





One of the greatest joys of my life has been to visit the country of 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.

Join us! Take it from me, you won't regret it.

Kurt Skelly Land of Bible Tours

Tour Itinerary

DAY 1 - Travel to Israel

Pack your bags and bring your sense of wonderyour life-changing journey to the Holy Land begins!

DAY 2 - Arrival in Jerusalem

Accommodation: In Jerusalem

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, your tour guide will meet you and direct you to your luxury bus. From here, you will travel to Jerusalem, the ancient biblical capital of Israel. Settle into your accommodations and enjoy your first dinner, followed by a restful evening in this historic city.

DAY 3 - Exploring Jerusalem

Accommodation: In Jerusalem

After a traditional Israeli breakfast, begin your day at the **Mount of Olives**, where you will take in a breathtaking view of the **Temple Mount** and the **Eastern Gate**. This is the very place where Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9).

Walk the **Palm Sunday Road**, retracing Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.



The Palm Sunday Road, Jerusalem

Visit **Dominus Flevit**, where Jesus wept over the city, and then spend time in prayer beneath the ancient olive trees in the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion (Matthew 26:36).



Garden of Gethsemane

Continue through the **Kidron Valley**, passing the **tombs of Absalom** and the high priest **Zechariah**. On **Mount Zion**, visit the **Upper Room**, the site of the Last Supper (Mark 14:12), and explore **St. Peter in Gallicantu**, built over the ruins believed to be the **house of Caiaphas**, the high priest, where Jesus was held in the morning hours before His crucifixion.

As you walk through the **Jewish Quarter**, see the **Cardo**, a well-preserved Roman street, and the **Broad Wall built by King Hezekiah**.

After lunch, walk to the plaza and stand before the revered **Western Wall**, a sacred site where Jewish worshippers have prayed for centuries. As one of Israel's most significant landmarks, it serves as a



place of deep spiritual connection, where visitors tuck handwritten prayers into the crevices between the ancient stones. For Orthodox Jews, this is the closest they can approach the **Temple Mount** until a new temple is built.



Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall

As you walk towards the ancient **City of David**, you will view the famous **Southern Steps**, where Jesus and His disciples walked and where Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).



Southern steps with the Mt of Olives in the background

Explore the ruins of the **City of David** where you will see remnants from the time of King David. Then descend to the **Pool of Siloam**, where Jesus healed the blind man (John 9:1-11). For the adventurous, you may choose to walk through **King Hezekiah's water tunnel!**

DAY 4 - Jerusalem

Accommodation: In Jerusalem

Start your day with a visit to the **Temple Mount**, where the Jewish Temple once stood before its destruction in 70 A.D. Here, you will see the **Dome of the Rock**, built over the rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, and 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, gaze at the **Eastern Gate**, where Jesus will one day make His triumphal entry (Ezekiel 43:1-4). Walk through **St. Stephen's Gate**, now known as the **Lions Gate**, traditionally believed to be near the site of Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 7). This is the only gate in the eastern wall of the Old City of Jerusalem.



View of Eastern Gate from outside of Temple Mount

Visit the **Pool of Bethesda** (John 5:1-31), where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle healing of the lame man, and experience the incredible acoustics of **St. Anne's Church** which dates back to the time of the Crusades.



Ruins of the middle porch of the Pool of Bethesda

Walk the **Via Dolorosa** (the Way of Suffering) to the **Antonia Fortress** (Ecce Homo), where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1-11).



Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Afterward, spend some free time enjoying shopping in the Old City.

From Jerusalem, you will then travel north to the region of **ancient Samaria** of the Bible. You will then visit ancient **Shiloh**, the place the **Tabernacle** resided for 369 years and where Hannah prayed for a son. (1 Samuel 2:1-10).

Then it's on to ancient **Bethel** (time permitting), the place Jacob saw a ladder to heaven. It was this sacred place that God made a land covenant to Jacob (Gen. 28:13-14). It was here where the tabernacle resided as well, and where Jeroboam erected an altar and golden calf, as he did in Dan (1 Kings 12:28-31). On your journey back to Jerusalem, you will drive by the site of ancient **Ai**, the second city Joshua and the Israelites destroyed.

DAY 5 - Judean Wilderness

Accommodation: In Jerusalem

Ride a cable car to the top of **Masada**, a hilltop fortress overlooking the **Dead Sea** and one of **King Herod's grand palaces**. Hear the dramatic history of the Jewish zealots who made their final stand against Rome here. Ruins of the walls and massive Roman siege ramp are still visible today.



Ariel view of Masada

Hike to **Ein Gedi**, a lush oasis where David and his men once hid from King Saul in the canyon caves (1 Samuel 23:29). Then, visit **Qumran Caves**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered.

End the day by floating in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on Earth, where the high salt content allows you to effortlessly float on the surface! 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 6 - Garden Tomb & Sites

Accommodation: In Jerusalem

Begin your morning with a visit to the **Garden Tomb**, a possible site of Jesus' burial and resurrection. From here 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.



The Garden Tomb

Participate in a special worship service and step inside the empty tomb, reflecting on the words, "He is not here, for He is risen!"

