

**2009. STUDY TOUR ISRAEL PROPOSED ITINERARY**

**Depart: Thurs Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Fly Emirates to Amman, then Bus into Jerusalem.**

(Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Hannukka day 1.)

Arrive **Jerusalem Notre Dame Hostel. (Opposite Zion Gate)**

1. Sat. 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Jerusalem.** **Sections/Walls of Jerusalem.** Start with the Ramparts Walk – a walkway atop the Old City walls offers a unique panoramic view of the Old City and its surroundings and is a shutterbug’s delight. (Entry points: Citadel moat, Jaffa and Damascus Gates). Continue to the Western Wall, Judaism’s most sacred site. See Bar Mitzvahs on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays). Close of Sabbath prayers at the Temple Mount. Exploring four quarters in small groups.
2. Sun 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**Jerusalem** Eucharist/Worship. Jerusalem in O. T. times. The city of David, The Gihon Spring. Siloam. Begin the day at the City of David, – King David’s “fortress of Zion” (2. Sam. 5:7), where Jerusalem started, includes exploring Warren’s Shaft, the new Visitor’s Center and Hezekiah’s Tunnel, through which water has flowed since the days of King Hezekiah some 2,700 years ago. See the “water fortress” of the Gihon (1 Kings 1:33), the Second Temple-era Pool of Siloam (John 9:7) and a 2,000-year-old street that once led up to the Temple.  
  
The Jewish Quarter to visit the Broad Wall, a 2,700-year-old fortification built by King Hezekiah to save Jerusalem from the Assyrians (Isa. 22:10) and which finally fell to the Babylonians. *The Cardo* - Jerusalem’s main street in the Byzantine and medieval eras, its colonnades and arched chambers now restored as a commercial center and archaeological display. You can also visit the Ariel - First Temple period museum and the nearby Israelite Tower, The Herodian Mansions – restored as a living museum beneath contemporary buildings, with remnants of the fine homes, mosaics, implements of daily life and architecture of the city’s wealthy class before the destruction of the Temple. and The Burnt House – the basement of a Jerusalem home revealing dramatic evidence of the Katros family who probably lived and worked here, and of Jerusalem’s destruction in 70 CE. An audiovisual presentation offers a powerful version of the family’s story.
3. Mon. 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Jerusalem** Jerusalem. **The Temple Mount.** The Ophel, Tunnel. Ecce Homo, Start out with a visit to the Temple Mount, site of the sacrifice of Isaac, the Jerusalem Temples, and the ninth-century Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque. Visit the Southern Wall Excavations, walking on the original two thousand-year old street and climbing the ancient steps. At the Davidson Center, in the basement of an eighth-century-CE palace. Look into the possibility of seeing its virtual-reconstruction, high-definition interactive model, and enjoy the high-definition film open to all visitors that depicts ancient pilgrimage to the Temple in a unique way. While at the Western Wall, arrange your schedule to join a public tour of the Western Wall Tunnels by enquiring at the Western Wall Heritage Foundation ([www.english.thekotel.org](http://www.english.thekotel.org)).  
The Western Wall Tunnel – the original Western Wall of Herod’s Temple Mount over which Jerusalem of later eras was constructed, walking along 1,445 feet of the original, enormous 2,000-year-old Herodian stones, seeing the lofty Warren’s Gate, a street and other finds, and a fascinating interactive model.  
  
Lunch at Zion Sisters.  
Visit the Pool of Bethesda - site of the miraculous healing of a paralyzed man by Jesus, and the Church of St. Anne.
4. Tues 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Jerusalem** Mt. Olives. Bethany. Bethphage, Gethsemane. Dominus Flevit.  
**Bethany**  
Bethphage – where Jesus began the triumphal entrance to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Luke 19:29).  
Dominus Flevit – where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41).  
Paternoster – where Jesus taught the Our Father prayer (Luke 11:1-4).  
The Dome of the Ascension – the site where Jesus ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:11).  
The Garden of Gethsemane – with its ancient olive trees where Jesus was arrested (John 18:1-12), next to the Church of All Nations, named for the contributions made by Catholics from around the world. The church overlooks the Kidron Valley (John 18:1), and is also known as the Basilica of the Agony (Luke 22:44).
5. Wed 16  
Get an early start today and drive south to the Dead Sea and Masada, taking the cable car to the top to view the ruins of King Herod’s **mountaintop** fortress and the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt against the Romans in 73 CE, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage

Site. Visit the new museum in the Visitor Center, which reveals the secrets of the daily life of the rebels, the story of the excavations, and understand how the site became one of Israel's most important symbols. Archaeologists say one of the most moving moments for them here was the discovery of a scroll inscribed with Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of the Dry Bones, found in the remains of the ancient synagogue.

At the Ein Gedi Antiquities National Park walk through the oasis to the desert waterfall near the cave where David hid from Saul. See the remains of the Talmudic village with its synagogue and mysterious mosaic floor. End the day with a dip in the Dead Sea, the "greatest outdoor spa in the world" and the world's lowest, saltiest body of water.

6 Thur 17  
**Jerusalem**

Israel Museum, among many other fascinating exhibits you can discover the mysteries of The Dead Sea Scrolls at the Shrine of the Book. The original Aleppo Codex of the Masoretic Text is also on display. You can also see the famous 1:50 Model of ancient Jerusalem in its new home here Continue to the Bible Lands Museum, next door, with its priceless exhibits of artifacts that bring the biblical cultures of the region alive.

7 Fri 18  
**Jerusalem**

Church of the **Holy Sepulchre** -Golgotha. Tomb of the Resurrection.  
The Church of the Holy Sepulchre – most of the complex over the sacred ground marking the tomb of Jesus is a complicated combination of medieval and Byzantine architecture. Deep below the surface are remains going back to a First Temple-era stone quarry and the world-famous and rarely viewed "ship inscription," probably carved by a long-ago pilgrim.  
Lunch. Lutheran Hospice.  
King David's Tomb, The Coenaculum – or Room of the Last Supper, built over the site of where Jesus and the disciples celebrated the first Eucharist (Mark 14:24) and the Church of the Dormition. Continue to Mount Zion, to visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, where Peter denied Jesus, with its beautiful mosaics and bronze statuary, built over the ruins of the house of Caiphas (Matt. 26:57), the stone pit where tradition says Jesus was held, and the Sacred Staircase, which for centuries has led here from the Kidron Valley.

8 Sat 19

Trip to Shepherd's fields & **Bethlehem**. Monastery of St Jerome. The Herodium.

**Bethlehem.**  
Hannukkah 8<sup>th</sup> day.

Bethlehem is first mentioned in extrabiblical sources in the Amarna letters of the 14<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The name Beth "Lehem" probably refers the house/temple of a Canaanite or local deity named "Laham." The later "House of Bread" is a popular name etiology. Today Bethlehem has about 25,000 inhabitants, of whom about 10,000 are Christian.

After the Bar Kochba revolt, the site venerated by early Christians became a grove of Tammuz. Hadrian in 135 CE erected a shrine to Adonis over the grotto. Justin Martyr in 155 speaks of the birthplace as a cave for the first time. Constantine authorized a church at the site, which was dedicated in 339. The mosaic floor of this building can be seen two feet below the present floor level. The octagonal sanctuary is evidenced in the "ichthous" mosaic in the left transept.  
If possible stay for evening Eucharist.

4 Sun 20 th  
**Jerusalem**

**Free Morning.**

Suggestions: Via Dolorosa – following the Stations of the Cross from the Chapel of the Flagellation, and the Sisters of Zion Convent, through the streets of Old Jerusalem to the Judgment Gate and the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Rockefeller Museum – an architectural monument in its own right, this grand 1930s-era complex houses finds from some of the great early excavations – Gezer, Megiddo, Jericho, Jerusalem and many others.

P.M. Abu Ghosh/Emmaus, the site of biblical Kiryat Ye'arim, where the Holy Ark of the Covenant was kept by the Israelites after its return from Philistine captivity and before David brought it to Jerusalem.

