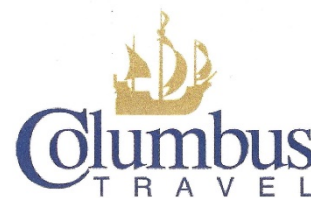




Intensive Explorations in the Holy Land
February 10-March 4, 2021
Faculty: Dann W Hone
Price \$TBA Based on 15 full paying participants
Includes Negev & Red Sea



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 discussions and other study activities held mainly on the bus and at various sites, with the focus being on the scriptures as well as 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** **U.S.A. • Transatlantic Flight • Tel Aviv, Israel • Jerusalem**
 Wed.-Thurs. Fly from the U.S.A. and arrive the next afternoon at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv. Drive to
 February 10-11 Jerusalem and pass some biblical sites on the way. Check-in to the Holy Land Hotel for three nights.
- Day 3** **Biblical Lifestyles Introduced: Neot Kedumim • Jerusalem Orientation • Moslem Prayer Day • Jewish Sabbath**
 Friday Arising early, our studies of Biblical lifestyles begin with a morning visit **to the world's only Biblical Nature reserve,**
 February 12 **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. Before 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 **Aladdin's Exchange**, 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 (5:00 pm) to **the**
Western Wall (Ha Kotel) of the **Harem es-Sharif** or Jerusalem Temple Mount to **watch the Jews invite the**
Sabbath's beginning.
- Day 4** **Jewish and LDS Sabbath Day: Panoramas of Jerusalem • Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies (BYU) • The**
 Sat. (Sabbath) **Tower of David Museum • Begin Studies of Abraham and the Patriarchs**
 February 13 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** **Way of the Patriarchs, south • Hebron • Lahav • Beersheba • Nitsanei Sinai (Kadesh Barnea) & Be'erotayim**
 Sunday Our focus for the southern Judea and Negev journeys will be on the life of the prophet Abraham and his family,
 February 14 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 stopping in **Hebron at the cave of Machpelah [burial**
sites of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob (Israel), and Leah]. If possible **visit pottery/glass-blowing shops,**
 before going 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 **Nitsanei**
Sinai 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 spend the night at **the Khan** in the **Bedouin style guesthouses using sleeping**
bags. Our dinner includes a **Bedouin style meal** followed by a discussion on the life of Moses and the Exodus.
- Day 6** **The Exodus • Camel Trek • Sde Boker • Avdat • Mizpah Ramon**
 Monday After an early breakfast, we will take a **short camel caravan tour** led by the staff of **Khan Be'erotayim.** During the
 February 15 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. After lunch at the Khan 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**
 magnificently preserved on the top of a mesa. Our final stop will be at **Mizpah Ramon** overlooking the largest
 crater of Israel.

- Day 7
Tuesday
February 16
- The Exodus (continued) • Timna • Tabernacle of Moses Model • Eilat**
After breakfast, we go to the **Maktesh Ramon Observatory and Museum** before departing south through **the Ramon crater** and discuss suggested sites of the Exodus and Mount Sinai. Reaching the rift Valley called the **Arabah** (possibly a similar trek area of the Family of Lehi), we 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
February 17
- Eilat • Underwater Observatory Marine Park • Snorkeling**
Our morning will be reserved for enjoying what many call “some of 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 and possible route of Lehi in the desert. 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
February 18
- 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
February 19
- Conquest Routes: Jericho • Shiloh • Nablus • 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 we will stop at **Shiloh**, where the ark of the covenant was kept in the tabernacle for many years and discuss the prophet Samuel. Next, we proceed to **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 arrive at our Jerusalem Holy Land Hotel for dinner and overnight. In the evening a short class to be held.
- Day 11
Sat. (Sabbath)
February 20
- Jerusalem • Israel National Museum • Model City of Jerusalem • Shrine of the Book • Bethlehem**
After breakfast, we will transfer to **West 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 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. In the afternoon, we begin our studies of the New Testament and 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 return to the Holy Land Hotel for dinner and overnight rest.
- Day 12
Sunday
February 21
- Shephelah • Beth Shemesh • Valley of Elah • Beit Guvrin • Lachish**
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 **Timna**) 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

