

Holy Land Tour

Days 1-2: USA-Transatlantic Flight – Tel Aviv

We will take a morning flight from Salt Lake City, and then change at various International Airports for a flight to Tel Aviv. We will arrive the following day in the late afternoon at Ben Gurion Airport near the New Testament “Lydda”, where Peter healed Aeneas. Upon arrival, we will check in to our Hotel and hold a group orientation meeting.

Day 3: Jerusalem

We will start our tour of Jerusalem by walking through the **ancient city of David**, where so many events in the Old Testament took place. We will look across the Kidron valley where the Assyrian Army was camped, and we will stand where Hezekiah gave his speech to the citizens of Jerusalem and stated “There be more with us than with them”. We will continue down the ruins of the ancient city to the water gate, and see the shaft that Joab went up, to open the gates of the city to allow David’s army in to defeat the Jebusites. We will then proceed to go down the tunnel Hezekiah built to bring the Gihon Spring from outside the city walls to a pool inside the city walls. We will exit **Hezekiah’s Tunnel** into the area of the **Pool of Siloam**. We will then head down the “Road to Jericho” and discuss the 10th chapter of Luke. We will visit the ancient walls of **Jericho** that tumbled down at the feet of the Israelites. We will then return to Jerusalem via **Bethany**. After visiting the tomb of Lazarus we will proceed to Jerusalem. At the **Western wall** we will watch the Jews usher in the Sabbath. We will also have the opportunity to observe the Jews during their Temple worship. Back to the Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Jerusalem

We will begin our Sabbath with a visit to the **Garden of Gethsemane** to a private area to read and ponder the scriptures and reflect on what happen there. We will then attend services with the Jerusalem Branch in the beautiful **BYU Jerusalem Center**, with its spectacular view of the Holy City. After sacrament meeting we will visit **Bethlehem**, the town of the Savior’s birth. We will have lunch in a Bedouin Tent near the Shepherds fields. At **Shepherds’ Fields** overlooking Bethlehem, we will review biblical event of the angels’ announcement to the shepherds. We will then follow the path of the shepherds to the **Church of the Nativity**. Back to Jerusalem for dinner.

Day 5: Jerusalem

Our day begins with a visit to the **Western Wall** where we will enter the **tunnel excavations** and follow the ancient temple wall north to the **Antonio Fortress**. At the Western Wall, we will observe Jews as they participate in morning prayers at Judaism’s holiest shrine. After we exit the tunnel we will walk the **Via Dolorosa** following the 14 Stations of the Cross, and enter the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. We will have a lunch break in the old city and some free time to shop. After lunch we will visit the “**South wall Excavations**”. Here we will be able to see the ancient road along the western wall of the temple and the large stones form the Roman destruction of the temple. We will walk up the excavated south steps of the temple and observe the stoned entrances to the temple at the time of Christ. After dinner we will enjoy a concert at the **BYU Jerusalem Center** and a view of the Old City at night from the **Mount of Olives**.

Day 6: Jerusalem

This morning we will visit the **Holy Mount**, where the **Dome of the Rock** and the **El Aksa Mosque** (currently non Muslims cannot enter them)are located and which is tied to so much sacred and secular history. We will continue from the Dome of the Rock to the **Pool of Bethesda** and discuss the 5th chapter of John. We will then go down the Kidron Valley and up the **Mount**

of Olives to the **Orson Hyde Memorial Garden**. We will then visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, the possible site of the palace of Caiaphas, we will discuss Peter and the trials of Jesus. After lunch we will visit the **Upper Room**, a reminder of the Last Supper and the ordinance of the sacrament. We will then walk the ramparts of the old city walls from the Jaffa Gate to the Lion Gate. Then walk through the old city to the Damascus Gate and to the **Garden Tomb**.

Day 7: Masada - Dead Sea - Jericho

An early drive will take us through the **Wilderness of Judea** to the **Jordan Valley** and then south along the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on the earth's surface. Here we will see the new displays at the bottom of **Masada** and take a cable car to the top to see the ruins of the palace-fortress built by Herod the Great and to recall the story of the Zealots' last stand against the Romans. As we drive north, we will have lunch at **Ein Gedi**, one of the areas where David hid from King Saul. Then we'll drive on to **Qumran**, home of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**. Then we will float in the **Dead Sea**. Then a short drive to our hotel in Jericho, at the Intercontinental.

Day 8: Beit Shean – Megiddo – Sepphoris - Galilee

After checking out of the hotel, we will drive north up the Jordan River Valley to **Beit Shean**, where we will see the impressive ruins of the New Testament and later periods. We will then drive up the **Ein Herod Valley** to visit **Megiddo** with its 22 levels of occupation. Our drive takes us across the historic **Jezreel Valley** on our way to **Nazareth**, the boyhood home of Jesus, where we will reflect on the Savior's early life as we visit the city of **Sepphoris**. This city was rebuilt by Herod Antipas during the time of Christ. Jesus and Joseph would have worked in this city as builders. We will over-night in **Tiberias** (built by Herod Antipas and named in honor of the Roman emperor) We will check into Ron Beach Hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for the next 2 nights.

Day 9: Galilee- Capernaum- Jordan River

Today begins with an exhilarating boat ride across the **Sea of Galilee** to a boat dock near **Capernaum**. We will visit **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry, where He performed many miracles and gave many teachings, including His "Bread of Life" sermon. We will pass **St. Peter's Primacy** on our way to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where the important Sermon on the Mount will be discussed. Then we will continue on to the **Yardenet Baptism Site**, which is one of the possible sites of the Savior's baptism. It is a beautiful setting along the **Jordan River**. We will then drive back to Tiberias to overnight.

Day 10: Nazareth, Mount Tabor- Caesarea- Jaffa –Tel Aviv

We will check out of the Hotel and drive to the **Nazareth Village** in Nazareth. We will then travel to **Mount Tabor**, where we will take taxis to the top to see the probable site of the Savior's transfiguration. We will continue on to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to the Roman New Testament seaside capital, **Caesarea**. In the ancient Roman Theater, we will review the biblical events that happened in this place. From Caesarea we will then proceed to **Jaffa**, where Peter was when he received the vision about the Gospel to be preached to the Gentiles. From there to Tel Aviv for a Farewell Dinner to end our tour of the Holy Land. We will then be transferred to the Airport for a late night flight back to the USA.

Day 11: Arrive in the USA