



**ISRAEL COLLEGE
OF THE BIBLE**

TOURS



HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SAMPLE ITINERARY

NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUNDS SAMPLE TOUR

ITINERARY

DAY	PROGRAM	OVERNIGHT
1	Arrive in Israel and transfer (on your own) to Netanya, about an hour north of the airport. Rest and relax at your hotel, or take a stroll along the beautiful Mediterranean beach front. In the evening, get acquainted with other members of the tour at an informal gathering at the hotel.	Netanya
2	Morning Lectures at the Israel College of the Bible , for introductory lectures on the history of the Second Temple Period and the influence of Hellenism on Judaism in the first century AD. In the afternoon visit Herod's impressive port of Caesarea . Here Roman governors such as Pontius Pilate, Felix (Acts 24) and Festus (Acts 26) ruled, the Roman Centurion Cornelius received the gospel, and Paul made his famous defense before King Agrippa.	Netanya
3	Explore Nazereth , the boyhood home of Jesus. There you will learn about life in a Jewish agricultural village 2000 years ago by visiting "Nazareth Village" and visit the Church of the Annunciation in the heart of the city. Continue to Sepphoris (Zippori) once the capital of the Galilee, with its splendid mosaics. Pass through the modern town of Cana on our way to the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes , traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7), Magdala (home of Mary Magdalene) and Jesus' ministry base at Capernaum . End the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee Evening Lecture : Jesus in his first century Jewish context.	Sea of Galilee
4	Today continue to study daily life in the first century with visits to Chorazin - a town where Jesus performed many miracles (Matt 11:20-22), Caesarea Philippi , site of Jesus' question to his disciples: "Who do men say that I am?" (Matt. 16), and Qatzrin Talmudic Village with its reconstruction of a typical Jewish home of a later period. At Gamla , one of the first Jewish towns to revolt against the Romans in 66 AD, enjoy a panoramic view over the ruins before ending the day at Kursi , the traditional site where the demons were cast into swine. Evening Lecture : The Herodian Dynasty	Sea of Galilee
5	Begin the day with a visit to the Decapolis city of Scythopolis (Beit Shean in the Hebrew Scriptures). Stop at the Jordan River at the Qasr el-Yahud Baptismal site , before heading down to the Dead Sea , the lowest point on earth. Take the cable car up to Masada , where the last Jewish defenders held out against the Romans. Evening Lecture : The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Yahad Community.	Dead Sea



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- 6 Visit **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. and then ascend to **Jerusalem**, for our first glimpse of the Holy City from **Mt. Scopus**. “Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:2). Enjoy a panoramic view over **Bethlehem** and visit Herod’s palace, **Herodion**, where he chose to be buried. Jerusalem
- 7 From the top of the **Mount of Olives** we will begin the day with a breathtaking panorama over the Old City of Jerusalem. As you descend the hill, remember that Jesus often travelled this descent and taught his disciples along the way (Matt 24, 25). Visit the church of “**Dominus Flevit**” and remember his weeping over the city in the midst of his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday and spend time at the **Garden of Gethsemane**. visit the **Pools of Bethesda** (John 5), where Jesus healed the man paralyzed 38 years and then explore the **Old City**, including the traditional last walk of Jesus (**Via Dolorosa**), and the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. The day will end with a visit to the **Garden Tomb**, a peaceful place for our group to reflect on the Lord’s death and resurrection. Jerusalem
- 8 Today we’ll visit **Temple Mount**, where the Temple once stood, where now the Muslim shrines of the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque stand. Continue on to the **Jewish Quarter**, viewing the extensive archaeological excavations that have unearthed mansions from the time of Jesus housed in the **Wohl Museum**, and the **Davidson Center**, Herod’s monumental entranceway to the Temple. Take time to pray at the **Western Wall** and tour the **Western Wall Tunnels**. **Free time** in the late afternoon for shopping or visiting other sites of interest on your own. Jerusalem
- 9 We’ll spend the first half of the day at the **Israel Museum**, viewing the Model of Second Temple Period Jerusalem and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, as well as selected rooms in the extensive archaeology wing. Continue on to **Emmaus-Nikopolis** – one of the sites suggested as the “Emmaus” mentioned in Luke 24. Explore **Jaffa**, the ancient port city from which Jonah set sail, and which Peter visited – raising Tabitha from the dead and receiving the vision of the descending sheet (Acts 10). Farewell dinner together in the **Tel Aviv** area. Transfer to the airport for evening flights. (or stay in Tel Aviv if you will not be leaving until the next day – hotel bookings for this night are not included in the cost of your study tour)

