

Sacred Steps

Sacred Steps: Faith Walks

A global travel series exploring biblical history, Christian tradition, and living faith through immersive sites, cultural connection, meaningful reflection, and shared discovery across sacred landscapes.

The Holy Land: Journey Through Scripture Tel Aviv · Jaffa · Galilee · Jericho · Jerusalem · Bethlehem · Dead Sea

Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon	Evening		
1	Sat	AIR	Overnight travel to Tel Aviv. Israel; dinner in flight			
2	Sun	D	Arrive Tel Aviv; transfer to Hotel	Tel Aviv Hotel Check-In & Refresh	Jaffa City Tour: Jonah, St. Peter's Vision, Resurrection of Dorcas	Israel Welcome Dinner
3	Mon	B, L, D	Sea of Galilee Boat Ride	St Peter's House & Tabgha (Loaves & Fishes), Mount of Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount)		Galilee Hotel Dinner
4	Tues	B, L, D	Nazareth & the Basilica of the Annunciation	Jeep Excursion on the Slopes of the Galilee / Golan Heights		Galilee Local Dinner
5	Wed	B, L, D	Qasr el Yahud Baptism Site; Baptisms	Jericho: Mount of Temptation, Tell Jericho, Elisha's Spring & Shopping Time	The Dead Sea - Kalia Beach Northern Basin Float Time	Transfer to Jerusalem, Hotel Check-in & Dinner
6	Thur	B, L, D	Mount of Olives, Chapel of the Ascension & Garden of Gethsemane	Jerusalem Old City: Mount Zion: Upper Room (Cenacle) & Tomb of King David, Western Wall & Western Wall Tunnels Tour		Machne Yehuda Market (The Shuk) Food Tour
7	Fri	B, L, D	Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Tower of David Museum & Citadel	The Garden Tomb & Communion Service	Bethlehem: Church of the Nativity & Shepherds' Field	Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi & Family
8	Sat	B, L, D	Israel Museum & Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) & Jerusalem Second Temple Model	Free Time / Reflection Activities	Farewell Dinner at Genesis Land with Drummer's Circle	
9	Sun	B	Transfer to Tel Aviv International Airport; travel Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an "example" of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we handle the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team



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This series is dedicated to the legacy of Daryl Hall, a dear friend whose unwavering commitment to missions, humanitarian outreach, and faith-driven service continues to inspire communities around the world.

Day 1: Takeoff to the Holy Land

Dinner in flight

Travel on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Day 2: Touchdown in Tel Aviv

Breakfast in flight, lunch on own, dinner included



The Holy Land: Journey Through Scripture

Where Faith Meets Footsteps: The Holy Land unfolds like a living narrative — a place where ancient stories rise from the landscape and faith meets real-world experience. From the quiet shoreline of Galilee to the vibrant pulse of Jerusalem, travelers move through settings that shaped generations. Sailing across waters once crossed by disciples, exploring Nazareth's hillside neighborhoods, and walking the storied paths of the Old City, each moment blends history, culture, and spiritual depth. This itinerary turns Israel into an immersive learning environment where archaeology, tradition, and lived faith intersect. Every overlook, marketplace, and sacred site invites travelers to step inside the world behind the Scriptures and experience it with fresh eyes.

A Journey That Sparks Connection: This journey invites travelers to step into the very places where Jesus taught, healed, and walked with His disciples. From the shores of Galilee to the streets of Jerusalem, each day brings moments that stir the heart and deepen faith. Travelers stand in the spaces where miracles unfolded, reflect along ancient pathways, and experience Scripture in motion as they move through the landscapes that shaped the Gospel story. Through guided teaching, meaningful reflection, and powerful encounters at sacred sites, participants gain more than inspiration — they gain a renewed sense of purpose and a living connection to the One who still calls people to follow Him.



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Did You Know?

