



Experience Greece & the Holy Land

Tour Information Guide

12 Day Tour
March 8-19, 2024

Cost \$4,399 (from NYC)

\$4,499 from Chicago; \$4,799 from Des Moines

Hosted by Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary

One of the greatest joys of my life has been to visit the countries of Greece and Israel! Passages I had studied in the Bible suddenly came to life. Things that I thought I understood were clarified in a fresh light. Its black and white pages were just as true as they ever had been, but now the Scriptures came alive with color! The reality of Who Jesus is and how He lived captured me in a unique way as I literally walked where He walked in the Holy Land. Join us! Take it from me, you won't regret it.

Kurt Skelly
Land of Bible Tours

Proposed Tour Itinerary

DAY 1, Wednesday, March 8 – Travel to Greece

Pack your bags and bring your sense of wonder. Your life-changing journey to Greece and the Holy Land begins as you depart the USA.

DAY 2, Thursday, March 9 – Athens, Greece *Accommodation: The Stanley Hotel Athens*

Upon arrival in Athens International Airport, meet the local representative holding "LAND OF THE BIBLE" sign. Enjoy a tour of **Athens** with your guide starting with a panoramic drive to see the highlights of Athens (Acts 17:15). Then walk to the **Mars' Hill** (or Areopagus Acts 17:22) where Paul delivered his well-known sermon and spoke about the inscription: "to an unknown god". Continue your tour visiting the **Acropolis**, the sacred rock of Athens, the citadel and the sanctuary of the city in antiquity. Take photos of **The Parthenon Temple** and the **Erechtheion**. After the tour you will transfer to hotel for check-in, dinner and overnight in Athens.



DAY 3, Friday, March 10 – Corinth, Greece *Accommodation: The Stanley Hotel Athens*

After a scrumptious Greek breakfast, you will board the bus for ancient **Corinth**. This excursion takes you by the **Saronic Gulf**, where in 480 BC history was changed! The small Grecian fleet managed to defeat the enormously powerful armada of the Persians. Brief stop at the historic **Corinthian Canal** for photos and continue on to **Ancient Corinth** (Acts 18:1-18).

Paul wrote at least four letters addressed to the church of Corinth, two of which are found in the New



Testament. From Corinth, he wrote three and possibly four epistles addressed to the first Christians in Rome, Thessalonica and Galatia. You will visit the ancient **Agora** (forum), the **Temple of Apollo**, the **Roman Odeon**, the **Bema** where Paul stood in front of Gallio (Acts 18:12-17), the Roman pro-consul of Achaia. You will see the **inscription of Erastus**, the treasurer of the city, mentioned in the Bible (Romans 16:23). You will then see the ruins of early Christian 5th century basilica in **Cenchrea** before returning to the hotel in **Athens**.

DAY 4, Saturday, March 11 – Depart for Israel – Coastal Plain & Southern Galilee *Accommodation: Caesar Premier Hotel in Tiberias*

After arriving at Ben Gurion Airport, near Tel Aviv, Israel, you will board your luxury bus for a short drive along the **Coastal Plain of Sharon** to **Caesarea Maritima**. This maritime city was built by King Herod, and was once the seat of the Roman rule. Here, Cornelius became the first gentile to convert to Christianity. This is also the location where Paul was imprisoned before his trial in Rome. View the ruins of Herod's seaside palace and a large hippodrome where chariot races were conducted.



Herodian Aqueduct at Caesarea Maritima

You will travel the ancient caravan route through the **Jezreel Valley** to **Tel Megiddo**, an exciting archaeological dig with its layers of twenty different cities built on top of each other. From Megiddo you view the future battleground of **Armageddon**. Prophecy will come alive at Megiddo as you look over the **Valley of Armageddon**, site of the final world war!

After entering Southern Galilee, you will visit the **Mount of Precipice**, on the outskirts of **Nazareth**, where Luke describes how Jesus was rejected by those in the synagogue after He taught them. Filled with anger they "led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong" (Luke 4:29). Dinner and overnight at **Tiberias** by the **Sea of Galilee**.

DAY 5, Sunday, March 12 – Galilee Region

Accommodation: Caesar Premier Hotel in Tiberias

Watch the sun rise over the **Sea of Galilee** where fishermen work the waters with nets, much as in the time of Jesus. Then after breakfast you will visit

Magdala one of the most exciting archaeological sites in Israel today. This was the home town of Mary Magdalene.

You will then embark on a boat to **sail the waters of the Sea of Galilee**. Along the boat ride, your guide will point out various places along the Sea that are mentioned in the Gospels. After this you will stop by to view an **ancient boat** found in the Sea of Galilee.

