



# 16-day Israel & Jordan Itinerary

January 18 – Feb 2, 2024

Hosted by the Hill Brothers

Jim & Drew Hill

Thursday, Jan 18

## En route

Board your flight from St. Louis or Washington to Atlanta, and then board flight to Tel Aviv, Israel

Friday, Jan 19

## Tel Aviv

Welcome to Israel! Upon our late morning arrival into Ben Gurion International we will be met by our guide. We will have a light first day with stops at **Jaffa**, an artistic market, and time along the Mediterranean Sea and then transfer to our hotel.

**Overnight, Netanya**

Saturday, Jan 20



*Nazareth*

## Coastal Route

After breakfast, we'll drive northwest and visit ancient **Caesarea** by the sea, site of Paul and Peter's experiences on the Mediterranean Coast. From there we'll visit **Mount Carmel** and **Muhraka** to witness the location of Elijah's contest with Jezebel's false prophets of **Ba'al**. Here we'll be able to view the **Jezebel Valley**. We'll then travel to **Megiddo**, the site of 21 battles from the Old Testament and where it says in the Book of Revelation the final battle between good and evil will take place. Here we'll also get to explore Canaanite ruins and the "Chariot Cities" of Kings Solomon and Ahab. Next, we'll visit the **Synagogue in Nazareth**, Jesus' childhood home and **Mount Precipice**, the traditional site of the cliff that an angry mob attempted to throw Jesus off after his bold proclamation in the Nazareth synagogue. Then, we drive through Cana, site of the first miracle of Jesus, as we journey to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee to our hotel.

**Overnight, Tiberias 1<sup>st</sup>**

Sunday, Jan 21



*Capernaum*

## Sea of Galilee/The Foot-Steps of Jesus

This morning we begin the day with a brief hike to Mount Arbel near Tiberias, with high cliffs, views of Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights, trails to a cave-fortress, and ruins of an ancient synagogue. Then we'll take a morning **Boat Tour** (10:00 am) of the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. We'll visit **Migdal**, the home of Mary Magdalene and see the "**Jesus Boat**" at Kibbutz of Ginosar. We'll then drive to the **Mount of Beatitudes** for a brief time of Worship. We'll proceed to the basalt synagogue at **Chorazin** to see where Jesus taught and see the "Seat of Moses." We'll also view the **Natural Amphitheater** where Jesus also taught, we'll visit **Capernaum**, home of the synagogue of Jesus' ministry and miracles. We will stop at the **Church of the Primacy of Peter** on the Sea of Galilee, and then after a long day of touring return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Overnight, Tiberias. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Monday, Jan 22



*Golan Heights*

Tuesday, Jan 23



*Beit Shean*

Wednesday, Jan 24



*Gethsemane*



*Hezekiah's Tunnel*

### Hula Basin/Upper Galilee/Golan

This morning we will visit a shoe factory in a **kibbutz**. Then we will hike in the **Dan Nature Preserve** and view the rushing **Headwaters of the Jordan River**. We'll then visit the Dan of the Old Testament, known as the "Hill of the Judge" to explore the incredible excavations and altar where the golden calf was worshipped by Israel under King Jereboam. From there we'll take our bus to **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter said to Jesus "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Next, we'll drive to the **Golan Heights** where we'll overlook the Jordan Valley and learn about the Golan Arab/Israel conflict (1948-1967). We'll then see **Mt. Hermon** where our Lord was Transfigured and drive along the ancient **Damascus Road**. Then we will descend to the shores of the Sea of Galilee to our hotel.  
**Overnight, Tiberias. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### Baptism/Beit Shean/Bethlehem

After breakfast we will travel to the **Yardenit Baptismal Site** in northern Israel where many of our pilgrims may renew their baptism vows in the **Jordan River**. It is a wonderful time of worship for the participants and for those observing the moment. Then we'll drive down the Jordan Valley to **Beit Shean**, an amazing New Testament Roman city with temples, baths, and a black basalt theater. It is one of the ten Hellenistic cities of the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire in the first centuries BC and AD. After the tour we will proceed to **Bethlehem** to see the **Church of the Nativity** and the **Shepherds Fields**. At the end of our day of touring we will drive up the **Golden City, Jerusalem**.  
**Overnight, Jerusalem. 1<sup>st</sup>**

