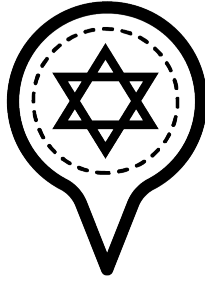




# Experience the Land of the Bible

June 12-22, 2023



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June 12-22, 2023

Cost: \$3,799 per person, based on double occupancy

Hosted by Veritas Baptist College

For more information, contact Mike Lester

[mikelester@vbc.edu](mailto:mikelester@vbc.edu)

Includes

Roundtrip, international airfare (select markets)

Deluxe motor coaches | Tips

Entrance fees to all sites visited | Breakfast and dinner daily

Hotel accommodations | Professionally guided sightseeing

See full terms and conditions on last page.

# Sample Trip Itinerary

## Day 1

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### Depart for Israel

## Day 2

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### Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv

The tour guide will meet you at the airport and assist with baggage claim and direct you to ground transportation. We will transfer to our hotel to enjoy dinner and a restful first evening in Israel.

## Day 3

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### Caesarea/Theater and Roman Aqueduct

These impressive structures were constructed by Herod the Great over 2,000 years ago. Caesarea became a center of early Christianity, and the Apostle Paul was imprisoned there for two years. View the ruins of Herod's seaside palace and a large hippodrome where chariot races were conducted. Cornelius, the first Gentile convert, lived here.

### Mount Carmel

Drive up to the mountaintop where the prophet Elijah famously prayed down fire from Heaven and won the victory over the priests of Baal. From this vantage point, you can see across the valley to many of the locations we will visit later on the tour.

### Tel Megiddo

An incredible archeological dig with layers of 20 different cities built on top of each other. Walk among the ruins and learn how archeologists and historians have verified hundreds of Biblical places and events through archeological sites just like this.

## **Nazareth/Mount of Precipice**

Visit the town that was the boyhood home of Jesus. This is where He spent most of His earthly life and learned the carpenter trade. From the cliff sides just outside of Nazareth, survey the Valley of Armageddon, the site of Earth's final great battle as prophesied in the book of Revelation. This is perhaps the place where the people of Jesus' hometown tried to kill Him after He revealed that He was the Messiah sent from God.

## **Day 4**

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### **Mount of Beatitudes**

See the traditional site where Jesus preached His most famous sermon: the Sermon on the Mount. The hillside forms a natural amphitheater with the Sea of Galilee in the background.

### **Capernaum**

View the ruins of the town of Capernaum and the synagogue where Jesus preached on multiple occasions. Capernaum also contains the ruins of "Peter's House," a house that was later converted into one of the first Christian churches.

### **Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee**

Enjoy a time of worship as we sail across the very sea where Jesus walked on water. This relatively small body of fresh water is only about 8 miles wide and 13 miles long and continues to be a busy fishing area just as it was in Jesus' day. Along the boat ride, our guide will point out various places along the Sea that are mentioned in the Gospels.

## Day 5

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### **Tel Dan**

Tour the ruins of this ancient city that dates back thousands of years. See the altar of Jeroboam and "Abraham's Gate," the place where the Patriarch Abraham would have entered the city roughly 4,000 years ago.

### **Caesarea Phillippi/Banias Falls**

We stop to visit Caesarea Philippi which was once an ancient Roman city. Here, inside a grotto, the Greeks built a shrine to the god, Pan. Jesus traveled through this place with His disciples, and this was where Peter made his famous confession to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Also, we hike through the tranquil nature preserve of Banias Falls located north of Galilee in the Golan Heights region of Israel.

### **Mount Bental/Mount Hermon**

From the peak of Mount Bental we will be able to see Mount Hermon, believed by many to be the site of the Lord's Transfiguration. The rains that fall on Mount Hermon are an important source of water for the Jordan River.

### **Golan Heights**

The Israeli Army captured this region from the Syrians during the Six Day War. The Golan Heights are very important to the strategic defense of Israel. From our high vantage point, our guide will point out the country of Syria in the distance and give some insight into the country of Israel's military defenses.

### **Jordan River**

Stop at the banks of the Jordan River just north of the Sea of Galilee.

