



CENTER FOR  
HOLY LANDS STUDIES

## 2025 Oaks Church Israel Tour

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### PROGRAM ITINERARY | May 27-June 5, 2025

#### Day 1 – Tuesday, May 27

We depart from the States for a life-changing journey to the Holy Land, where the Bible will unfold before our very eyes.

#### Day 2 – Wednesday, May 28

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 withdraw for a good night's rest.

#### Day 3 – Thursday, May 29

After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel at the Ancient city of Beersheva, the location of several biblical stories. After Beersheva, we will head to 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 end our day at **Kfar Hanokdim** to learn about Bedouin Hospitality, trek through the desert on camels, and enjoy a wonderful dinner. Overnight in Netanya.

#### Day 4 – Friday, May 30

We will begin our morning at the site 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. Following Mount Carmel, we will lunch at **Kefar Kedem**. This location will give you an amazing first century experience with a wonderful meal and a donkey ride (great photo op)! 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 Sea of Galilee.

#### Day 5 – Saturday, May 31

We begin our morning on the Lake (Sea) of Galilee with a wonderful buffet breakfast. We will continue to the Mount of the Beatitudes where we recall the teachings of Jesus. Following, 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. Our Group will then visit **Magdala**, the location of a first century synagogue. Following, we will head over for a visit to the **Jordan River** baptismal site, where participants will have the opportunity to be baptized. We will 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 – Sunday, June 1

This morning we say goodbye to the Galilee and head toward **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, and see the church and the ancient homes of Nazareth. Following Nazareth, we will head toward Jerusalem and on to **Bethlehem and Shepherds field** where we will see the oldest working church in the world and the possible location of the birthplace of Jesus. We will then head to our hotel and overnight in Jerusalem.

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*\* 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.*

### Day 8 – Monday, June 2

Today, we will travel from Tiberias 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 continue to 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. Afterwards, we will make our way to the **Dead Sea** for a float on the salty sea. Our day ends with a stop at **Wadi Qelt** (Jericho Road overlook) as we discuss the significance of this ancient road between Jericho and Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

### Day 9 – Tuesday, June 3

We will begin our morning at the **Israel Museum** and 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. We will spend some personal prayer time at the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in modern Judaism through its connection to the Temple of the days of Jesus. Following, we will gather in 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. After, we will have free time for shopping in the Old City of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

### Day 10 – Wednesday, June 4

Our morning begins with one last 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. 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 Rolling Stone Tomb**. Late evening or early morning departure from TLV.

### Day 11 – Thursday, June 5

Arrive in the U.S.