

Israel Study Tour - Journey to the Land of the Text:

May 7-21, 2024

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Kuyper College Students on the Israel Study Tour, May 2015

EXPERIENCING THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

There are experiences in life that change everything. A biblical study trip to Israel with Kuyper College is one of those moments that can completely change the trajectory of your life. Understanding the text in its cultural, geographical, historical, and Jewish contexts unleashes the depth and nuance of the Bible in the most compelling and awe-inspiring of ways. This experience will launch you into a lifelong pursuit of studying the biblical text as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

EXPERIENCE THE “GREATEST STORY” IN THE LAND WHERE IT WAS LIVED

Join Dr. Dan Kroeze, Professor of Biblical Studies at Kuyper College, and Rev. Evan Heerema, Pastor at Covenant Christian Reformed Church, on a fascinating journey through Israel, the land God chose for his people. Visit the places where Joshua, David, and Hezekiah served God. Experience the desert of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the desert metaphors of the Psalms. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples in Galilee and Jerusalem. Stand on the spot where the church was born on Pentecost and believers were sent to bring the good news to all the world. See the Bible in a new light, and return home to serve the God who blessed us beyond imagining with this biblical journey through place and time. The study tour combines historical, geographical, cultural and spiritual aspects that will illuminate the world of the Bible and provide a comprehensive understanding of the land of Israel.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE STUDY TOUR?

The trip is two weeks with 12 full days in Israel. The size of the group is usually from 30-40 which includes Kuyper College students as well as adults (parents, friends, etc.). We will travel extensively within Israel, from the Negev in the south to the Sea of Galilee in the north. A typical day includes on-site teaching at 4-5 sites per day. Several hikes are planned along the way to experience the beautiful country of Israel. Pre-trip orientation (including readings and lectures) will begin in January prior to departure.



NATURE OF THE TRIP

Israel is a land of plains, hills, mountains, water, and desert. To fully experience all that Israel has to offer, walking, hiking, and a little bit of getting wet should be expected. Alternate routes, excluding any strenuous hiking, will be available; though some unpaved trail walking should be expected.



WILL THERE BE ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE STUDY TOUR?

Yes, the study tour is a 3-credit college course through Kuyper College available to college students or dual-enrolled high school students. This course fulfills an Old Testament or New Testament elective or a general elective.

PRICING (Approximate)

Adults: \$4500

STUDY TOUR COSTS INCLUDE:

- Onsite teaching with admission fees to sites
- Round trip economy class airfare on Turkish Airlines from Chicago.
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach touring
- English speaking local guide
- Taxes, service fees and tips
- Lodging in deluxe hotels with private facilities (*Double occupancy*)
- Buffet breakfast and dinner at the hotels each day with lunches served on site

(That's Everything)



DETAILED ITINERARY



Wednesday and Thursday, May 1-2:

BACKGROUND CLASSES AT KUYPER COLLEGE

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO TEL AVIV

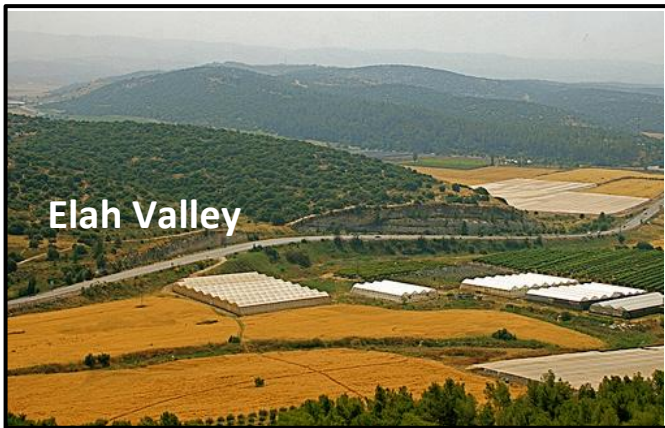
The day of departure has arrived! We motorcoach from Grand Rapids to Chicago O'Hare airport for our flights to Israel. Our adventure is beginning!

Wednesday, May 8

ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV

Arrive in Israel at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport. We will spend our first night in the Land at a hotel in Neve Shalom, in the Shephelah. Enjoy a welcome dinner upon arrival, then crash for the night.

