

KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of June 16, 2017



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Holy Ground Explorations



holygroundexplorations.com

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Will Russia Move Embassy to Jerusalem First?

Jerusalem Affairs Minister tells Russian Ambassador Russia has a chance to become the first nation to move its embassy to Jerusalem. "I cannot help but hope that you and your country will take advantage of the half-year break that the president of the United States has unfortunately taken, and in the next six months, to win the competition between the two powers and beat the Americans to the punch."

One Missile Makes a Difference

A single mystery missile, which could have been fired from the ground or the air early Wednesday morning, June 7, wiped out the entire top Islamic State command on the Syrian Golan. All 16 officers of the 2,000-strong Khaled Ibn al Waleed army, the ISIS operations arm on the Syrian Golan, were present in the targeted building.

The Palestinian Authority on Wednesday blamed Israel for an energy crisis in Gaza, after Israel acceded to a request by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to slash the amount of power it transfers to the beleaguered Strip and defended the move by saying the matter was an internal Palestinian rift. Hamas could easily solve Gaza's electricity crisis, but prefers to finance tunnels and rockets

Hamas rejects Red Cross plea for information on Israelis held in Gaza

"Not one shred of information will be offered without a prisoner exchange deal that will see the release of our people held by the Zionist entity," Hamas official says after Red Cross asks for information on two slain soldiers and three civilian captives.



TIMING FOR EMBASSY MOVE



FOOD for THOUGHT by Steven Shamrak

President Donald Trump is not afraid to confront the world on many issues: He has annulled TPP, abused China and Europeans, repealed Obama-care, lectured NATO members, attacked Syria, shown 'disrespect to Saudi king and withdrew the US from Paris climate change agreement. **The only problem for him is to fulfill the promise he gave to Jews! It seems that moving the US embassy to Jerusalem presents 'the greatest threat' to the US national security!** More than Iran and North Korea and all other world problems and conflicts! Although, I think, I understand his strategy. If he is going to do it, most likely it will be before the US mid-primaries Congressional election which is on Tuesday, November 6, 2018!



EMBASSY DELAY

US President Donald J. Trump's waiver delaying the relocation of the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem accomplishes two things.

First, it disappoints many Israelis for failing to fulfill his pre-election promise. **Second, and perhaps more importantly, it has sent precisely the wrong message to the Palestinians. What the Palestinians and other Arabs heard in this message is that the US president folds under pressure and threats.**

This message of weakness and retreat harms not only Trump's credibility, but also that of the US by making it appear a country that caves under threats of violence.

In general, it is Trump's presentation of power that garners respect among many Palestinians and Arabs. The Arabs admire and respect such figures because they have been ruled for decades by ruthless tyrants and dictators such as Saddam Hussein. But the Arabs also respect leaders who keep their promises, even if they disagree with and oppose those promises.



JERUSALEM, PALESTINE?

Aside from several postings for employment opportunities in "Occupied Palestinian territory," referring to locations in Judea and Samaria, most recently the UN posted an opening for a position in "Jerusalem, Palestine."

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) posted a position on its website (see below) seeking a project manager for its Jerusalem office. The "duty station" designated for the job was "Jerusalem, Palestine (State of)."

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations [Danny Danon](#) called on Under-Secretary-General Grete Faremo, the UNOPS executive director, to remove the job posting from the site and institute immediate reforms.

"It is unacceptable for UN resources to be used for anti-Israel activity and to attempt to change the facts on the ground," Danon stated.



TERROR TUNNELS

Hamas Tunnel Underneath UNRWA School

Terrorist tunnel was discovered under a school in Gaza run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA). The cruelty of Hamas knows no bounds as they use the children of Gaza as human shields. **Instead of UN schools serving as centers of learning and education, Hamas has turned them into terror bases for attacks on Israel,"** said Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon.



PA REWARDING TERRORIST

Contrary to the statement by US State Secretary Rex Tillerson that the Palestinian Authority's "intent [is] to cease the payments" to families of terrorist "Martyrs" who "have committed murder or violence against others," **PA leaders are denying that they will stop financially rewarding the terrorists.** The PLO Director of Prisoners' Affairs' Commission, said today:

"In response to American Secretary of State [Rex Tillerson's] statements about stopping the allowances... Karake emphasized that the Palestinian leadership will not submit to any pressure, and that the aid to the families of the prisoners and Martyrs is a national, moral, and human responsibility. He also rejected all the terms and concepts that define the prisoners and Martyrs as 'terrorists.'"

