an honor to be able to go to the Western Wall and pray for all the prayer requests from people all over the world. Mount Nebo was memorable for me on this trip. Moses was granted a view of the Promised Land before he died. The view was breathtaking. The Sea of Galilee is my favorite place in Israel. God's presence was so real to me there. The tour guides and the bus drivers in both Israel and Jordan were amazing. Finally, I would like to thank our travel agent, Linda Miller for taking care of all our travel arrangements and hotel accommodations as well as providing the little tokens of your love for all of us. What a wonderful ministry God has given Linda as well as the tour guides and bus drivers.

**Sally Weckel, Moline, IL**





## 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>.

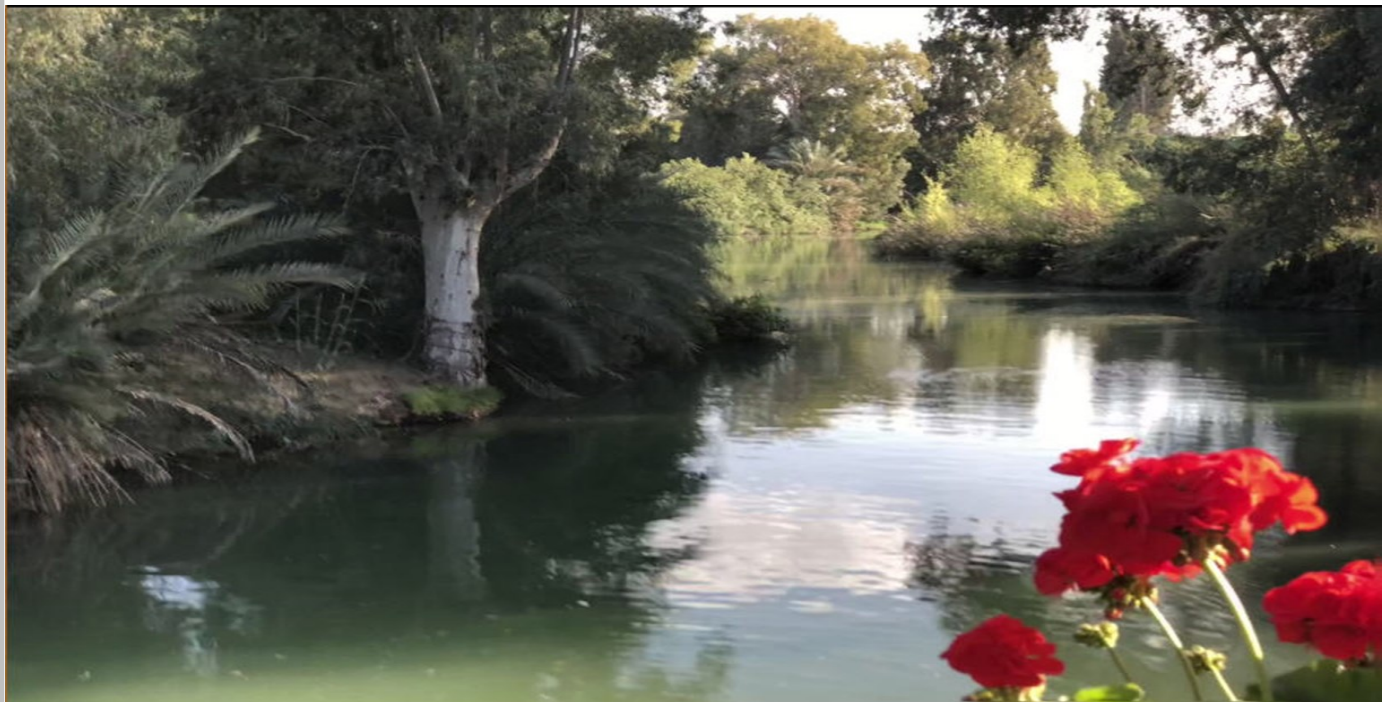


## Safety

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.



### Message from our tour participants....

For the past four years I have slowly begun to fulfill my dream of traveling the world. Although I understand that four years is not a huge amount of time in the grand scheme of things, I have learned plenty from my time abroad. One thing that I have noticed from every trip that I have been on is that people seem to travel for one of two reasons. The first is for the experience and the second is for social media popularity. If you find that one of your main concerns while traveling is the items you can bring home from shopping or the number of people who will see your photos, then Israel is not the place for you. If you are looking for an immersive cultural and spiritual experience that will leave an impact on your life, then I encourage you to consider a trip to Israel and Jordan. I was asked to write a bit about my experience on my recent trip to Israel and Jordan with Alpha 2 Omega Travel. While I was contemplating what my top experience was, I realized I couldn't pinpoint it to a location or activity. That is because the most impactful aspect of the trip for me was the immersion in the culture and learning from the people of the countries. Back in the U.S. I believe that we tend to become adjusted to a western idea of what is normal and we must travel to truly understand that our idea of normal is completely bizarre in certain places of the world. To me this is a humbling and important experience. I loved interacting with the locals to better understand the culture and the general lifestyles of the people of the area. My favorite interaction with a local during this trip happened when I was walking down a street in Jordan. A little girl looked at me with a smile of joy, the type that I can't remember having seen in a long time. She started pointing at me and telling her mom to look. I stopped to speak with her for a moment and her parents informed me that she had never seen red hair before. Although my appearance doesn't tend to stand out in the U.S. it was very foreign to the people of the Middle East, I would have never described myself as exotic, but I suppose that everything is exotic to some. My trip to Israel and Jordan helped me to pull back into perspective. The guides that we had on this tour were very knowledgeable and unbiased. While I appreciate my time in a Christian high school, the information fed to me was very one sided and never the full picture. To be able to see borders and better visualize what I had always been taught as well as come to understand other viewpoints was very important to me. We saw some young Palestinians perform a traditional dance for us. The dance and music taught about the struggles that they face as a people. It's a good reminder that it's not the Israelis who are suffering, and that the youth have nothing to do with the crimes of the past. I believe that until that day some of my fellow travelers had never heard of the troubles the Palestinians face. So, I would like to thank Alpha 2 Omega Travel for the education on this topic. While the people and the culture were the most impactful part of the trip to me, I also completely enjoyed the sites. I've heard the bible stories since I was a child, but to be able to put them into context was enlightening. I could go on and on about the importance of traveling in order to understand the world and its people, but the most significant experience I got out of this adventure was the chance to bond with my mom for two weeks in another country. Without Alpha 2 Omega Travel, I would not have been able to have had this life changing experience with my first and best friend. **THANK YOU.**

**Dorothy Mutum, Milan IL**



## Upcoming Tours

During the next few months, we are actively seeking tour hosts for the 2020-2021 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](mailto:office@alpha2omegatravel.org).

### Host a tour - Israel - Custom Pricing 2020

Feb 24-March 5, Mar 5-15, Apr 13-22, 2020, 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 5, Jul 6-16, Aug 24-Sept 3, Sept 1-11, Sept 9-19, Oct 1-12, Oct 12-23  
Oct 23-Nov 3, 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 1-12, 2019** Complete package starting at \$3999.00

**Israel, November 14-24, 2019** Complete package starting at \$3399.00

**Israel, November 20-30, 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 - Complete package starting at \$3899.00**

**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!**