- › **The Sea of Galilee isn't a sea at all** - it's a freshwater lake, and most of Jesus' ministry happened along its shores.
- › **Nazareth was a tiny village in Jesus' day**, likely home to fewer than 500 people - yet it became the starting point of a global faith.
- › **Jerusalem's Old City holds over 3,000 years of history**, layered in just one square kilometer.
- › **The Jordan River has shifted course over time**, meaning baptism sites today sit near - but not exactly on - the ancient flow.
- › **Bethlehem means "House of Bread,"** a powerful symbol considering Jesus later called Himself the Bread of Life.
- › **The Dead Sea is so salty** that you float naturally - but it's also the lowest place on Earth.
- › **The Mount of Olives overlooks the exact route** Jesus would have taken entering Jerusalem during the Triumphal Entry.
- › **Galilee's fishing boats were small**, usually holding 5-7 people - making the storm stories even more dramatic.
- › **The Western Wall isn't part of the Temple itself**, but a retaining wall built to support the Temple Mount platform.
- › **Many Gospel moments happened within walking distance of each other**, making Jerusalem one of the most concentrated faith landscapes in the world.

After your arrival in Tel Aviv, we'll check in to our hotel and get refreshed after our long journey. At our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing** our local team will explain details about your travel plans, give advice on how to adapt to the local culture and outline how you will stay safe during your travels. Please note that lunch is not included today to accommodate various arrival times. If you arrive early enough for lunch, we will happily get to the perfect spot to indulge, payable on own.

Today's activities include:



Jaffa City Tour - Travelers wander through the sun-soaked alleyways of Old Jaffa, one of the world's oldest port cities and a vibrant blend of art, culture, and coastal charm. They explore winding stone streets, browse local markets, and take in sweeping views of the Mediterranean from the historic harbor. With its colorful galleries, ancient architecture, and lively seaside energy, Jaffa offers the perfect first taste of Israel's rich cultural heartbeat. Every turn reveals something new - a hidden courtyard, a centuries-old archway, or a lookout that feels made for reflection.

Jaffa is a place where Scripture comes alive. This is the port from which Jonah fled, the rooftop where Peter received his vision, and the community where Dorcas was raised from the dead. Standing in these same streets, travelers step directly into moments that shaped faith and mission. The stories they've read for years suddenly gain texture, place, and depth - reminding them that God's work has always moved through real people in real cities, just like this one.

Day 3: Waves of Wonder

Breakfast in flight, lunch on own, dinner included

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Sea of Galilee Boat Ride – Travelers step aboard a wooden boat and glide across the shimmering waters of the Sea of Galilee, surrounded by rolling hills and the peaceful rhythm of the north. Music, laughter, and reflection fill the air as the group enjoys panoramic views and the gentle sway of the lake. The experience blends adventure with serenity - a chance to breathe deeply, take in the beauty, and feel the heartbeat of Israel's northern landscapes. Whether snapping photos, worshiping on deck, or simply soaking in the moment, this boat ride becomes an unforgettable highlight of the journey.

Here, Scripture feels almost tangible. These are the waters where Jesus calmed storms, called His disciples, and walked toward them in the midst of the waves. As travelers drift across the lake, they stand in the very setting of miracles, teachings, and moments that shaped the Gospel story. The familiar passages take on new depth, inviting each person to reflect on faith, trust, and the God who still meets His people on the waters.



St. Peter's House, Tabgha & Mount of Beatitudes - This afternoon invites travelers into some of the most peaceful and breathtaking corners of the Galilee. They explore the remains of St. Peter's House in Capernaum, wander the serene shoreline of Tabgha where the Loaves and Fishes miracle is remembered, and ascend the Mount of Beatitudes for sweeping views over the lake. The experience blends quiet reflection with stunning scenery that feel tailor-made for prayer and pause. With gentle breezes, birdsong, and the soft glow of Galilee's afternoon light, this trio of sites creates a calm, meaningful rhythm that travelers carry with them long after they leave.

Here, the Gospel story unfolds step by step. St. Peter's House marks the center of Jesus' early ministry, where He healed the sick and taught crowds gathered in Capernaum. Tabgha remembers the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, when Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed thousands. On the Mount of Beatitudes, Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, sharing the blessings and teachings that shaped the foundation of Christian faith. Together, these sites trace key moments of Jesus' ministry across Galilee.

