

Bible Land Expedition, Israel Tour 2024

11-24 April (11 Touring Days)

\$6,575 (airfare not included)

ITINERARY:

Travel Day (Thu, April 11) Traveling to Israel.

Travel Day (Fri, April 12) Meet at the Carlton Hotel in Tel Aviv.

Tour Day 1 (Sat, April 13) Mediterranean coast: Caesarea Maritima, Roman aqueduct. Jezreel Valley: Megiddo, Jezreel; Harod Spring. Overnight northern Israel, Pastoral Kfar Blum Hotel.

Tour Day 2 (Sun, April 14) Northern Canaan/Israel: Dan, Abel Beth Maacah, Caesarea Philippi (Banyas), Mount Hermon (Majdal Shams). Overnight northern Israel, Pastoral Kfar Blum Hotel.

Tour Day 3 (Mon, April 15) Lower Galilee: Magdala, Kinneret/Ginnosar ('Jesus' boat), Capernaum, Korazin, Bethsaida. Overnight Tiberias, Scots Hotel.

Tour Day 4 (Tue, April 16) Boat around the Sea of Galilee from En Gev—fronting Kursi, Bethsaida, Capernaum, Kinneret, and Magdala—to Tiberias; Arbel panorama. Overnight Tiberias, Scots Hotel.

Tour Day 5 (Wed, April 17) The Upper Galilee: Hazor, Gamla. Bashan/Gaulanitis: Peace Vista panorama. Overnight Tiberias, Scots Hotel.

Tour Day 6 (Thu, April 18) The Jordan Valley: Beth Shan, Jericho. Central Highlands: Shiloh. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Tour Day 7 (Fri, April 19) Dead Sea Valley: Masada, En Gedi, Qumran, Dead Sea. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Tour Day 8 (Sat, April 20) The Shephelah and Philistine territory: Beth Shemesh, Lachish, Elah Valley, Azekah, Gath. Mediterranean coast: Ashkelon. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Tour Day 9 (Sun, April 21) OT & NT Jerusalem: City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel/Canaanite water system, Siloam Pool, Tyropoean 'valley' steps and drainage, SW Temple Mount Excavations. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Tour Day 10 (Mon, April 22) NT Jerusalem: Herod's palace (David Citadel)/Pilate's residence/palace, Western Wall Tunnel, Wohl Museum (Herodian Villas), Byzantine Cardo. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Tour Day 11 (Tue, April 23) Jerusalem & environs: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Damascus Gate, Israel Museum. Overnight Jerusalem, Mamilla Hotel.

Travel Day (Wed, April 24)

Other sites may be included as possible, and there may be some shifting of the itinerary as needed.

Your guides/teachers for this tour are:

Dr Steven Collins,

Director, PhD Program Chair, The School of Archaeology, Veritas International University
Director & Chief Archaeologist, Tall el-Hammam/Sodom Excavation Project
Consulting Research Professor, The College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University
Over 30 years of archaeological work in Israel, Palestine, Jordan; Bible scholar; best-selling author

Dr Gary Byers

Dean, The College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University
Senior Archaeologist, The Shiloh Excavations
Assistant Director, Tall el-Hammam/Sodom Excavation Project
Over 30 years of archaeological work in Israel, Palestine, Jordan; Bible scholar; professor

To sign up for BLE 2024, contact Dr Glenda Austin: email admin@tsu-edu.us; phone 505-332-4253. She will guide you through the process.

Itinerary price includes expert lecturer-guides, hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, site to site transportation, site passes, hotel transfers, tips, taxes, exit fees.

Early Bird (first 25 registrants) Price: \$5575 (airfare not included); \$1,500 down payment required; balance is due on or before 12 January 2024.

Full Tour Price: \$6575 (airfare not included); \$1,500 down payment due at booking; balance is due on or before 12 January 2024.

Single Room Supplement: \$2,990.

Prices are subject to change until your balance is paid in full.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: For this tour: 100% of cancellation fees are usually covered by travel insurance, provided the premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is insurable. Those who do not purchase travel insurance should be aware of the following cancellation penalties relative to the down payment and funds collected by BLE toward the tour: from the day of registration a \$250 non-refundable administration fee applies. Excluding the \$250.00 administration fee: for cancellation 90 or more days prior to scheduled arrival 75% of the amount paid is refundable; for cancellation 60-89 days prior to scheduled arrival 50% of the amount paid is refundable; for cancellation 30-59 days prior to scheduled arrival 25% of the amount paid is refundable; for cancellation 0-29 days prior to scheduled arrival there is no refund. If the tour is cancelled by BLE for any reason, 100% of the amount paid is refundable, less the \$250 non-refundable administrative fee.

WHY BLE?

Countless churches and organizations offer Holy Land Tours. But the title "Holy Land Tour" is where the similarity often ends. The fact is, few tours do what a BLE tour does. Our guides and lecturers are expert Bible scholars and archaeologists, not local guides trained to cater to religious pilgrims as opposed to people interested in real biblical history and the archaeology that reveals it so dramatically. Not only will you experience the Holy Land's breathtaking panoramas and biblical sites, but also you'll see minute details illuminating biblical stories, subtleties that only expert eyes can reveal. BLE tours also balance both Old and New Testament history. We also limit group size to a single bus (unlike many of the large tours that have multiple buses and spend more time waiting at restroom stops than actually visiting sites!), which is a real plus. The 2024 theme, "Discovering the Biblical World," focuses on great biblical characters like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Kings David and Solomon, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Your Bible will never read the same again! Availability is limited, so reserve your place today by contacting Dr Glenda Austin at admin@tsu-edu.us, or by phone at 505-332-4253.

TEACHERS/GUIDES:

Steven Collins, PhD, is among the world's foremost biblical archaeologists. He is Director of the School of Archaeology at Veritas International University, and serves as Consulting Research Professor in the College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University. Also a Bible scholar, Dr Collins teaches Old and New Testament history, biblical languages, biblical interpretation, and Christian apologetics. He is also Director and Chief Archaeologist of the Tall el-Hammam/Sodom excavations in Jordan which recently completed its 16th season. A prolific and best-selling author, he has written numerous articles in professional journals and magazines (including *Biblical Archaeology Review*), and many books including *Discovering the City of Sodom* (Simon & Schuster 2013) and the award-winning *Harvest Handbook of Bible Lands* (Harvest House Publishers 2019) for which he was co-editor and principal author. A professional member of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), he's been excavating in and leading tours of Israel and Jordan for over 30 years. Dr Collins is a much-sought-after speaker/teacher, and is featured in numerous documentary films airing on the National Geographic, Discovery, History, and Travel Channels. His long archaeological career has focused on demonstrating the historical accuracy and authenticity of the Bible.

Gary Byers, PhD, is a leading biblical archaeologist and Dean of the College of Archaeology & Biblical History at Trinity Southwest University. Also a Bible scholar and teacher, he is a Senior Archaeologist and Assistant Director of the Tall el-Hammam/Sodom excavations in Jordan, and Senior Archaeologist at the Shiloh excavations in Israel/Palestine. He has also excavated at Tel Mikne (Ekron), Khirbet Nysia, and Khirbet el Maqatir (Ai). Dr Byers has over 35 years of experience excavating in Israel and Jordan, as well as leading dozens of tours through the lands of the Bible. He contributed several articles to the *Harvest Handbook of Bible Lands* (Harvest House Publishers 2019), and has written numerous articles for archaeological publications. Dr Byers speaks widely on the subject of biblical archaeology, and is on the board of directors of the Near East Archaeological Society (NEAS) for which he also serves as Program Chair.