Abu Gosh. /Emmaus. Evening Liturgy.

9 Mon 21.  
**Jerusalem**

**Jerusalem**

Visit to the Citadel and the Tower of David Museum dedicated to the history of Jerusalem from its founding to modern times with remains said to go back to Hasmonean times.

**Afternoon.** Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

## GALILEE

11. Tues 22.  
Galilee 1

6.00 Travel to **Galilee** along the Mediterranean. (packed lunch)  
8.00 Arrive at **Caesarea**, Herod's port city, where you'll find the remains of former Roman capital home of Philip the Evangelist, and where Paul was imprisoned and appeared before Festus, Felix and King Agrippa. See magnificent remains of Herod's city, the Roman capital and port and fortified Crusader town. Tour the Roman theater, hippodrome and, walk the promenade to the to the renovated Crusader city to the renovated Crusader city. Visit the port the remains of stately mansions and Roman baths, among other attractions. Don't miss the "Caesarea Experience," a fascinating computerized presentation about the city's history.

Then, it's on to **Muhraka, Mt Carmel**, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal with the Carmelite Monastery of St. Elijah.

Continue past the Canaanite tel at Yokne'am to the excavations of the ancient city of **Megiddo**, with Canaanite remains, the city gate of Solomon and the stables and training yard and water system of King Ahab. **Megiddo**, is the site of biblical Armageddon overlooking the Jezreel Valley and the ancient Via Maris. Home to a palace and walls of Solomon, a complex water system built by King Ahab, and believed to be the backdrop for Leon Uris' novel "The Source," Megiddo is one of Israel's most important and impressive archaeological sites, also a World Heritage Site.  
Stop at Arbel National Park for an overview of the Sea of Galilee in the late afternoon.

**Accom.** Sea of Galilee. Tabgha guest house. (Or Sisters of Nazareth?)

12. Wed. 23<sup>th</sup>  
Galilee 2

9.00 Mt Hermon, **Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi**, return via the Golan.  
Spend the morning at **Tel Dan**, – a treasure-trove of Old Testament history dating back to Abraham (Gen. 14:14) in a magnificent natural setting that brings alive the biblical verse "a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs" (Deut. 8:7).  
One of the sources of the Jordan River, as well as an Israelite city, built to compete with Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. You'll see one of the oldest arches in the world, said to date back to the time when Abraham came to Dan the Israelite Gate and the High Place of Jeroboam.  
**Caesarea Philippi (Banias)** – at the headwaters of the Jordan, where Jesus asked his disciples "Who do men say that I am" (Mark 8:27) and gave St. Peter the keys to Heaven (Matt. 16:19). Banias also features the ruins of temples built by Herod and his son Philip (Luke 3:1), and a thundering waterfall.

Continue to Tel Hazor National Park (one of the cities fortified by King Solomon, with archaeological remains of such importance that it has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO). One of the principal cities on the Fertile Crescent, Hazor engaged in trade with cities in Babylon and Syria. The Bible refers to Hazor as "the head of all those kingdoms" (Joshua 11:10).

**Tiberias.** Visit Hamat Tiberias National Park – the remains of a magnificent synagogue mosaic and Mount Berenice – the Anchor Church.

13. Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>  
Galilee 3

Excavations at **Capernaum**. Tabgha. Mount of the Beatitudes.  
**Capernaum:** Known as "Jesus' Town" in the New Testament, Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee is home to one of the earliest churches in the world as well as a monumental ancient synagogue. This was also Peter's home town where Jesus performed many miracles. The House of St. Peter – (Mark 1:29) and the Memorial of St. Peter. The Ancient Synagogue – built over the site where Jesus preached (Mark 1:21).  
**Bethsaida** – home of Sts. Peter, Andrew and Philip (John 1:44), where Jesus healed a blind man (Mark 8:22), with remains of a fisherman's house, a grape-grower's house and a street from Jesus' day, and the huge gateway of the biblical city of Geshur, home of David's wife Maacah (2 Sam 3:3). Excavations are underway of the Roman city that figured centrally in the ministry of Jesus, and of huge remains of the biblical city of Geshur, hometown of David's wife Maacah (2 Sam. 3:3).  
**The Mount of Beatitudes:** The traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with its beautiful view of the lake and its sacred sites.  
Boat trip and lunch on Sea of Galilee. The Yigal Alon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar: A magnificent display of the wooden Galilee Boat, dating from the time of Jesus, discovered mired in the mud on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.  
**The Tabha Benedictine Monastery Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes** – the site of the feeding of the 5,000 (Matt. 14:13-21). Jesus' miracle of the Multiplication of the Fish and Loaves is illustrated beautifully in an ancient mosaic of the Byzantine church that stood here. Visit the renovated Benedictine church, built in the same style and along the same lines as the original one.  
**Church of the Primacy of Peter** – site of the miraculous catch of fish (John 21:6), where Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection (John 21:7), and of St. Peter's reconciliation to Jesus (John 21:15-19).

- 14 Fri 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Galilee 4**      **Christmas Day Free Day**
- 15 Sat 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Galilee 5**      Sepphoris and Nazareth.  
**Drive to Sepphoris.** Josephus called Sepphoris “the ornament of all Galilee.” Herod Antipas chose this site in 4 B.C. as the capital of his government until he built Tiberias in 19 A.D.. He most likely built the theater as well. Josephus said Sepphoris was the largest city in Galilee and an exceptionally strong fortress at the time of the First Revolt in 66 A.D. Sepphoris was about an hour’s walk from Nazareth. Since Herod Antipas rebuilt the city about 4 B.C., and since stone is the main building craft of the area, Joseph, living in the nearby Nazareth, was probably a builder in stone as well as wood.
- Nazareth** – beautiful churches now grace Jesus’ boyhood home, including Mensa Christi in an old residential quarter, the Synagogue Church in the market, St. Gabriel’s Church over the ancient spring, Mary’s Well; the Church of St. Joseph, and the Basilica of the Annunciation.  
Excavations under Sisters of **Nazareth**
- 16 Sun. 27<sup>th</sup>      **Travel to Amman along the Jordan. Excavations of Bet Shean.**  
Visit **Beit She’an**, and climb the biblical mound where the Philistines hung Saul’s body to be rescued by the men of Jabesh Gilead. Below, you can see the magnificent remains of the Talmudic and Byzantine cities of which the sages said “if the Garden of Eden is in the Land of Israel, its gateway is at Bet She’an. The biblical mound containing remains of the city to which the Philistines brought the bodies of Saul and his three sons (1 Sam. 31:10), and capital of the Greco-Roman alliance of cities known as the Decapolis, Bet Shean boasts colonnaded streets, mosaics, temples, fountains, pools, a theater, an amphitheater and more.
- Jericho. Excavations at Tulul Abu el-Alaiq.  
**Hasmonean and Herodian Jericho.** The site Tulul abu el-Alaiq includes two artificial mounds, one north and one south of the Wadi Qelt. Buildings by John Hyrcanus (134-104), Alexander Jannaeus (103-76) Queen Salome Alexandra [Jannaeus' widow] (76-67), Herod the Great 34 BCE- There is a large residential area to the north along with an industrial area with plantations. A cemetery runs along the foot of the hills for 10 kms to the north. A water system brought water from the hills into the city. This is the Jericho of Jesus' day with the story of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10) and the blind Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46-52; xt 20:29-34; Lk 18:35-43).
- JORDAN**
- Overnight: Grand Palace, Amman.
- 17 Mon 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Jordan**      Madaba, Machaerus. Overnight Petra. **Accom. Petra Panorama.**  
Drive to Mt. Nebo, Madaba, the King’s Highway, Kerak, and on to Petra for overnight.
- 18 Tues 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Petra**      UNESCO has described Petra as "one of the most precious cultural properties of our cultural heritage."<sup>1</sup> In 1985, Petra was designated a [World Heritage Site](#)
- 19 Wed 30<sup>th</sup>      **Petra to Amman.** Departure.