

Holy Land Bible Tour – Jordan and Israel
with Biblos Foundation and Kristy L. Christian, M.A.R.

April 29 – May 16, 2019

COST per person for double room occupancy: \$4,840.00

Additional charge for single room occupancy: \$1,350

Sign up at: <https://portal.globaltravelalliance.com/enrollment>

Create an account (if you don't already have one); enter the trip ID and leader name, and secure your spot on this tour with a deposit.

TRIP ID # 19027

Leader: Christian

Monday, April 29

Depart from home city.

Tuesday, April 30 – Arrive in Tel Aviv.

Cross the border and drive to Jerash, Jordan.

Depending upon time, we might visit the ruins of **Jerash**, a city conquered by Pompey in 63 BCE. It was one of the 10 great Decapolis cities of the Roman Empire. We will see Hadrian's Arch, built in 129 CE in honor of the visit of Emperor Hadrian. Behind the arch is the hippodrome, where 15,000 spectators could watch chariot races. The site also contains one of most outstanding forums with 56 Ionic columns. Its oval shape and huge size make it very unique. There is also the South Theater, built in the 1st century, with a seating capacity of 5,000. Other ruins include two large temples (dedicated to Zeus and Artemis) and a long colonnaded street or cardo.

Swim in the Dead Sea.

Overnight: Hilton Dead Sea Hotel, Sweimeh, Jordan. (D)

<https://www.3.hilton.com/en/hotels/jordan/hiltndeadsea-resort-and-spa-AMMDSHI/index.html>

Wednesday, May 1 – Madaba, Mount Nebo, Petra

After breakfast, we will drive to **Madaba** (once a Moabite border city) where we will see the oldest existing mosaic Holy Land map (two million pieces of local stone), which dates to the 6th century CE. It covers the floor of the Greek orthodox church of St. George, which was built on the remains of a much earlier Byzantine church.

Then we head to **Mt. Nebo** and see where Moses and the Israelites first viewed the Promised Land.

We drive south to **Petra**.

Overnight: Marriott Hotel, Petra, Jordan (B, D)

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-rooms/mpqmc-petra-marriott-hotel/>

Thursday, May 2 – Petra, Wadi Rum

We will begin with an early morning walk through a narrow half-mile gorge into the “rose-red city” of **Petra**, carved from solid rose-colored sandstone by the Nabateans, nearly 2,500 years ago. Settled as an outpost for the silk and spice trade, Petra was conquered in the first century by the Romans and again in the seventh century by the Muslims. The city was “lost” for almost 1,000 years and rediscovered in 1812. We will view magnificent monuments including temples, a monastery, the “treasury,” and tombs.

Lunch at the Marriott.

Next, we will drive to the **Wadi Rum (1 hr. 38 min. drive)** and spend the night in a luxury tent with glass ceilings where we can view the spectacular skies at night.

Sunset jeep tour in the Wadi Rum, Arabic for “Sand Valley,” (where David Lean’s *Lawrence of Arabia* was filmed).

Overnight: Wadi Rum, Jordan (B, D)

<http://www.wadirumnight.com/room/king-size-luxury-tent/>

Friday, May 3 – Aqaba, Jordan

We will have a relaxing morning, then leave at 10 a.m. from the Wadi Rum and drive to **Aqaba, Jordan** (a 1-hour drive) and have lunch. After lunch, we will go to the hotel and check in – around 1 p.m.

Rest of the day free.

Overnight: Movenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay, Aqaba, Jordan (B, D)

<https://www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/jordan/aqaba/resort-aqaba-tala-bay/overview/>

Saturday, May 4 – Aqaba, Jordan

We will enjoy a **free day** of rest and relaxation in **Aqaba**. After dinner, Kristy will share her talk on the “Tabernacle in the Wilderness.”

Overnight: Movenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay, Aqaba, Jordan (B, D)

<https://www.movenpick.com/en/middle-east/jordan/aqaba/resort-aqaba-tala-bay/overview/>

Sunday, May 5 – Timna Copper Mines, Tabernacle Model, Masada

We will leave early this morning and cross the border into Israel. Then we drive to the **Timna Copper Mines** and “Solomon’s Pillars,” an impressive set of high sandstone hills. The area contains one of the world’s most ancient copper mines (6,000 years old). An Egyptian temple and rock engraving are located on the site. We will also view a **life-size model of the biblical Tabernacle** mentioned in the book of Exodus.

