



Summer 2021 Tour of Israel

Enjoy an extended tour visiting the primary Biblical sites as well as venturing into the cultural, geo-political, and spiritual aspects of life in Israel. This tour was especially designed for 1st time visitors & those returning to learn more about the country than on a typical one-week tour. You will return home understanding Israel as an incredibly resilient and inspiring nation that birthed our Savior, Jesus Christ, and Christianity as our faith.

July 17 – July 29, 2021 from US (13 days including travel)

with optional Pre-Tour to Jordan departing July 14

(Schedule based on 8pm TLV arrival from U.S. and late night TLV departure – to be confirmed)

Day 1: Saturday, July 17th Depart for Israel from U.S.

- Depart on your overnight flight from U.S. to Tel Aviv.

Day 2: Sunday, July 18th Welcome to Israel (from U.S. or Jordan)

- Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport from U.S. or from Jordan. An AIT representative will meet you after passport control, escort you through luggage identification & lead you to your Tour Guide.
- Those coming into Israel from Jordan will do so via bus, transferring from the Jordan bus to the Israel bus at the Allenby Bridge.
- Proceed to Tel Aviv and rest/relax at our hotel.

Dinner & Overnight: Herod's Tel Aviv

Day 3: Monday, July 19th Drive to Northern Israel

Caesarea/Haifa / Mt. Carmel / Megiddo / Mt. Tabor/ Nazareth / Mt. Precipice /Cana

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out and depart early for this very full day.

- Drive via the coastline road to **Caesarea by the Sea (Caesarea Maritima)**, Herod's showcase port city. Walk through the Roman ruins and hear the story of St. Peter and his conversion of Cornelius' household (*Acts 10:24*). Caesarea is also the scene of St. Paul's imprisonment (*Acts 23:35*), his appearance before King Agrippa and his departure for Rome (*Acts 25:13-26:32*).
- Next, stop at The **Bahai Gardens**, the geometric, meticulously manicured, terraced garden covering the northern slope of Mount Carmel which is Haifa's most recognizable landmark. This UN World Heritage Site (UNESCO) attracts 750,000 visitors each year.
- Drive along the Mediterranean coastline to **Mt. Carmel**, the biblical site of Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal (*1 Kings 18*).
- Visit **Megiddo**, the regional capital of King Solomon (*1 Kings 9:15*), the New Testament's **Armageddon** (*Rev. 16:16*).
- Continue east across the Galilee passing **Mt. Tabor** (*Psalms 89:12*), the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus

(*Matthew 17:1–9*) and where, at the mountain foothill, Deborah rose against Sisera (*Judges 4 -5*).

- Drive through the hills of Galilee to the outskirts of **Nazareth**, the hometown of Jesus, to stand on the **Mount of Precipice** where tradition has it an angry mob attempted to throw Jesus off the precipice (*Luke 4:16-30*).
- Enter Nazareth and the **Church of the Annunciation** situated over the cave where Archangel Gabriel told Mary she would become the mother of the Son of God. (*Luke 1:5-42*).
- Stop in **Cana**, a village near Nazareth, where Jesus performed His very first miracle by turning water into wine at the wedding feast (*John 2:1-11*).
- Check-in to your hotel in the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner & Overnight: Magdala Hotel

Day 4: Tuesday, July 20th Around the Sea of Galilee and the Upper Galilee

Sea of Galilee/Mount of Beatitudes / Tabgha / Capernaum / Yardenit / Gergesenes / Bethsaida / Magdala/ Olive Oil Press

Breakfast at the hotel.

