



**October 2018 Intensive Explorations in the Holy Land
Itinerary with Red Sea
October 3-25, 2018**

Faculty: Dann Hone and Shirley Hone

Price \$3600 Based on 8 full paying participants (Land Price only)

Includes Negev & Red Sea

This in-depth Intensive Explorations International Travel Studies Institute program is much more than a tour. The order of visiting sites is chosen mainly to progress through, first, the Old, and then the New Testament with emphasis on biblical lifestyles. A portion of most days will be devoted to lectures, discussions, and other study activities held mainly on the bus and at various sites, with the focus being on the scriptures but also on giving other historical and cultural insights to this land and its peoples. Added to this unique itinerary is a journey through the Negev and the Red Sea. Field study experiences include special activities that will help participants re-live the times of the Biblical world.

Days 1-2
Wednesday-
Thursday
October 3-4

U.S.A. • Transatlantic Flight • Tel Aviv, Israel • Jerusalem

Fly from the U.S.A. and arrive the next afternoon at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv. Drive to Jerusalem and pass some biblical sites on the way. Check-in to the Holy Land Hotel for three nights.

Day 3
Friday
October 5

Introduction to Biblical Life Styles: Neot Kedumim • Jerusalem Orientation • Moslem Prayer Day • Opening of Jewish Sabbath

Arising early, our studies of Biblical lifestyles begin with a morning visit to the world's only Biblical Nature reserve, **Neot Kedumim**. Its entire purpose is to connect the words and the history of the Bible to the reality of the present. As we walk the nature reserve, expert guides will lead us through an exciting experimental experience introducing us to the day-to-day life in Biblical times. At noon, we return to **Jerusalem** and begin a brief orientation to the city, its money changers, markets, and transportation systems, to enable participants in their free time to get around the city with much more ease. Buying a *shawarma* or *falafel* sandwich for lunch in East Jerusalem, exchanging money at **Aladin's**, walking through **the Old City** on the Moslem prayer day, and riding the new light rail to **Mahaneh Yehuda** (the West Jerusalem Jewish Market) as the Jewish community prepares for the Sabbath that begins at sunset is part of our orientation to both ancient and modern cultures in the Holy Land. A late dinner will be provided at our hotel. For those who desire, we will walk in the early evening (5:30 pm) to **the Western Wall (Ha Kotel)** of the **Harem esh-Sharif** or Jerusalem Temple Mount to watch the Jews invite the Sabbath's beginning.

Day 4
(Sabbath) Saturday
October 6

Jewish and LDS Sabbath Day: Panoramas of Jerusalem • Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies (BYU) • The Tower of David Museum • Begin Studies of Abraham and the Patriarchs

After Breakfast, we depart for the vistas around Jerusalem (the **Promenade** near Talpiot, the **Mount of Olives** near the Seven Arches Hotel, and the **BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies**). We will attend the LDS services at the BYU Center, and then we transfer to **Jaffa Gate** and the **Tower of David Museum** for a historical overview of the history of the Holy Land. Walking back to our hotel, other significant sites will be seen. Dinner at the hotel, will be followed by our **evening fireside discussion on "the Patriarchs"**. We also will need to pack our bags for our excursion into the Negev following the ancient Patriarchs and a portion of the Exodus route of the Children of Israel.

Day 5
Sunday
October 7

Way of the Patriarchs, south • Hebron • Beersheba • Nitsanna & Be'erotayim (Kadesh Barnea)

Our focus for the Southern Judea and Negev journeys will be on the life of the prophet Abraham and his family, and the Exodus of the Children of Israel. We begin our study of Abraham by driving south along **the Way of the Patriarchs** and learn where Abraham lived and was buried as we first stop in **Hebron at the cave of Machpelah**. If possible **visit pottery shops**. Head further south to **Lahav and the Bedouin Museum of the Negev to learn of Bedouin lifestyles**. We then drive to **Beersheba** to see the Old Testament tel and discuss more of the events in the life of Abraham and his family, including the instructions to take Isaac to Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice. Continuing further south to **Nitsanna** and the **Khan at Be'erotayim** near the site of ancient **Kadesh Barnea** where the children of Israel spent most of their years during the Exodus. We will

spend the night at the Khan in the **Bedouin style guesthouses using sleeping bags**. Our dinner will include a Bedouin style meal followed by a discussion on the life of Moses and the Exodus.

