



## AROUND THE WORLD 2022

Our travels in October—November 2022 took us around the world from west to east. Join us as our journey starts at our home in Bellingham, Washington, U.S.A.

### Part 1: Home ... Greece ... Israel

24-25 October 2022

**Bellingham [122° W] - Vancouver [123° W] - Munich [11° E] - Athens [24° E]**

Our trip started with a short ride from our house (thank you Dan and Ariane Ringler) to the Western Washington University campus. There, we caught the FlixBus to Vancouver, Canada. En route, we stopped at the “Truck Stop” border crossing. We had to dismount the bus, pick up our luggage, and walk through Canadian Customs. Once clear, back on the bus to the Pacific Central (Train) Station in Vancouver. Normally, the bus would have taken us to the Waterfront Station, but local construction precluded that. We purchased tickets on the Sky Train to the Waterfront Station. Once there, we had lunch at the Rogue Kitchen and Wet Bar.

Fed and refreshed, we took the Sky Train to the Vancouver Airport. Once checked in, we waited in a lounge until time to board. We were a bit concerned, as our flight to Munich was delayed 25 minutes and we had only one and a half hours to make our connection. Once on the plane and in the air, we had a reasonably good dinner and several hours of somewhat napping. We were awakened for breakfast and landed, ON TIME, in Munich 9½ hours later.

We cleared E.U. immigration and got to our next gate with about 10 minutes to spare. On to the plane and off to Athens. But, did our luggage make it? We wouldn't know until we arrived in Greece.

On the ground in Athens, we waited at the baggage carousel. Happily, our bag was there! Off to the Viking Cruises shuttle bus which would deliver us to our ship, the *Viking Mars*. We arrived a mere 24 hours after catching the bus in Bellingham, found dinner and a beverage, and were off to bed. Tomorrow, we will have the first of many shore excursions.

## 26 October 2022

### Sounion and Piraeus, Greece [24° E]

We took a tour to “Cape Sounion,” which is southeast of Athens at the tip of the Attica Peninsula. There we visited the remains of the Temple of Poseidon, erected by the ancient Greeks to honor the God of the Sea. After the tour, we returned to the ship and observed the many different types of ferries as we departed the Harbor of Piraeus.



Today's photos are at [Sounion and Piraeus 2022](#).

## 27 October 2022

### At Sea

Sea days (and we will have a lot of them on this trip) are times to relax, sleep in, go to an interesting lecture, explore the ship, eat, and drink. We did all of those, some more than once. Tomorrow and the next several days we will be in ports with activities on shore.

## 28-29 October 2022

### Haifa, Israel [32° E]

The first task to be accomplished upon arrival in Israel is clearing Israeli customs. On a previous cruise, the customs agents boarded the ship and set up their office in one of the lounges. Clearance took less than 10 minutes. This time, we disembarked the ship (before 7:00 AM!) and rode a bus to a nearby processing center. Once there, we were directed through a fairly quick process. The result is we have a slip of paper to carry with our passport. Israel does not make a mark in the passport, because allegedly there are other nations who will not admit persons who have an Israeli stamp in their passport. We were back on the ship about an hour after we departed, ready for breakfast and then an excursion.

### Nazareth and Galilee

Our “Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee” excursion on October 28th took us to many of the places associated with Jesus and His disciples. We visited a church devoted to the miracle of the fishes and loaves, the town where Peter and others lived, the River Jordan near where John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and Nazareth, where Mary was told she would be the mother of Jesus and where Jesus spent his youth. Our guide Yizhak was very good describing the biblical references and correlating them to archeological evidence.



Today's photos are at [Nazareth and Galilee 2022](#).

## Mediterranean Coast of Israel

On October 29th we visited “Caesarea, Jaffa, and Tel Aviv.” Caesarea was a port city built by Herod just before the time of Jesus. 1100 hundred years later, it was expanded and used as a base for the Crusaders. Jaffa is now a district of Tel Aviv—the old port buildings have been converted to artists’ studios and galleries, as well as places to eat and recreate. Tel Aviv was established slightly more than 100 years ago and is the home of most modern Israeli institutions. Our tour concluded with a view of Haifa town and harbor from Mount Karmel.

Today’s photos are at [Mediterranean Coast of Israel 2022](#).



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The journey continues to [Egypt](#) in Part II of this log.