- Today we will experience the area of Jesus' early ministry around the Sea of Galilee. After breakfast, we will board a wooden boat and sail on the **Sea of Galilee** as the disciples did 2,000 years ago. We will dock at Kibbutz Nof Ginosaur and visit the "Ancient Jesus Boat" - the remains of a 2,000-year-old boat that was discovered in 1986. This boat was used at the time of Jesus and his disciples.
- We will drive along the shores of the Sea of Galilee and visit the **Mount of Beatitudes** (Matt. 5,6,7,8), where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We will visit the famous chapel, constructed in 1939 by the noted architect Antonio Barluzzi, and enjoy the breathtaking view.
- We will continue to **Tabgha** - the site of the Feeding of the 5,000 and Primacy of Peter (Matt. 13; Mark 33-45; John 21). Here we will visit the **Church of Multiplication** with its 4th century mosaic floor.
- We will then continue on to the 2,000-year-old remains of **Capernaum** (Matt. 4:13, 13:54, 17:24; Luke 7; Mark 1:2; John 4:46-54). Here we can stand in what is left of the synagogue in which Jesus ministered. It was from this city that Jesus did most of his Galilean ministry, where he performed many miracles, and where Peter's mother-in-law lived and was healed.
- Now we visit **Yardenit** – the wonderful **baptismal site** on the Jordan River where we can each be baptized.
- Next, we visit the country area of the **Gergesenes**, mentioned in Gospel of Matthew as the place where the Miracle of the Swine. (Matthew 8:28-34).
- Time permitting, we will stop at "**Olea Essence**" **Olive Oil Press**, a unique place. The Olive Oil Press produces are considered one of the world's best extra virgin olive oils. They also produce 100% Natural Skin Care Products, all based on this olive oil.
- We will end our day at **Magdala Center**, a recent archeological dig, with a synagogue from the time of Christ with a gorgeous chapel. Magdala is the story of God's amazing grace is the life of Mary from Magdala, from whom Christ cast out seven demons. (Matthew 9:20-26).
- **Dinner & Overnight:** Magdala Hotel

Day 5: Wednesday, July 21st Upper Galilee & Golan Heights

Tel Dan / Jordan River Rafting / Caesarea Philippi / Tel Faher / Mount Bental / Wine country

Breakfast at the hotel.

- We visit the **Tel Dan** Reserve which is like stepping into a natural wonderland: scores of bubbling brooks feed into a running river and tall treetops reach for the sky. Tel Dan National Park combines a lush nature reserve with a biblical archaeological experience with three easy hiking trails.
- From here, we will enjoy river rafting down the beautifully clear **Hatzbani stream**, later merging with the Baniyas stream to create the Jordan River, comfortably rafting by and under riverside foliage.
- After this relaxing ride, travel due north to the Baniyas -**Caesarea Philippi** (Matt. 16.13; Mark 8.27), where Jesus was recognized as Messiah by His disciples then on to **Tel Faher** (or Golani Lookout), a former Syrian outpost in the Golan Heights that has been occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War in 1967. Tel Faher was the site of an intense battle between the Israel Defense Forces and the Syrians which ended in the conquest of the outpost by the Golani Brigade. Tel Faher is now a park commemorating those who died in the battle.
- **At Mount Bental**, you will come to an observation point near the Syrian border giving you a clear view of the whole region, including "The Road to Damascus."
- End the day with a drive through Israel's wine country in a place that brings together love, soil, landscapes and wine. We will drive through the natural **Hula Valley** and the **Upper Galilee** region back to the Sea of Galilee and our hotel.
- **Dinner & Overnight:** Magdala Hotel or Ein Gev (TBD)

Day 6: Thursday, July 22nd – Dead Sea area

Gideon's Spring / Mount Gilboa / Be'it She'an / Qasr el Yahud / Dead Sea / Qumran / Free time & enjoy the Dead Sea resort

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out of hotel.