Day 6
Monday
October 8

The Exodus • Camel Trek • Sde Boker • Avdat • Mizpah Ramon

After an early breakfast we will take a **short camel caravan tour** led by the staff of Khan Be'erotayim. During the camel-ride, we will learn about the ancient settlements and agriculture; the adaptation of flora and fauna to the desert climate; survival in the desert; the vital need for water; the spice-route caravans and other fascinating stories about the people of the desert. We then continue further south to **David Ben Gurion's Kibbutz, Sde Boker**, and his burial site. Our next visit takes us to **Avdat, an early Nabatean fortress**. Our final stop will be at **Mizpah Ramon** overlooking the largest crater of Israel.

Day 7
Tuesday
October 9

The Exodus (continued) • Timna • Tabernacle of Moses Model • Eilat

After a very early breakfast, we will head south along through **the Ramon crater** and discuss suggested sites of the Exodus and Mount Sinai. We will head south to **the copper mines of Solomon at Timna**. Also, here is the famous **reconstruction of the Tabernacle of Moses**. **The Tabernacle Project** is the only life size model of its kind in Israel. It has been researched extensively and built according to specifications given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Our evening dinner and overnight will be at **Eilat**, the most southern city and only Israeli port on **the Red Sea**

Day 8
Wednesday
October 10

Eilat • Underwater Observatory Marine Park • Snorkeling

Our morning will be reserved for enjoying what many call the most **beautiful coral reefs** in the world or just sleeping in and savoring a late breakfast. We will visit the **Underwater Observatory Marine Park in Eilat**. Even for those who like shallow waters and are novices at snorkeling, the abundance of multi-colored tropical fish and corals will be astounding. Across the Jordanian border is the port city of **Aqaba**, located near the ancient port of **Ezion-geber** which was used by the Queen of Sheba in the days of King Solomon. From the beaches of Eilat, we will be able to see four national borders – Egypt and the Sinai, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel.

Day 9
Thursday
October 11

Eilat • Aravah • Dead Sea • Masada • Ein Gedi • Qumran • Jericho

We arise early before heading north along the great rift valley known as **the Aravah** until we reach **Zohar** and **the Dead Sea**, 1,330 feet below sea level. Our first stop will be in **the Dead Sea Wilderness** and discuss the stories of Sodom and Gomorrah. We then proceed further north along the Dead Sea to stop at the ancient mountaintop fortress built by King Herod, **Masada**. We will ride the tram to the top or some may choose to climb the hill. We will explore the ruins there. The tram will return us to the bottom (or others may hike down) where we will explore the museum and learn more of the history, especially the Jewish tragedy of their revolt against Rome. Time permitting, we will see **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul. We will also visit **Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found**, and learn more of their history and content. We will stop at the Dead Sea and one of the most **unusual swimming experiences** of a lifetime. The Jericho Resort Hotel will be a welcome stay for us.

Day 10
Friday
October 12

Conquest Routes: Jericho • Nablus • Shiloh • Way of the Patriarchs, north • Jerusalem

Our focus today and tomorrow will be on the entry of Joshua and the Children of Israel into the Holy Land. We will also review the period of the early Israelite history during the period of the judges and the early monarchy. Our visits will depend on current safety conditions. After an early breakfast, we will visit **Old Testament Jericho** at **Tel es-Sultan**. Leaving Jericho, we will drive up **the Jordan Valley** and then proceed north past where Abraham first entered the Promised Land and, later, his grandson Jacob. Our first stop will be **Nablus, or ancient Shechem (Tel Balatah)**, where Abraham built his first altar to worship the Lord (Gen. 12:1–7). We will view **Mount Gerizim** and **Mount Ebal** from the tel and discuss how the Lord taught the children of Israel about the blessings or cursings they would receive depending on their obedience (Deut. 27, 28). We will next visit **Jacob's Well**, not only to discuss Jacob, but also to see where the Savior had His insightful discussion with the woman at the well (John 4:5–42). We will then visit **the Samaritan Museum**, followed by a visit with a Muslim woman to learn more about her religion. If time allows, we will drive to **Samaria** to discuss the later history of the Northern kingdom. As we return to Jerusalem, along what was called in biblical times "**the Way of the Patriarchs**," we will stop at **Shiloh**, where the ark of the covenant was kept in the tabernacle for many years and discuss the prophet Samuel. We return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight at the Holy Land Hotel. An evening a short class and discussion will be held.

