



Co-Ed Tour of Israel -

an extended tour visiting the primary Biblical sites as well as venturing into the cultural, geopolitical, 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.

From US: June 26 – July 7, 2021 (12 days including travel)

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

From Jordan: June 27 – July 7, 2021

Day 1: Saturday, June 26th – USA Departure

Our journey begins today as we depart on our way to Israel – the Land of the Bible. Sit back, relax and enjoy your flight. Get some rest...tomorrow you will be walking where Jesus walked!

Overnight: On Board Meals on Board

Day 2 Sunday, June 27th – Arrival in Israel from U.S. or Jordan

Today we arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport or from Jordan. We will be met and assisted by our Israeli tour guide and bus driver. We drive to Tel Aviv - Israel's largest and most modern city (20-30 minutes' drive from the airport). Depending on arrival time, you may have free time to rest and relax in your hotel room or stroll Tel Aviv's famous promenade. If time permits, we will explore Old Town Jaffa at night and walk through the narrow passages of **Old Jaffa**, believed to be the oldest port city in the world. See the amazing St. Peter's Church at night and take in a spectacular view of the Tel Aviv shoreline from Jaffa's Hilltop. Return to our hotel for rest before our tour continues in the morning.

Meal included: Full Buffet Dinner (if arrival time allows) Lodging: Herod's Tel Aviv

Day 3: Monday, June 28th – From Tel Aviv to the Sea of Galilee via the Mediterranean Caesarea / Mt. Carmel / Megiddo / Nazareth / Cana / Sea of Galilee / Tiberias

After breakfast, we start our tour heading north to the Sea of Galilee. We will have a relaxing drive along the beautiful coast of the Mediterranean Sea and stop at **Caesarea Maritime** (Acts 9:30; Acts 10: 24-48), which was the center of early Christians. Here Cornelius the Centurion and his household were saved and baptized (Acts 10), and it was also here where Paul made his defense before Festus and King Agrippa prior to his final journey to Rome (Acts 25 & 26). 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. We will then stop at **Mount Carmel** (Muchraka), where Elijah issued his challenge to the False Prophets and then proceed on to Megiddo (1 Kings 4:28, 9:15; 2 Kings 23:29 & Rev.16:16) and the **Valley of Armageddon** (Revelation 16) to see the remains from Solomon's days. We will view the site where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought. We continue along the Jezreel valley to visit the town of **Nazareth** and the Church of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26, 4:16-29; Matthew 2:23). Our last stop will be in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed his first public miracle - the turning of

water into wine at a wedding feast (John 2:1-11). We will end the day with a drive through the Lower Galilee Region to the Sea of Galilee and our lovely new hotel.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Magdala Hotel

Day 4: Tuesday, June 29th – Around the Sea of Galilee and the Upper Galilee Mount of Beatitudes / Tabgha / Capernaum / Bethsaida / Magdala/ Olive Oil Press

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 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. We will then proceed to **Bethsaida** -The House of the Fisherman. (Matthew 4:18-22) where the feeding of the 5,000 likely took place. (Matthew 14:13-21) and continue to the Country of the **Gergesenes**, mentioned in Gospel of Matthew as the place where the Miracle of the Swine. (Matthew 8:28-34). We will stop at **Magdala Center**, a recent archeological dig, with a synagogue from the time of Christ. 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). Our last stop of the day will be 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.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Magdala Hotel

Day 5: Wednesday, June 30th Upper Galilee & Golan Heights Rosh Hanikra / Tel Dan / Kayaking or Rafting / Wine Country / Caesarea Philippi / Mount Bental / Tel Faher

Drive to **Rosh Hanikra** at the very northwestern tip of Israel for a tour of the grottos via cable car. The walking path in the heart of the cliff exposes visitors to the grottoes, which – more simply put – are sea caves. The grottoes were formed in the wake of underground shocks that ripped open gaps within the bedrock. Slowly, rainwater penetrated these rifts, forming tunnels and caves that continued to expand due to the waves that slammed against the rock. You will realize how close you are to the Lebanon border from this place. Next, 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 Banias stream to create the Jordan River, , comfortably rafting by and under riverside foliage. After this relaxing ride, travel due north to the Banias - **Caesarea Philippi** (Matt. 16.13; Mark 8.27), where Jesus was recognized as Messiah by His disciples then on to Tel Faher (or Golan 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. Golan Heights Winery, Israel's leading producer of quality wines, invites you for a guided group tour and tasting at the Visitors Center. **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 **experiencing 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.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Magdala Hotel

Day 6: Thursday, July 1st – Sea of Galilee and Jordan River

Yardenit Baptism / Gideon’s Spring / Sachne / Dead Sea / Free time & enjoy the resort

We conclude our Galilee tour with a visit to Yardenit – the wonderful **baptismal site** on the Jordan River then 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 Beth Shean. (1 Samuel 31). We will enjoy a swim at Gan Hashlosa, otherwise known as the **Sachne**, is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places in Israel. The main highlight of Gan Hashlosa are its beautiful pools shaded by lush palm trees and surrounded by green lawns, which are constantly 28 degrees Celsius year-round. We will drive through the Jordanian Valley past the city of Jericho and arrive at the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea. We will check in at our hotel and **enjoy relaxing free time at our wonderful Dead Sea resort hotel**, conveniently located on the shores of the Dead Sea. Walk to the beach and float in the salty water and also enjoy the Dead Sea famous mud and mineral treatments at the hotel's spa.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Herods Resort Dead Sea

