

# A Fellowship of Faith and Fascination

Israël is a play-ground for archaeologists, historians and writers: the siege of Masada, the Ark of the Covenant, the destruction of the holy temple. It's a place where nature in all its beauty and diversity thrives: the rocky Negev desert, the harp-like lake of Galilee, the peculiar Dead Sea, the oasis of Ein Gedi.

We will visit all these places and more. Join our trip if you want to deepen your faith, your fascination, or a bit of both. Come and share this experience with a young fellowship from all over the world!

#### In the footsteps of Jesus

Our main travel guide will be Jesus. We will follow him in his footsteps from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. We will listen to his words on the places where he actually spoke them. Imagine hearing the 'Sermon on the Mount', while you rest on its flanks surrounding the lake of Galilee. In the far distance you see the table-like silhouette of Tabor. A cool wind carries old and new words. Imagine walking through Gethsemane where Jesus prayed in hope and doubt, and seeing the old, crooked olive trees that surrounded him. Some say these are the original trees, some say they sprung from the same deep roots.

# A personal pilgrimage

'Israel' literally means 'He who struggles with God'. The name is taken from the famous Old Testament story in Genesis where Jacob fights with an angel.



8-day round-trip through Israël for Dutch and international students and young adults between 16 and 35 years from July 24th untill July 31st 2014.

Both faith and fascination invite many young people to visit the 'Land of Milk and Honey'. Its capital Jerusalem is considered a Holy place for Christians, Jews and Muslims: the seat of the three main monotheistic religions. The old stories of wonder linger deep in our culture and consciousness: Abraham in search of the Promised Land, Noah building the ark, Moses crossing the red sea, Jesus proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

Jacob endures the fight and is renamed 'Israel' by the angel. In tradition it's understood that this angel was a hidden manifestation of God.

A struggle with God can be understood as a struggle with our faith but also a struggle with the meaning of our existence. What questions in life make us wonder and wrestle? Ponder on them during this inspiring and exciting pilgrimage and share your thoughts with your travel companions.







# Torah and Koran

The mood and character of Jerusalem are very different than what we're used to in the Netherlands. Five times per day the Adhan, the Muslim invitation to prayer, is sung and echo's through the city. In the meantime Jewish citizens and pilgrims bow repeatedly towards the Wailing Wall and offer their prayers on little pieces of paper. On Friday the small, dusty streets of the Old City flow with Muslim citizens who go to the Al-Aqsa Mosque. On Saturday the Jewish citizens, both Chassidic and Liberal, are on their way to the synagogues. We will visit and experience these places as well to try to understand a bit more of Judaism and Islam.

Departure date and tripnumber IS 1420

July 24, 2014

# Price

€ 1049.00

Information meeting

June 28, 2014 in Utrecht.



#### Including

- Return flight Düsseldorf-Tel Aviv.
- Airport taxes and fuel surcharge.
- 7 nights in 2-star or 3-star accommodation
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner).
- All local transport by luxe touring car.
- Dutch-English speaking pastoral and English speaking cultural-historical guidance during the entire trip.
- All excursions as stated in the itinerary, including entrance fees.
- All gratuities.
- Pilgrims-and information-booklet.

#### Excluding

- Travel and cancellation insurance.
- Transport to and from the airport.
- Drinks with meals or on the terrace.
- Souvenirs.
- Changes in transportation costs such as new taxes or fuel charges, VNB reserves the right to calculate these with the pilgrims.



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