

# JERUSALEM MARATHON CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE TOUR WITH SARA AND RYAN HALL

*NB: Itinerary is not finalized and is currently subject to change.*

## Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Welcome to Israel

- **Arrival**
- **Transfer to Jerusalem**
- **Free Time to Relax or Run on your own**
- **Kettef Hinom Tombs** – *In the category of “visible from the beaten path,” we will visit this often-overlooked series of First Temple Period burial caves and talk about the game-changing treasures found there.*
- **Bible Hill** – *Another jewel-of-a-site hidden in plain view, we will open up our bibles and read the description of this exact geographical location, as well as talk about the critical story and decisions that took place on this very hill, and how they ultimately led to the end of the period of the Judges and the creation of the Jewish monarchy.*
- **Armon Hanetziv Outlook** – *Get your first look of Jerusalem from a spectacular overlook south of the Old City.*
- **Welcome Dinner and Cocktail Reception**

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

## Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – O! Jerusalem

- **Group Tune-up run / Training Session with Ryan and Sara Hall** – *Beat the jetlag and explore Jerusalem as only a runner can with a tune-up run.*
- **Machane Yehuda Shuk Tour and Lunch** – *Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem’s bustling open-air marketplace.*
- **Access Jerusalem Jewish Quarter Tour** – *A different way to experience the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. We will meet the locals who live in the Jewish quarter and help give the Old City her unique character. Each has a fascinating story they will share with us. In the end we will walk away from the experience with a sense that we saw the real Jerusalem, and that we had the opportunity to build a personal, intimate connection with this nearly 5,000 year-old city and her people.*
- **The Upper Room** – *We ourselves will stand at the traditional site identified as that of the Last Supper and the Pentecost*
- **Western Wall Tunnels** – *Walk along the entire length of the Western Wall, most of which is underneath the current street level. In the process, we will arrive at the closest spot we can get to the Holy of Holies without being on the Temple Mount.*
- **Dinner at the Hotel**

- **Optional Evening Tour: Israel Museum** – *This world-class museum features exhibits such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the most ancient biblical texts in existence, dating back approximately 2,000 years.*

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

### **Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Exploring the Eternal City**

- **City of David** – *The place where Jerusalem began. Using the Bible as our guide, we'll explore the city that King David turned into the eternal capital of the Jewish people. Be sure to bring water shoes, pants that can get wet, and flashlights, because we will be exploring the ancient water system during our tour. In addition, from the Siloam Pool, we will walk up a 2,000 year old drainage canal and arrive at the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount, inside the area of the Davidson Center and Southern Wall excavations.*
- **Davidson Center/Southern Wall Excavations** – *What was it like to be a pilgrim in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, at the time of the Second Temple? This is the best site in the entire world to relive that experience. We'll walk on the same road where the pilgrims walked, see the shops that they frequented, walk up the original steps leading to the southern gate of the Temple Mount, and more.*
- **Lunch (Location TBD)**
- **Mount of Olives** – *Mentioned by name in the Bible, we'll walk on the mountain, which, according to the prophet Zachariah, will split into two halves in the end of days. In Christian tradition, this is the place from where Jesus ascended to heaven.*
- **Garden of Gethsemane** – *Take in the surroundings and spend personal time in the area where Jesus spent his last hours before being captured by the Romans.*
- **Via Dolorosa / Church of the Holy Sepulcher** – *The Via Dolorosa is the traditional route Jesus walked from his condemnation to his crucifixion and burial. While the route is mainly used by Catholics and Orthodox, it will introduce us to important holy sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, and allow us to explore topics related to Jesus' death and resurrection.*
- **Training Session with Ryan and Sara Hall / Optional Group Run**
- **Dinner at the Hotel**

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

### **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> - "Jerusalem, Mountains Surround Her as the Lord Surrounds His People Now and Forever"**

- **Yad Vashem** – *Israel's national Holocaust museum and memorial is one of the most important sites for understanding the psyche of the modern Jewish people and modern state of Israel, as well as a place that will reveal to us just how little we understand about how G-d works.*
- **Sataf National Park: Picnic Lunch followed by short, easy hike** – *Where are the ancient farming terraces of Sataf mentioned in the Bible? Using the Bible as our guide, we will take a walk in the woods in the Judean mountains and visit the mountain terraces and springs that have been used for farming for the past 3,000 years. We will learn to read between the lines of the Bible, and see with our own eyes the*

*landscape that served as King Solomon's inspiration for one of the greatest love poems ever written: the Song of Songs.*

- **Free Time to Explore and Relax**
- **Meeting with Mayor/Representative of Jerusalem City Council**
- **Marathon Expo / Pick up Race Packets / Pasta Dinner**

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

## **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Jerusalem Marathon**

- **Transfer to Starting Area**
- **Jerusalem Marathon**
- **Transportation back to Hotel**
- **Shabbat Experience at the Western Wall** – *See how Jews welcome the Sabbath at the Holiest of all Jewish sites*
- **Shabbat Dinner with Host Families** – *Since receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai, Jews have been keeping the Sabbath. Learn what “keeping and remembering the Sabbath” means today, by experiencing a traditional Sabbath meal with host families.*

