

Holy Land Bible Tour – Israel
October 7 - 19, 2018



Sunday, October 7

Depart from home city.

Monday, October 8

Participants must arrive in Tel Aviv by noon.

United Airlines flies out of Newark, NJ at 1:30 p.m. and lands in Tel Aviv at 7:10 a.m. the next day, or it has a flight that takes off at 4:40 p.m. and lands at 10:15 a.m. in Tel Aviv the next day.

Air Canada also flies out of Toronto at 4:40 p.m. and lands in Tel Aviv at 9:55 a.m. the next day.

After the group arrives, we will drive south to the Dead Sea. Our first stop will be **Qasr El Yahud**, one of the more probable areas for John's baptisms and the possible area where Jesus might have been baptized. It is also near the traditional area where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and Elijah the Prophet ascended to heaven.

Late afternoon **swim in the Dead Sea**.

Overnight: Daniel Dead Sea Hotel (D)

Tuesday, October 9

Early departure for the mountaintop fortress of **Masada**, where Herod the Great's Palace once stood and where the famous zealot stand took place in 73 C.E. We will take the cable car up the cliff side and see a majestic view of the Dead Sea. For the adventurous, walk down the stairs to the Northern Palace of Herod the Great.

Our next stop is **Ein Gedi**, "Spring of the Goat," an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. This is where King David hid from Saul, and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites by praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat. For those who wish to do so, we will walk to waterfalls.

We then drive to the **Wadi Kelt** – a valley running west to east across the Judean desert – near Jericho and the Dead Sea. It is home to the Greek Orthodox Monastery Saint George, where tradition holds that Elijah was fed by ravens.

Next is a brief stop in **Bethlehem** to view the Shepherds' Fields; then on to **Bethany** to see Lazarus' Tomb.

Overnight: The Olive Tree Hotel, Jerusalem (B, D)

Wednesday, October 10

Our morning begins early with a visit to **Abu Ghosh** – a traditional site for **Emmaus**. It is about 6 miles west of Jerusalem on the main road to Joppa. Crusaders built a church here in 1140 and called the place “Castellum Emmaus.” It was not identified with Luke’s Emmaus until the 12th century.

Our next stop will be the **Israel Museum** to view some of the Dead Sea scrolls are kept. We will also see a 50:1 scale model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of the Second Temple. The model covers nearly one acre and illustrates one of the most formative periods in the history of the Jewish people. It is a reconstruction of Jerusalem in the year 66 C.E.

Then we will drive to the **Mount of Olives** and have a breathtaking panoramic view of the Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem. Then we walk down to the site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem (***Dominus Flevit***).

A little further down the mount is the site known as the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed and was arrested. Here we will see some very ancient olive trees which have survived the centuries.

Next is a short bus drive to **St. Peter’s en Gallicantu** – the site of Peter’s denial of knowing Jesus during one of his trials. Next is a visit the **Pools of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the lame man. We will end our day at the Protestant site for Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection - the **Garden Tomb**.

Overnight: The Olive Tree, Jerusalem (B, D)

Thursday, October 11

We begin with a visit to the **Temple Mount**. Next, we will see the **Western Wall** and the **Southern Wall Excavations (Davidson Center)** and walk up the 1st-century steps of the Temple. We will also view a **3-D virtual tour of the Temple**.

There will be time for shopping in the Jewish Quarter and Arab markets.

Afterwards, we will go the City of David and walk through **Hezekiah’s Tunnel** to reach the ruins of the **Pool of Siloam**.

Overnight: The Olive Tree, Jerusalem (B, D)

Friday, October 12

Today we drive to **Shiloh** where the Tabernacle was housed for 369 years. Then we visit **Ancient Shechem** and visit **Jacob's Well** where Jesus talked to the woman of Samaria. Then we will view the **Spring of Harod** where Gideon chose his 300 men.

Our final stop of the day will be at **Kursi**, one of the traditional sites where Jesus healed the insane man.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, Galilee (B, D)

Saturday, October 13

We'll begin our day with a sunrise talk by the Sea of Galilee on John, chapter 21, known as "**the Morning Meal**."

Then we travel to the **Brow of the Hill** near Nazareth. It is a beautiful place to look out over the Jezreel Valley.

Next, we drive to **Nazareth Village**. Here we will tour a re-created first-century Galilean village and farm. After our tour, we will have a biblical lunch prepared by our Nazareth Village friends.

Then we go to **Mt. Carmel**. Here we have a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding area. This is a traditional area where Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal. Mt. Carmel is also where the woman of Shunem came to Elisha after her son had passed on.

