

**ISRAEL and PETRA (JORDAN)**  
**May 25-June 7, 2011**  
**Tour Hosts Dr. Jay and Teri Herndon**

**Dates:** May 25-June 7, 2011 (14 days, 4 more than standard tours)

**Cost: \$3,595** includes “everything but lunch!” No surprises! (Many tours advertise a low price, but charge up to \$800 in taxes, tips, fees, and fuel charges. Not here!)

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**How to Sign Up:**

- \$250 deposit (pay by check, call with Credit Card or go to “Donate” at the top of this page)
- Contact information: name, address, phone, email (you may call, email, or mail us with this info)

Before departure we will also collect other information:

- Roommate request
- Passport number
- Photocopy of your passport
- Medical information
- Emergency contact information
- Legal documents and disclaimers

**What to expect:**

A trip to Israel will change your life! To walk where Jesus walked, see and learn about the geography of the land of the Bible will make a profound difference in your understanding of scripture. You will learn more about scripture than you ever imagined possible. And you will experience times of worship and prayer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Most participants go home saying, “It was the most powerful spiritual experience of my life!”

This is a “ministry priority” trip (tour is designed with ministers in mind.) Church members and non-ministers are welcome, however they should bear in mind that the tour is designed with ministers in mind.

**A typical day:** Each day we enjoy a wonderful breakfast buffet in the hotel and then board the bus at 8:00 AM for a pre-planned route visiting biblical sites. We typically visit 4-6 sites per day, spending an hour or so at each one. There is some walking involved. Some of the sites are “park-like,” some are wilderness sites, some sites have chapels, some are right in the middle of the city. Our guide is VERY well educated, and will teach us about the history and significance of the site. Dr. Jay will usually have something to share as well. At some sites, we will participate in an extended time of worship, prayer, and reflection. We will lunch at a local restaurant. We will be back at the hotel for a buffet dinner. Evenings are usually free—a good time to walk the neighborhood, relax in the lobby, or swim in the pool. Our bus is comfy and air-conditioned. Our hotels are wonderful, and the food is fantastic.

**Air Schedule**

**Depart:** May 25 (Wednesday,) SFO via Continental Airlines. 1 stop (Houston.) Arrive Tel Aviv May 26

**Return:** June 7, Tel Aviv Continental Airlines. 1 Stop (Houston) Arrive SFO June 7 (Tuesday.)

**Price Includes: “Everything but lunch!”**

- **Airfare** from SFO via Continental Airlines
- **Hotel accommodations** (double occupancy.)
- **Two buffet meals daily** (breakfast and dinner.) An extra charge may be incurred for special order items.
- **Taxes, Tips, Fuel Surcharges, Crossing Fees, etc.** (All of this has been added into the overall price—no special collections are anticipated.)
- **Touring:** Air-conditioned bus, entrance to all sites, English speaking guide.

**Not Included**

- Lunch
- Bottled water, personal purchases
- Special order/personal services such as: laundry, food/drinks not on the menu (coffee is not served after dinner in some hotels,) airport porters (Sky Caps,) excess baggage, telephone calls, etc.
- Voluntary activities not on the schedule (movies, massages, taxis, etc.)
- Single room supplement (\$1,250)

**Price Adjustments:** The price is based on a minimum of 33 paying guests and on tariffs and rates in effect on June 1, 2010 and is subject to change without notice if there is a revision in rates prior to the departure of the tour.

**Land Only Option:** Land-only price available on request.

**Travel Insurance** is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

**Payment Schedule**

- **Deposit: \$250**
- **March 15: \$2,500**
- **May 15: \$795**

**Partial Payments:** Partial payments are accepted at any time—participants may choose to pay at their own pace.

**Credit Card Payments:** Credit card payments incur a 3% bank fee. Participants may choose to split payments (part by check, part by CC.)

**Cancellation:** In the event of participant cancellation, a refund of all payments (minus \$100) will be made up to sixty days prior to departure. Cancellations after this date will be refunded based on the refunds obtained by airlines and hotels, minus out-of-pocket expenses incurred. Any exception to this policy is subject to the decision of the tour operator.

