

"Illuminating."
"Spiritual."
"Life-Changing."

Immerse Yourself in the Holy Lands

February 23 - March 7, 2023

Discover a deeper appreciation for the stories of the Bible. **Walk** the land traversed by beloved biblical figures. **Experience** the culture underlying the ancient Scriptural texts.

This trip with members and friends of First Presbyterian Church offers you the chance to feel scripture and faith to come alive. Evenings include devotion, a time for personal reflection, and fun, invigorating connection with each other. Join us for a journey of personal transformation.

What Else Should You Know?

- The estimated cost is \$5,500 per person, double occupancy. It varies depending on the number of travelers, the exchange rate at the time of booking, and the final cost of airfare.
- The trip is limited to 48 people.
- The trip is currently full, but you may sign up for the waiting list at fpc.tiny.us/holylandwaitlist. No deposit is required, and list is non-binding.
- As spots come available, they will be offered to waiting list registrants in the order in which they were received.



The Sea of Galilee

Estimated Tour Costs*

Estimated Tour Fees	\$4,000
Estimated Airfare	\$1,300
Premium Trip Insurance	\$67
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	\$5,367

Single Supplement: \$1,342

Trip Cancellation Insurance: Rate varies

What is Included in Tour Price?

- 3+ star hotels
- VIP meeting at Passport Control
- Daily ground transportation
- English-speaking tour guide
- Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Entrance fees at parks and sites
- Tips for our guides and bus driver

What is Excluded?

- Airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- 7 lunches, 6 dinners
- Spa treatments and night outings
- Trip insurance
- COVID testing (in U.S., at arrival, and departure)
- Tips for other service people not listed above

Some Additional Details

- Airfare is an estimate based on previous years' cost.
- The airline will be chosen based on best schedule and most economical fare.
- You may choose a different airline, but you must be in Tel Aviv by 7 p.m. Friday, February 24, 2023.
- You may use frequent flyer points or upgrade your seats.
- Required: Proof of COVID vaccination and a negative PCR test within 72 hours of arrival.
- Required: Premium trip insurance is provided through Faith Ventures.
- Required by Har-El Travels: Cancel for any reason trip insurance.
- Most tour days are 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. or later. Some days may include walking 5-8 miles on uneven terrain at varying elevations. Some of the sites are not handicap accessible.

Schedule of Payments

Due upon registering: \$500 per person (refundable until Nov. 10, 2022)

Nov. 11, 2022: 50% tour fee

Dec. 15, 2022: Final balance and payment for flight

Have Questions?

Contact Garrell Keesler
gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org
704-651-5606

Journey to the Holy Lands

February 23 - March 7, 2023



Led by the Reverend Pen Peery
and Israeli Guide Doron Harel

Estimated Cost: \$5,500 per person, double occupancy
Trip limited to 48 people with priority given to FPC members



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

Your Itinerary for this 12-Day Journey

B, L, D indicates meals included

Thursday, February 23 - Depart Charlotte

Friday, February 24 - Welcome to Israel

Arrive Tel Aviv. Meet your guide at Passport Control and proceed to the bus for your transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv.

Overnight – Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv. D

Saturday - February 25 - From Jaffa to Galilee

Begin the day in **Jaffa** (Joppa), one of the oldest biblical cities. Travel up the coast to **Caesarea** built by King Herod the Great and once the seat of Roman rule. Head to **Megiddo**, an important site dating back to the times of the Canaanites and once-lovely palaces of the Israelite Kings.

Overnight – Ginossar Hotel, Galilee. B, D

Sunday, February 26 - The Cradle of Christianity

View wooden fishing boat from early 1st century next to our Kibbutz. Sail around the **Sea of Galilee** and visit the **Church of the Beatitudes**, traditional site of the “*Sermon on the Mount.*” Proceed to **Tabgha**, the traditional site of the “*Feeding of the Multitudes,*” and then to see where Jesus transferred the Primacy of the church to Peter. In **Capernaum**, view the remains of the large white limestone synagogue and the center of Jesus’ Ministry in the Galilee. Continue to the **Dan Nature Reserve**, one of the sources of the Jordan River. Then, atop the **Golan** to the summit of **Mount Bental**, a volcano, and take in a superb view of the Israeli–Syrian lines. Hear of the battles and the history that have taken place between Israel and Syria from 1948 to date. Dinner at Magdalena Restaurant (own account).

Overnight – Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee. B

Monday, February 27 - The Hills of the Galilee

On to **Canna** where it is said Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. Then proceed to **Nazareth**, where Jesus spent his childhood. View the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, commemorating the spring where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. Visit the **Church of St. Joseph** known as the “Workshop of Joseph.” Visit **Magdala**, a true crossroads of Jewish and Christian history. It is believed that Jesus encountered Mary of Magdala here.

Overnight – Ginossar Hotel, Galilee. B, D

Tuesday, February 28 - Along the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem

Check out of hotel and drive to **Mt. Tabor**, the traditional site of the Transfiguration. View the fertile **Jezreel Valley**. Arrive at **Kasser El Yahud**, “the Jews Passage,” the traditional site of the Israelites’ crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land and place John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Ascend to **Jerusalem**. Upon your first view of the eternal Holy City, stop for a brief service of communion on the **Mount of Olives**.

