

19-day Study Tour Jordan/Israel/Greece

DAY 1 **DEPART USA**
We depart today on our overnight journey to Jordan. (meals aloft)

DAY 2 **ARRIVE AMMAN**
We arrive today in Amman and transfer to our hotel for check-in. (meals aloft)

DAY 3 **JERASH/MOUNT NEBO/PETRA**
This morning we go first to Jerash, a city of the decapolis that was one of the most important and best-preserved cities in the Near East. We view the Jabbok Stream, where Jacob wrestled with a "man" who wrenched Jacob's hip socket. Next we go to Mount Nebo, from where Moses viewed the Promised Land, the green Jordan Valley - the "Land of Milk and Honey." From there we continue south to Petra for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 4 **PETRA**
We spend the full day exploring the marvelous "rose-red" city of Petra. The last mile of the journey is along a winding narrow path, the Sik, between two high cliffs. The entire city of rose-colored temples and amphitheaters is carved out of the multi-hued rock of the cliffs which surround its hidden valley. Take time to climb among the monastery, tombs, and other fascinating ruins of this remarkable city. Later today, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5 **ALLENBY BRIDGE/QASR EL YEHUD/NAZARETH/MOUNT PRECIPICE/TIBERIAS**
This morning we depart Petra and drive to the northern tip of the Dead Sea where we enter Israel via the Allenby Bridge. We go first to a site on the Jordan River known as Qasr El Yehud, believed to be in the area where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. It is also traditionally considered to be the place where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. We pass New Testament Jericho, believed to have been at the mouth of the Wadi Kelt, where Herod had his winter palace. From here we can see the Mount of Temptation. We proceed north through the Jordan Valley and visit Nazareth, boyhood home of Jesus. There we visit Mary's Well at St. Gabriel's Church, the traditional site where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would bear the Son of God. Then we drive to the top of Mount Precipice, traditional site where an angry mob tried to throw Jesus off a cliff following his Messianic proclamation in Luke 4. From this windswept hilltop, we take in the spectacular views of Mount Tabor and the Jezreel Valley, and then we continue to Tiberias and our hotel on the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 6 **TEL DAN/CAESAREA PHILIPPI/TIBERIAS**
Today we drive north into the foothills of Mount Hermon and have a brief visit to Old Testament Dan, which marked the northern limit of the land of Israel. Here we see a mud-brick gate from the Bronze Age - the time of Abraham, the cultic high place attributed to kings Jeroboam and Ahab, and an inscription mentioning King David. We continue to Banias (Caesarea Philippi) near the headwaters of the Jordan River. In this area, Peter memorably proclaimed Jesus to be "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" and Jesus affirmed this by declaring "...on this rock I will build my church..." After our time there, we return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 7 **MOUNT OF BEATITUDES/CAPERNAUM/SEA OF GALILEE/YARDENIT/TIBERIAS**
We begin this morning at the Mount of Beatitudes. Somewhere on this green hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. Then we visit the ruins of ancient Capernaum. Jesus came here after being rejected by his hometown of Nazareth and adopted Capernaum as "his own town." Peter, Andrew, James,



John, and Matthew all lived here, and this area became the center of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Then we continue along the eastern shore of the sea to Ein Gev, where we enjoy a traditional lunch of St. Peter's fish. After a memorable boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, we conclude our afternoon at Yardenit, a baptismal site on the River Jordan located near the southern tip of the Sea of Galilee. From there we return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 **MEGIDDO/MOUNT CARMEL/CAESAREA/JERUSALEM**
We check out of our hotel and go to the ruins of Megiddo, the Biblical Armageddon, where see Ahab's stables and the famous water system. We proceed to Mount Carmel where we visit the traditional site of Elijah's dramatic confrontation with the prophets of Baal. From the summit we take in the sweeping panoramic view of the Jezreel Valley. We continue to the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea, constructed by Herod the Great several years before the birth of Jesus. The massive harbor could accommodate 300 ships, and the hippodrome could seat over 20,000 people at chariot races. It was in Caesarea that Peter baptized Cornelius the centurion and his household, the first known baptism of a gentile convert to Christianity. Paul visited here between his second and third missionary journeys and was later imprisoned here before being sent to Rome. From there we proceed to Jerusalem and check into our hotel. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. (B,D)

DAY 9 **TEMPLE MOUNT/VIA DOLOROSA/CAIAPHAS' PALACE/MOUNT OF OLIVES/GETHSEMANE**
This morning we begin with a visit to the Temple Mount (political situation permitting) for a closer look at the Dome of the Rock. Nearby we visit St. Anne's Church and the Pools of Bethesda. From there we follow the traditional path of the Via Dolorosa. We see the remains of the Antonia Fortress beneath the Sisters of Zion convent and then continue along the route Jesus took between his condemnation by Pilate and his crucifixion and burial. The route concludes at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We continue to Caiaphas' palace, where Jesus was first brought before the high priest. Then we cross the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives, which offers iconic views of the Old City. We follow the "Palm Sunday Walk," tracing the traditional route Christ took on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Partway down the hill we pause at the Dominus Flevit chapel which commemorates the Lord's weeping over Jerusalem. We continue on to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed while his disciples slept on the night of his arrest. A garden-like courtyard full of ancient olive trees has been preserved next to the Church of All Nations, also known as the Church of the Agony. After this time of reflection, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

- DAY 10** **RAMPART WALK/CITY OF DAVID/
WESTERN WALL/DAVIDSON CENTER/
MOUNT ZION/GARDEN TOMB/DEAD SEA SCROLLS**
Our morning begins with a walk atop a portion of the Old City Walls, allowing us enjoying this unique perspective of Jerusalem. Then we continue to the City of David, the original core of the ancient city where Jerusalem was born. Here we explore ancient shafts, pass through the water systems, view walls and fortresses that protected ancient Israelites, and see the Gihon Spring, a vital water source that fed the Pool of Siloam. We proceed to the Western Wall, the most holy place accessible to the Jewish people. Then we visit the nearby Davidson Center, situated at the entrance to the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, one of the largest and most significant archaeological sites in the country. There we climb the "Southern Steps" leading to the original main entrance of the Temple Mount in the Second Temple period - stairs that Jesus would have climbed when he visited the temple in Jerusalem. From there we go to Mount Zion and the traditional Room of the Last Supper. Then we visit Gordon's Calvary and the Garden Tomb, where we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Later this afternoon, we drive past the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament building, and visit the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, which houses the original Dead Sea Scrolls. We also take some time to view the scale model of Jerusalem in the 1st century. After our time here, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)
- DAY 11** **MASADA/QUMRAN/DEAD SEA/
HERODION/BETHLEHEM**
We check out of our hotel and go first to the majestic fortress of Masada, constructed by Herod the Great on top of a rocky plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. We ride the cable car to the top to explore the ruins and learn about the huge storerooms and cisterns that enabled Jewish defenders to stay well-provisioned for several years while under siege by the Romans following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD. After riding the cable car back down the mountain, we drive to Qumran to view caves where some of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Time permitting, we have the opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea. This afternoon we visit Herodian, a cone-shaped hill near Bethlehem where Herod the Great built a fortress and palace, and where he was buried. At the base of the hill, Herod built a kind of royal "country club," including a large pool, a bathhouse, and a roofed pool, surrounded by magnificent gardens. Later this afternoon we proceed to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B,D)
- DAY 12** **BETHLEHEM**
We spend the full day in Bethlehem where we visit the Church of the Nativity, built over the traditional site of the birth of Christ and recently renovated to highlight the vibrant mosaics on its interior walls. Then we drive by the Field of Shepherds, where the angel announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds. We also spend some time today meeting with local Palestinian Christians. Overnight is at our hotel in Bethlehem. (B)
- DAY 13** **TEL AVIV**
This morning we check out of our hotel and drive to the Mediterranean coast to Tel Aviv, which was founded on the outskirts of Jaffa (biblical Joppa) in 1909 and today encompasses the ancient port city. Here we have the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight are at our seafront hotel. (B,D)
- DAY 14** **JAFFA/TEL AVIV/ATHENS**
Today we explore Jaffa, visiting one of the oldest functioning harbors in the world, the port to which Jonah came when fleeing from the Lord to Tarshish. We also visit the Church of St. Peter, marking the traditional site of Peter's vision of a large sheet filled with animals being lowered from heaven as he was praying on the roof. Following our visit we enjoy some free time along the picturesque seafront Promenade. Later this afternoon we transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Athens. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel for check-in and overnight. (B)
- DAY 15** **ACROPOLIS/MARS HILL/AGORA/PNYX**
Today we explore Athens, beginning with a city tour on which we see Embassy Row, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Palace, the House of Parliament, and the University. We visit the Acropolis with the Parthenon shimmering in its ageless grace and unmatched design and the unique Erechtheion (the only double temple). Nearby we climb the Areopagus (Mars Hill), where Paul addressed the philosophic court about Jesus and the resurrection. We see the ancient Agora, a marketplace that contained temples, courts, and other public buildings. We also visit the Pnyx, the meeting place of the world's first ever democratic legislature, the Athenian ekklesia (assembly), where as many as 20,000 citizens could gather to participate in the proceedings. We conclude our afternoon with a visit to the Acropolis Museum, located on the southeastern slope of the Acropolis hill, just 400 meters from the Parthenon. Dedicated to displaying artifacts found on the archaeological site of the Acropolis, its collection includes nearly 4,000 objects. From there we return to our hotel, with dinner on your own. (B)
- DAY 16, MON, MAY 18** **ATHENS**
Enjoy the full day at leisure to explore Athens on your own. (B)
- DAY 17, TUE, MAY 19** **DELPHI/ATHENS**
Site of the famed Oracle, Delphi's prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic world. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollos Pythios. We visit the treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo and the museum containing such masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture as the bronze charioteer and the famous Athlete Aghias. On our way back to Athens we visit a pottery workshop for a pottery-wheel demonstration. Return to Athens with dinner on your own this evening and overnight at our hotel. (B)
- DAY 18, WED, MAY 20** **CORINTH/ATHENS**
Today we drive to Corinth, the capital of the Roman province of Achaia and the city of Paul's extensive personal ministry and challenging letter writing. Dominated by the Acro-corinth rising 1700 feet above the ruins, the Market Place is still laid out as it was in Paul's day with its stone Bema (judgment dais) where Gallio refused to condemn Paul (Acts 18). Nearby in a prominent place is the Temple of Apollo with its Doric columns. A superb collection of Corinthian artifacts greets the visitor in the museum. This afternoon we return to Athens. Dinner is on your own this evening with overnight at our hotel. (B)
- DAY 19, THU, MAY 21** **ATHENS/USA**
This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the USA. (B, meals aloft)



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