- We drive South to **Gideon's Spring**, where Gideon the Judge chose his 300 warriors to battle the Midianites based on how they drank water (Judges 7:1-8).
- It was around here that, after defeating Saul and his sons on **Mount Gilboa**, the Philistines hung their bodies on the walls of **Be'it Shean**. (1 Samuel 31). This is an amazing site to explore ruins and learn how people lived.
- We visit **Qasar el Yehud**, traditionally held to be the location of the baptism of Jesus. (Matthew 3) Other miracles occurred here as well: the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land at this river crossing (**Joshua 3, 15-17**) and Elijah ascended to heaven at this spot. (2 Kings 11).
- We will drive through the Jordanian Valley past the city of Jericho and arrive at the lowest place on earth - the **Dead Sea**.
- Next, we will visit **Qumran**, administrative center of an ascetic Jewish community that flourished at the 1st century A.D. and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, many scholars associate John the Baptist with this community and Jesus may have even spent time here. The community members were mostly scribing responsible for the copying and preservation of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Walk through the ruins of this ancient Essene community.
- We will check in at our hotel and **enjoy relaxing free time at our wonderful Dead Sea resort**. Walk to the beach right outside the hotel and float in the salty water. You can also enjoy the Dead Sea famous mud and mineral treatments at the hotel's spa with appointments scheduled on the bus before we arrive (extra cost).
- **Dinner & Overnight:** Herods Resort Dead Sea

Day 7: Friday, July 23rd Dead Sea – Masada – Jerusalem

Masada / Ein Gedi / Mount of Temptation / Mount of Olives / Palm Sunday Road / Garden of Gethsemane / Shabbat of a Lifetime

Coffee & cake at hotel for an early start

- Depart hotel to travel to **Masada** for sunrise. Hike 50 minutes up the Snake Trail or ride the gondola to the top and join for worship as the sun rises over the Dead Sea and Jordanian Moab Mountains. Sunrise at Masada is something magical and unforgettable, a unique experience that visitors will never forget. Masada is a fortress constructed on top of a rock plateau built by Herod. About one hundred years later, a group of Jews took refuge at Masada while fleeing from the Romans and made decisions that affected generations to come. Masada is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Israel.
- Drive back to your hotel for Breakfast & quickly shower/dress for day then check out.
- If desired, make a short stop at a cosmetics store to shop for Dead Sea skin care products (like Ahava).
- Stop for overview at **Ein Gedi**, (if time permitting) where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (*1 Samuel 23*) and may have composed several of his Psalms.
- View the **Mount of Temptation** where Christ was tempted by Satan during his 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew (4:1-11) and Luke (4:1-13))
- From here we will ascend to Jerusalem – the holy city of Zion. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, we will head to the top of the **Mount of Olives** to stand where the Lord ascended into heaven (Acts 1) as we take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the city across the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate where the Prince of Peace will enter (Ezekiel 44). We will pass by **Pater Noster Church** and visit **Dominus Fleuit** where “the Lord wept” as he beheld the Holy City. We will walk the **Palm Sunday Road** as Jesus did down to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where we will see 2,000-year-old olive trees that date back to the time of Christ. Ending our day, we will check in our hotel for dinner
- **Shabbat of a Lifetime** – This program offers an opportunity for incoming tourists of all backgrounds to experience an authentic Shabbat (Jewish Sabbath) at the home of a host family in the heart of Jerusalem. Shabbat of a Lifetime participants receive an informative introduction to Shabbat while dining on a five-course meal with their hosts. This is only available on Friday night and we have a long day so this is optional (+\$60).
- **Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel Jerusalem**

Day 8: Saturday, July 24th Jerusalem

Church of St. Peter / Room of the Last Supper / Old City / Via Delarosa / St. Anne Church / Pool of Bethesda / Judgment Hall / Church of the Holy Sepulcher / Garden Tomb

Breakfast at hotel.

- Drive to **Mt. Zion** to visit the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** meaning “cock's-crow” commemorating Peter's triple rejection of Jesus "... before the cock crows twice." (*Mark 14:30*)
- Also, on Mt. Zion, is the **Room of the Last Supper** (*Luke 22:14-20*) and the traditional site of **Tomb of King David**.
- We will return the **Old City**, visiting the Eastern gate and continuing on to the **Lion's Gate**, located in the eastern wall of the Old City and the entrance marking the beginning of the last walk of Jesus from prison to the crucifixion – the **Via Delarosa**. We will start our walk along the **Stations of the Cross** to visit **St. Anne Church** (we'll sing with an 11 second echo!), the **Pool of Bethesda**, then continuing to the **Judgment Hall of Pilate** and all the way to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** (Matt. 27:33-57, 28:10).
- We will enjoy some free time to rest and shop at the colorful **Old City bazaars**. We will end our day at the old

city visiting the **Garden Tomb**, where we will celebrate the resurrection with communion and a time of praise.