Explore **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' ministry, before going to the synagogue which stands on the site where Jesus taught. Recall His teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:13, 23).

Ascend the peaceful **Mount of Beatitudes** which overlooks the Sea of Galilee and see the traditional site where Jesus preached His most famous sermon: the Sermon on the Mount.

See the place of the **Primacy of Peter**, where Peter professed his devotion three times to the risen Christ and stand on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus commanded Peter to "Feed my sheep." (John 21). Here you will see springs of water flowing into the cove. Fishermen have frequented this area for thousands of years.

Finish the day with breath-taking views from the top of **Mt Arbel**, overlooking the Sea of Galilee.



DAY 6, Monday, March 13 – Upper Galilee

Accommodation: Caesar Premier Hotel in Tiberias

You will spend today touring sites in the northernmost region of Israel. From several vantage points, as you drive up, you will see **Mount Hermon** in the distance, believed by many to be the site of the Lord's Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

You will visit **Tel Dan** where you will see the **altar of Jeroboam**, and an ancient city gate, like that mentioned in the story of Ruth. Tour the ruins of this ancient city that dates back thousands of years and also see **Abraham's Gate**, the place where the Patriarch Abraham would have entered the city roughly 4,000 years ago.

Visit **Caesarea Philippi**, (Banias) where Jesus travelled with His disciples and where, nearby, Peter made his great confession to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Here, inside a grotto, the Greeks built a shrine to the god, Pan.



Whilst at the national park, you will also explore the ruins of **Herod Agrippa's Palace**.

You will then travel through the strategic tableland known as the **Golan Heights (Bashan)**. From your high vantage point, your guide will point out the country of Syria in the distance and give some insight into the country of Israel's military defenses. The Israeli Army captured this region from the Syrians during the Six Day War.

DAY 7, Tuesday, March 14 – Jordan Valley

Accommodation: Dan Hotel, Jerusalem

Begin the day at **Gideon's Spring** (Ein Harod), the small mountain stream, where Gideon chose his army of 300 by observing how they drank from the springs (Judges 7). The spring is in the shadow of **Mount Gilboa** where Saul fought and died. His death made David lament and pray that no dew would be on the mountain (2 Samuel 1:19-27).



Gideon's Spring

As you continue along the Jordan Valley you will make a short stop at the city of **Beit Shean** located at the intersection of the **Jezreel Valley** and the **Jordan River**. There you will see an ancient Roman city that the Bible mentions in reference to Saul and his son Jonathan whose bodies were hanged on the city walls. (1 Samuel 31). The city contains many well-preserved ruins from different eras and empires including the Egyptians, Byzantines, Greeks, and Romans.

Following this you will drive through the ancient city of **Jericho** and also gain a view of the **Mount of Temptation**. Then you will travel up the **Jordan Valley**, and view **Wadi Qelt**, a rocky plateau with stunning views of the ancient **Jericho Road** and **St George's Monastery**.

As you conclude the day, you will ascend up and enter **Jerusalem** from the north, and gain a spectacular view of the ancient city from **Mt Scopus**. The place where Roman General Titus camped when he destroyed the city in 70 A.D.

DAY 8, Wednesday, March 15 – Jerusalem

Accommodation: Dan Hotel, Jerusalem

After an Israeli breakfast, you start your day with a visit to the **Mt of Olives** and stand and enjoy a remarkable view of the **Temple Mount** and **Eastern Gate** from this vantage point. This is the place where, forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:9). You will then walk along the **Palm Sunday Road** where Jesus began His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem and stop to pray beneath the ancient olive trees in the **Garden of**

Gethsemane where Jesus prayed the night before his crucifixion (Matthew 26:36).



Garden of Gethsemane

Then, you'll continue down through the **Kidron Valley**, and see some of the ancient tombs dating back to the Old Testament prophets. You will then enter some of the oldest areas of Jerusalem from the time of **King David** and tour his ancient city.

Walk through the **Jewish quarter** of the old city and see **the Cardo** and **Hezekiah's Broad Wall**.

You will see **Robinson's Arch** before walking underground through the **Western Wall tunnel tour (Rabbi's Tunnel)**. This tunnel runs the length of the Western Wall underneath many buildings of the Old City.

The open-air portion of the **Western Wall** where many gather to pray is actually only a small part of the entire wall. From within the tunnel, you can see much of the well-preserved Temple wall including two stone blocks weighing 600 tons each! Afterward you will have an opportunity to pray at the **Western Wall**.