### The Holy City of Jerusalem

From the **Mount of Olives** our guide will share the geography and history of Jerusalem. This vivid lecture overlooks where it happened, the **Kidron Valley**, the **Temple Area**, and **The Holy City**. Descending the Mount of Olives by the path of Jesus' Triumphant Entry into the Kidron Valley, visit **Garden of Gethsemane** discussing Jesus' suffering and his "Passion Week." Before us is the **Golden Gate** of the Temple Area, as when Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24. We'll then visit the **House of Caiphas**, the place of Jesus' early trials when Peter denied Him. We'll then view the **Valley of the Cheesemaker**, the **Valley of Hinnon**, the **Field of Blood**, where Judas took his life. **Gehennah**, and the **Ophel**, King David's capital city. We end our day in the ancient **City of David** (2:00 pm), the archaeological site which is speculated to compose the original urban core of ancient Jerusalem. The remains at the site include several **water tunnels**, one of which was built by **King Hezekiah** and still carries water, and several pools including the **Pool of Siloam** known from the Old and New Testaments.  
**Overnight, Jerusalem. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Thursday, Jan 25



*Rabbinical Tunnels*

### Rabbinical Tunnels/Excavations/Western Wall

We will depart our hotel early (7:30 am) for a full day. First, we will visit the **Temple Mount** to see where the Temple once stood. Then we will visit the **Western Wall** of the Temple Mount. Next, we will explore the **Big Bridge Tour** (10:00 am) the first of two **Rabbinical Tunnel** tours we will have today. After a light lunch we will take the **Classic Rabbinical Tunnel Tour** (2:00 pm) as we continue our exploration of the Temple Mount. We will conclude our day as we explore the **Southern Wall Excavations** and visit the Davidson Center before we return to our hotel.

**Overnight, Jerusalem. 3rd**

Friday, Jan 26



*Menorah*

### Jerusalem-New City/Museums

Today we will be exploring the New City of Jerusalem. Drive by the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament, and the **Bronze Menorah** in front of the building. We will visit to **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial and Museum (9:00 am). We'll also see the **Model of First Century Jerusalem** from the Holyland Hotel, and explore the exhibits at the **Israel Museum**. We will also visit the **Shrine of the Book**, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls. We'll finish our day, if time permits, with a brief stop at the **Mahane Yehuda Market**, an open-air, but now partially covered, marketplace in Jerusalem.

**Overnight, Jerusalem 4<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday, Jan 27



*Judean Wilderness*

### Judean Wilderness Day

Our guide and his associates will be taking our group into the **Judean Wilderness in four-wheel drive vehicles**. We begin at the Good Samaritan to view mosaics and then continue the wilderness. The **Judean Desert** is a wilderness landscape spanning from the Judean Hills at 1,000m above sea level to the west all the way down to the Dead Sea at 400m below sea level in the east. We will see an ancient monastery, an aqueduct, and explore Israel in an entirely new way. We will enter modern **Jericho** before we begin our journey back to our hotel in Jerusalem.

**Overnight, Jerusalem 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, Jan 28**



*Qumran*



*Fortress at Masada*

**Monday, Jan 29**



*David's Citadel*

**Tuesday, Jan 30**



*Madaba*

### **Qumran/Masada/Dead Sea**

We will drive along the Jordan Valley and the Mountains of Samaria on our west, past the oasis of **Jericho** as we head to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth. We will view and discuss the location of ancient **Gilgal**, Israel's largest all Jewish city in history; on our right will be the awesome **Wilderness of Judea**. We will then visit **Qumran** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered by a Bedouin boy. Our guide will share discoveries relating to Essene Qumran. We'll overlook the ancient oasis of **Ein Gedi** (*the Goat's Rocks*), where David hid from King Saul in the caves. We will travel to **Masada** (10:00 am) and take the cable car to the top. Masada is the most important mountain in Israel's history. Learn the incredible story of the Jewish Freedom Fighters who held out against the Romans in 73A.D. The story of the struggle, the excavations, and the view from the top is one unforgettable highlight of our tour. Then we will stop at the **Dead Sea** to experience a truly unique body of water where you will have the opportunity to enjoy wading into the Dead Sea where you can float. After our time at the **Dead Sea** we will return to our hotel in Jerusalem. **Overnight, Jerusalem 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **Jerusalem old city**