- Friends of Zion Museum
- After dinner and if time permits, meet **Israeli Parliament member Sharren Haskel**, a member of Parliament or another woman of significance in Israeli community (tentative)
- **Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel Jerusalem**

Day 9: Sunday, July 25th Jerusalem

Southern Steps / Temple Mount / Western Wall / City of David / Hezekiah's Tunnel / Pool of Siloam / Western Wall Tunnels

- Breakfast at hotel
- Walk to the **Southern Steps**, which served as the main entrance to the entire **Temple Mount** complex. We know from Scripture that Jesus went to the Temple several times throughout His life.
- Walk in the Old City to the **Western Wall** ("Wailing Wall"), the most religious site in the world for the Jewish people. It is the western support wall of the Temple. Prayers are either spoken or written down and placed in the cracks of the wall.
- Go deep into Jerusalem's biblical history with a tour of the **City of David**, a 3,800-year old site. Trace the story of Jerusalem through the ages as you explore archeological excavations. See the First Temple homes at the Royal Acropolis, and visit the Citadel that protected Gihon Spring, Jerusalem's main water source. (2 Samuel, 5:6-7). If weather permits, we might walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** (optional) and visit the Pool of Siloam where Jesus sent the blind man to be healed. (John 9:1-11) visit the **Pool of Siloam** where Jesus sent the blind man to be healed. (John 9:1-11).
- Greatness is truly discovered when you descend underground to the **Western Wall Tunnels**. The tunnels run along approximately 1600 feet of the Western Wall, giving visitors a taste for the challenge that stood before Herod the Great during this biggest of all his immense building projects—the expansion of the Temple Mount.
- In the evening, enjoy going to the **Mahane Yehuda Market** (aka The Shuk) – optional. It is the largest market in Jerusalem and one of the most famous in the Middle East. Once a shopping and dining center for the working class, the Shuk has transformed into one of Jerusalem's main cultural centers. Locals and visitors alike flock there for incredible culinary experiences, an unforgettable Thursday nightlife scene, concerts and, of course, shopping.
- **Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel Jerusalem**

Day 10: Monday, July 26th Jerusalem & Bethlehem

Yad Vashem / Israel Museum / Bethlehem / Shepherd's Fields / Rachel's Tomb / American Embassy / Tower of David

Breakfast at hotel

- **Yad Vashem** Israel's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, spend time at the Museum with its Hall of Names, the Children's Memorial and Walk along the Street of the Righteous where Oscar Schindler and many others are memorialized.
- Start the day at the **Israel Museum** and visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. Visit the **model of Second Temple** Jerusalem to view Jerusalem as it looked during the time of Jesus
- Drive to **Bethlehem** the birthplace of Jesus. Meet a new guide for the visit **Manger Square** where the **Church of the Nativity** stands. It's one of the oldest churches in the world and was built above the cave where, according to the Bible, Jesus was born. (Luke 2: 1-7)
- Continue to **Shepherds' Fields**. Imagine watching over flocks of sheep by night in the traditional location of an

angelic announcement of Jesus's birth. (Luke 2:8-20),

- The story of **Naomi, Ruth and Boaz** (Ruth 1–4) is one of the most moving accounts in the Bible. People often describe the book of Ruth as a love story. But as the story unfolds, we realize that it is about more than the love between two people. It's about God's amazing love for all humankind. (Ruth 1–4)
- And Rachel died, and was buried on the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day." — (Genesis 35:19-20). **Rachel's Tomb** is the site considered the burial place of Rachel, the Jewish Matriarch. It is a site considered holy to all three Abrahamic religions. It is mentioned in the Jewish Tanakh and the Christian Old Testament. Rachel, who died in childbirth, was buried here by her husband Jacob, by the road between Hebron and Bethlehem. It is Jewish belief that Jacob foresaw the future and that many Jews would be exiled and pass by her tomb, praying and finding solace there.
- If time allows, a drive by and brief stop by the **American Embassy in Jerusalem** for pictures and a prayer
- **(After Dinner) Night Spectacular, Sound and Light at the Tower of David**, the walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a nighttime show which is a celebration of sight and sound. Amidst the archaeological remains in the Citadel's courtyard and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem unfolds through giant breathtaking, virtual reality images.
- **Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel Jerusalem**