**Hotel Schedule:**

Tel Aviv	Dan Panorama	1 night
Tiberias	Leonarda Plaza	4 nights
Petra	Mariott	2 nights
Jordan/Dead Sea	Marriott	1 nights
Jerusalem	Dan Panorama	4 nights

**Hotel Websites**

Tel Aviv - Dan Panorama <http://www.danhotels.com/Hotel-Tel-Aviv>

Tiberias - Leonardo Plaza [http://www.leonardo-hotels.com/Leonardo Plaza Hotel Tiberias](http://www.leonardo-hotels.com/Leonardo_Plaza_Hotel_Tiberias)

Petra – Marriott <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mpqmc-petra-marriott-hotel/>

Dead Sea (Jordan) – Marriott <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/qmdjv-jordan-valley-marriott-resort-and-spa/>

Jerusalem - Dan Panorama <http://www.danhotels.com/Hotel-Jerusalem>

### **Detailed Schedule**

DAY 1 Wednesday, MAY 25

- Depart SFO to Tel Aviv

DAY 2

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport,
- Meet Moshe Hesed, our Israeli Guide
- Stop in Joppa, the ancient port city made famous by JONAH and PETER'S VISION
- Check in at the Dan Panorama Hotel in time for dinner

DAY 3

- Breakfast, check-out, board the bus
- Caesarea Maritima, the Roman Capital built by Herod, home of Pontus Pilate, and the place of Paul's imprisonment.
- Herod's Aqueduct
- Muhraka (Mt. Carmel) view Megiddo Valley from the top, consider the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal
- Check into the Leonarda Plaza hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (Tiberias) in time for dinner

DAY 4

- Morning boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- View the first century "Jesus Boat" discovered on the sea-bottom
- Tabgha (Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes)
- Peter's Primacy
- Capernaum
- Mt. of Beatitudes

DAY 5

- Sephoris
- Ancient Nazareth Village Kfar Kedem
- Nazareth – Mary's Well
- Ein Harod (Gidoen's Spring)
- Baptisms in the Jordan River at Yardenit

DAY 6

- Ceasarea Philipi
- Golan Heights
- Bethsaida

DAY 7

- Check-out of hotel
- Ancient ruins of Beth Shean

- Sheikh Hussein crossing into Jordan
- Check in (late) at Marriott Hotel in Wadi Musa (Petra)

#### DAY 8

- All day in Petra!

#### DAY 9

- Check-out of hotel
- Mt. Nebo
- Bethany beyond the Jordan
- Check-in (early) at Marriott Hotel on the Dead Sea
- Swim/soak in the Dead Sea

#### DAY 10

- Check-out
- Cross into Israel at the Allenby Bridge
- Qumran
- Ein Gedi
- Masada
- Camel Ride with the Bedouins (time for this?)
- Check-into Leonarda Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem

#### DAY 11

- Israel Museum/Model City/Shrine of the Book
- Southern Wall Excavations
- Western Wall/Rabbinic Tunnel
- Evening on Ben Yehuda Street (shopping, coffee)

#### DAY 12

- Vad Yashem
- Whohl Museum
- City of David/Hezekiah's Tunnel
- Free time in Jerusalem

#### DAY 13

- Mt. of Olives/Dominus Flevit
- Garden of Gethesemane
- Church of Peter's Gallicantu/House of Caiphus
- Church of St. Anne/Pool of Bethesda
- Via Dolorosa
- Garden Tomb/Calvary
- Farewell Dinner

#### DAY 14 Tuesday June 7

- Check-out of hotel
- Return to Ben Gurion and return to SFO

Please note that this itinerary may change due to changes in flight schedules, daily circumstances, and group needs/wants.

### Israel Packing and Travel Hints

**Weather:** Late May and early June in Israel will range from 75 to 95 degrees. Rain is unlikely

**Luggage Restrictions:** We restrict each traveler to one suitcase (50 lbs) and one carry-on. (Yes, the airlines allow more, but our bus can't hold that much! And there are several border-crossings that require us to handle our own bags. Lighter is better.) We encourage you to pack things that you can wear several times—hand-washing them in the hotel. We MAY have an opportunity to send some laundry out – but make no promises. We advise you to bring an empty duffel to pack your purchases for the return home. We'll let you check two suitcases on the way back. 😊

**Bag:** A secure shoulder bag, back pack, or large fanny pack is essential, for camera, wallet, water-bottle, bible, sunglasses, etc. Everything that you need for the day must go into this bag—you will not have access to your suitcase during the day.