Then we will continue our journey through the Arabah Valley, arrive at **Masada**, and tour the ancient palace fortress built by Herod the Great between 37 and 31 BCE. The fortress was constructed on top of an isolated rock plateau, overlooking the Dead Sea. We will ascend by cable car, walk along the ancient ruins, and picture the time when the Zealots made their heroic last stand against the Romans in 73 CE. We will then drive to our hotel near the Dead Sea. Late afternoon, we will have time to swim in the Dead Sea.

Overnight: En Gedi Guest House (B, D)

<https://en.ein-gedi.co.il/>

Monday, May 6 – Jericho, Qasr el Yahud, Spring of Harod, Kursi, Galilee

This morning we will drive to Jericho and take a cable car up to the **Mount of Temptation**. Here we will discuss Jesus' temptations. If time, we will drive by the **Wadi Kelt**, a valley running west to east across the Judean Desert, near Jericho and the Dead Sea. It is home to the Greek Orthodox Monastery, Saint George, where tradition holds that Elijah was fed by ravens. Then we visit **Qasr el Yahud**, one of the more probable areas where John the Baptist conducted most of his baptizing. As we drive north, our next stop is the **Spring of Harod** where Gideon chose the 300 men for battle. Our last stop is **Kursi**, one of the traditional sites where Jesus heals the insane man.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar (B, D)

<https://english.ginosar.co.il/nof-ginosar-hotel>

Tuesday, May 7 –Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, Magdala, Sea of Galilee

We will start our morning by traveling north to **Caesarea Philippi**, at the base of Mt. Hermon, where Jesus asked his disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matt. 16:13). Then, we will drive to **Tel Dan** which is located next to the Golan Heights. Dan was the northernmost city of the Kingdom of Israel, known as Laish prior to the conquest by the tribe of Dan. The site's artifacts date back to 4500 BCE.

On our way back to the Kibbutz, we will visit the recently excavated town of **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdalene and view a first-century synagogue.

We will make a short visit to the **Yigal Allon Museum**, located on the grounds of Kibbutz Ginosar. This museum houses the first-century fishing boat discovered in 1986 in the Sea of Galilee. Our day will end with a **boat ride on the Sea of Galilee**.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar (B, D)

<https://english.ginosar.co.il/nof-ginosar-hotel>

Wednesday, May 8 – Brow of the Hill, Mount Tabor, Tel Megiddo, Arbel Pass (Israel Memorial Day)

Early this morning we will stop at a traditional site for the “**brow of the hill**” near Nazareth when Jesus’ hometown tried to throw him over the hillside after his announcement he was the Messiah of prophecy.

Next, we will go to **Mount Tabor**, which rises dome-like from the Jezreel Valley. This site is the mountain where Christian tradition places Jesus’ transfiguration. We will take taxis to the summit. Then we drive to **Tel Megiddo** which sits on a strategic location at the head of a pass through the Carmel Range and overlooks the Jezreel Valley. On the Tel are the ruins of a Canaanite Gateway, the Solomonic Gate and Casemate Wall, and “Solomon’s Stables.” As we talk about the last great battle mentioned in the book of Revelation, we will have a spectacular lookout over the Valley of Armageddon.

On our way back to Galilee, we will briefly walk the **Arbel Pass** (the route Jesus would have taken from Nazareth to Galilee).

Overnight: Nof Ginosar (B, D)

<https://english.ginosar.co.il/nof-ginosar-hotel>

Thursday, May 9 – Capernaum, Bethsaida, Mount of Beatitudes, Church of the Primacy (Israel Independence Day)

We will begin our day, by the Sea of Galilee, with a sunrise talk on John, chapter 21, known as “**the Morning Meal.**”

Then we will visit the ancient site of **Capernaum** – the center of Jesus’ ministry where more healings by Jesus occurred than any other location in Israel. Next, we will make our way to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the traditional site for Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Lastly, Our next stop is a visit to the ruins of **Bethsaida**. The feeding of the 5,000 likely took place nearby. Bethsaida was also the home town of Philip, Andrew, and Peter, according to John 1:44. We will also visit the site of the **Church of the Primacy**, near the Sea of Galilee, where tradition says Jesus met his disciples after the resurrection.

Overnight: Nof Ginosar (B, D)

<https://english.ginosar.co.il/nof-ginosar-hotel>

Friday May 10 – Mount Carmel, Caesarea Maritima

We begin this morning with a drive to **Mount Carmel** where there is a spectacular 360-degree view of the surrounding landscape. This is near the traditional location where Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal.