Day 11: Tuesday, July 27th Samaria & Jerusalem

Gush Etzion / Be'ersheva / Sderot - Gaza

Breakfast at hotel

- Today, we will drive south to **Gush Etzion** to experience **Caliber 3**, a training center for civilian police and enforcement personnel, where you will learn how defense actions are trained. Enjoy this engaging and interactive training designed for tourism and come away with a new perspective on what is required. (optional extra fee of \$100). If you do not want to do this activity, you will be escorted around the area for a 3 hour tour of Southern Israel.
- From there, we will drive to **Be'ersheva** and visit **Abraham's Well** then continue on to **Sderot**. Here we will visit and learn about life in the Gaza Strip, sharing a border wall with the Palestinians, living in a military zone, and earning a living while praying for peace. It is important to understand the nature of life in this area and as it relates to the rest of Israel. You may choose to spend a free day on your own in Jerusalem instead of touring this day.
- **Dinner & Overnight: Herbert Samuel Jerusalem**

Day 12: Wednesday, July 28th Elah Valley & Tel Aviv -Jaffa FINAL DAY

Shiloh / Beit El / Elah Valley / Center for Israeli Innovation / Old Jaffa / Airport

Breakfast at hotel, Check-out.

- Visit **Ancient Shiloh**, Shiloh was the religious capital of Israel during the times of the Judges and spans 4,000 years of continuous settlement starting from the 18th century BC (Middle Bronze II). Shiloh was an assembly place for the people of Israel and a center of worship. Its sacred area (Tabernacle - Mishkan) in Shiloh housed the Ark of Covenant, Table of Showbread, Altar of Incense and Golden Lamp stand. Shiloh is the place of the story of **Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel ,2: 1-10)** and consecration to God that He might grant her a son is beautiful and touching. Hannah was given a son in answer to her prayers — a son who was destined to be one of the greatest of prophets and a man whose exemplary life would be an inspiration for all.
- On the way back to Jerusalem, we will stop near **Beit El** settlement which still carries the name of the ancient biblical city and the secret site of Jacob's dream (**Genesis 18:12-20**). Using the Bible, we'll understand the geography of the site in biblical times and why this exact site is matching to Beit El's location, not just according

to research but according to the Bible too.

- This day, we will drive to the **Elah valley**, historically known as the **battlefield site between David and Goliath** (1 Samuel 17 1-4, 50). The valley is a beautiful countryside region also named as 'The Tuscany of Israel'
- Proceed to Tel Aviv.
- (Time permitting) **The Center for Israeli Innovation** is a cutting-edge visitor's center presenting the Israeli Start-Up Nation. The center's exhibition presents the leading Israeli technology companies as well as successful and promising start-ups. Time permitting
- Stop for a **Farewell Dinner** in **Old Jaffa**. Visit sites linked with Biblical miracles and stories such as **Simon The Tanner's House** where St. Peter had his vision (Acts 10:32) on the rooftop & raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36), **King Solomon** built his Mediterranean port (2 Chron. 2:16), and **Jonah the Prophet** set sail to Tarshish. (Jonah ,1:3)
- Transfer to **Ben Gurion Airport** for your overnight flight back home.

Day 13: Thursday, July 29th Arrive back in US

Depart Tel Aviv and arrive back in the US.

ALL ITINERARIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SCHEDULING NEEDS AND IN-COUNTRY CONDITIONS. Depending on your vaccination status, you may have to test for COVID at various points in your tour. Each test will have a varying fee which we will try to ascertain before we depart as conditions change.