

# GOING DEEPER

ACTS Israel Tour 2018

## DAY TWO: ARRIVAL AND OVERVIEW

ברוכים הבאים לישראל

Welcome to Israel!

We will arrive in Israel around mid-day at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, Israel. We will all walk down this wide ramp toward the arrivals hall where our passports will be checked and we collect our luggage.

### Key Thought for Day Two

*We will arrive in Israel early evening. It is an exciting arrival for those of you who have not been before. Give thanks to God for a safe trip, and before dropping off to sleep tonight ask Him to be our true guide and teacher over the coming days!*

### The Ben Gurion Arrival Ramp Mosaics

We've arrived. Quick, let's hurry down his ramp to get our luggage. **No. Wait! You're about to miss something beautiful.**

*The ramp to the arrivals hall at Ben Gurion airport*

Look Up! Your journey into the ancient world of the Land of Israel begins right here.

*Ancient mosaic from Bethlehem of Galilee*

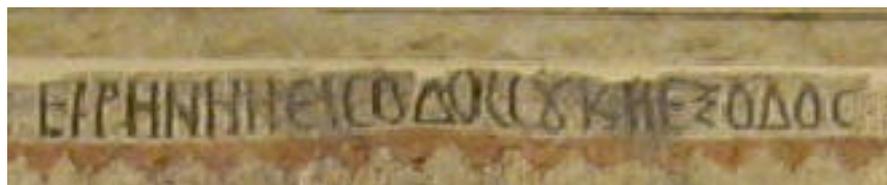
As you descend the ramp, take a moment to look at the mosaics above the entrance. They will be your first look at the ancient heritage of the Land of

Israel. The large vertical mosaic to the left is 1,500 years old from a small village in Galilee named Bethlehem of Galilee (not Bethlehem in Judea where Jesus was born). The mosaic has animals and fruit. This beautiful mosaic would have decorated the floor of a large home or perhaps a church.

To the right and at the top is a square mosaic with small green birds. This mosaic is from Beth-Shean, a city in Galilee that we will visit on Day 4.

If you look closely at the top edge of the mosaic you will see some Greek lettering. The inscription from Deuteronomy 28:6 reads:

*Blessed shall you be when you come in,  
and blessed shall you be when you go out.*



There could hardly be a more appropriate Bible verse to begin our tour. Even as we walk into the arrival hall we have a the blessing of coming in to the Land of Jesus. Thirteen days from this point, we hope to be blessed as we leave for home.

Finally, on the right at bottom is this mosaic from Caesarea, the great port city built by King Herod the Great. It was from the port of Caesarea that the Apostle Paul set sail on his final journey to Rome. We will make Caesarea our last stop in the Holy Land, too.

We'll sit there looking across the waters to Rome and reflect on the courage it took to bring the gospel from the Jewish world of Israel into the Gentile world of the Graeco-Roman empire—the world that is the heritage of many of us on this tour.

The figure at the center of the mosaic represents fruitfulness and property. Her name in the Greek letters is Kalokeria.



## Airport Arrival Mosaics

Depending on how we go to our bus, you may see in the arrivals lobby bronze busts of two of Israel's major modern leaders: The first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion for whom the airport is named (left) and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (right), best known for making peace with Yassar Arafat for which he was assassinated by a Jewish extremist.

*Bronze busts of David Ben Gurion and Yitzhak Rabin*



## Rabin and the Nobel Peace Prize



## David Ben Gurion

### **The Road to Jerusalem: Highway Number 1**

We will board our tour bus at the airport and leave for Jerusalem. The trip takes about one hour, much of it on Highway Number One.



## Into the Hill Country

During the trip we will climb a vertical distance of 3/4 of a kilometre (2,400 feet) as we rise into the hills.

In Israel it is always “up” to Jerusalem, a sentiment that reflects both the journey into the hill country of Judea and the ascent to the holy city at the center of the three great faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.



### The Topography of Israel

The phrase “hill country” appears often in Scripture and very often refers to the hill we are now climbing. Think, for example of Mary. Upon learning from the angel of her pregnancy, Mary left from Nazareth to climb into these very hills.

*A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:39-41).*

## Rest and Refresh

We will check into our Jerusalem hotel and have time to rest and refresh from the trip.

### **Events in the Ministry of Jesus**

In general, whenever you read about Jesus being in Jerusalem or events in Bethany, Bethlehem and surroundings, the setting is in the Judean hill country. Some specific references follow.

### **Mary and Elizabeth in the Judean Hill Country**

- Awe spreads throughout the Judean hills when Zechariah is stricken dumb in the Temple when the angel announces the birth of John the Baptist. Luke 1:65-66.
- Mary visits Elizabeth in the hill country. Luke 1:39-41.

## **Jesus on the Mount of Olives**

Jesus crossed back and forth across the Mount of Olives often.

- Jesus sits on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. As they look across the valley at the Temple, Jesus teaches about the end times. Matthew 24:3; Mark 13:3.
- Jesus rides down from the Mount of Olives on a donkey for the “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem. Luke 19:37.
- Jesus weeps as he looks over the city of Jerusalem. John 11:35.
- Jesus prays in agony in a garden on the Mount of Olives. Luke 22:39.
- After their final passover dinner, Jesus and His disciples go out to the Mount of Olives. Matthew 26:30.

## **Jesus at Bethany**

While in Jerusalem his preferred “base” for overnight was in Bethany, which is on the far side of the Mount of Olives, about 3 kilometres east of Jerusalem.



### Jerusalem and Bethany

From Bethany he could easily walk into Jerusalem in the morning to the Temple. At night he could retire to the quiet and safety of the small village.

- Jesus raises Lazarus at Bethany. John 11.
- Jesus curses a fig tree near Bethany. Mark 11:12.
- A woman anoints Jesus with perfume at Bethany at the home of Simon the (former) leper. Mark 14:3. John 12:1.
- Jesus ascends into heaven from Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Luke 24:50.

**Day One**

**Day Three**