Day 4: Hills of Miracles

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Nazareth & the Basilica of the Annunciation - Travelers explore the hillside city of Nazareth, a vibrant blend of markets, winding stone streets, and everyday life unfolding in one of Israel's most meaningful destinations. They visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, a stunning modern church built over ancient foundations, filled with artwork from around the world honoring Mary and the moment that changed history. The experience blends culture, architecture, and reflection as students move through courtyards, chapels, and lookout points that reveal Nazareth's unique beauty and depth.

Nazareth is where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear Jesus, marking the beginning of the Gospel story. The Basilica stands over the traditional site of Mary's home, connecting travelers to the moment of the Incarnation. Walking these spaces places participants at the heart of one of Christianity's most defining events.



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Jeep Excursion on the Slopes of the Galilee & Golan Heights - Travelers hop into open-air jeeps and head into the rugged hills of the Galilee and Golan Heights, winding along dirt paths, forest trails, and panoramic overlooks that reveal Israel's northern beauty. The ride blends adventure with discovery as groups explore rolling landscapes, volcanic formations, and quiet valleys dotted with orchards and wildflowers. With fresh air, wide horizons, and the thrill of off-road travel, this excursion offers a fun, active break from city touring and a chance to experience the land in a way that feels both energizing and unforgettable.

These hills frame much of Jesus' early ministry. The Galilee region is where He called His disciples, taught crowds, and traveled from village to village sharing the Gospel. Exploring these slopes gives travelers a glimpse of the terrain where Jesus walked, taught, and moved among the people.

Day 5: Desert Renewal

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Qasr el Yahud Baptism Site - Students make their way to Qasr el Yahud, the peaceful stretch of the Jordan River traditionally associated with some of Scripture's most significant moments. Surrounded by quiet banks and desert hills, the group gathers at the water's edge for reflection, teaching, and time to pause in a place rich with meaning. Those who wish may participate in a baptism or renewal of baptism - and those who prefer to observe are equally welcome. The experience is gentle, respectful, and deeply personal, offering space for both celebration and quiet contemplation.

This is the site where John baptized Jesus and where countless pilgrims have come for centuries to mark their faith. Standing at the Jordan connects travelers to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and to the call to follow Him with renewed commitment.



Jericho - Mount of Temptation, Tell Jericho & Elisha's Spring - Travelers journey into Jericho, one of the world's oldest cities, exploring its desert landscapes, archaeological layers, and vibrant local life. They ascend toward the Mount of Temptation for sweeping views over the Jordan Valley, visit Tell Jericho to see the remains of ancient fortifications and stop at Elisha's Spring - a peaceful spot where they can enjoy lunch and browse local goods from nearby vendors. The experience blends history, scenery, and culture, offering a relaxed and meaningful window into daily life in this storied region.

Jericho is where Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness, where Joshua's army watched the city's walls fall, and where Elisha purified the spring's waters. It's also the region where Jesus restored sight to Bartimaeus and called Zacchaeus down from the sycamore tree. Standing in these locations connects travelers to moments of testing, victory, healing, and transformation - key threads woven throughout both the Old and New Testament.



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The Dead Sea: Kalia Beach Northern Basin Float Time - Groups head to the northern basin of the Dead Sea for one of the most unique experiences of the trip - floating effortlessly in the mineral-rich waters at Kalia Beach. With dramatic desert cliffs rising around them and salty waves keeping everyone buoyant, this stop blends relaxation with a bit of fun as students test the famous “you can’t sink” effect. There’s time to enjoy the beach, take photos, and learn about the region’s geology and history while soaking in the surreal beauty of the lowest place on Earth.

The Dead Sea region appears throughout Scripture, from the story of Lot to the wilderness journeys of David. Its stark landscape forms the backdrop of ancient battles, refuge, and renewal. Visiting this area connects travelers to the geography that shaped many Old Testament events.

Day 6: Jerusalem Unfolds

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner included

Today’s activities include:



Mount of Olives, Chapel of the Ascension & Garden of Gethsemane - Students begin on the Mount of Olives, taking in sweeping views over Jerusalem’s Old City and the golden Dome of the Rock. They walk through quiet pathways lined with ancient olive trees, stopping at the Chapel of the Ascension before continuing down the hillside toward the Garden of Gethsemane. Along the way, they explore historic churches, overlook the Kidron Valley, and experience one of the most iconic landscapes in Israel. The journey blends reflection, scenery, and movement, offering a powerful introduction to Jerusalem’s sacred geography.