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

## **Shabbat – March 14<sup>th</sup> – The Sabbath Day**

- **Garden Tomb** – *The Garden Tomb is the traditional site of Jesus' burial and resurrection. A local guide will take you around the site.*
- **Free Day**
- **Optional Tour:**
  - **Kasr el-Yehud Baptismal Site** – *Come and get baptized in the Jordan River*
  - **Bethlehem** – *Explore the birthplace of Jesus and the hometown of King David with a local guide who will show you the ins and outs of this storied city.*
- **Post-Shabbat Gathering / Dessert Reception** – *We will come back together at the end of the day to learn about the Jewish custom of Havdalah, a ceremony marking the transition from holy time back to normal time. We will also hear some words of congratulations and inspiration from Ryan and Sara, as we prepare for the week ahead.*

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

## **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Into the Desert**

- **Masada** – *What is the story of this nearly impregnable desert fortress that fell to the Romans in 74 AD? Who were the people who lived here? And why did it become such a prominent symbol in modern times? We will answer all of these questions and more. At the end, we will walk through the new museum located at the mountain.*
- **Dead Sea** – *Relax at a Dead Sea Spa, while seeing the lowest place on earth, and what Pliny the Elder called one of the “three wonders of the land of Judea.”*

- **Dinner and Camel-riding at Eretz Bereshit** – *On the way back to Jerusalem, we will stop for a camel ride, followed by a middle-eastern style meal of pita, kabobs, salads, and much more on a little hilltop in the desert.*
- **Evening Training Talk from Ryan and Sara Hall** – *focus on recovering from a big race and how to get back into training post-race—both mentally and physically*

*Overnight in Jerusalem*

## **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – The Kingdom of David and Solomon**

- **Khirbet Qeiyafa** – *Explore one of the newest archaeological sites in Israel, which is already being described as one of the most important in the world. This stronghold from the time of King David has yielded some amazing and important archaeological finds, and is key to understanding the kingdom of Judah in the time of David.*
- **Tel Azeka** – *Talk about the famous battle between David and Goliath in the place it actually happened.*
- **Tel Lachish** – *See the only in-tact Assyrian siege ramp in the world and hear about some of the other amazing archaeological discoveries that complement the Bible’s description of this city, which was second in importance only to Jerusalem in the Kingdom of Judah*
- **Jaffa** – *An important ancient city mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments, we’ll learn about the role Jaffa played in each. Today, Jaffa is a beautiful little suburb of Tel Aviv, with an artists’ quarter, nice shops, and a bustling marketplace.*
- **Evening Group Run**
- **Dinner at Hotel in Tel Aviv**
- **Dessert reception with Israeli Runners**
- **Free Night in Jaffa/Tel Aviv**

*Overnight in Tel Aviv*

## **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – The Galilee of Jesus**

- **Morning Training Session with Ryan Hall/ Optional Group run along Boardwalk in Tel Aviv**
- **Caesarea and Aqueduct Beach** – *See the amazing ruins of this city built by King Herod to be the largest port in the Mediterranean. Learn the stories associated with the city and hear about the personalities that passed through this place.*
- **Lunch at Kibbutz Ginosar with Kibbutznikim** – *Meet local Israelis who still live on kibbutzim, and enjoy an authentic kibbutz lunch.*
- **Ginnosar Boat** – *We will see a 2,000 year old boat that was found in the Sea of Galilee, and hear the story of the excavation and preservation of the boat.*
- **Capernaum** – *One of the most important towns mentioned in the New Testament, and one of the best examples of an ancient Jewish Galilean village.*
- **Jeep Tour in Golan Heights** – *By jeep we will explore one of Israel’s most beautiful and strategically important regions. We will stop at a number of outlooks, including those that allow us to see deep into Syria and Lebanon, and discuss the geopolitical situation. In addition to politics, we will explore one of Israel’s boutique wineries, and have dinner at one of the country’s best restaurants.*

- Nice Dinner
- **Cruise on Sea of Galilee** – *Take a relaxing and meaningful boat ride on the waters of the Sea of Galilee.*

*Overnight in Tiberias*

### **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - Kings, Prophets, and the End of Days**

- **Mount Gilboa Outlook and Gilboa Irises** – *Cursed by King David, this is the site where King Saul and his son Jonathan fell in battle. It is also the high point overlooking the site of Gideon's great victory over the Midianites. Using the Bible as our guide, we will explore the physical landscape that served as the backdrop for these famous events in history. In addition, we will search for the Gilboa Irises, flowers native only to this particular mountain that bloom only for 2 weeks out of the year.*
- **Tel Megiddo** – *The namesake of Armageddon, we'll explore this strategically-important biblical city, using the Bible as a guide.*
- **Lunch in Dalyat-el-Carmel** – *We will travel into a Druze village and be hosted for an amazing lunch by one of the locals, who will also tell us the story of her family and her people.*
- **Mt. Carmel / Kishon Riverbed** – *Recount and discuss the story of Elijah the Prophet at the place of his famous showdown with the prophets of Baal.*
- **Farewell Reception**
- **Transfer to Airport for Return Flight**