

**“Living the Bible”
Israel Experience for Christians**

Day 1 – Arrival

Day 2 – O! Jerusalem

Goldman Promenade

We will begin our day at a special vantage point of Jerusalem. This particular spot is the best place to understand Jerusalem as a city, for in one view, you can see Jerusalem to the west and the Judean Desert to the east.

City of David

The place where Jerusalem began. Using the Bible as our guide, we'll explore the city that King David turned into the eternal capital of the Jewish people. In addition, from the Siloam Pool, we will walk up a 2,000 year old drainage canal and arrive at the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount, inside the area of the Davidson Center and Southern Wall excavations.

Davidson Center / Southern Wall Excavations

What was it like to be a pilgrim in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, at the time of the Second Temple, at the time of Jesus? This is the best site in the entire world to relive that experience. We'll walk on the same road where the pilgrims walked, see the shops that they frequented, walk up the original steps leading to the southern gate of the Temple Mount, and more. We will also explore the area via a virtual model based on archaeological finds that reconstructs Jerusalem from 2,000 years ago.

The Upper Room

We ourselves will stand at the traditional site identified as that of the Last Supper and the Pentecost.

Kettef Hinom Tombs

In the category of “visible from the beaten path,” we will visit this often overlooked series of First Temple Period burial caves and talk about the game-changing treasures found there.

Bible Hill

Another jewel-of-a-site hidden in plain view, we will open up our bibles and read the description of this exact geographical location, as well as talk about the critical story and decisions that took place on this very hill, and how they ultimately led to the end of the period of the Judges and the creation of the Jewish monarchy.

Free Evening

Day 3 – Holy Mountains

Temple Mount

The place where both temples once stood, and according to Jewish tradition, it's the place where heaven and earth meet, and from which all prayers ascend to heaven. Over the last 3,000 years, at least 39 different armies have fought over this holy site. Now, you have an opportunity to see this site for yourself.

Mt. of Olives

Mentioned by name in the bible, we'll walk on the mountain, which, according to the prophet Zachariah, will split into two halves in the end of days. In Christian tradition, this is the place from where Jesus ascended to heaven.

Garden of Gethsemane

Take in the surroundings and spend personal time in the area where Jesus spent his last hours before being captured by the Romans.

Herodian Quarter

Three meters below the current street level lies a 2,000 year-old neighborhood. We'll descend into the ruins and see how people lived at the end of the Second Temple Period, discuss what Jewish society looked like in Jerusalem at that period, and see physical remnants of the destruction of Jerusalem from the year 70 AD.

Western Wall Tunnels

Walk along the entire length of the Western Wall, most of which is underneath the current street level. In the process, we will arrive at the closest spot we can get to the Holy of Holies without being on the Temple Mount.

Day 4 – Walking the Bible: In the Footsteps of the King David and First Temple Kings

Khirbet Qeiyafa

Explore one of the newest archaeological sites in Israel, which is already being described as one of the most important in the world. This stronghold from the time of King David has yielded some amazing and important archaeological finds, and is key to understanding the kingdom of Judah in the time of David.

Tel Azeka

Talk about the famous battle between David and Goliath in the place it actually happened.

Tel Lachish

See the only in-tact Assyrian siege ramp in the world and hear about some of the other amazing archaeological discoveries that complement the Bible's description of this city which was second in importance only to Jerusalem in the Kingdom of Judah

Return to Jerusalem for free time/rest

Moonlight Hike to the Dead Sea

Follow in the footsteps of King David as he fled, both from King Saul and again from his rebellious son, Avshalom. Walking throughout the night and only by moonlight, we will arrive at the shore of the Dead Sea in time for sunrise.

Day 5 (Friday) – The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth

Free Morning

11:00 am

Garden Tomb

According to Protestant tradition, this is the site where Jesus was buried and subsequently resurrected.

Sataf Goat Farm

Tucked away in the hills surrounding Jerusalem, amongst agricultural terraces going back 3,000 years, Shai Seltzer runs a small goat farm and

makes some of the finest cheese in all of Israel. We'll sample his cheeses and eat some lunch, all in setting that allows us to imagine that we are living in Biblical times.