The Mount of Olives is central to Jesus’ final days - the place where He taught His disciples, wept over Jerusalem, and later ascended into heaven. The Chapel of the Ascension marks the traditional site of that moment, recalling Jesus’ final commission before returning to the Father. At the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed in deep anguish before His arrest, submitting to God’s will and beginning the path to the cross. Together, these locations trace the closing chapters of Jesus’ earthly ministry, from His teachings to His surrender to His triumphant ascension.



Jerusalem Old City: Mount Zion: Upper Room (Cenacle) & Tomb of King David - Travelers step onto Mount Zion, exploring one of Jerusalem’s most historic and spiritually rich areas. They visit the Upper Room, a quiet stone chamber traditionally associated with the Last Supper, Pentecost, and early gatherings of Jesus’ followers. Just steps away, they enter the Tomb of King David, a revered site honoring Israel’s beloved poet-king. The walk between these locations winds through courtyards, ancient walls, and rooftop views that reveal the layered beauty of Jerusalem’s Old City. The experience blends movement, history, and reflection in a setting that feels both intimate and iconic.

The Upper Room is traditionally remembered as the place where Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples and where the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, marking the birth of the early church. Nearby, the Tomb of King David honors the shepherd-king who wrote many of the Psalms and established Jerusalem as Israel’s spiritual center. Together, these sites connect travelers to foundational moments in both the Old and New Testament - the covenant leadership of David and the final teachings and commissioning of Jesus.



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Western Wall & Western Wall Tunnels Tour - Travelers enter the Old City to visit the Western Wall, the most significant remaining structure of the Second Temple and a place of prayer for millions around the world. They spend time at the plaza, observing traditions, placing written prayers in the stones, and experiencing the energy of this sacred site. From there, the group continues underground into the Western Wall Tunnels, walking along ancient passageways that reveal massive Herodian stones, hidden arches, and the original street level of Jerusalem from 2,000 years ago. The tour blends movement, archaeology, and reflection, offering a rare look at the layers of history beneath the modern city.

The Western Wall stands as the last remaining section of the retaining wall of the Second Temple, the center of Jewish worship during Jesus' time. These are the stones that supported the Temple complex where Jesus taught, prayed, and confronted the money changers. The tunnels trace the original streets and foundations of that era, giving travelers a glimpse of Jerusalem as it existed during the New Testament. Together, these sites connect visitors directly to the world in which Jesus walked and to the heart of worship in biblical Jerusalem.



Machne Yehuda Market (The Shuk) Food Tour - Students dive into Machne Yehuda, Jerusalem's bustling open-air market filled with colorful produce stands, spice shops, bakeries, and street-food stalls. They weave through lively aisles sampling fresh pastries, local sweets, handmade breads, and classic Israeli dishes while meeting friendly vendors who bring the market's energy to life. The experience blends culture, flavor, and fun as students taste their way through the Shuk, learning about Jerusalem's diverse food traditions in one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods.

Machne Yehuda reflects the heart of Jerusalem's community life - a place where families gather, merchants share their craft, and cultures blend through food. Visiting the Shuk gives travelers a glimpse into the everyday rhythms of the city and the hospitality that has long been central to life in Israel.

Day 7: Bethlehem Light

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Via Dolorosa & Church of the Holy Sepulchre - Groups walk the Via Dolorosa, following the winding stone streets of the Old City along the traditional path of Jesus' journey to the cross. The route moves through bustling markets, quiet courtyards, and historic stations that mark key moments of the Passion. The walk concludes at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a sprawling, ancient complex that holds the traditional sites of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Inside, travelers explore chapels, stairways, and centuries-old architecture that reveal the layered history of Christian worship in Jerusalem. The experience blends movement, reflection, and discovery in one of the most significant places in the world.

The Via Dolorosa traces the path Jesus walked from His trial to Golgotha, passing locations tied to His suffering, His encounters, and His final steps carrying the cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre marks the traditional site of the crucifixion, where Jesus gave His life, and the tomb where He was buried and rose again. Together, these sites encompass the heart of the Gospel - the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus - the events that define Christian faith and hope.