Next is walking the ancient site of **Caesarea Maritima**, on the Mediterranean Sea, where we will see the ruins of this ancient Roman port built by Herod the Great to honor the Emperor Augustus Caesar. We will explore the Roman Theater, the Governor's Palace, the Hippodrome, and the Roman Aqueduct. Caesarea was the home of Pontius Pilate, the site of Cornelius' baptism by Peter, the location of Paul's imprisonment, and the port where Paul left for his final missionary journey.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

Saturday, May 11 – Garden Tomb, Emmaus, Israel Museum

We will begin our day at the Protestant site for Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection: **The Garden Tomb**. Then, we will drive to **Abu Ghosh**, a traditional site for **Emmaus**. It is about 6 miles west of Jerusalem on the main road to Joppa. Crusaders built a church here in 1140 and called the place "Castellum Emmaus." It was not identified with Luke's Emmaus until the 12th century.

Our next stop will be the **Israel Museum** to view some of the Dead Sea scrolls. We will also see a 50:1 scale **model of Jerusalem**, a reconstruction of Jerusalem in the year 66 CE, the time of the Second Temple. The model covers nearly one acre and illustrates one of the most formative periods in the history of the Jewish people.

Free afternoon. Shopping in the Old City is an option.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

Sunday, May 12 – Jacob's Well, Shiloh, Herodium, Bethany, Jerusalem

Today, we will drive to **Jacob's Well**, near ancient **Shechem**, and see one of the oldest and deepest wells in the Middle East. It is often considered one of the most authentic sites in the Holy Land. Jesus probably spoke to the Samaritan woman at this well. Today, the well lies within the complex of an Eastern Orthodox monastery. The next stop is **Shiloh** which was the religious capital of Israel during the time of the Judges. It is mentioned in the Bible as a place of assembly for the people of Israel and where the Ark of the Covenant was placed until it was taken by the Philistines.

If time, we will drive to the hilltop palace of **Herodium**, built by Herod the Great. We will have a spectacular view of the Judean hills. It is said that that Herod is buried here, along with his treasures. A short visit to **Lazarus' Tomb** in **Bethany** is also planned.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

Monday, May 13 – Temple Mount, Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Pavement

We will arrive early on the **Temple Mount**, a site sacred to three religions. Here, Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac; it is also the location where Solomon built the first temple and the place where Herod the Great built the second temple. We will walk through the Old City to the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the lame man.

We will view the **Pavement at Antonia Fortress** known at *Lithostrotos* or *Gabbatha*. This is where one tradition places Jesus' trial before Pilate.

Free time to shop in the Old City.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

Tuesday, May 14 – Sifting Project, Mount of Olives, *Dominus Flevit*, Garden of Gethsemane, *St. Peter en Gallicantu*

Our day begins with participating in the **Sifting Project** on the Mount of Olives. We will have the opportunity to sift through dirt from the Temple Mount area and maybe discover something from 2,000 years ago. Then we will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**. Then we will walk down to the site where Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem:

Dominus Flevit. A little further down the mount is the site known as the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed and was arrested. Here, we will see some very ancient olive trees which have survived the centuries. Next we will take a short bus drive to **St. Peter en Gallicantu**, the traditional site of Peter's denials of Jesus during his trial with the high priest.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

Wednesday, May 15 –Western and Southern Walls, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Pool of Siloam

Today we begin with a visit to the **Western Wall**, and then take a virtual reality tour of the Temple. Next, we will go to the **Southern Wall Excavations** and walk up the 1st-century steps of the Temple Mount. Afterwards, we will head to the **City of David** and walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** to reach the ruins of the **Pool of Siloam**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem (B, D)

<https://www3.danhotels.com/JerusalemHotels/DanPanoramaJerusalemHotel>

May 16 - Depart for Home. (B)

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Talks at the biblical sites by Kristy Christian
- 17 nights of deluxe double (or single)-occupancy hotel accommodations
- Porterage at hotels
- 17 breakfasts, 17 dinners
- All activities and admissions per itinerary
- Israeli guide for the duration of the tour
- Transportation by private deluxe motor coach
- **Gratuities for Israeli tour guide, bus driver, and hotel staff**
- Headsets while touring in Israel (Jordan does not allow the use of headsets for security purposes)

TOUR COST EXCLUDES:

- Airfare to Israel
- Lunches and drinks (except for lunch in Nazareth Village)
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, travel insurance)
- \$15 Jordan exit visa (paid on the spot at border crossing)