## Day 6

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### **Jordan River**

Stop at the banks of the Jordan River just south of the Sea of Galilee. Enjoy a special baptismal service and have an opportunity to be baptized yourself in the waters of the Jordan River.

### **Gideon's Spring**

This is the small mountain stream where Gideon chose his army of 300 by observing how they drank from the springs.

### **Beit Shean**

Strategically located at the intersection of the Jezreel Valley and the Jordan River, Beit Shean has played an important role in history. The city contains many well-preserved ruins from different eras and empires including the Egyptians, Byzantines, Greeks, and Romans.

### **Wadi Qelt**

From a rocky plateau, high above a canyon, take in stunning views of St. George's Monastery and the ancient Jericho Road.

### **Shrine of the Book at Israeli Museum**

View several priceless artifacts including the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Later in the tour, we will have the opportunity to visit Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered. Along the way, we will pass the Israeli Parliament (Knesset). Our guide will give some explanation of the Israeli government system.

### **Open-air Model of Jerusalem**

A large outdoor model depicts the city of Jerusalem as it would have looked circa 70 A.D. Our guide will point out several sites mentioned in the Bible as well as several sites we will visit later in the tour.

## Day 7

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### **Mount of Olives**

Enjoy the view of the Temple Mount and Eastern Gate from this vantage point. This is the place where Jesus ascended into Heaven forty days after his resurrection.

### **Palm Sunday Road**

Walk down from the Mount of Olives along the pathway that Jesus traveled into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

### **Garden of Gethsemane**

Walk down from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane. Here we will have a special service and spend some moments in reflection and prayer beneath the ancient olive trees where Jesus prayed the night before his crucifixion.

### **Western Wall**

This is one of the most iconic landmarks in all of Israel. This is as close as Orthodox Jews will get to the Temple Mount until the new temple is built. Throughout the day and night, hundreds of Jews gather to pray at the Western Wall and leave handwritten prayers in the spaces between the stones.

### **Rabbi's Tunnel**

This tunnel runs the length of the Western Wall underneath many buildings of the Old City. The open-air portion of the Western Wall where many gather to pray is actually only a small part of the entire wall. From within the tunnel we can see much of the well-preserved Temple wall including two stone blocks weighing 600 tons each!

### **Temple Mount**

The last Jewish Temple stood in this spot until the Romans destroyed it in 70 AD, and the Jewish people were scattered from their homeland. Today, a large Muslim mosque called the Dome of the Rock stands in its place. This site also has special religious significance for the Muslims. Due to the volatile relationship between Jewish and Muslim world, the Dome of the Rock and Temple Mount area have been the source of much controversy over the years. From the Temple Mount, view the Eastern Gate that faces the Mount of Olives. This is the gate where Jesus will make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

### **City of David**

Walk through some of the oldest areas of Jerusalem that date back to the time of King David.

### **Southern Wall Excavations**

See the steps where Jesus and His disciples walked. Examine some of the most important archeological finds in Jerusalem. Discover the significance of these historical findings and how they help us understand life in Jerusalem thousands of years ago.

### **Valley of Elah**

This is the site of the famous battle between David and Goliath. Stand on the hillside where King Saul and Israelites were encamped. From here you can see across the valley where Goliath and Philistines were encamped and the stream that runs through the valley where David drew 5 smooth stones.



## **Shepherd's Fields**

Spend some time in the birthplace of Jesus and survey the shepherds' fields just outside the town.

## **Day 9**

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### **Masada**

Ride a cable car to the top of the mountain fortress of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea. This was the location of one of King Herod the Great's palaces. It is most famous as the site where the Roman army laid siege to several hundred Jewish rebels. Ruins of the walls and massive Roman siege ramp are still visible today.

### **Ein Gedi**

Hike the desert trail up to the beautiful waterfalls of Ein Gedi. This desolate area full of caves and ravines is where David and his men once hid from King Saul.

### **Dead Sea**

At approximately 1,400 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest spot in the world. The Dead Sea is almost 10 times saltier than the ocean and consequently there are no fish or visible life forms in the sea. This high concentration of salt also makes it impossible for a swimmer to sink in the water!

## Day 10

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### **Pool of Bethesda**

Jesus healed the lame man on the Sabbath day at this pool.

### **St. Anne's Church**

This perfectly preserved church with incredible acoustics dates back to the time of the Crusades.

### **St. Peter in Gallicantu**

This church was built over the ruins of what is believed to be the High Priest Caiaphas' house. Walk down the narrow steps into the prison where Jesus may have been held in the morning hours before his crucifixion.

### **Golgotha**

View where many believe Jesus was crucified. The word Golgotha means "Place of a Skull". This hill stands just outside the walls at the intersection of two ancient roads. Many scholars believe this location most closely matches the New Testament description.

### **Garden Tomb**

Just a short walk from Golgotha is the Garden Tomb. Enjoy a special service with some time of praise and thankfulness to God for the resurrection. Step inside the empty tomb and remember, "He is not here, for He is risen!"

## Day 11

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### **Depart for home**

Our wonderful journey through the Holy Land comes to a close. Transfer to the airport for our return flights.

## Terms and Conditions

**Reservations and deposits:** A \$250 deposit per person is required 240 days before departure. An additional \$1000 is due 180 days before departure, with the balance due 60 days from departure.

**Cancellations:** From day of registration to 180 days prior to departure, we will retain the \$250 non-refundable deposit, and you will be charged any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single, plus the following charges: 179-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. We reserve the right to retain payments until airline penalties have been finalized. Submit cancellation in writing. In case of last-minute, urgent cancellation or information, contact Land of the Bible Tours at (724) 882-8644. We will give every consideration possible in the event of an unavoidable cancellation. Cancellation insurance is available and HIGHLY recommended.

**Land transportation:** As specified in the itinerary, ground transportation will be provided by deluxe motor coaches.

**Air transportation:** Tickets are round-trip economy class. An airline supplement may be charged if not departing out of a "portal" airport.

**Hotels:** Accommodations will be provided at deluxe hotels indicated. All rooms include private bath or shower. If necessary, hotels listed may be substituted by similar hotel at no extra cost to the passenger. All rates are per person based on double room occupancy.

**Sightseeing and transfers:** Includes all portage, transfers, entrance fees to sightseeing locations as shown in the itinerary. The services of competent local English-speaking guides are provided.

**Baggage:** Portage is limited to the allowed 50 pounds per person for all flights. Baggage is at owner's risk. Carry-on bags and small hand articles, e.g., purses, cameras, etc. are entirely under the care of the passenger. Insurance is available and recommended.

**Alterations:** Land of the Bible Tours reserves the right to alter or cancel any content of the tour should conditions make it necessary for the safety and well-being of all passengers. In this event, the best possible alternative will be offered. The sole and exclusive obligation of Land of the Bible Tours is to refund monies recovered.

**Refunds:** Since all tours are on the basis of inclusive arrangements, no refunds can be considered or given for any absence from the tour for any unused services or meals.

**Responsibility and liability:** Land of the Bible Tours acts as an agent for you in making and securing of arrangements for transportation, sightseeing, hotel accommodations, etc. for the tour. For your protection, Land of the Bible Tours recommends insurance coverages for accident, baggage, trip cancellation, etc. Additional information and application forms for these coverages are available and will be supplied to you prior to departure. Land of the Bible Tours does not own, manage, operate, or control any transportation vehicle, restaurant, hotel, or any other supplier of services. All tickets, receipts, etc. are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By accepting tickets, receipts, etc. you agree that neither Land of the Bible Tours nor any of its representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury, or damage to you or your belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or services. Any airline's concern shall not be responsible for any act or omission during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passage contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between them and you.

**Not included in the tour cost:** Beverages with table meals, other than coffee or tea which may be included. Passport costs and/or health documentation cost when required, optional sightseeing and personal purchases, and insurance coverages. Daily lunches are not included.



One of the greatest joys of my life has been to visit the country of Israel! Others had urged me to go for a number of years, and I simply dismissed the idea. But once I went, everything changed! Passages I had studied in the Bible suddenly came to life. Things that I thought I understood were clarified in a fresh way. The reality of who Jesus is and how he lived captured me in a unique way as I literally walked where He walked. Now for many years it has been my joy to watch the faces of others enjoy Israel for their first experiences. Join us! Take it from me, you won't regret it.

- Kurt Skelly



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