This is one of the most iconic landmarks in all of Israel. This is as close as Orthodox Jews will get to the **Temple Mount** until the new temple is built. Throughout the day and night, hundreds of Jews gather to pray at the Western Wall and leave handwritten prayers in the spaces between the stones.

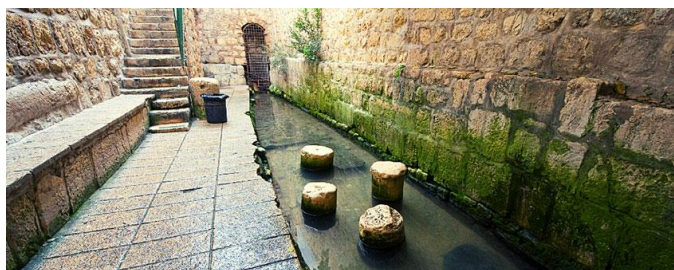
The days tour continues back near **Temple Mount** with a visit to the **Davidson visitors center** at the **Southern wall** excavations and examine some of the most important archaeological finds in Jerusalem. Discover the significance of these historical findings and how they help us understand life in Jerusalem thousands of years ago. Stand upon the **Southern Steps** where Jesus and His disciples walked and where Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.



The Southern Steps with Mt of Olives in background

Journey on foot to the bottom of the ancient **City of David** and visit the **Pool of Siloam** where Jesus sent the man who was born blind to wash his eyes

to be healed (John 9). You may even choose to walk through **King Hezekiah's tunnel** to get there!



The recently discovered Pool of Siloam

DAY 9, Thursday, March 16 – **Judean Wilderness** - Accommodation: *Dan, Jerusalem*

Take a hike to **Ein Gedi** the largest oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. It was here at Ein Gedi, that David and his men once hid from King Saul in the canyon caves (1 Samuel 23:29).

Ride in the cable car up to the top of **Masada** overlooking the **Dead Sea**. This was the location of one of King Herod the Great's palaces. It is a spectacular hilltop fortress. Here your guide will treat you to the history of the famous zealot stand. Ruins of the walls and massive Roman siege ramp are still visible today.



Masada

See **Qumran** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found, including the remarkably well-preserved Isaiah Scroll. Tour the museum and learn the incredible story of their discovery and their significance to the Bible's preservation.

Conclude the day's touring back at the **Dead Sea**. At approximately 1,400 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest spot in the world. The Dead Sea is almost 10 times saltier than the ocean and consequently there are no fish or visible life forms in the sea. This high concentration of salt also makes it impossible for a swimmer to sink in the water!



DAY 10, Friday, March 17 – **Jerusalem and Samaria** - Accommodation: *Dan, Jerusalem*

You will begin with a visit to the **Temple Mount**, where the Jewish temple stood until its destruction by the Roman Legions in 70 A.D. There we will see the **Dome of the Rock** built over the rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac. This was also the site of Ornan's threshing floor, purchased by King David. (1 Chronicles 21:18-26). Due to the volatile relationship between Jewish and Muslim world, the Dome of the Rock and Temple Mount area have been the source of much controversy over the years.

From the Temple Mount, view the **Eastern Gate** that faces the Mount of Olives. This is the gate where Jesus will make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 43:1-2,4; 44:1-3).

You will walk through **St. Stephen's Gate**, now known as the **Lions Gate**. It is the only gate in the eastern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem. In the Christian tradition, it is thought that the stoning of St. Stephen (Acts 7) occurred outside of this gate.

View the **Pool of Bethesda** (John 5:1-31) where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle healing the lame man at this pool. **St. Anne's Church**, with incredible acoustics, is perfectly preserved and dates back to the time of the Crusades.



Ruins of the middle porch of the Pool of Bethesda

Take a brief walk along the **Via Dolorosa** (the way of suffering) and then pass by the **Antonia Fortress** (Ecce Homo) where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1-11). You will visit the **Christian Quarter** and the Church of the **Holy Sepulcher**.

You will then travel north to the **ancient Samaria** region of the Bible and spend the afternoon in the Palestinian West Bank. You will visit **Shiloh**, the place the tabernacle resided for 369 years, and where Hannah prayed for a son (Samuel).

Then it's on to ancient **Bethel**, the place Jacob saw a ladder to heaven, where the tabernacle resided as well, and where Jeroboam erected a Golden Calf. Afterwards you will return to your hotel for your final evening in Jerusalem.