Day 7: Friday, July 2nd – Exploring the Dead Sea and the Judean Desert

Masada / Qumran / Qasar el Yehud/ Jerusalem / Mount of Olives / Garden of Gethsemane/Hotel / Shabbat of a Lifetime

Today we will explore the Dead Sea and the Judean desert region and its biblical and historical sites. Very early in the morning, we will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit one of the most spectacular sites in Israel – the 1,500 feet mountaintop fortress of **Masada**. We will ascend to Masada by cable car to view the sunrise and time of worship. We will then discover the 1st century Synagogue, Herod’s Bathhouse and many other sites of Masada. We will return to the hotel for showers and breakfast. After check out, we will drive along the shores of the Dead Sea and stop for overview at **Ein Gedi**, where David hid in a cave when running from Saul (1 Samuel 23). It was here that David composed several of his Psalms. Next, we will visit **Qumran** and walk through the ruins of this ancient Essene community. In this spot, an amazing cache of ancient biblical texts was discovered in 1947 - commonly called the Dead Sea Scrolls. 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 and Elijah ascended to heaven at this spot. (2 Kings 11). 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 Flevit** 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** 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.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem

Day 8: Saturday, July 3rd – Jerusalem Old City Mt. Zion / Room of the Last Supper / Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu / Lion’s Gate / Via Delarosa / Pool of Bethesda / Church of the Holy Sepulchre / Lutheran Church / Christian Quarter / Garden Tomb

Following breakfast, we will walk through the historic **Jewish Quarter** all the way to **Mt. Zion**. We will visit the **Room of the Last Supper** and then continue to the Church of **St. Peter in Gallicantu**. According to tradition, this was the place of the palace of the high priest Caiaphas, where Jesus was brought to jail after his arrest. (Mark 14: 72) We will have some free time to stroll through the old city markets before returning to the hotel. We will return the **Old City**, 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.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem

Day 9: Sunday, July 4th – Temple Mount Archaeological Excavations / Southern Wall / Southern Steps / Davidson Center / Western Wall / Jewish Quarter / Yad Vashem and Jerusalem Old City

Today we walk where Jesus walked. Following breakfast, we will head to the **Old City** and enter via the Dung Gate to visit the **Western Wall** (“Wailing Wall”) – the holiest site in Judaism and one of the original ancient walls that retained the Temple and explore the **Western Wall Tunnels**. We will continue to the Southern Temple Mount archaeological excavations. Here we will visit the **“Southern Steps”** – the archaeological reconstruction of the Temple Steps where Jesus walked so often. From here, Jesus entered the Temple Mount and drove out the vendors and money changers who were exploiting the people. We will visit the unearthed southern end of the western wall, the paved street, and the Robinson’s Arch. At the Davidson Center museum, we will view a documentary of the excavation and a 10-minute film describing a visit of a pilgrim to the second temple as it was in Jesus’ time. We will head to Mt. Herzl area for a visit to the newly renovated **Holocaust Museum – “Yad Vashem”**.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Shabbat Dinner Lodging: Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem

Day 10: Monday, July 5th – Israel Museum / Shrine of the Book / Holy Land Model / Bethlehem / Elah Valley / Tel Azekah

After breakfast we will drive to **Bethlehem** to visit the **Church of the Nativity** (Luke 2: 1-7). We venture out to the **Shepherd’s Field**, referenced in Luke 2:8-20, where an angel appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. We will visit the **Field of Boaz** and shop at a family owned store featuring hand-made olive wood pieces. We will head to the **new city of Jerusalem** and pass by the **Knesset**, Israel’s parliament. We will head to the **Israel Museum** to visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, and the view the scaled **Holy Land Model of Second Temple** to view Jerusalem as it looked during the time of Jesus. If time permits, we will return to the city center and enjoy some free time at the Ben Yehuda Street to experience the authentic Jerusalem restaurants and shops. We may Visit the **Friends of Zion Heritage Center** which brings the stories of Christian love for Israel to life in a unique multimedia and interactive way. A highlight of our day will be going to the **Elah Valley**, historically known as the **battlefield site between David and Goliath** (1 Samuel 17 1-4, 50) and **Tel Azekah**. This view from above the valley is of the beautiful countryside region also named as

'The Tuscany of Israel'.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem

Day 11 Tuesday, July 6th – Gush Etzion / Beersheba / Sderot

Today, we will drive 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). We will also zip line through the trees at a nearby course. From there, we will drive to **Beersheva** 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.

Meals included: Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Lodging: Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem

Day 12: Wednesday, July 7th City of David and Old Jerusalem

Go deep into Jerusalem's biblical history on our final day 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, view Bathsheba's home as David saw it, 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). We will walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and visit the **Pool of Siloam** where Jesus sent the blind man to be healed. (John 9:1–11). We will also visit the **Temple Mount Sifting Project (if time permits)** and try our hand at sifting through rubble that originated in ancient buildings from the Temple Period. Learn about findings from archaeologists and expert guides at this non-profit site that has ongoing "sifts" from various sites around Jerusalem.

Enjoy a late farewell lunch in Jerusalem to conclude our Israel tour.

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your late-night flight back to the United States OR fly to Thessaloniki for your Greece tour.

ALL ITINERARIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SCHEDULING NEEDS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS.