



LIMITED SPACE – RESERVE EARLY!

Israel in Depth

***First Class 14 Day Package May 20-June 2, 2023
Extensions to Jordan and Samaria May 12-19, 2023***

Day 1, Sat. May 20 - Departure from USA
Depart from home for an overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2, Sun. May 21 - Arrive In Israel, Hotel in Jerusalem

Tour members arrive in Tel Aviv at Ben Gurion Airport, then by motor coach we drive past Lydda, Emmaus, and the Aijalon Valley on a scenic drive up to Jerusalem and arrive at our hotel for our first dinner together and a six-night stay.

Day 3, Mon. May 22 - Jerusalem, City of David, Judean Wilderness, Wadi Qelt, Jericho

We begin the day by touring the City of David to see a film, its Canaanite and Israelite ruins, Jeremiah's cistern, King David's palace, an optional walk thru Hezekiah's Water Tunnel, view recently discovered 2nd Temple road, finishing at the Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed a blind man. For lunch we have a Biblical type dinner in Abraham's Tent and optional ride on camels. We visit nearby En Mabo'a Spring and walk on the ancient Jericho Road. We drive further east thru the West Bank and Judean Wilderness to stop for a scenic view of the Wadi Qelt, St. George's Monastery, and ancient Jericho Road. We continue on past Bedouin camps to Jericho to see Herod's winter palace, Zaccheus' sycamore fig tree, Elisha's Spring, then enter ancient Tel Jericho to see remains of fallen walls, and view the Mount of Temptation where Satan tempted Jesus.

Day 4, Tue. May 23 - West Jerusalem, Gibeah, Gibeon, Emmaus, Aijalon Valley, Joppa, Holocaust Museum, Israel Museum

This day begins with a stop at ancient Gibeah where King Saul had his palace. We then travel to West Jerusalem to the tomb of the prophet Samuel and a view of his hometown Ramah, and the high place at Gibeon where the Lord appeared to King Solomon before he built the Temple. We continue westward to a possible location of Emmaus where Jesus appeared to two disciples. We walk to a scenic

view of the Aijalon Valley where Joshua prayed for the sun and moon to remain still. We drive past Lydda where Peter healed a paralyzed man and arrive at the ancient port of Joppa where Jonah and Peter spent time. We return to Jerusalem past the harp bridge before arriving at Yad Vashem for a somber tour of the Holocaust Museum. We end the day going past the Knesset and visit the Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls), and a model of 1st Century Jerusalem.

Day 5, Wed. May 24 - Jerusalem, Temple Mount, Via Dolorosa, Promenade, Bethlehem

Today we ascend to the top of the Temple Mount to observe columns and steps from the Temple where Jesus taught, Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock shrine, the Golden Gate, then exit to the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a paralyzed man. We see a stone pavement from the Roman times then walk the 14 stations of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Our next stop is at the Promenade for the view that Abraham first had of Mt. Moriah. We drive to visit Rachel's tomb and then enter into Bethlehem to tour the Church of the Nativity that displays where Jesus was born, shop at the olive wood factory, then by bus we visit David's well, the Shepherd's Field, ending at Herod's palace and tomb on top of Herodium.

Day 6, Thu. May 25 - Jerusalem, Wailing Wall, Temple Mount Steps, Jewish Quarter, Mount Zion

With excitement we begin our extensive tour of the Old City of Jerusalem by visiting the Wailing or Western Wall and walk thru the excavated Rabbinical Tunnel to see a massive Herodian stone wall and street from the time of Jesus. We then witness the many Bar Mitzvah celebrations at the outside wall and have an opportunity to pray there. Strolling to the Archaeological Park we see a free film, original 2nd Temple stones, and southern steps that Jesus walked on. Ascending up to the Jewish Quarter we see the gold Menorah built for the next Temple, the Temple Institute, the Burnt House, a 1st Temple period model of

Jerusalem, a wall built by King Hezekiah, and the Roman Cardo. The rest of our day is at Mt. Zion to see the Upper Room, David's Tomb, and the first Church Grotto.

Day 7, Fri. May 26 - Mount of Olives, Bethany, Kidron Valley, Hinnom Valley, Garden Tomb

This final day in Jerusalem begins with an ascent to the top of the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, Bethphage, and Bethany. We view the large Jewish cemetery and tomb of the prophets Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi located on the mountain in expectation the Messiah will come there. We remember the last week of Jesus' life on earth and descend the Messianic path where He rode on a donkey, visiting where He wept over Jerusalem, then tour the Garden of Gethsemane where He was arrested, then walk across the Kidron Valley to ancient tombs. We continue up to the Temple Mount and high Pinnacle Wall where Satan tempted Jesus when He began His ministry. Next we visit David's Citadel and go to the top of a tower for a view of Old Jerusalem and to see the remains of Herod's palace and possible place of Pilate's trial of Jesus. Our next stop is to enter Caiaphas' House to see a 1st Century road and prison where traditionally Jesus was put on trial by the high priest and where Peter denied knowing Him. We overlook the Hinnom Valley, also called Gehenna, and the Potter's Field where Judas was buried. The afternoon finishes with a quiet visit, tour, and communion together at the Garden Tomb and Place of the Skull called Golgotha or Calvary.

Day 8, Sat. May 27 - Ein Kerem, Sorek Valley, Beth Shemesh, Elah Valley, Philistia, Beersheba, Negev Desert, Dead Sea

Leaving Jerusalem we stop at Ein Kerem the traditional birthplace of John The Baptist, then drive past Hadassah Hospital named after Biblical Esther. We travel west thru beautiful mountains and the Sorek Valley to Beth Shemesh where the Ark of the Covenant was carried from the Philistines by two cows pulling a cart. The next stop is Tel Azekah and the Valley of Elah, where David defeated Goliath. We make stops where battles were fought at Maresah and Lachish, then we drive thru the land of the Philistines, passing the city of Gath. We continue on to Beersheba and see Abraham's well. Next, we go east with a drive thru the Negev contrasted with Bedouin tents and herds of camels, donkeys, sheep, and blossoms of the Israeli desert agriculture that is fulfilling prophecy from Isaiah. Our desert tour ends with stops at the traditional locations of Biblical Arad, Zoar, Sodom, and salt stone of Lot's wife, then a relaxing swim in the Dead Sea by our luxurious hotel.

Day 9, Sun. May 28 - Masada, Engedi, Qumran, Bethany Beyond The Jordan, Sea of Galilee

We see a film and ascend by cable car to the ancient fortress of Masada. After digesting its history and viewing ancient Gomorrah, we visit the oasis of Engedi where David hid from King Saul, then on to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We head north and stop for a look where Jesus was probably baptized at Bethany Beyond The Jordan. We then continue thru the Jordan Valley and Samaria, with a stop near Belvoir Fortress. We soon make our first drive along the shore of the Sea of Galilee past ancient Roman ruins and a theatre before entering the

city of Tiberias (known for its ancient Roman hot springs which still exist today) to begin a four-night stay at a lake shore hotel.

Day 10, Mon. May 29 - Northern Galilee, Hazor, Hula, Dan, Golan Heights, Caesarea Philippi, Mt. Hermon

We head north and soon depart from the lake to pass thru the Hula Valley with a stop at Tel Hazor, seeing mud brick ruins from Canaanite times, stone structures built by King Solomon, and a huge water well built by King Ahab. Next we see a film about migrating birds at the Hula Nature Reserve. We continue north to see the headwaters of the Jordan River at Tel Dan, plus we see the ancient Israelite city of Dan. Back on the bus, we visit Banias and its Hermon Stream (Biblical Caesarea Philippi where Jesus visited), then we ascend up Mt. Hermon to tour Nimrod's Castle with a beautiful view of the Hula Valley. Our bus continues on to the picturesque volcanic crater at Lake Ram and then ascends up Mt. Bental with a magnificent view of Lebanon, Syria, and snowcapped Mt. Hermon. The day ends by driving thru the Golan Heights of ancient Bashan with a stop at a high observation point for a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee. We arrive back at Tiberias.

Day 11, Tue. May 30 - Sea of Galilee, Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, Kursi, Gadara

Today we concentrate on the primary places of Jesus' ministry. We take a quiet cruise on the Sea of Galilee in the Jesus Boat, and then disembark to tour the Boat Museum. Next, we visit Magdala, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, the miracle feedings of the multitudes and the place of the demoniacs and pigs at Kursi, Hippos, and Gadara. Our final stop is for water baptisms and mikvahs to be done at the Jordan River baptismal site. We finish our complete circle of the lake arriving at our hotel.

Day 12, Wed. May 31 - Central Galilee, Beth Shan, Mt. Gilboa, Nazareth, Sepphoris, Cana, Mt. Arbel

We begin by heading south to visit the extensive Roman ruins and Tel of the ancient city of Beth Shan. We then drive up Mt. Gilboa to where King Saul was killed, to take pictures of the fertile Beth Shan Valley. We drive across the Jezreel Valley past Shunem where Elisha raised a boy from the dead, and by Ophrah where Gideon resided. We ascend Mt. Precipice for a view of Nazareth, Mt. Tabor where Deborah defeated the Canaanites, and northern Armageddon. After driving by the Church of the Annunciation, we have a guided tour of Nazareth Village. Next, we go to visit the nearby ancient city of Sepphoris where likely Joseph and Jesus worked as builders. Leaving the area, we drive thru Cana where Jesus turned the water into wine, and end the day at Mt. Arbel for a spectacular view of the Sea of Galilee. Back on the bus we make a final scenic stop overlooking Tiberias along the lake. We return to our lakeshore hotel.

Day 13, Thu. June 1 - Western Galilee, Mt. Tabor, hill of Moreh, Harod Springs, Tel Jezreel, Jezreel Valley, Megiddo, Armageddon, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea, Sharon Plain

On our last day in Galilee, by bus we pass thru the Biblical

places of Kadesh, Mt. Tabor, Endor, Nain, and hill of Moreh. We stop at Harod Springs where Gideon downsized his army to 300. Our next stop is at Tel Jezreel in the Jezreel Valley, the city of Ahab and Jezebel. We continue to travel west to take a tour of ancient Tel Megiddo, overlooking southern Armageddon. We then ascend to Elijah's Mt. Carmel where he duelled with the 450 prophets of Baal. We have a wonderful western view of the Jezreel Valley. We descend back down the mountain to our last stop at the ancient seaport and Roman Capital of Biblical Caesarea, where Pontius Pilate resided. This was also where Peter preached to the Roman Centurion Cornelius and saw the entire household believe. Paul was put on trial here before sailing for Rome. We drive outside the city to take pictures of its ancient Herodian Roman aqueduct. We then drive thru the Sharon Plain to our hotel perched on cliffs above the beach and Mediterranean Sea for one last night in Israel and for reflections about everything that we have seen and heard.

Day 14, Fri. June 2 - Tel Aviv

Members leave from Ben Gurion airport on their return flight home with lots of great memories and information.

Available Extensions:

If you do this tour and all the extensions you will see almost all of Israel and its Biblical sites.

Jordan, Southern Israel 4 Day Extension Add-on (May 12 – May 15)

Pretour Day 1, Wed. May 10 - Departure from USA

Depart from home for an overnight flight to Israel.

Pretour Day 2, Thu. May 11 - Arrive In Israel, Hotel in Netanya

Tour members arrive in Tel Aviv at Ben Gurion Airport, then by motor coach drive north through the Biblical Sharon Plain to our hotel in Netanya perched on cliffs overlooking the beach and Mediterranean Sea and join other waiting passengers for an overnight stay.

Pretour Day 3, Fri. May 12: Pella, Gadara, Jerash, Jabbok River, Amman, Dead Sea

An early departure from our hotel in Netanya, Israel takes us to the Sheikh Hussein Bridge. After meeting our guide and completing passport formalities, we enter the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. By motor coach we travel to a scenic overlook of Pella, where the Jerusalem Church fled in 65 A.D. We then continue to Jordan's northern border driving thru the picturesque Yarmouk River Valley as we ascend to visit the ancient ruins of Gadara, the mountain top city center of the Gadarene Demoniacs. From there we will be able to view the nearby Sea of Galilee where Jesus had His encounter with them. We head back south to Jerash, ancient Gerasa of Roman Times, the city center of the Gerasenes, one of the best-preserved and most complete provincial Roman cities. Gerasa was one of the cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Graeco-Roman cities dating from the 1st century BC situated in Jordan, Syria and Israel. Known for its extraordinary state of preservation, the ruins indicate human occupations at this location for more than 2,500 years. The most well-

known monuments include the colonnaded street with sewers, the Temple of Zeus, the theatre, the Forum, and Hadrian's Arch. Next, we drive further south thru the area that once was settled by the ancient Ammonites and Amorites, but later became part of ancient Israel where 2½ tribes settled. We cross over the Jabbok River where Jacob wrestled with God, then past the present capital of Amman, which once was the Decapolis city of Philadelphia and Old Testament Ammonite city of Rabbah. We arrive at our luxurious hotel by the Dead Sea with an optional swim in its pools or the Sea.

Pretour Day 4, Sat. May 13: Bethany Beyond the Jordan, Sodom, Mt Nebo, Medeba, Macaerus, Arnon River, Moses' Spring

We begin the day with a visit to Bethany Beyond the Jordan, where John The Baptist did some baptizing and likely spot where he baptized Jesus. It was in this vicinity that the Prophets Elijah and Elisha did some ministry, and where Joshua and the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land thru the parted Jordan River. We take a leisurely walk thru the thickets to see John the Baptist Spring and then we continue to the Jordan River. As we exit we see the hill where tradition says Elijah was taken to Heaven. We then visit Tall el-Hammam which some scholars believe is the destroyed Biblical city of Sodom. By bus we then follow the reverse path of the Israelites on their way from the wilderness to the Promised Land. For a spectacular view of the area we ascend to the top of Mount Nebo where it is believed Moses saw the Promised Land and was buried in the adjacent valley. We see restored mosaics on the floor of the new Basilica. Our drive continues to the town of Madaba, the biblical Medeba, where we see the well preserved ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. Next we drive south onto the Biblical King's Highway. Soon we leave the main highway for a paid picture stop of the mountain palace of Herod Antipas where tradition says he beheaded John The Baptist. Returning, we make a brief stop at ancient Biblical Tel Dhiban, then continue driving south to the ancient border of Moab for a picture stop at the Arnon River Canyon. We then head east and enter the Desert Highway traveling south thru ancient Edom. We stop to see Moses' Spring and then arrive at our Petra hotel.

Pretour Day 5, Sun. May 14: Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Eilat

This morning we make a complete visit of Petra where we walk or take optional carriages thru the "Siq", an immense colorful sandstone canyon, to the city of ancient Petra. Over 2000 years ago the Nabateans carved this city out of the rose red rock. The Treasury or El Khazneh, is one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. The canyon walls on both sides have hundreds of carved and built structures, and further in we see the conquering Romans also added structures to the city. We also offer an optional walk up the 852 steps to the Monastery. As we leave Petra in the afternoon, we make a picturesque stop to see Petra from a distance and Mount Hor where tradition says Aaron, Moses' brother was buried. Our next stop is at Wadi Rum for a tour to see the breath taking beauty in the park. Our time in Jordan soon ends as we head into ancient Midian, where the fugitive Moses settled for forty years. We arrive near the Red Sea or Gulf of Aqaba at the out-

skirts of Aqaba, Biblical Ezion Geber, where King Solomon based his fleet of ships. We cross the Arava Border into Israel and drive to Eilat on the Red Sea shore, which is Biblical Elath, for a one night stay at our hotel.

Pretour Day 6, Mon. May 15: Eilat, Red Sea, Tabernacle, Ariel

Today we visit the National Park Fish Observatory to see aquatic fish in their natural habitat among coral reefs. Next, we drive north to visit a life-size Biblical Tabernacle model and see beautiful rock formations in the area of closed copper mines from the times of King Solomon and the ancient Egyptians. Depending on availability, we travel as a group either by bus or by air to reach our hotel to begin the Samaria/Hebron Extension.

Samaria, Judea, Hebron 4 Day Extension Add-on (May 15 – May 19)

Pretour Day 6, Mon. May 15: Ariel

We arrive late afternoon at our hotel in Ariel. Ariel in Hebrew means “lion of God” and the city was founded in 1978. In the Bible, Ariel was another name for Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1-8).