DAY 11, Saturday, March 18 – Jerusalem & Judea Region

Visit the church of **St. Peter in Gallicantu**. This church was built over the ruins of what is believed to be the High Priest **Caiaphas' house**, where some say Jesus was held in the morning hours before his crucifixion.



The tour of Jerusalem continues with a visit to the **Garden Tomb**, from where you will view what some believe to be the place Jesus was crucified. The word **Golgotha** means "Place of a Skull". This hill stands just outside the walls at the intersection of two ancient roads.



While at the **Garden Tomb**, you can step inside the empty tomb, and experience the reality of the Resurrection and remember, "He is not here, for He is risen!"

As you leave Jerusalem, you will visit **Bethlehem**, and spend some time surveying the **Shepherds' Fields** just outside the town. Then, on your way to the airport, you will visit the famous site of the epic battle between David and Goliath in the **Elah valley**. Walking up to **Tel Azekah** you will see the Biblical town ruins and reach the view point looking over the Elah Valley. This is where the wonderful journey through the land of the Bible comes to a close.

DAY 12, Sunday, March 19 – Arrive USA

You will bring home with you souvenirs, photographs, memories, new friendships and an unforgettable experience. Shalom!

Terms and Conditions

Tour Costs (Package Rates): \$4,399 from NYC; \$4,499 from Chicago; \$4,799 from Des Moines per person for airfares, land tour including: 9 nights' accommodation. **Pricing from other cities is available upon request.**

Reservations and deposits: A \$250 deposit per person is required 240 days before departure. An additional \$1000 is due 180 days before departure, with the balance due 60 days from departure.

Cancellations: From day of registration to 180 days prior to departure, we will retain the \$250 nonrefundable deposit, and you will be charged any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single, plus the following charges: 179-60 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. We reserve the right to retain payments until airline penalties have been finalized. Submit cancellation in writing. In case of last-minute, urgent cancellation or information, contact Land of the Bible Tours at (724) 882-8644. We will give every consideration possible in the event of an unavoidable cancellation. Cancellation insurance is available and HIGHLY recommended.

Land transportation: As specified in the itinerary, ground transportation will be provided by deluxe motor coaches.

Air transportation: Tickets are round-trip economy class. An airline supplement may be charged if not departing out of a "portal" airport.

Hotels: Accommodations will be provided at deluxe hotels indicated. All rooms include private bath or shower. If necessary, hotels listed may be substituted by similar hotel at no extra cost to the passenger. All rates are per person based on double room occupancy. Single supplement: \$1099, Reduction of Child as third in room: \$70. Reduction of Third person in room: \$35.

Sightseeing and transfers: Includes all portage, transfers, entrance fees to sightseeing locations as shown in the itinerary. The services of competent local English-speaking guides are provided.

Baggage: Portage is limited to the allowed 50 pounds per person for all flights. Baggage is at owner's risk. Carry-on bags and small hand articles, e.g., purses, cameras, etc. are entirely under the care of the passenger. Insurance is available and recommended.

Alterations: Land of the Bible Tours reserves the right to alter or cancel any content of the tour should conditions make it necessary for the safety and well-being of all passengers. In this event, the best possible alternative will be offered. The sole and exclusive obligation of Land of the Bible Tours is to refund monies recovered.

Refunds: Since all tours are on the basis of inclusive arrangements, no refunds can be considered or given for any absence from the tour for any unused services or meals.

Responsibility and liability: Land of the Bible Tours acts as an agent for you in making and securing of arrangements for transportation, sightseeing, hotel accommodations, etc. for the tour. **For your protection, Land of the Bible Tours HIGHLY recommends insurance coverages for accident, baggage, trip cancellation, etc.** To choose the insurance plan that is right for you visit, www.landofthebible.org/insurance. Land of the Bible Tours does not own, manage, operate, or control any transportation vehicle, restaurant, hotel, or any other supplier of services. All tickets, receipts, etc. are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By accepting tickets, receipts, etc. you agree that neither Land of the Bible Tours nor any of its representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury, or damage to you or your belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or services. Any airline's concern shall not be responsible for any act or omission during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passage contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between them and you.

Exclusions (not included in the tour cost): Beverages with table meals, other than coffee or tea which may be included. Passport costs and/or health documentation cost when required, optional sightseeing and personal purchases, and insurance coverages. Daily lunches are not included. Any applicable fuel surcharges. Any other item not mentioned above.

Inclusions: Tips to driver, guide, hotel and restaurant staff. Meal arrangements: Half Board, including full Greek/Israeli buffet breakfast and dinners at hotels daily. Tour Journal (130-page guidebook)

Contact Information

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