On our way back to the Kibbutz we will stop in **Tiberias** and watch the movie, "**The Galilee Experience**."

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel, Galilee (B, L, D)

Sunday, October 14

Our morning starts with exploring the site of **Capernaum** – the center of Jesus' ministry where more healings by Jesus occurred than any other location in Israel.

Next is a visit to **Bethsaida**. Near the town is the likely place according to the Gospels where the feeding of the 5,000 took place. It was also the home town of Philip, Andrew, and Peter.

Driving past the abandoned town of **Chorazin**, we will make our way to the **Mount of Beatitudes** – the traditional site for Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Then we walk to **Mensa Christi** – the setting for John 21 – "Feed my sheep."

We will then walk to **Tabgha** ("spring of seven") which contains a beautiful mosaic of the loaves and fishes inside the Church of the Multiplication. Near here is the traditional location for the calling of Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

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Then we will view the excavations at the newly uncovered first-century city of **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdalene. We will see a pre-70 C.E. synagogue and discuss Mary's role as a follower of Jesus.

We will make a short visit to the **Yigal Allon Museum** which houses the first-century fishing boat discovered in 1986 in the Sea of Galilee. Here we will board our boat for a **ride on the Sea of Galilee**.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel, Galilee (B, D)

Monday, October 15

We start today by traveling north to the site of **Caesarea Philippi** at the base of Mt. Hermon where Jesus asked his disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" The site was an impressive Greco-Roman city near a flowing stream – one of the sources of the Jordan River. A Roman sanctuary, which included temples and ritual courtyards, was built near the sacred grotto of the Greco-Roman god Pan. The ancient city was named after Pan. Since there is no "p" sound in Arabic and the region was long under Syrian rule, the village that grew up around the spring came to be called Banias.

Tel Dan. Dan was the northernmost city of the Kingdom of Israel – known as Laish prior to the conquest by the Tribe of Dan. The finds date back to 4500 B.C. We will stand in the temple built by Jeroboam and behold the "Arch of Abraham." This area is also the place where the "House of David" inscription was discovered.

If time, we'll make a stop and walk down steep stairs to view the **Banias Waterfalls**. Here is a stunning scenery where we'll view the waterfall cascading down from Mt. Hermon and the upper Golan. The stream unites with the Dan stream further south to form the Jordan River.

Then we will drive to **Umm el Kanatir** and view a first century synagogue in the Golan.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel, Galilee (B, D)

Tuesday, October 16

After breakfast we will depart to **Mount Tabor**, which rises dome-like from the Plain of Jezreel. This is the mountain where Christian tradition places the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Next, we will drive to **Tel Megiddo** which sits on a strategic location at the head of a pass through the Carmel Range which overlooks the Valley of Jezreel. We will see the Canaanite Gateway, the Solomonic Gate and the Casemate Wall, "Solomon's Stables," a lookout over the Valley of Armageddon, and the water shaft and tunnel built during the time of Ahab.

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Then we visit the ancient site of **Caesarea Maritima** where we will see the ruins of this ancient Roman port built by Herod the Great to honor the Emperor Augustus Caesar. We will explore the Roman Theater, the Governor's Palace, the Hippodrome, and the Roman Aqueduct. Caesarea was the home of Pontius Pilate, the site of Cornelius' baptism by Peter, where Paul was imprisoned and where he left for his final missionary journey. It was also the home of Philip the Evangelist. The Great Jewish revolt began in 66 C.E. at Caesarea Maritima as well.

We will drive to the **Valley of Elah** where David fought Goliath.

Overnight: Leonardo Negev, Beer-Sheva (B, D)

Wednesday, October 17

This morning we will visit the Negev and see **Tel Beer-Sheva, Hagar's Well** in Yerucham, and **Tel Arad** – where we will see the ruins of a large walled Canaanite city and fortresses dated to the Israelite Kingdom period.

In the afternoon, we will visit **Mt. Sodom**.

Overnight: Leonardo Negev, Beer-Sheva (B, D)

Thursday, October 18

This morning we will visit **Abraham's Well Museum** <http://www.abraham.org.il/index.php?lang=en>, and the **Bedouin Market**. In the afternoon we will see **Ein Avdat** – a spectacular narrow canyon in the Negev. At the opening of the canyon, the water of numerous springs descends into two deep pools in a series of waterfalls.

Farewell dinner – hotel.

Overnight: Leonardo Negev, Beer-Sheva (B, D)

Friday, October 19

Depart for USA.

Arrive Home late afternoon or evening.