Pretour Day 7, Tue. May 16: Shiloh, Aphek, Mountain of Abraham, Mt. Gerizim, Mt. Ebal, Joshua's Altars, Shechem, Samaria

We begin the day by driving south to the extensive ancient ruins of the Biblical city of Shiloh perched on a mountain. We see a film there and have a guided tour of the excavated ruins where the Mosaic Tabernacle once stood for many years, with this structure being the center of Israelite worship. This was also where Samuel the prophet grew up as a child under Eli the High Priest. Near here was Biblical Aphek and Ebenezer where the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines who also captured the Ark of the Covenant. Later the Philistines destroyed Shiloh. Next, we drive further to climb by bus another mountain which is called the Mountain of Abraham or Elon Moreh (oak of Moreh). This was where God made his first appearance to Abraham after he entered the promised Land. From here we have a fantastic view of all of Samaria. We then drive up the adjoining mountain to the National Park at the top of Mount Gerizim where Joshua promised the Israelites blessings from God for obedience. While up there we visit a modern day Samaritan temple where Samaritans still perform animal sacrifices. We then travel by bus part way up traditional Mt. Ebal which is the mountain where Joshua pronounced curses on Israel if they disobeyed God's Word. The next drive is into Biblical Shechem where Jacob bought a piece of land to pitch his tent and there we visit Jacob's Well. Nearby, the bones of his son Joseph were buried there when the Israelites entered the Land after the Exodus and we visit his tomb. This is also the place of Sychar where Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman. We visit Tel Balata where we see ancient Canaanite ruins and a small stone altar traditionally attributed to Joshua where just before he died he made a covenant with Israel for both to follow the Lord in the future. Our next stop is at the ancient ruins of the Biblical city of Samaria or Shomron, with the same name as the region it was located in and was its ancient capital. We see where King Ahab's ivory palace once stood. We then visit the recently discovered huge altar of uncut stones on Mt. Ebal likely built by Joshua to remember the mountain of curses and the other mountain of blessings. Our final stop will be to see the traditional

tombs of Joshua and his good friend Caleb, the only two spies who came back with a good report and were allowed to enter the Promised Land 40 years later. We drive to our nearby hotel.

Pretour Day 8, Wed. May 17: Ai, Bethel, Michmash, Geba, Ramah, Anathoth, Bethany, Tekoa, Hebron, Solomon's Pools

We depart our hotel and head south leaving Samaria as we enter into Judea. We pass on our left Ai one of three Canaanite cities Joshua burned. Our first stop for the day is at Bethel (house of God) which was named by Jacob after he had a vision here of a stairway reaching to Heaven and saw angels and the Lord around it. Then the Lord spoke to him and reaffirmed His covenant promise of the Land and future generations. Later, God appeared again to him here and changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Next we make a picture stop at the Michmash Valley where King Saul's son Jonathan defeated the Philistine garrison. Back on the bus we pass by Biblical Geba where Saul camped with his army, then we go by Ramah the hometown of Samuel the Prophet. We go past Anathoth, a city of priests where Jeremiah lived. We arrive at Bethany where Lazarus, Mary, and Martha lived to see the traditional tomb where Lazarus was raised from the dead. We walk nearby to see the ruins where the house was located of Simon the leper who entertained Jesus at His last Shabbat evening meal when Mary anointed Him before His crucifixion. Back on the bus, we drive past Tekoa where the prophet Amos was a shepherd. We continue on to the city of Hebron to go inside the building Herod The Great built over the original cave tomb of the Patriarchs and their wives Abraham/Sarah, Isaac/Rebekah and Jacob/Leah. We then drive to the traditional location of the Oaks of Mamre where Abraham pitched his tent and built an altar to the Lord. Back on the bus we make a stop to take pictures of the large ancient Solomon's Pools that Herod expanded to store the water to feed his aqueducts that ran to his palace at Herodium and to his palace and the Temple Mount at Jerusalem. The day ends with a relaxing stay at a lodge in the quiet picturesque countryside of the Judean Hills.

Pretour Day 9, Thu. May 18: Gezer, Kiriath Jearim, Har Adar

For our last day of touring we explore the extensive archaeological site of Biblical ancient Gezer. It was a Canaanite city stronghold and later became a stronghold for King Solomon where he built another one of his trademark six chamber city gates. We then ascend by bus to the location where the Ark Of The Covenant was kept for 20 years at the high place at Kiriath Jearim before it was taken to Jerusalem by King David. Our final stop is for a scenic distant view of Jerusalem and Samuel's tomb from Har Adar. We return to our country lodge hotel.

Pretour Day 10-12, Fri. May 19; Sat. May 20; Sun. May 21: Tel Aviv

We have these three days (2 overnights) for free time in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv while waiting for the main Tour to begin in Jerusalem Sunday evening May 21, while others depart for Ben Gurion Airport for their return flight home.

Additional Information:

For additional information, contact John Hodges at: hodges777@gmail.com or 708-331-4440