[Sawa, independent Palestinian news agency, June 14, 2017



CHAOS?

"It feels like America is descending into chaos" by John Podhoretz: "We all know the kindling is there. The baseball-field shooter was a consumer of far-left anti-Republican media; it would only take one consumer of media on the other side to seek to equalize the suffering to ignite a national powder keg. I don't want to invoke all the clichés of the past decade but you know them all – we're a divided nation, we're all living in our own bubbles, we don't even accept the same facts and we hate each other. The problem is these clichés are largely true." [[NYPost](#)]



(+) QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"When I'm worried and
cannot sleep I count my
blessings instead of sheep."
-Bing Crosby



(-) QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We habitually use international aid funds to dedicate facilities in honor of those who committed massacres, to pay lifetime pensions to the perpetrators of such acts, and to support the families of those who were killed or captured in the attempt. Palestinian culture is all but defined by our devotion to uncompromising opposition to Israel, and that finds its most quotidian expression in the allocation of funds to those heroes and their families for purposes of glorifying their acts. Demands from Norway, the US, the EU, and now maybe even the UN... the institutions or individuals who issue those demands will face unwavering, possibly violent, resistance. **You cannot define our culture for us! ...Killing Jews is an ancient element of our culture, and the one thing we should be able to agree on.**” - [Mustafa Massiqr](#)



HGE - UPCOMING FALL TOURS

Israel - Off The Beaten Path
with Petra Extension (optional)



Israel - NOV 12-20 / Petra - Nov 20-24, 2017



Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good and walk in it, and find rest for your souls..." Jer. 6:16

There are many paths in Israel. OFF THE BEATEN PATH will take in paths not found on "traditc tours - yet they are important paths, ones that should be seen to take in the full breadth of Israe Dan & Sharon Stolebarger and guide, Jane Ben-Ari as we give you a totally different type of expe Included will be a geo-political Jeep Tour on the Golan Heights - see for yourselves what is truly happening along this strategic border of Israel.



**HOLY
GROUND
TOURS**

OFF THE BEATEN PATH ITINERARY

DAY 1: Overnight in Tel Aviv right on the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 2 - 4: Travel to Jerusalem where we will be staying inside the walls of the Old City for three nights. While in Jerusalem, visit **OLD SYNAGOGUE TOUR, RABBINICAL TUNNELS, TEMPLE INSTITUTE, BURNT HOUSE, JERICO** with **ST. GEORGE'S MONASTERY** and **FRIENDS OF ZION MUSEUM**. Also planned is an incredible landscape of the Judean desert on a fully guided **JEEP TOUR**.

DAY 5 - 7: Travel to the Galilee where we will stay for three nights at a kibbutz hotel right on the shores of the Sea, away from the hustle and bustle of Tiberias. Our time in the north includes: **TSIPORI, NAZARETH VILLAGE, CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MT. ARBEL** (with an option to hike up), **MAGDALA, GAMLA** (with hike to the synagogue) and **MT. BENTAL**. On Shabbat, we will have a Shabbat Service at our hotel. In addition, while in the Golan Heights, we will take a geo-political **JEEP TOUR** to hear and see for ourselves exactly what is happening on this strategic border.

DAY 8: We travel to **JAFFA** for one night. En route, visit the grottoes at **ROSH HANIKRA** and the **VALLEY OF ELAH**.

DAY 9: Before bidding farewell to Israel, we will enjoy a leisurely morning, a tour of **JAFFA**, as well as a **FAREWELL DINNER**. Those departing will be taken to the airport.