Day 11
Saturday (Sabbath)
October 13

Jerusalem • Bible Lands Museum • Israel National Museum • Model City of Jerusalem • Shrine of the Book • Bethlehem

After breakfast, we will transfer to **West Jerusalem** and the **Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem** and **the Israel National Museum**. On our way, we will pass the **Knesset Building**, where the Israeli parliament meets, stop to see the **National Menorah** before our visit to the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem and the Israel National

Museum, which includes the **Shrine of the Book** (the museum of the Dead Sea Scrolls) and the wonderfully re-created **Model City of Jerusalem**, which portrays the city as it looked near the time of Jesus. We will then go to **Bethlehem** to see the **Church of the Nativity** (traditional site of the birth of Jesus), visit a grotto which overlooks a **shepherds' field**, and discuss the wonderful events of His birth. We will have a brief testimony sharing time in the grotto, remembering this is a Sabbath Day. We return to the Holy Land Hotel for dinner and overnight rest.

Day 12
Sunday
October 14

Shephelah • Valley of Elah • Beit Guvrin • Lachish • Bethlehem

Our day will begin with a 6:00 a.m. breakfast in order that we may leave early to some of the heavy traffic. After breakfast we will board our motor coach and travel southwest from the hill country of Judah to the valleys of **the Shephelah**, where many of the Old and New Testament events occurred. Our first stop will be **the Sorek**, where Samson (from **Zorah**) and Delilah (from **Timnah**) were born. We will stop for a recounting of these and other stories from the book of Judges at the ancient tel of **Beth Shemesh**, where the Ark of the Covenant was delivered from the Philistines. Traversing the low hills (Shephelah) our next stopping point is in **the Valley of Elah**, where David met the mighty Philistine, Goliath. We, too, will use a sling to try our luck at hitting a target. The high ruins of **Azekah** loom over us as we recount these significant events. Continuing across the Shephelah we pass below the hometown of Micah (**Maresha Gat**) in route to visit the Bell Caves and the Sidonian-Idumean city of **Maresha**. (The Herodian family came from here.) The ancient fortress of **Lachish** is our final stop in the Shephelah We will travel back towards the edge of the Shephelah and pass by the ruins of **Gath** and **Ekron**. These sites have been excavated with the help of BYU faculty and students. The final valley of the Shephelah in our travels will be **the Aijalon**, where Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still for the children of Israel. Passing **Beth Horon**, we mount the Benjamin Plateau and pass the ancient site of **Gibeon** for our final stop at **Nebi Samwil** (traditional burial site of the Prophet Samuel and place where Solomon prayed for wisdom) on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem. From here we can see nearly all **the Benjamin Plateau**, where geographically 67 percent of Old Testament history occurred. Our final journey will bring us back to Jerusalem. Dinner and an evening discussion class will be given before we retire to our beds at the Holy Land Hotel.

Day 13
Monday
October 15

Jerusalem • Old City • Holy Mount • City of David • Hezekiah's Tunnel

Our day begins with an early morning walk through the Old City to visit the **Temple Mount**, which is located atop Mount Moriah—the place where Abraham took Isaac to offer him as a sacrifice. It was also the site of the temples of Solomon and later Herod; today it is occupied by the magnificent **Dome of the Rock** and the **El Aksa Mosque**, making this city the third most sacred site in all the world of Islam. We'll visit **the Western Wall** to observe Jewish worship and **Bar Mitzvahs** and **the Ha Kotel Excavations**. We then climb the stairs to the Jewish Quarter to visit **the Temple Institute and the Wohl Archaeological Museum** before having some free time to shop and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, we will walk down to **the Davidson Center** to learn more about the Holy Mount at the time of Jesus. Departing through Dung Gate we go to the excavated **City of David**. Here we will watch a movie of the history of this important Old Testament site. We then walk down to see more ruins and then down to **Warren's Shaft and into Hezekiah's Tunnel** – the ancient water system carved through the hill at the time of Isaiah. We'll continue to **the Pool of Siloam**, site of one of Jesus' miracles (John 9). After we return to the hotel, we may have some free time before we eat dinner. We will have a class this evening.

Day 14
Tuesday
October 16

Jericho • Judean Wilderness • Qasr el Yehud • Jordan River Valley • Beit Shean • Nazareth

Our morning travels will take us down toward **the Jordan River Valley** once again. Leaving Jerusalem, we will follow the Old Roman Way through **the Judean Wilderness** that Christ walked with his disciples. Overlooking the **Wadi Quelt** we will read more of the Psalms and parables of the scriptures. Returning to **Jericho**, we will view, and ascend **the Mount of Temptation**. We will talk further of the Savior's temptations. We will then drive out to **Qasr el Yahud** to not only discuss the children of Israel's miraculous crossing the Jordan River (as did two later prophets), but also the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. We'll have an hour on the bus up the valley to discuss other biblical events as we drive to **Beit Shean** for lunch and a view of the Old Testament tel and the post-New Testament city. And then, if all goes well, we will visit **Gideon Springs** and discuss the battle between Gideon and the Midianites. We will then cross the Jezreel Valley and ascend **the Nazareth Hills of Lower Galilee** to our accommodations in the boyhood town of the Savior, **Nazareth**. next to the Church of the Nativity at **the Convent of the Sisters of Nazareth** for dinner and overnight.