Today we'll discover more of the Old City of Jerusalem. Visit the **Lions' Gate** and the **Pools of Bethesda**. We'll visit the **Tower of Antonia**, the **Praetorium**, and **Pilate's Judgement Hall**. Here our Lord was tried by Pilate, beaten by the Roman Cohort, and took up His Cross for Calvary. The **Ecce Homo** begins the traditional **Via Dolorosa** leading to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Visit the Jewish Quarter including the **Cardo**, and depart the old city by the **Dung Gate**. We will conclude the day with a Special Service at the **Garden Tomb** (2:30 pm). Then we will return to our hotel for dinner.

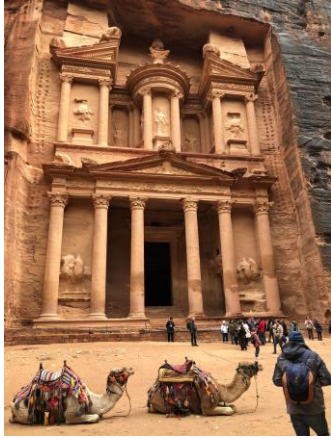
**Overnight, Jerusalem 7<sup>th</sup>**

### **Jordan/Mt. Nebo/Madaba/Machaerus**

After breakfast, we will cross the border into Jordan at the Allenby Bridge and start our journey to the Nabatean city of Petra. During our journey we will see **Machaerus**, the place where the Jewish historian Josephus Flavius says that John the Baptist was executed. This hill-top fortress was first fortified by the Hasmonean ruler Alexander Janneus and by King Herod. After a stop at **Mt. Nebo**, the traditional resting place of Moses, we will visit the ancient city of **Madaba**, the city of mosaics, known especially for its stunning 6th century mosaic of Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the Madaba "St. George Church." Then we will proceed to our hotel at Petra for Dinner

**Overnight, Petra**

**Wednesday, Jan 31**



*Petra*

**Thursday, Feb 1**



*Jerash*

**Friday, Feb 2**

### **Petra/Amman**

After Breakfast, we will have a full day visit of Petra. **Petra** was first established sometime around the 6th century BC, by the Nabataean Arabs, a nomadic tribe who settled in the area and laid the foundations of a commercial empire that extended into Syria. Despite successive attempts by the Seleucid king Antigonos, the Roman emperor Pompey and Herod the Great to bring Petra under the control of their respective empires, Petra remained largely in Nabataean hands until around 100AD, when the Romans took over. The reddish-yellow stone which the Nabateans exploited to carve their temples is delicate and can be easily crumble into sand, but Petra remains a testament to their strength and ingenuity. Following our visit, we will return in the evening to Amman for dinner.

**Overnight, Amman**

### **Amman/Jerash/Pella/Gadara**

We will stop in **Jerash**, whose ruins lie in the mountains of Gilead. **Jerash** is one of the best preserved examples of a provincial Roman town in all of Jordan. Our archeological journey continues to **Pella**, where excavations have revealed an ancient Canaanite temple. We'll travel next to **Gadara**, an ancient city of the Decapolis, which were 10 cities originally inhabited by Greek people who settled in the region after the conquest of Alexander the Great. Gadara is the site of one of the most famous healings of Jesus' ministry, sending the demons of a man into a swine. We'll continue on our journey by crossing the **King Hussein Bridge** as we return to Israel, so named for the King of Jordan dedicated to achieving peace in the Middle East. We will travel to our hotel for dinner, packing, and rest for the trip home.

**Overnight, Tel Aviv**

Board our flight for Atlanta and on to Washington or St. Louis arriving home on Friday evening.