#### Appropriate Clothing:

- **Casual:** Casual pants and shirts are fine for all occasions. No need to pack dress-clothes.
- **Active:** We do lots of walking, and the weather could be hot or cool. And so pack clothing that is comfortable for active wear and will perform in various conditions. Cotton clothes are OK most days but don't dry out well (sweat or hand-washed.) Hint: Sporting good stores specialize in golf and hiking clothes that are good-looking and functional in active outdoor conditions.
- **Modest:** Modest attire in the Middle East is essential. Many sites adhere to a “no knees and shoulders” rule. Some sites require men to wear hats and women to wear scarves. Travelers should carry these for such times.
- **Inoffensive:** Take care not to offend and provoke people with T-shirt messages. “First Church” would be OK. “You Need Jesus” would be considered offensive.

**Clothing List:** Moshe, our guide, will advise us each evening how to dress for the day.

- **Men:** Jeans, khakis, polo shirts, sport-shirts are fine. Men can wear shorts in many places, but not all. Some wear convertible pants with “zip-off-legs”—they may look funny but are versatile.
- **Women:** Jeans and Capri pants are OK. Shirts should fit comfortably loose. Spaghetti strap shirts are not acceptable. Tasteful tank-tops, knee-length shorts or skirt may be worn in a few places (but carry a wrap skirt and scarf to cover up knees and shoulders if needed.)

**Shoes**—must be comfortable, sturdy, and with good gripping soles (for slippery stone walkways—this is very important.) Tennis shoes are OK. Walking shoes are better. Sandals are OK on occasion, but not for daily touring. Water-shoes are required to explore Hezekiah's Aqueduct and are helpful at the baptism and the Dead Sea.

**Outerwear:** think “multiple layers.” You won't need an insulated jacket—a sweater and wind-breaker/rain jacket is all that you will need.

**Swimwear:** bring it. You'll need it under the baptismal robe if you are going to be baptized. Some hotels have swimming pools or spas that we can enjoy in the evening. And you'll have opportunity to float in the Dead Sea. Exploring Hezekiah's Aqueduct will require wet-wear shorts and shirts.

**Hat:** A good hat is essential—with a wide-brim to keep the sun off your ears and neck.

**Sunglasses and Umbrella:** Bring sunglasses and a collapsible umbrella. You probably won't need the umbrella in June, but if it rains, I don't want anyone saying, "Why didn't you tell us?"

**Hotel Amenities:**

- **Electricity:** many hotels have US standard 110 outlets (sometimes right next to a 220 outlet—please pay attention!) But not all. Bring converters and adaptors.
- **Blow-dryers:** most hotels provide blow dryers, but some don't. Many hotels use 110, but some use 220. Plan accordingly. Teri has a blow dryer that is 110/220 convertible. Or use a converter.
- **Beds:** Many mid-east hotels do not have King/Queen beds for couples: couples may find themselves in rooms with two queens. Oh, well. The rooms are always clean and have nice linens and towels.
- **Internet:** Some hotels have internet in the rooms. Most have wireless in the lobbies.

**Medications:** include the prescription label with your medications (customs looks suspiciously at unmarked pills.) Medication is a target for thieves, so be careful with them. Pack some general emergency items: Pepto-Bismol, Tylenol, etc.

**Sanitation:** Getting sick is a certain way to spoil the trip. Although Israel is very clean and the water is good, I urge caution anyway. Drink bottled water, bring Lysterene to sanitize your toothbrush, and Purell to sanitize your hands. Travel size TP – most sites have "fully equipped" restrooms but occasionally we may find one that isn't.

**Credit Cards:** You won't need to carry lots of cash, the tour price includes all essentials except lunches, and they'll take Visa everywhere, even in the cave in Petra! Call your CC to let them know the dates that you are traveling. Large purchases of over \$100 should be done with credit card—which gives you a good exchange rate and avoids the need to carry cash. Some CC companies charge a "transaction fee" on smaller purchases.

**Cash:** Carry some \$1 bills for misc. items. Many stores accept dollars, but the exchange rate will be high.

**Cash Exchange:** Some travelers may wish to exchange funds before departure. AAA offers decent exchange rates. The best rates are on the street in Israel—at ATM's and Currency Exchanges, but they are not always immediately accessible. How much will you need? That all depends on your personal habits! A full restaurant lunch will cost \$15 or more. I won't guess what your other souvenir spending will be.

**Camera/Video Recorder:** Yes! Bring extra memory cards and/or a cable to download your photos.

**Phones:** the Cell Phone was invented in Israel, but you'll have to check with your carrier to see if your phone will work in Israel and Jordan.

### Disclaimers

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**CHANGE FEE:** All changes not received in writing by AGNCN and Sterling Travel at least 30 days prior to departure will incur a \$100 change fee per person for revision.

**CHANGES TO ITINERARY:** The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances.