



Blatter Family Proposed Holy Land Itinerary with Red Sea

Nov 5-28, 2018

Faculty: Dann Hone

Approximate program Land Cost (without airfare):

Adult: \$5,837 pp (ages 12+)

Child: \$3,875 pp (ages 2-11)

Infant: \$0 (ages <2)

Includes Negev & Red Sea



This in-depth family travel study 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. Part 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, Har Karkom, and to the Red Sea.

Days 1-2
Monday-Tuesday
November 5-6

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

We will take flights from our U.S.A. homes and arrive the next afternoon at the Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv. We will drive to Jerusalem and pass some biblical sites on the way and check in to the Holy Land Hotel for two nights. (Holy Land Hotel, D) [Bus Airport transfer]

Day 3
Wednesday
November 7

Way of the Patriarchs, north • Nablus • Shiloh

Our focus today and tomorrow will be on the life of the prophet Abraham and his family, and our visits will depend on current safety conditions. We will drive down to 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 the night and a short class. Prepare for journey south to Biblical Negev and begin studies of Exodus. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 4
Thursday
November 8

Way of the Patriarchs, south • Hebron • Bedouin Museum of the Negev (Lahav) • Beersheba • Mizpah Ramon

We continue 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. 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. (Holy Land Hotel, B; Mizpah Ramon Youth Hostel, D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 5
Friday
November 9

The Exodus • Sde Boker • Avdat • Mizpah Ramon

Our studies this day are of the journeys of Moses and the Exodus of the Children of Israel. We leave early for a Jeep tour of the large crater of Mizpah Ramon and Har Karkom. We take road 40 south and drive through the Ramon crater, on road 40, enter Wadi Zihor and the 4x4 trails and drive west towards Mt. Karkom. In our way to the mountain, we can visit sites in the Ramon crater and visit also the white canyon. During the day we will stop for picnic lunch. In the evening we will arrive the camp under Har Karkom and have supper there. (There are not any facilities on the camp. We take care on meals and the food, water for drinking, campfire, sleeping is in tents. There are no toilet rooms or showers.) in the night, we will do some star gazing and prepare for a trip early in the morning to climb Har Karkom (one of the most likely Mount Sinai sites). (Mizpah Ramon Hostel, B; Camping at Har Karkom, L, D) [No bus but guided Jeep tour that includes picnic lunch and dinner]

Day 6
Sabbath
November 10

The Exodus (continued) • Mizpah Ramon • Har Karkom

After breakfast, we will climb to the mountain for a long hike and guidance from a professional guide. Climbing up to the mountain is followed by many rock engraving and archeological sites on top of the mountain. The view on top of the mountain towards the Sinai and Paran desert connect us to the biblical story and the unique

sites of the desert culture together with abundance findings with ritualistic and sacred characteristics are part of our guidance. By the afternoon, after lunch we will make our way back to Mizpah Ramon, From wadi Paran. Dinner and overnight will be at Mizpah Ramon Youth Hostel. (Mizpah Ramon Youth Hostel, D) [No bus but guided Jeep tour that includes picnic B & L]

Day 7
Sunday
November 11

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. Remembering this is the Sabbath Day, we will hold a brief service during our travels. Our evening and overnight will be at Eilat. (Mizpah Ramon Youth Hostel, B; Eilat Facility, D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 8
Monday
November 12

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. . Our dinner and overnight will be at a Petra hotel. (Eilat Facility, B D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 9
Tuesday
November 13

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 stop at the Dead Sea and one of the most unusual swimming experiences of a lifetime. We will also visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and learn more of their history and content. We hope to see some of the New Testament-period ruins of Herod's palace in Jericho. The Jericho Resort Hotel will be a welcome stay for us. (Eilat Facility, B; Jericho Village Resort, D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 10
Wednesday
November 14

Jericho • Judean Wilderness • Benjamin Plateau • Bethel • Nebi Samwil • Gibeon • Neot Kedumim • Jerusalem

After breakfast, we will visit the ruins of ancient Old Testament Jericho and the New Testament Jericho built by King Herod before going west through the Judean Wilderness (we will stop to discuss the temptations of Christ and the conquests of the Children of Israel in the days of Joshua). Our Journey will take us northwest into the Judean Wilderness and onto the Benjamin Plateau where nearly 67% of recorded Old Testament events took place. We will become familiar with Anathoth, Gibeon, Bethel, Aiath, Mizpah, and Gibeon. Following near the descent from the Benjamin Plateau that Joshua led the Children of Israel in their conquest of the land (Beit Horon pass), we will enter the Ayalon Valley to visit the Biblical Gardens of Neot Kedumim before returning to Jerusalem for a welcome overnight and dinner at our Holy Land Hotel (East). (Jericho Resort, B; Holy Land Hotel, D) [Bus Full Day]

Day 11
Thursday
November 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 to change into dry clothes, we may have some free time before we eat dinner. We will have a class this evening. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [No Bus]