Shuk Mahane Yehuda

Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem's main market as Jerusalem's Jewish residents prepare for the Sabbath.

Free Time / Prepare for Shabbat

Shabbat Experience at the Western Wall

See how Jews welcome the Sabbath at the Holiest of all Jewish sites.

Shabbat Dinner with Host Families

Since receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai, Jews have been keeping the Sabbath. Learn what "keeping and remembering the Sabbath" means today, by experiencing a traditional Sabbath meal with host families.

Day 6 – From the River to the Museum

Qasr-el Yahud Baptismal Site

Those who want to be baptized in the Jordan River should remember to wear clothes/bathing suit that can get wet, as the white garments worn during the baptism are see-through when wet.

Israel Museum

See the Dead Sea Scrolls, the most ancient biblical texts in existence, dating back approximately 2,000 years. In addition, the group will be sent on a mission through the museum to locate artifacts and items relevant to places we will visit throughout the rest of the adventure in the Holy Land.

Free Time in Jerusalem

Day 7 – The Judean Desert: A Place of Refuge

Masada

We will explore Masada in a way most people never will. The day will begin by hiking around the northern side of the mountain, past many of the

Roman siege camps. We will then ascend the mountain via the Roman ramp. What is the story of this nearly impregnable desert fortress that fell to the Romans in 74 AD? Who were the people who lived here? And why did it become such a prominent symbol in modern times? We will answer all of these questions and more. At the end, we will descend via the snake path and walk through the new museum located at the mountain.

Dead Sea

The lowest place on earth, and what Pliny the Elder called one of the “three wonders of the land of Judea.”

Dinner at Eretz Bereshit in the Judean Desert

On the way back to Jerusalem, we will stop for a camel ride, followed by a middle-eastern style meal of pita, kabobs, salads, and much more on a little hilltop in the desert.

Free Evening in Jaffa/Tel Aviv

Day 8 – Builders, Leaders, and the End of Days

Jaffa

An important ancient city mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments, we’ll learn about the role Jaffa played in each. Today, Jaffa is a beautiful little suburb of Tel Aviv, with an artists’ quarter, nice shops, and a bustling marketplace.

Caesarea

See the amazing ruins of this city built by King Herod to be the largest port in the Mediterranean. Learn the stories associated with the city, and hear about the personalities that passed through this place.

Mt. Gilboa

Cursed by King David, this is the site where King Saul and his son Jonathan fell in battle. It is also the high point overlooking the site of Gideon’s great victory over the Midianites. Using the Bible as our guide, we will explore the physical landscape that served as the backdrop for these famous events in history.

Night Cruise on the Sea of Galilee

Take a relaxing, but surprisingly spiritual boat ride on the waters of the Sea of Galilee.

Day 9 – The Galilee of Jesus, Tel Hazor, and the Golan Heights

Migdal

Also known as “Magdala,” the hometown of Mary Magdalene, this newly-excavated town from the end of the Second Temple Period is one of the best places not only to understand what was a town in the Galilee in the time of Jesus, but to see one of the places where he probably walked, preached, and spent time.

Kibbutz Ginnosar

We will see a 2,000 year old boat that was found in the Sea of Galilee, and hear the story of the excavation and preservation of the boat.

Capernaum

One of the most important towns mentioned in the New Testament, we will explore this town, walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

Tel Hazor

Perhaps the most important archaeological site in all of Israel, we’ll use the bible as a guide to explore the ancient city of Hazor and read the numerous biblical stories connect with this site.

Tel Faher Lookout

From this vantage point, while glancing over into Syria and Lebanon, we’ll discuss Israel’s modern history and get an understanding of the modern geo-political realities facing the state of Israel.

Day 10 – Of Prophets and Prophecies, and Farewell, to boot

Tel Megiddo

The namesake of Armageddon, we’ll explore this strategically-important biblical city, using the Bible as a guide.

Mt. Carmel / Kishon Riverbed

Recount and discuss the story of Elijah the Prophet at the place of his famous showdown with the prophets of Baal.

Farewell Gathering