- (Continue
Day 12
Sunday
February 21)
- 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 Ajalon**, 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
February 22
- 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). We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.
- Day 14
Tuesday
February 23
- Jericho • Judean Wilderness • Qasr el Yahud • 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 Qelt**, we will read more of the Psalms and parables of the scriptures. Returning to **Jericho**, we will view, and ascend by cable car **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
February 24
- Nazareth • Church of the Annunciation • Mount Tabor • Nazareth Village • Sea of Galilee**
After breakfast, we will walk to the **Church of the Annunciation** and **the Church of Saint Joseph**. We then proceed to 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. We return to Nazareth and **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 Galilean Hills** we will come to **the Sea of Galilee** and going to the eastern shore we 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
February 25
- Sea of Galilee • Nof Ginnosar • Magdala • 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. Moving north along the shores of Galilee, we pass one of the ancient tolling cities at **Tel Kinneret** before visiting **Tabgah**. 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. Finishing early, a swim or wade in the Sea of Galilee will be refreshing for us. This evening’s class will continue our studies of the Savior’s Galilean ministry.

- Day 17
Friday
February 26
- 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 Hula 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
Sat. (Sabbath)
February 27
- 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**. **Return to Ein Gev for a relaxing evening**.
- Day 19
Sunday
February 28
- Arbel • Cana • Sippori • Bet Shearim • Megiddo • Muhraqa Carmelite Monastery • Haifa • Dor (Nahsholim)**
After breakfast, we will travel south around the Sea of Galilee and past **Hammam 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. Next is a visit to the **Bet Shearim National Park** where many of the Sanhedrin and prominent Rabbis, including Judah the Prince (compiler of the Talmud), were buried. We next visit some important Old Testament sites starting with **Megiddo**, the fortress overlooking the historic **Jezebel Valley**. This site also gives us pause to discuss some future events and then travel to **Muhraqa** 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
March 1
- Tel Dor • Mediterranean Coast • Caesarea • Jaffa • Nicopolis Emmaus (Canada Park) • 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**. Stop at **Nicopolis Emmaus** on way to Jerusalem. Our dinner and overnight will be once again at Holy Land Hotel where our first night began on our journeys.
- Day 21
Tuesday
March 2
- 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.
- (Continue
Day 21, Tues.
March 2)

Day 22
Wednesday
March 3

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. The remainder of the day will be for packing, shopping, or returning to sites in Jerusalem. After dinner, we will transfer to the airport for our early morning or late-night flight out of the country.

Day 23
Thursday
March 4

Tel Aviv • U.S.A.



School of International Studies
Department of Travel Study

Pay Deposit & Obtain Application from Columbus Travel

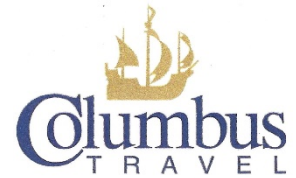
Tel: 801-295-9568; 800-373-3328; Fax: 801-295-9688

www.columbusvacations.com

or

Dann Hone, School of International Studies

Cell: 80-636-8593; www.travelstudiesinstitute.org; Email: dannhone@gmail.com



(1) Jerusalem Panorama; (2) Southern end of the Sea of Galilee looking to East; (3) Bar Mitzva celebrated at Dung Gate, Jerusalem; (4) Shepherds' Field outside Bethlehem; (5) Hebron Potter's shop; (6) Intensive Explorations' Camel Trek Be'erotayim, Negev-Sinai border; (7) First Century Rolling Stone Tomb, Midras, Shephelah; (8) Red Sea Underwater Marine Observatory, Eilat; (9) Snorkeling the Red Sea Corals; (10) Samaritan Priests with Oldest Torah Scroll, Mt. Gerazim, Samaria, West Bank; (11) & (12) Nazareth Village, Nazareth; (13) Roman Theater, Caesarea Maritina.