Day 15
Wednesday
October 17

Nazareth • Church of the Annunciation • Nazareth Village • Mount Tabor • Mount Arbel Overlook

After breakfast, we will walk to the **Church of the Annunciation** and **the Church of Saint Joseph**. We then proceed to the **Nazareth Village** to step back in time in a wonderful re-creation of first-century life in a small Galilean village. **Lunch will be a First Century style served at Nazareth Village**. We will pass through the village of Devaria, where we will take taxis to the top of **Mount Tabor**, the traditional site of Christ's

transfiguration. We will spend time discussing the many events that may have happened here. Passing through **the Galilean Hills** we will come to **Mount Arbel** for a panoramic view of **the Sea of Galilee**, and going through **Tiberias**, we head to the eastern shore to reach Ein Gev Holiday Resort, where we will have a delicious kosher dinner, followed by a class on the Savior's early Galilean ministry.

Day 16
Thursday
October 18

Sea of Galilee • Magdala • Nof Ginnosar • Capernaum • Mount of Beatitudes • St. Peter's Primacy

This morning begins with a **boat ride across the Sea of Galilee** to **Nof Ginnosar** to see their small museum and a **First Century fishing** boat like the ones Jesus and His apostles used. We will then make a stop at **Magdala**, and stand in an actual synagogue where the Savior and His apostles taught in. Our next stop is at the site of ancient **Capernaum**, Peter's home and the headquarters for Jesus' Galilean ministry, where there are more events mentioned in the gospels than any other location. We will drive to the probable location of **Bethsaida**, the birthplace of Peter and Andrew and near where the feeding of the 5,000 took place. Matt. 11:21-24 lists three cities upbraided by Jesus where "most of his mighty works were done . . . because they repented not." We continue to **Chorazin** to visit the ruins of that third city. In the afternoon, we will visit the **Mount of Beatitudes** to study the Sermon on the Mount. This evening's class will continue our studies of the Savior's Galilean ministry.

Day 17
Friday
October 19

Kursi • Bethsaida • Tel Qatzrin & Golan Museum • Hula Valley • Hazor • Banias • Bental • Golan Heights

After breakfast, we will drive north into **Upper Galilee** past the site of the casting of devils into swine, **Kursi** where the 4000 were fed with the multiplication of loaves and fishes by Christ, where our first stop will be at the ruins of the **Talmudic village of Tel Qatzrin** and the **Golan Museum**. In the Hulah Valley we will pass the Old Testament ruins of **Hazor**, an ancient Canaanite citadel conquered by Joshua. We will continue to **Tel Dan**, the ancient northern limits of Israel ("from Dan to Beersheba") to see some Old Testament ruins, including a gateway that dates to the time of Abraham, and one of the headwaters of the Jordan River. Here we will follow the paths of the rain-forest like park. Our next visit is the ruins of **Banias, ancient Caesarea Philippi**, at the foot of **Mount Hermon** to discuss the sacred events of Matthew 16 and see another source of the Jordan River. We drive up to **the Golan Heights**, home of most of **the Druze** population of Israel as well as the scene of fierce fighting between Israel and Syria in 1967 and again in 1973. Our view from **Mount Bental**, a former IDF fortification, will be impressive. We will return to the guesthouse, where we will enjoy an evening including a short class and swimming and prepare for departure from the Galilee region the next morning.

Day 18
Saturday (Sabbath)
October 20

This is a day to do special things, enjoy the Sea and discuss the scriptures and ministry of Christ – possibly visit **Tiberias markets** for lunch foods, travel to the northern **limits of the west coast of Israel, from Akko to Rosh Hanikrah**. **Fish dinner** and relaxing evening.

Day 19
Sunday
October 21

Sepphoris • Megiddo • Haifa • Dor (Nahsholim)

After breakfast, we will travel south around the Sea of Galilee and past **Hamat Tiberias** and the modern city of **Tiberias**. Passing through Tiberias, we climb the Galilean hills to **Mount Arbel** for our last view of the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights before crossing the Nazareth Hills. We will pass **the Horns of Hittin** and have a view across the **Beit Netofa Valley** to the site of **Cana**, where Jesus turned the water to wine. We continue to **Sepphoris** where we will see the interesting remains of the city that was the capital of the Galilee in the days of Jesus. We view **Nain**, where Jesus brought a mother's son back to life—like what Elisha did many years ago nearby. We next visit some important Old Testament sites starting with **Megiddo**, the fortress overlooking the historic **Jezreel Valley**. This site also gives us pause to discuss some future events and then travel to **Mukhraka** where Elijah had his confrontation with the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18). We then drive up on **Mount Carmel** for a breathtaking view of the city from **Kaiser's Watch** and recount the important LDS Church historical events which took place in this area. We will view some of the beautiful **Baha'i gardens** and their temple. The day will end with a visit to the **Old German Templar Cemetery**, where two LDS missionaries and some Church members are buried. We leave the city and drive south along the Mediterranean Coast to the ancient port of **Dor** at the Guest House of **Nahsholim** on **the Mediterranean Sea** coast for dinner and overnight. Some who are energetic and not tired from the day's travels may choose to walk along the private Mediterranean beach or swim in its waters

Day 20
Monday
October 22

Tel Dor • Mediterranean Coast • Caesarea • Jaffa • Jerusalem

After an Israeli kosher breakfast, some may choose an **early morning swim** while others visit the ancient site of **Tel Dor**, where it is recorded that some of the cedars of Lebanon for Solomon's Temple were delivered by the Phoenician king Hiram of Tyre. Today Kibbutz Nahsholim is the headquarters of **the Underwater Archaeological Excavation Society of Israel** and houses **HaMizgaga - Museum of Archaeology and Glass**, a unique museum, which we will visit. Following our check-out from the guesthouse, we will travel south to

Caesarea Maritima, the eastern Mediterranean capital of the Roman Empire for 600 years and a city where Peter and Paul were held in prison. The Roman theater, hippodrome, and aqueducts will spark our interest. We continue south to Tel Aviv, and if we have not done so earlier, visit Jaffa to recount the experiences of Jonah and Peter and see **the Old Jaffa Visitors Center**. Our dinner and overnight will be once again at Holy Land Hotel where our first night began on our journeys.

Day 21
Tuesday
October 23

Jerusalem • Footsteps of Jesus

Today will prove to be an unforgettable experience as we begin to tread the footsteps of the Savior, reviewing the last events of His mortal ministry. We begin our day with a drive to the ancient village of **Bethany**, where we will visit the **Tomb of Lazarus** and the traditional site of the home where he lived with his sisters, Mary and Martha. We will stop at the **Mount of Olives** village of **Bethpage** where Jesus' disciples prepared a colt for His Triumphal ride into Jerusalem. Our next stop is a visit to **Mount Zion** and the **Upper Room**, where a Passover meeting was held with Jesus and the Twelve and the sacrament was introduced. In the **Garden of Gethsemane**, centuries old olive trees will remind us of the sacred account of our Savior's suffering and arrest. We will then return to Mount Zion, the traditional site of the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, at **St. Peter's in Gallicantu**, where the Savior was illegally tried after His arrest in Gethsemane. We enter **Lion's Gate**, through which we walk to **the Pool of Bethesda** area to discuss the events in John 5, before going on to the general area of the **Antonia Fortress**, where Jesus was sentenced to be crucified. (

Day 22
Wednesday
October 24

Jerusalem • Last Hours of the Savior's Life • His Resurrection

After breakfast, we will walk to **Gordon's Calvary or Golgotha**, the place of the Crucifixion— and conclude at the **Garden Tomb**, where many believe the body of Christ was interred and from which He rose on that Easter Sunday so long ago. Following our visit and the brief services we will go to **the Orson Hyde memorial Gardens** and discuss the Future events leading to the Second coming of Christ. The remainder of the day will be for packing and enjoying our stay in the Holy Land.

Day 23
Thursday
October 25

Tel Aviv • U.S.A.

Participant Price includes:

- Motor coach transportation
- Accommodations in moderate-class hotels and guest houses
- Visiting sites as outlined on the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Gratuities
- Breakfasts and dinners
- Headset
- ITSI Educational packet each & 1 Kindle Fire 7" tablet per couple

Participant Price does not include:

- Round-trip airfare to Tel Aviv
- Sightseeing not included on the group itinerary
- Additional hotel accommodations outside group travel
- Items of a personal nature (i.e., phone calls, room service, e-mails, etc.)
- Additional travel insurance and cancellation waiver
- Lunches (except where indicated)
- Additional Kindle Tablet extra \$40