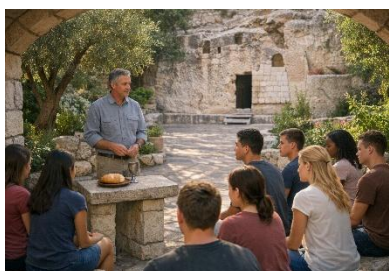
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Tower of David Museum & Citadel - Students explore the Tower of David Museum, set within the ancient citadel at the Jaffa Gate, where interactive exhibits and archaeological layers trace Jerusalem's history from biblical times to the modern era. They walk through stone courtyards, climb ramparts, and take in panoramic views over the Old City's rooftops and walls. The experience blends movement, storytelling, and discovery, offering a vivid look at how Jerusalem has evolved across thousands of years while standing inside one of its most recognizable landmarks.

The citadel stands near the site of ancient fortifications associated with King Herod, whose building projects shaped the Jerusalem of Jesus' day. The museum's timeline highlights eras from the First Temple through the New Testament period, giving travelers context for the world in which Jesus taught, walked, and ministered. Visiting the Tower of David connects students to the city's biblical foundations and to the unfolding story of Jerusalem across generations.



The Garden Tomb & Communion Service - Travelers visit the Garden Tomb, a peaceful, beautifully maintained site that offers space for reflection amid quiet pathways, blooming gardens, and ancient stone features. The group explores the tomb area, learns about the archaeological findings, and gathers in one of the outdoor chapels for teaching and time to pause. For groups who wish, a communion service can be held here - and for those who prefer to observe, the experience remains equally meaningful. The setting provides a gentle, reverent moment near one of the most significant locations in Christian tradition.

The Garden Tomb is a peaceful site associated with the resurrection of Jesus. While archaeological evidence most strongly supports the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the historical location of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, the Garden Tomb offers a beautiful setting that reflects the Gospel accounts and invites quiet reflection. Here, travelers remember the moment when the women discovered the empty tomb and proclaimed that Jesus had risen. For groups who choose to participate, sharing communion in this setting provides a meaningful way to honor Christ's sacrifice and celebrate the hope of the resurrection.



Bethlehem: Church of the Nativity - Travelers journey to Bethlehem, entering the Church of the Nativity - one of the oldest continuously used churches in the world and the traditional site of Jesus' birth. They walk through ancient stone halls, descend toward the Grotto of the Nativity, and experience the blend of history, architecture, and devotion that fills this sacred space. Outside, the group explores Manger Square and the surrounding streets, taking in the atmosphere of a town that has shaped Christian tradition for centuries. The visit offers a meaningful blend of movement, reflection, and discovery in one of the most significant locations in the Holy Land.

Bethlehem is the town where Jesus was born, fulfilling prophecies that the Messiah would come from the line of David and from this small Judean village. The Church of the Nativity marks the traditional site of the manger, recalling the moment when Mary laid Jesus in a humble setting surrounded by shepherds who came to worship. Visiting Bethlehem connects travelers to the beginning of the Gospel story - the incarnation, the promise of Emmanuel, and the arrival of hope in the most unexpected of places.



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Shepherd's Field - Groups visit Shepherd's Field, a peaceful area overlooking the hills where tradition remembers the shepherds keeping watch on the night of Jesus' birth. They explore the grounds, visit the caves associated with early Christian worship, and step inside the Shepherd's Field Church, known for its beautiful nativity-themed artwork and quiet atmosphere. The stop blends movement, scenery, and reflection as the group takes in the landscape that frames one of the most joyful moments in the Christmas story.

Shepherd's Field recalls the night when angels appeared to humble shepherds, announcing the birth of Jesus and filling the sky with praise. Visiting this site connects travelers to the Gospel account in Luke 2 - the good news proclaimed first to ordinary people in an ordinary field. The church and surrounding caves highlight the long tradition of worship in this area, inviting travelers to reflect on the message of hope, joy, and peace that began here.



Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi & Family - Travelers are welcomed into the home of a local rabbi and his family for an authentic Shabbat dinner, experiencing one of the most meaningful traditions in Jewish life. The evening begins with candle lighting and blessings, followed by a home-cooked meal filled with traditional dishes, warm conversation, and stories that bring Shabbat to life. Students experience the rhythm of a weekly celebration centered on rest, gratitude, and community. The atmosphere is relaxed and personal, offering a rare opportunity to share a meal inside a Jerusalem home and connect with local culture in a genuine, memorable way.

Shabbat is the weekly day of rest in Judaism, beginning at sundown on Friday and marked by blessings, shared meals, and time set apart from work. Joining a rabbi's family for Shabbat offers travelers a window into traditions that have shaped Jewish life for thousands of years - from the Kiddush blessing over wine to the breaking of challah and the emphasis on peace within the home. This experience highlights the importance of hospitality, faith, and community in Jewish culture, giving students a deeper understanding of the practices that continue to define life in Jerusalem today.

Day 8: Reflections & Rhythm

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book & Jerusalem Second Temple Model – Travelers explore the Israel Museum, home to world-class archaeological treasures and cultural exhibits that trace thousands of years of history. They visit the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed in a striking white dome inspired by the scroll jars discovered at Qumran. The group also views the massive Second Temple Model, an outdoor reconstruction that shows Jerusalem as it looked in the time of Jesus. The experience blends movement, learning, and visual storytelling, giving students a clear picture of ancient life and the city's biblical landscape.



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The Dead Sea Scrolls include some of the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Scriptures, offering insight into the biblical world and the beliefs of Jewish communities during the time of Jesus. The Shrine of the Book highlights these texts and the story of their discovery near Qumran. The Second Temple Model provides a detailed look at Jerusalem during the New Testament era, including the Temple complex where Jesus taught, prayed, and confronted religious leaders. Together, these sites help travelers understand the historical and scriptural context of the Bible, connecting archaeological evidence with the world of the Old and New Testament.



Genesis Land & Drummer's Circle - Travelers head into the Judean desert to Genesis Land, where costumed hosts bring the stories of Abraham and the patriarchs to life. The group rides in traditional desert-style transport, shares hospitality in a Bedouin tent, and experiences hands-on activities that reflect daily life in biblical times. After exploring the site, students join a lively Drummer's Circle, learning simple rhythms and playing together as a group. The experience blends storytelling, movement, and music, offering a fun and memorable way to connect with the landscape and culture of the region.

Genesis Land highlights the world of Abraham, recalling the hospitality, desert journeys, and traditions that shaped the early chapters of Scripture. The setting reflects the environment where many foundational stories unfolded, giving travelers a tangible sense of life in the time of the patriarchs. The Drummer's Circle adds a cultural layer, celebrating community, rhythm, and shared experience - values woven throughout biblical narratives and Middle Eastern tradition

Day 9: Carry the Light Forward

Breakfast, dependent upon travel times

As the journey comes to a close, travelers enjoy a quiet final morning at the hotel, with breakfast available depending on the group's departure time. This gentle pause offers space to reflect on the week - on the places where Jesus walked, the stories that came alive, and the moments of worship and wonder shared together. As they head to the airport, students carry home more than memories; they take with them a deeper understanding of Scripture, a renewed sense of faith, and the hope that the experiences of this week will continue to shape their walk with Christ long after they return home.

Goodbye Israel

May the peace of this Land and the presence of Christ travel with you.



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Weather in Israel

Spring (March–May): Green Hills, Gentle Warmth, and Clear Skies

- › Temperature: 60–75°F (16–24°C)
- › Conditions: Israel's spring brings comfortable days, bright sunshine, and occasional light rain that keeps the hillsides green. Desert regions warm quickly, while Jerusalem stays pleasantly mild.
- › Highlights: Perfect for full touring days, Old City exploration, and outdoor sites across Judea and Galilee. Wildflowers appear throughout the countryside, adding color to the season.
- › Packing Tips: Light layers, a breathable jacket, comfortable walking shoes, and a small umbrella for brief showers.