Dinner & Overnight: Neve Shalom in the Judean Hills



Thursday, May 9

GEZER, BET SHEMESH, AZEKAH

On our first full day in Israel, we plan to visit several ancient archaeological sites. We will focus on the Shephelah—the area of conflict between the Philistines and the Israelites in the Old Testament. Our first stop is Gezer which will introduce us to the importance of ancient Israel located on the crossroads of the world. Our next stop is Bet Shemesh, a site connected to Samson and to the Ark of the Covenant. Then it's on to Azekah, where David met Goliath.

Dinner & Overnight: Neve Shalom in the Judean Hills



Friday, May 10

MARESHAH AND TEL LACHISH

Today we will visit Tel Maresha, the site of a Judean city at the time of the First Temple. Our last stop of the day is Tel Lachish, an important military city in Israel's history. Then we drive an hour and a half to our hotel at the Dead Sea arriving by mid afternoon so that we can enjoy the spa and resort.

Dinner & Overnight: Royal Hotel Dead Sea



Wadi Zohar

Saturday, May 11

ARAD & WADI ZOHAR

Today we focus on the wilderness and the life of shepherds in biblical times. We'll start our day exploring the Old Testament site of Tel Arad in the land of Abraham on the border of the Negev and Judean Deserts. We will then take a spectacular hike through Wadi Zohar down to the Dead Sea pausing along the way to study what the text says about the wilderness. We'll stop at one of the beaches on the Dead Sea, where we'll have an opportunity to float in the buoyant salty water—certain to be a memorable experience!

Dinner & Overnight: Royal Hotel Dead Sea



Masada

Sunday, May 12

MASADA, ENGEDI & QUMRAN

The wilderness stronghold of Masada awaits us today. It was on this isolated plateau that the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans in the 1st century A.D. In the afternoon we'll visit the Engedi Nature Reserve where we'll find Nahal David—David's Stream—believed to be the place where David hid from Saul. In the afternoon we will stop at Qumran to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. At day's end we'll travel north to the Sea of Galilee. Here we'll check in at our hotel for dinner and a five night stay.

Dinner & Overnight: Nof Ginosar Village



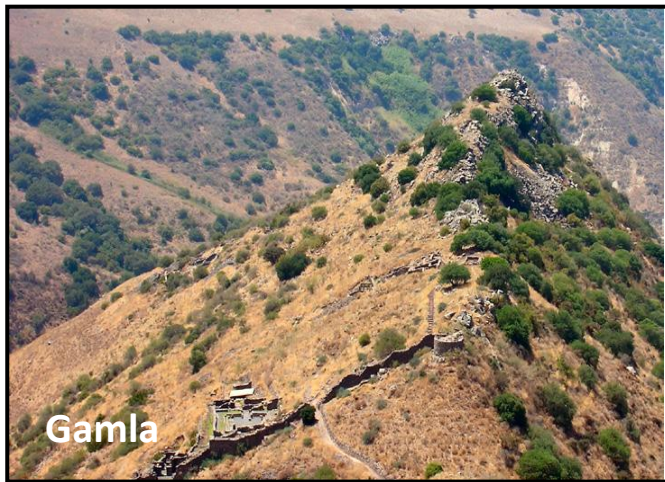
Mt. Arbel

Monday, May 13

MT. ARBEL, MT. OF BEATITUDES, TABGHA, CHORAZIN & CAPERNAUM

Following in the footsteps of Jesus and the disciples, we begin by climbing Mt. Arbel, where we will walk to the summit for a breathtaking panorama of the Sea of Galilee. Afterward we visit the Mt. of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Then it is on to Tabgha, the traditional location for several episodes in Jesus' ministry along the Sea of Galilee. Then we will head to the ruins of Chorazin, a city condemned by Jesus for its lack of faith. Our next stop is ancient Capernaum. Jesus chose this once-bustling town of merchants, farmers and fishermen as the base for his Galilean ministry.