Day 12 Friday November 16	Shephelah • Valley of Elah • Lachish • Bethlehem Following the conquest of the Holy Land by Joshua, this morning we will drive down the Beit Horon pass to the five valleys of the Shephelah or low hills through the Valley of Ajalon (where Joshua caused the sun and moon to stand still.) We will begin our day by a visit to Neot Kedumim, to learn biblical flora at this 625–acre biblical landscape reserve. Afterward we go south pass Eshtaol to the Valley of the Sorek and Beit Shemesh (the location where the captured ark of the covenant was returned to Israel by the Philistines), as well the area where Samson grew up. Continuing south, we will stop at the Valley of Elah, where David slew Goliath, and pick up some small stones. We continue to Mareshah and the caves at Beit Guvrin. Finally, we will visit Lachish, the southernmost fortified city in ancient Israel. This fortress city was so important a victory by Sennacharib of Assyria that he had a mosaic of its capture placed upon his throne room walls. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 13 Saturday November 17	BYU Jerusalem Center • Jewish Quarter • Garden Tomb Our Sabbath Day begins at the beautiful BYU Jerusalem Center, where we will attend services with the Jerusalem Branch. After lunch on our own, we will enter the Old City and walk to the Jewish Quarter to see Hezekiah's Broad Wall, and then stroll down the Roman Cardo, which was originally built by the Roman emperor Hadrian. We will visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, traditional tomb of Jesus. We exit the Old City to make our first visit to the Garden Tomb, where we will take their tour of the area. This evening we will enjoy a fireside speaker. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus transfers: BYU Jerusalem Center and Old City]
Day 14 Sunday November 18	Jericho • Qasr el Yehud • Jordan River Valley • Beit Shean • Nazareth Our morning travels will take us down toward the Jordan River Valley once again. As we view, and ascend the Mount of Temptation we will talk further of the Savior's temptations. After a few minutes of shopping, 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 the 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. (Holy Land Hotel, B; Sisters of Nazareth Hospice, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 15 Monday November 19	Nazareth • Church of the Annunciation • Nazareth Village • Mount Tabor • Mount Arbel Overlook We will come to appreciate the beauty of the Galilee as we drive to Nazareth, where Jesus grew up and spent most of His life. First, we will visit the Church of the Annunciation area where Joseph and Mary raised their family and then 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. We will then return to Ein Gev where we will have a class on the Savior's early Galilean ministry. ((Sisters of Nazareth Hospice, B; Ein Gev Holiday Resort, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 16 Tuesday November 20	The Sea and Region of the Galilee 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. (Ein Gev Resort, B; Dinner at Fish Restaurant) [Bus Full Day]
Day 17 Wednesday November 21	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 them 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. (Ein Gev Resort, B, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 18 Thursday November 22	Kursi • Bethsaida • Tel Qatzrin & Golan Museum • Hula Valley • Hazor • Banias • Bental • Golan Heights After class 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

Thanksgiving Day celebrated	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. (Ein Gev Resort, B, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 19 Friday November 23	Sepphoris • Megiddo • Haifa Our study will continue as we will see 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 drive to Haifa and see some of the LDS history sites if time allows before checking in to the Haifa Leonardo Hotel for the night. (Ein Gev Resort, B; Haifa Leonardo Hotel, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 20 Saturday November 24	Haifa • Mediterranean Coast • Caesarea • Jaffa • Jerusalem If we missed these sites yesterday, we will start the day with a visit to the Old German Cemetery, where two LDS missionaries and some Church members are buried. 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. We leave the city and drive south along the Mediterranean Coast to King Herod’s Roman port city, Caesarea (the pride of the Mediterranean world), where Paul the Apostle was imprisoned and tried before being sent to Rome. We will also visit the amazing aqueducts that Herod built to bring water into his city. We continue south to Tel Aviv, and if we have not done so earlier, visit Jaffa to recount the experiences of Jonah and Peter. Our dinner and overnight will be once again at Holy Land Hotel (East) where our first night began on our journeys program. (Haifa Leonardo Hotel, B; Holy Land Hotel, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 21 Sunday November 25	Jerusalem • Yad Vashem • Model City • Davidson Center Our Jerusalem experience will take us to Yad Vashem, the sobering Holocaust memorial, Mt. Herzl and the National Cemetery. We will drive to 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. This will give us a good opportunity to review the last week of the Savior’s life. Our Afternoon will include a visit 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. After dinner, we will discuss the events of the “greatest week in history” before retiring to our beds. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 22 Monday November 26	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. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus Full Day]
Day 23 Tuesday November 27	Jerusalem • Last Hours of the Savior’s Life • His Resurrection After breakfast, we will visit 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. In

the afternoon 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. (Holy Land Hotel, B, D) [Bus transfer]

Day 24

Wed., Nov. 28

Tel Aviv • U.S.A. [Bus Airport Transfer]

Price includes:

- Motor coach transportation
- Accommodations in moderate-class hotels
- Visiting sites as outlined on the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Gratuities (Tipping, special religious sites, etc.)
- Breakfasts and dinners
- Private Guides and Faculty throughout
- Predeparture preparations & educational package

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)

Blatter Family (10 PAX) price breakdown:

Cost for Seth, Jessica, Kortney, Nathan, Cameron, Tylan (\$5,807 x 6 pax)	\$34,842
Cost for Millie, Sophie, Landon (\$3,875 x 3 pax)	\$11,625
<u>No Charge for Quincy</u>	<u>\$00,000</u>
Sub Total	\$46,467 OR \$5,163/PERSON
<u>Less pre-planning non-refundable deposit (paid to Columbus Travel already)</u>	<u>-\$ 230</u>
TOTAL FAMILY LAND COST AFTER DEPOSIT	<u>\$46,237</u> OR \$5,137/PERSON

Columbus Travel will handle all travel arrangements and process payments.