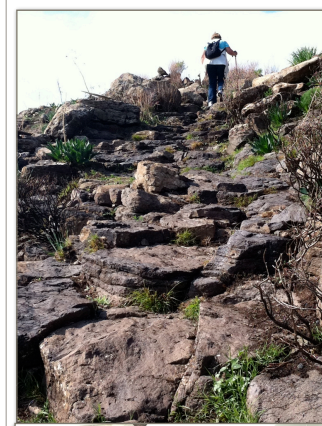
BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

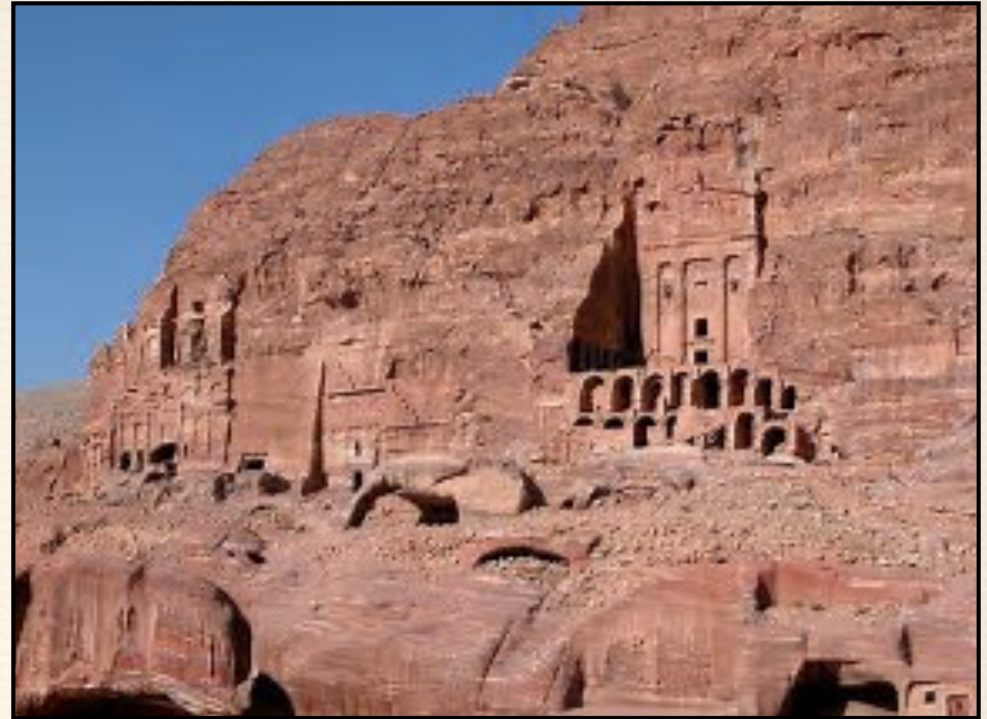
Pricing: \$2995 LAND ONLY per person double occupancy

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ⊗ Hotels: 1 night Tel Aviv, 3 nights Jerusalem, 3 nights Tiberias, 1 night Jaffa
- ⊗ Meals: Breakfast daily, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- ⊗ All Sightseeing and Entrance Fees including two JEEP TOURS
- ⊗ Gratuities for Guide and Driver
- ⊗ Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage per person
- ⊗ All ground transportation

See Registration Form for complete pricing and the Terms & Conditions for the "fine print."





PETRA EXTENSION (optional): Nov. 21-24, 2017 (1 night Jaffa; 2 nights Eilat, 1 night Petra)*

Israel is the land where it all began and **PETRA** just may be the land where the "end" may be centered. It's one thing to see all the sites where prophecy has taken place and has been fulfilled, but then there are the places where the fulfillment is yet to come. During the Tribulation period, God will provide a refuge for His people...many believe that Petra is that place.

Also included is a visit to the replica **TABERNACLE at TIMNA** where you will learn more in 30 minutes about the Tabernacle than you probably have learned in a decade. All this plus the resort city at the southernmost tip of Israel, **EILAT**, where at night you can see the lights of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, all at the same time. Add to this an overnight in Petra where our hotel is located right across the street from the entrance. This extension is not often offered so take advantage of this departure date.

*NOTE: Those staying on for Petra will spend Nov. 20th in Jaffa before beginning the Petra extension on Nov. 21st.

For complete brochure information:

<http://holygroundexplorations.com/israel-tours/israel-off-the-beaten-path-tour-petra-extension/>





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