Overnight – Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem. B



Praying in Gethsemane

Wednesday, March 1 - The Old City of Jerusalem

Enter the Old City via the **Jaffa Gate**. Walk over to the **Western Wall and Western Wall Tunnels** for a tour of the archaeological discoveries excavated in a vast concealed tunnel along the Western Wall. Walk through the **Christian Quarter** along the **Via Dolorosa** and the **Stations of the Cross** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the crucifixion and burial place of Jesus. After lunch in the Old City, walk to the **City of David**, just outside of the walls of the Old City, the site of Biblical Jerusalem, and the capital of King David. Walk through the 3,400 year old Canaanite **dry tunnel** (or bring a change of clothing and explore a King Hezekiah’s water tunnel engineered some 2,700 years ago) ending at the **Southern Wall Excavations**.

Overnight – Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem. B

Thursday, March 2 - Mount of Olives and Old City of Jerusalem

Begin on the **Mount of Olives**, with a beautiful view of Jerusalem. Visit the **Chapel of the Ascension**, the **Church of Pater Noster** at which the Lord’s Prayer is written in 53 languages. Continue to the **Dominus Flavit Church** where it is said Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** at the foot of the Mount of Olives and the magnificent **Church of all Nations** (*Basilica of Agony*). Celebrate **Communion led by Rev. Peery in a private garden**. Visit the **Garden Tomb**, an ancient Jewish sepulchre that matches the New Testament description of the tomb in which Jesus was buried. Tour the **Jewish Quarter, Cardo, Mt. Zion, and King David’s tomb** above which is the **Room of the Last Supper**, traditional site of the Last Supper and the visitation of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Nearby is the **Dormition Abbey** believed to be the home of the Virgin Mary after the crucifixion until her eternal sleep. On to visit St. Peter in **Gallicantu Church**.

Overnight – Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem. B



Communion on the Mount of Olives

Friday, March 3 - Masada and the Dead Sea Area

Drive east through the Judean Desert to **Qumran**, an ancient desert village where the Essenes lived 2000 years ago and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Continue to the oasis of **Ein Gedi** where young David spared King Saul’s life. Stop at a hotel on the shore of the **Dead Sea** for a buffet lunch and use of the hotel’s private Dead Sea beach, private indoor and outdoor pools. After a swim, proceed to the clifftop fortress of **Masada** and ascend via cable-car. Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight – Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem. B, L, Shabbat Dinner at the hotel



Old City Jerusalem

Saturday, March 4 - Bethlehem

Pass through the checkpoint between Israel and Palestinian territories into **Bethlehem** to meet our Palestinian guide and representatives from **Wi’am**, a group seeking justice and reconciliation. Visit the **Walled Off Hotel** and see **wall art by Banksy**. Tour **Tent of Nations**, a family-owned farm that brings diverse groups people together to learn, share, and build bridges of understanding and hope (*pending confirmation*).

Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem. B, L

Sunday, March 5 - The New City of Jerusalem and Bethlehem

Begin the day at **Yad Vashem**, the central memorial dedicated to the Holocaust. Then return to Bethlehem to tour **Manger Square** and see the **Church of the Nativity**, built over the site where Jesus was born. See **Shepherds Field**, the site the angel visited the Shepherds with the news of Jesus’ birth.

Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem. B

Monday, March 6 - Follow the Bible and Connect the Dots

Check out of the hotel and begin the day at **Mount Moriah** (*Temple Mount*), where it is said Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son, and on which stands the **Dome of the Rock** with its multi-colored mosaics and Golden Cupola. Tradition has it that this rock marks the center of the earth for the Jewish religion. Muslim tradition cites this as the place from which Mohammed ascended to heaven. It is the third holiest place on earth for Islam. In the same courtyard is the **El Aksa Mosque** (*Access to Temple Mount area is pending police confirmation.*) Visit the **Israel Museum** housing archaeological and cultural treasures, and the **Shrine of the Book** that houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls**. Visit the model of ancient Jerusalem. Have lunch at **Mahane Yehuda**, the open air market of Jerusalem. Travel into the Judean Hills to the top of **Tel Azeka** in the Elah Valley, the site of the battle between “David and Goliath.” Drive to the beach for a **Farewell Dinner** before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for your departure flight. Our tour agency will assist with departure procedures. **B, D**

Tuesday, March 7 - Arrive in Charlotte

Meet your Guides

Doron Harel, our Israeli guide, is an educator and licensed tour guide who creates tailor-made tours in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan through his company Har-El Travels. He has a B.A. in History of the Middle East and the Land of Israel from the Univ. of Haifa and an M.A. in Contemporary Middle East from Tel Aviv Univ. Doron brings a wealth of information, humor, and joy to the tours. He and his wife Alisa have three sons who enjoy camping in the Judean desert.

Osama Nicola, our guide in Bethlehem, is a Palestinian Christian who lives in Bethlehem and works at Wi’am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. He strongly supports peaceful resolution to conflict with Israel as evidenced by his work at the center. He and his wife Mira have three children.



Jordan River



Doron and his family