Dinner & Overnight: Nof Ginosar Village



Tuesday, May 14

GAMLA, TEL DAN & CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Today we begin in Gamla sometimes known as the “Masada of the North,” Gamla is most famous for its strong defense against the Romans in the Jewish Revolt in 66 A.D. The site is bordered on all sides by deep wadis of the Golan Heights and is approachable by only one footpath from the northeast. Driving through the Golan Heights, we travel north to the ancient city of Dan. A beautiful nature preserve provides a refreshing backdrop as we visit the northernmost city of ancient Israel, and see the spot where wicked King Jeroboam set up a golden calf. After a short ride we will come to the New Testament city of Caesarea Philippi at the foot of Mount Hermon, where Peter made his great confession, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Dinner & Overnight: Nof Ginosar Village



Wednesday, May 15

NAZARETH, ZIPPORI & SEA OF GALILEE

We begin our day by visiting Nazareth, the place where Jesus grew up. Then we will visit Zippori, which Josephus called “the ornament of all Galilee.” Herod Antipas built this city as a “mini Rome” in 4 B.C. as the capital of his government complete with a Roman theater and colonnaded street. It was the largest city in Galilee located only 3 miles from Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth. In the late afternoon we’ll enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and visit the “Jesus Boat” at the Yigal Alon Museum.

Dinner & Overnight: Nof Ginosar Village



Thursday, May 16

BET SHEAN, SUSITA & JORDAN RIVER

We spend the day in the Decapolis, east of the Sea of Galilee. We’ll visit Bet Shean, an archaeological site containing the vestiges of a once prosperous late Roman and Byzantine city, including public bath houses, temples, and theaters, examining the effect of Hellenism on Israelite culture. we will stop at Susita, the site where the demons entered the swine after being cast out of the demoniac. We will stop at a secluded location on the Jordan River to enjoy the river and also an opportunity for an optional baptism and recommitment.

Dinner & Overnight: Nof Ginosar Village



Friday, May 17

MEGIDDO, MOUNT CARMEL, CAESAREA MARITIMA & JERUSALEM

We'll have a view over Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home, as we travel to Tel Meggido, also known as Armageddon. We'll then see Mount Carmel, a symbol of beauty in biblical times and the place of Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal. We will travel to historic Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast, the harbor city built by Herod the Great and which functioned as the seat of government of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate.

Dinner & Overnight: Leonardo Hotel - Jerusalem



Saturday, May 18

JERUSALEM

We will visit some of the exciting archeological sites in and around the Old City of Jerusalem. We will walk up to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site. We will walk through the southern wall excavations where we will stand at the southern entrance to the Herodian Temple. Here, we will see the ancient boulders of the Temple and sit on the steps where Jesus no doubt taught. We then ascend to the Temple Mount, the location of the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque. Just to the north we find the Pools of Bethesda and St. Anne's Church, perfectly preserved from the Crusader period—with remarkable acoustics.

Dinner & Overnight: National Hotel —Jerusalem



Sunday, May 19

JERUSALEM

This morning we'll trace Jesus' path through suffering and death to resurrection. From the Mount of Olives, we'll descend the road he traveled on Palm Sunday, pausing at Dominus Flevit and Gethsemane. Then we'll take an adventurous walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (1,700 feet long) constructed in 700 BC to provide water for the city of Jerusalem to the Pool of Siloam. We then follow the Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa) back as far as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Christianity's holiest site. We'll visit the Israel Museum to see a model of Jerusalem in Jesus' day and the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead

Sea Scrolls are housed.

Dinner & Overnight: Leonardo Hotel - Jerusalem



Herodian

Monday, May 20

HERODIAN, SHEPHERDS' FIELD AND CAVE & BETHLEHEM

We begin the day at the Herodian, one of the fortress palaces of Herod the Great just 3 miles outside of Bethlehem. Archaeologists have recently discovered the burial place of Herod the Great here. Then we drive into Bethlehem, the royal city of David, to visit the place of the birth of Christ in the Grotto of the Nativity. We also visit the Shepherds' Field where the Angel of the Lord appeared to the Shepherds. In the evening we'll transfer to Ben Gurion Airport to check in for the flights back to Grand Rapids.

Farewell Dinner & Overnight: Neve Shalom in the Judean Hills

Tuesday, May 21

RETURN TO GRAND RAPIDS

Our Journey through the Land of the Bible is sure to be a blessing for many years to come!

Evening arrival



INTERESTED?

For more information, please contact:

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