CENTER FOR
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

Holy Land Tour with Hillside Church

PROGRAM ITINERARY | February 13-23, 2021

Day 1 – Saturday, February 13
We depart from the States for a life-changing journey to the Holy Land, where the Bible will unfold before our very eyes. Throughout this experience, we will explore the origins of our faith, how to embody that faith here in the present, and how we can pass it on to the next generation.

Day 2 - Sunday, February 14
Flying over the Mediterranean, we reach the shores of Israel. Upon our arrival to the Ben Gurion Airport, we will be met by our Israeli guide and transfer to our hotel in Beersheva. We will then check into our rooms, enjoy a wonderful buffet dinner, and withdraw for a good night's rest.

Day 3 – Monday, February 15
After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel in the Negev Desert of Israel at **Ein Avdat,** a nature preserve in the area of wilderness in which the Children of Israel traveled for 40 years under the leadership of Moses. Following Ein Avdat, we will proceed to the Ancient Iron age city of **Arad**, a city which was important during Israel's monarchy period due to the unorthodox worship to the Lord that took place there. After Arad we will end our day at **Kfar Hanokdim** to learn about Bedouin Hospitality, trek through the desert on camels, and enjoy a wonderful dinner. Overnight in Beersheva.

Day 4 – Tuesday, February 16
We will begin our day visiting the ancient city of **Caesarea**. This remarkable site is the city of Cornelius the Roman Centurion, who became the first Gentile follower of Jesus. We will visit the Roman theatre, view the harbor from which the apostle Paul sailed to Rome, and witness the impressive first-century water aqueduct. Leaving the Mediterranean coast, we travel north to **Mount Carmel**, where Elijah held the contest with 450 prophets of Baal. Afterwards, to the overlook of **Mt. Arbel**, getting our first breath taking view of the Lake of Galilee as we spend some time there in prayer, reflection and worship. We will end our day at the ancient site of **Magdala** and see a first-century synagogue. Overnight by the Sea of Galilee.

Day 5 – Wednesday, February 17
We begin our day heading to **Northern Galilee** and the **Golan Heights**. We will visit the ancient site of **Dan** and **Caesarea Philippi**. We will finish our day at the overlook into Syria, **Har Ben Tal**. Overnight by the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6 – Thursday, February 18
We will begin our day at the **Jordan River** baptismal site, where participants will have the opportunity to be baptized. Next, we visit **Mt. of Beatitudes**, followed by a visit to the site of **Chorazin**, the remains of one of the cities in which Jesus ministered. From there we head to the New Testament town of **Capernaum**, the place of residence for Jesus' adult life and ministry. Lastly, we will visit **Nof Ginnosar**, the place where an ancient first-century boat is housed and will then conclude our evening with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Our journey for today takes us to the land where 95% of Jesus' ministry recorded in the Gospels took place and will end with a fantastic dinner and overnight by the Sea of Galilee.

Day 7 – Friday, February 19
We begin our day with a visit to **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, and see the church and the ancient homes of Nazareth. We will then visit the ancient city of **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of the Nativity and then Shepherd's Field. We will then travel to the **Valley of Elah**, the site of the biblical cities of Azekah, Soccoh and Sha'arim, but most importantly, the place of the confrontation between David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8 – Saturday, February 20
Today, we will travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest place in the world at 1300 feet below sea level. Our first stop is the astonishing ruins of **Masada**. Using a cable car, we reach Herod's magnificent fortress and the site of Jewish rebels' stand against Rome. Well preserved storehouses, cisterns, and palaces will be among the features to explore. We will travel near the site of **Ein Gedi,** an oasis in the deserts surrounding the Dead Sea which served as a place of refuge for David during his time on the run from King Saul. Afterwards, we will make our way to the **Dead Sea** for a float on the salty sea. Our day ends with a stop at **Wadi Qilt** (Jericho Road overlook) as we discuss the significance of this ancient road between Jericho and Jerusalem. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9 – Sunday, February 21
We will begin our day at the **Israel Museum**, where we will see the world-famous Dead Sea Scrolls and the Shrine of the Book that houses them. We will also view a scale model of Jerusalem just before its destruction by the Romans in A.D. 70. After, we gather in the **Davidson Center** at the southern end of the Temple Mount to view the excavations of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by the Romans in A.D. 70. We will take this opportunity to highlight key events in the New Testament that took place in and around the Temple. We will then conclude our day with sometime of personal prayer at the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in modern Judaism through its connection to the Temple of the days of Jesus. The afternoon will consist of free time in the Old City of Jerusalem. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10 – Monday, February 22
Our morning begins with one last overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**. We will walk down the mount, visiting the church of **Dominus Flevit** ("Our Lord Wept"), which commemorates Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem. Continuing down the mountain, we will stop at the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we reflect on Jesus' agonizing moments wrestling to submit to the will of his Father. We will then begin the afternoon by visiting **Jaffa Gate** and see **David's Citadel**, the vicinity of the palace of Herod the Great and its praetorium. From Jaffa Gate, we will walk through the Armenian Quarter to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City descending to the Byzantine Cardo of Jerusalem, where we see the walls of ancient Jerusalem dating to the eighth century B.C. and the second century B.C. In the Jewish Quarter, we will proceed to the **Wohl Museum**, which contains three houses from the first century that most likely belonged to the high priests of the Temple. Afterwards, we will walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. We will end the tour with prayer and communion at a **First-Century Tomb**. Late evening or early morning departure from TLV.

Day 11 – Tuesday, February 23
Arrive USA