Summer (June–August): Bright Sun, Dry Heat, and Long Days

- › Temperature: 85–95°F (29–35°C), hotter in the desert and Dead Sea region.
- › Conditions: Summer is dry and sunny from morning to night. Coastal areas feel warm with a gentle breeze, while Jerusalem's elevation keeps evenings comfortable.
- › Highlights: Ideal for beach time, sunset activities, and early-morning visits to desert sites like Masada. The season offers reliable weather with virtually no rain.
- › Packing Tips: Breathable clothing, strong sun protection (hat, sunscreen, sunglasses), a refillable water bottle, and a light layer for cool indoor A/C.

Fall (September–November): Warm Days, Clear Evenings, and Steady Comfort

- › Temperature: 70–85°F (21–29°C), cooling to the 60s by November.
- › Conditions: Fall brings steady warmth, gentle breezes, and mostly clear skies. The intense summer heat fades, creating one of Israel's most comfortable touring seasons.
- › Highlights: Excellent for long walking days, archaeological sites, and city exploration without extreme temperatures.
- › Packing Tips: Layers for shifting temperatures, a light jacket for evenings, and sturdy walking shoes.

Winter (December–February): Cool Air, Rain Showers, and Green Landscapes

- › Temperature: 50–65°F (10–18°C), colder at night and in Jerusalem's higher elevation.
- › Conditions: Winter brings crisp days and periodic rain, with storms that can be brief but heavy. Snow in Jerusalem is rare but possible. The countryside becomes lush and green.
- › Highlights: Great for museum visits, Old City touring, and quieter sites. The cooler weather makes daytime walking comfortable.
- › Packing Tips: Warm layers, a medium-weight jacket, waterproof footwear, and an umbrella.

Civics & Courtesy in Israel

Security & Entry Procedures - Expect security screening at many sites, including museums, national parks, and religious locations. Follow staff instructions, stay with your group, and keep voices low while passing through checkpoints or entry areas.

Respectful Conduct in Sacred Spaces - Israel's holy sites are active places of worship for Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities. Use polite language, avoid running or shouting, and follow any posted guidelines. Holy sites - including synagogues, churches, and mosques - require both shoulders and knees to be fully covered for all visitors. Be mindful of quiet areas where prayer or reflection is taking place and move respectfully through each site.

Photography & Site Guidelines - Photography is welcome in most outdoor areas, but some religious interiors and archaeological rooms restrict photos. Always follow posted signs or staff guidance. Maintain quiet in prayer spaces, memorial rooms, and historical exhibits.



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City Navigation & Public Areas - Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are busy urban environments with narrow streets, fast traffic, and crowded pedestrian zones. Stay aware at crosswalks, move as a group, and keep backpacks zipped and valuables secure, especially in markets and transportation hubs.

Respect for Historical & Cultural Sites - Israel's archaeological sites, memorials, and ancient structures are protected spaces. Speak quietly, stay on marked paths, and avoid touching or climbing on ruins or monuments. Treat each location with care to preserve it for future visitors.

Rules for Religious Sites:

- **No shorts:** Legs must be covered by long pants, long skirts, or dresses that go past the knee.
- **No bare arms:** Sleeveless shirts, tank tops, and crop tops are not allowed; shoulders must be covered.
- **Head coverings:** Men may need a *kippah* (provided at Jewish sites like the Western Wall), and women may need a scarf or shawl to cover their head or shoulders at certain sanctuaries. All females should pack a scarf.

Taste of the Holy Land – Local Favorites to Try

Israel's food scene blends Middle Eastern flavors, Mediterranean freshness, and cultural traditions from Jewish, Arab, and Christian communities. Whether grabbing a quick bite between activities or exploring during free time, students will find plenty of iconic and easy-to-love options throughout the country.

1. *Falafel & Pita* – Crispy chickpea fritters served with fresh salads and tahini; a classic street-food favorite.
2. *Shawarma* – Sliced, seasoned meat wrapped in warm pita or laffa bread with vegetables and sauces.
3. *Hummus Bowls* – Creamy hummus topped with olive oil, chickpeas, herbs, and warm pita on the side.
4. *Israeli Breakfast* – Fresh vegetables, eggs, cheeses, breads, and spreads - a colorful and energizing morning meal.
5. *Sabich* – A beloved sandwich filled with eggplant, egg, salad, and amba sauce; flavorful and student-friendly.
6. *Fresh Juices & Smoothies* – Popular in markets and city centers, especially pomegranate, citrus, and mango blends.
7. *Baklava & Local Sweets* – Flaky pastries with nuts and honey, plus halva and other regional treats found in markets.



