



CENTER FOR
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

2027 Israel Experience with Hillside Church

PROGRAM ITINERARY | February 13-23, 2027

Day 1 – Saturday, February 13

We depart from the States for a life-changing journey to the Holy Land, where the Bible will unfold before our very eyes. Throughout this experience, we will explore the origins of our faith, how to embody that faith here in the present, and how we can pass it on to the next generation.

Day 2 – Sunday, February 14

Flying over the Mediterranean, we reach the shores of Israel. Upon our arrival to the Ben Gurion Airport, we will be met by our Israeli guide and transfer to our hotel in Beersheva in the Negev. We will then check into our rooms, enjoy a wonderful buffet dinner, and withdrawal for a good night's rest.

Day 3 – Monday, February 15

After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel in the Negev Desert of Israel at **Ein Avdat**, a nature preserve in the area of wilderness in which the Children of Israel traveled in for 40 years under the leadership of Moses. Following Ein Avdat, we will proceed to the Ancient Iron age city of **Arad**, a city which was important during Israel's monarchy period due to the unorthodox worship to the Lord that took place there. After Arad will end our day at **Kfar Hanokdim** to learn about Bedouin Hospitality, trek through the desert on camels, and enjoy a wonderful dinner. Overnight in Beersheva.

Day 4 – Tuesday, February 16

We begin our day at the site of biblical **Beersheva**, the city in which Abraham and his descendants inhabited, and a place of cultic worship during the reign of King Hezekiah. We will then travel to the **Valley of Elah**, the site of the biblical cities of Azekah, Soccho and Sha'arim, but most importantly, the place of the confrontation between David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. Overnight in Netanya on the Mediterranean coast.

Day 5 – Wednesday, February 17

We begin our day at the ancient city of **Caesarea**. This remarkable site is the city of Cornelius the Roman Centurion, who became the first Gentile follower of Jesus. We will visit the Roman theatre, view the harbor from which the apostle Paul sailed to Rome, and witness the impressive first-century water aqueduct. Leaving the Mediterranean coast, we travel north to **Mount Carmel**, where Elijah held the contest with 450 prophets of Baal. Afterwards, to the overlook of **Mt. Arbel**, getting our first breath taking view of the Lake of Galilee as we spend some time there in prayer, reflection, and worship. Overnight by the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6 – Thursday, February 18

We begin our first morning on the Lake (Sea) of Galilee with a fantastic time of breakfast and fellowship. Following this rejuvenating start to our morning we will head to the site of **Chorazin**, the remains of one of the cities in which Jesus ministered. From there we head to the New Testament town of **Capernaum**, the place of residence for Jesus' adult life and ministry. From there, we head to **Magdala**, where we will view part of the ancient city and first-century synagogue where the New Testament states Jesus taught. Our Group will then head over for a visit to the

** Please note the itinerary is subject to local conditions at the time of the tour and may change at the discretion of the tour director(s) or land operators.*

Jordan River baptismal site, where participants will have the opportunity to be baptized. Lastly, we will visit **Nof Ginnosar**, the place where an ancient first-century boat is housed and will then conclude our evening with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Our journey for today takes us to the land where 95% of Jesus' ministry recorded in the Gospels took place and will end with a fantastic dinner and overnight by the Sea of Galilee.

Day 7 – Friday, February 19

We begin our day with a visit to **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, and see the church and the ancient homes of Nazareth. We will then visit the ancient city of **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of the Nativity and then Shepherd's Field. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8 – Saturday, February 20

Today, we will travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest place in the world at 1300 feet below sea level. Our first stop is the astonishing ruins of **Masada**. Using a cable car, we reach Herod's magnificent fortress and the site of Jewish rebels' stand against Rome. Well preserved storehouses, cisterns, and palaces will be among the features to explore. We will travel near the site of **Ein Gedi**, an oasis in the deserts surrounding the Dead Sea which served as a place of refuge for David during his time on the run from King Saul. We will stop for lunch and to view the caves of Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls). Afterwards, we will make our way to the **Dead Sea** for a float on the salty sea. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9 – Sunday, February 21

We will begin our day at the **Israel Museum**, where we will see the world-famous Dead Sea Scrolls and the Shrine of the Book that houses them. We will also view a scale model of Jerusalem just before its destruction by the Romans in A.D. 70. After, we will visit **City of David** and the Pool of Siloam (optional walk-through Hezekiah's Tunnel). Then onto the **Davidson Center** at the southern end of the Temple Mount to view the excavations of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by the Romans in A.D. 70. We will take this opportunity to highlight key events in the New Testament that took place in and around the Temple. We will then conclude our day with time of personal prayer at the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in modern Judaism through its connection to the Temple of the days of Jesus. The late afternoon will consist of free time in the Old City of Jerusalem. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10– Monday, February 22

Our day begins with a stop at **Wadi Qilt** (Jericho Road overlook) as we discuss the significance of this ancient road between Jericho and Jerusalem. Onto an overlook of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**. We will walk down the mount, visiting the church of **Dominus Flevit** ("Our Lord Wept"), which commemorates Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem. Continuing down the mountain, we will stop at the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where we reflect on Jesus' agonizing moments wrestling to submit to the will of his Father. We will then begin the afternoon by visiting **Jaffa Gate** and see **David's Citadel**, the vicinity of the palace of Herod the Great and its praetorium. From Jaffa Gate, we will walk through the Armenian Quarter to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City descending to the Byzantine Cardo of Jerusalem, where we see the walls of ancient Jerusalem dating to the eighth century B.C. and the second century B.C. In the Jewish Quarter, we will proceed to the **Wohl Museum**, which contains three houses from the first century that most likely belonged to the high priests of the Temple. Afterwards, we will walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. We will end the tour with prayer and communion at a **First Century Tomb**. Late evening or early morning departure from TLV.

Day 11 – Tuesday, February 23

Arrive USA