Visit and enjoy the Israel Museum, home to the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, and explore the miniature scale **model of Jerusalem** as it appeared in circa 70 A.D.





Second Temple model in Jesus' time

Then, travel to **Bethlehem** to visit the **Shepherds'** Fields, where angels announced Jesus' birth.

On your way back to Jerusalem, stop at the **Elah Valley**, where David defeated Goliath in the epic battle, and walk up to **Tel Azekah** for a panoramic view looking over the Elah Valley.

Continue through the **Sorek Valley**, visiting **Tel Beit Shemesh** and **Timnah**, sites connected to the recovery of Ark of the Covenant and the life of Samson as a judge.

DAY 7 - Jordan Valley to Galilee

Accommodation: Near the Sea of Galilee

Travel down to the **Jordan Valley**, stopping to view **Wadi Qelt** and the historic **Jericho Road**. Then drive through the ancient city of **Jericho** on your way to Galilee.



St George Monastery, Wadi Qelt

Explore **Beit Shean**, located at the intersection of the **Jezreel Valley** and the **Jordan River**. It was an ancient Roman city where King Saul and Jonathan's dead bodies were displayed (1 Samuel

31:8-13). The city contains many well-preserved ruins from different eras and empires including the Egyptians, Byzantines, Greeks, and Romans.



The Cardo at Beit Shean

Visit **Gideon's Spring** (Judges 7) the small mountain stream, where Gideon chose his army of 300 by observing how they drank from the spring. 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).

Then travel north, passing by the banks of the **Jordan River** before arriving in Tiberias.



View from Mt Arbel looking over the Sea of Galilee

End your day at **Mount Arbel** for breathtaking views over the Sea of Galilee and time of teaching on the Great Commission.

DAY 8 - Galilee Region

Accommodation: Near the Sea of Galilee

After breakfast, view an **ancient boat** found in the **Sea of Galilee**, then take a memorable boat ride



across its waters. Along the boat ride, your guide will point out various places along the Sea that are mentioned in the Gospels.



Visit **Magdala**, the hometown of Mary Magdalene, and one of the most exciting archaeological sites in Israel today. Then walk a portion of the **Jesus Trail (Wadi Hammon).**

Explore **Capernaum**, the heart of Jesus' ministry, and stand among the ruins of a later synagogue built on the very site of the original 1st-century synagogue where Jesus once taught. Reflect on His teachings and His proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 4:13, 23).



The ancient Capernaum synagogue

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. You will also view the traditional site of **Job's Cave**.



View from the Mt of Beatitudes

Finally, visit 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.

DAY 9 - Northern Israel

Accommodation: Near the Sea of Galilee

Witness the sunrise over the Sea of Galilee before touring sites in the northernmost region of Israel. From several vantage points, as you travel north, 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.

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





Journey through the strategically significant **Golan Heights**, historically known as **Bashan**. This region was captured by the Israeli Army from Syria during the Six-Day War in 1967. You will visit **Mount Bental**, a former military outpost that now serves as a lookout point, offering breathtaking views and insight into the region's history.

Then travel south on "the other side" of the Sea of Galilee and pass through the land of the **Gadarenes** where Jesus cast out evil spirits from a demon-possessed man and cast them into a group of swine, which ran violently down a steep hill and drowned in the sea (Mark 5: 1-13).

You will then view the city of **Hippos** which many believe Jesus had in mind when He spoke about the city on the hill while giving His sermon on the Mount.

DAY 10 - Southern Galilee

After a final Israeli breakfast, start your day with a visit to **Nazareth**, boyhood home of Jesus and stop at the **Nazareth Village** for a taste of what life was like in New Testament times. (Matthew 2:23).



Stop at the **Mount of Precipice**, where Luke describes how Jesus was rejected by those in the synagogue after He taught them. (Luke 4:29).



Dr. Kurt Skelly teaching from Mt Precipice

Leaving southern Galilee, 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!

Then a short drive 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

This is where the wonderful journey through the land of the Bible comes to a close. From here you will be heading to the airport for your flight home.

DAY 11 - Arrive home

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



Terms and Conditions

Tour Costs (Package Rates): \$3199 Land Only

Reservations and deposits: A \$300 deposit per person is required at registration. A second deposit of \$1000 is due 240 days before departure. A third deposit of \$1000 is due 180 days before departure, with the balance due 90 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. We will give every consideration possible in the event of an unavoidable cancellation. **Cancellation insurance is available and HIGHLY recommended, and must be purchased within two weeks of registration.**

Late Fees: There will be a \$50 late fee per person for any payment made after any one of the scheduled due dates.

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: TBD, Reduction of Child as third in room: TBD. Reduction of Third person in room: TBD.

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.

Meals: Full Israeli buffet breakfast and dinners at hotels daily are included. Daily lunches are **not** included.

Inclusions: Tips to driver, guide, hotel and restaurant staff. Digital Tour Journal (200 pages), Whisper headset.

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. Any applicable fuel surcharges. Any other item not mentioned above.

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