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Entry Requirements for Travel to Israel

Entry requirements for entering Israel vary by nationality, and all travelers are responsible for checking the most current information during planning and before departure. The guidelines below are accurate at the time of writing but may change without notice. Always verify requirements through your government's travel authority and the official Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website prior to travel.

General Requirements *(All International Travelers)*

- ✓ A valid passport
- ✓ Proof of onward or return travel
- ✓ Compliance with Israeli border screening procedures
- ✓ No active travel restrictions or inadmissibility flags

Travelers from the USA, Canada, and the UK

- ✓ No visa required for short tourist stays (up to 90 days)
- ✓ Passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of entry
- ✓ Travelers may be asked to show accommodation details or program information
- ✓ Border officials may issue an entry card instead of stamping passports

Additional Notes for International Travelers

- ✓ Some nationalities outside the USA, Canada, and UK may require a visa; always confirm in advance
- ✓ Travelers may be asked brief questions about their itinerary or purpose of visit
- ✓ Security procedures can vary by airport and time of day

Important Notes

- Entry requirements can change; travelers must check for updates before departure.
- Some nationalities may require additional documentation or interviews.
- Schools traveling as a group should ensure all passports meet validity requirements.

Traveling to Bethlehem & Jericho

Bethlehem and Jericho are located within the Palestinian Territories, and groups visit them regularly as part of standard touring. Travel is coordinated through your licensed Israeli guide and driver, who manage all route and checkpoint procedures. Travelers do not go through passport control when entering Bethlehem or Jericho as these crossings are not international borders. Buses pass through Israeli security checkpoints where officers may ask the driver a few routine questions but they rarely board the bus, and they do not collect passports.

Identification & Group Protocols

While passports are **not** required at the checkpoint itself, travelers should still carry them or have them accessible, as officers may occasionally request ID. Staying together as a group and following guide instructions ensures smooth passage.



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The Holy Land: Journey Through Scripture

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Roundtrip international flights to/from Tel Aviv, Israel
- ✓ 7-nights' accommodation – Tel Aviv, Galilee & Jerusalem
- ✓ Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon flight times)
- ✓ Airport transfers & transportation to activities shown in Itinerary
- ✓ Jaffa City Tour
- ✓ Galilee: St Peter's House, Tabgha, Mount of Beatitudes & Sea of Galilee Boat Ride
- ✓ Nazareth & the Basilica of the Annunciation
- ✓ Jeep Excursion on the Slopes of the Galilee / Golan Heights
- ✓ Qasr el Yahud Baptism Site; Baptisms, Baptismal Robes
- ✓ Jericho: Mount of Temptation, Tell Jericho & Elisha's Spring
- ✓ The Dead Sea: Kalia Beach, Northern Basin Float Time
- ✓ Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Chapel of the Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion Upper Room & Tomb of King David, Western Wall & Western Walls Tunnel Tour, Via Dolorosa & the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Tower of David Museum & Citadel, the Garden Tomb & Communion Service
- ✓ Machne Yehuda Market & Food Tour
- ✓ Bethlehem: Church of the Nativity & Shepherds' Field
- ✓ Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi & Family
- ✓ Israel Museum & Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls) & Jerusalem Second Temple Model
- ✓ Genesis Land with Drummer's Circle
- ✓ Personal Tour Director & Israel National Guide
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ⊗ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ⊗ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required (if traveling from abroad, generally one bag is included per person)
- ⊗ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ⊗ Transportation to/from your local airport
- ⊗ Transportation/sightseeing/entertainment/activities not shown in the itinerary
- ⊗ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions and vegetarians/vegans); beverages other than table water (pay on own for extra beverages)
- ⊗ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ⊗ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ⊗ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar items, recreation, purchases billed to room, etc.
- ⊗ Personal expenditures
- ⊗ **Gratuities for your Driver, Tour Director & Local Guides**
- ⊗ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or service charges levied by the governments or our suppliers
- ⊗ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)

As always, our staff are available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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