



Biblical Adventures Israel Trek

MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023

Arrival

Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative will meet you in the arrival hall to assist you with your luggage. You will meet your guide and bus and travel to your hotel in *Nazareth*. Dinner and overnight at hotel in *Nazareth*.

TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023

Today's Journey Nazareth to Sepphoris

Our morning begins at the boyhood home of Jesus, *Nazareth*. We visit the *Church of the Annunciation*, built over the traditional place where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-37). The church is built on top of the ancient village of *Nazareth*, and we will visit a small museum that shows some of the finds and homes from the village. From the church in *Nazareth*, we hike north over the *Nazareth Ridge* into the *Beth Netofa Valley* to the ancient site of *Sepphoris* the capital of the Galilee when Jesus was a boy growing up. *Sepphoris*, with its mosaics, theater, ritual immersion pools, and paved streets, was the location where the Jewish Oral Torah was edited and compiled by Rabbi Judah the Prince. From *Sepphoris*, we transfer to the first century village of *Yodefat*, one of the few first century archaeological excavations in Galilee where the archaeology reveals the first century Galilee of Jesus. From *Yodefat*, we hike down to the *Beit Netofa Valley* to the first century site of *Khirbet Cana*, the ancient site of *Cana*, the hometown of the disciple Nathaniel (John 21:2) and where Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2:1, 11) and from where he healed the official's son in Capernaum (John 4:46). Our journey takes us across the *Beit Netofa Valley* past *Rumah*, where Nicodemus (John 3:1, 4, 9; 7:50; 19:39) owned property according to Jewish sources. We continue across the valley where our day concludes at a fun learning and engaging experience: *Kefar Kedem*. Here we will experience the land of the Bible in a unique way as we learn about shepherding, making bread as they did in the time of the Bible. The flora of biblical Israel comes alive within this small park as the Bible is illuminated as we learn how the land was so important in writing the Bible. Dinner and overnight at *Kefar Kedem* (overnight in Bedouin style tent).

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15, 2023

Today's Hike Khirbet Cana to Magdala

Our hike today begins traveling east through the *Beit Netofa Valley* making our way towards the *Sea of Galilee*. This is the route ancient travelers would have used to go from *Nazareth* towards the northern end of the *Sea of Galilee*. As we walk through the *Galilee* of Jesus, we experience the physical journey often taken by Jesus and his disciples, as well as exploring his teachings and parables that drew upon and came from the natural world and everyday life. Our hike takes us past the *Horns of Hattin*,

where on July 4, 1187 the forces of Salah ad-Din won a decisive victory over the Crusader forces, and down towards the *Sea of Galilee* through *Wadi Hamam*. The dramatic cliffs of *Mount Arbel* rise over the *Sea of Galilee* to our south as we come to the ancient site of *Magdala*. At *Magdala*, we will visit one of the few, excavated, first century synagogues in the land of Israel. Its date coincides with the time of Jesus ministry in the area. We will also see wealthy homes from the village, as well as the first century harbor. Dinner and overnight on the *Sea of Galilee*.

THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2023

Our journey today takes us through the *Shephelah* (Deut. 1:7), an area of rolling hills between Israel's hill country and the Mediterranean coast. Our first stop is the *Elah Valley*, the site of the famous confrontation between David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17). We will experience this biblical landscape via ATVs. We then hike the ridge from *Azekah* to *Tel Goded* (a possible location of *Moreshet Gath*, the hometown of the prophet Micah). We meet our bus to transfer to the *Negev* for dinner and overnight.

FRIDAY MARCH 17, 2023

After a very early departure and 4x4 transfer, we begin our desert hike in *Nahal Hava*, which is a part of the *Zin Valley System*. The Israelites wandered through this landscape during their wilderness wanderings. Our hike today leads us through valleys and hills, with spectacular geological cracks and rock formations, as well as desert springs which are the source of life in the desert. Dinner and overnight at *Nahal Hava* camp.

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2023

We continue our hike today through the desert. We hike the *Israel Trail* following the ancient spice route to *Maktesh Ramon*. Dinner and overnight at *Mount Ardon* camp. Desert hike

SUNDAY MARCH 19, 2023

We continue our hike today through *Negev Desert* hiking in *Maktesh Ramon* via *Mount Ardon* and through the *Adom Valley* and *Nahal Nekarot* towards the *Aravah*. We meet our bus at the conclusion of our hike and will transfer to our hotel on the *Dead Sea*.

MONDAY MARCH 20, 2023

Like ancient pilgrims, we journey to *Jerusalem*, going "up to *Jerusalem*." We hike from the Herodian palaces of *Jericho* following the ancient road to *Jerusalem*. Arriving at the *Byzantine Monastery of St. George's*, we meet our bus and transfer to the top of the *Mount of Olives* to overlook *Jerusalem*. We walk down the mountain following the modern path used by pilgrims on Palm Sunday visiting the church of *Dominus Flevit*, which remembers Jesus' weeping over the city as he rode into it, and the traditional location of the *Garden of Gethsemane*. Dinner and overnight in *Jerusalem*.

TUESDAY MARCH 21, 2023

We begin our morning visiting the *Temple Mount*. Today the Muslim mosques of the *Dome of the Rock* and the '*Al-Aqsa* stand on top, but in the first century, the Temple of Herod stood upon the mount. After visiting the *Temple Mount*, we stop at

the **Western Wall**, the most sacred site for Jews. After visiting the **Western Wall**, we will have a private tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**. From the exit of the **Western Wall Tunnels**, we exit **Lion's Gate** into the **Kidron Valley** where we will discover the topography that created biblical Jerusalem. From the **Kidron Valley**, we hike through the **Hinnom Valley** and up into **Jaffa Gate** where in the first century Herod's palace stood. Here the story of Jesus begins (Matt. 2) with the visit of the wisemen to Herod, and here his story ended because at Herod's palace Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate (Mark 15:16). From **Jaffa Gate**, we walk into the Jewish Quarter and visit the **Herodian Quarter**, a series of priestly homes from the first century. We then walk along the Byzantine Cardo and see the walls of Jerusalem from the eighth century BC and the first century BC. Passing the **Gennath Gate**, we follow the historic route Jesus traveled from Pilate to his place of execution at the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. Our day ends along the southern wall of the **Temple Mount**. On the first century street, we see the shops and markets around the Temple, a possible location for the money changers (Luke 19:45-48). We then proceed to the southern entrances of the Temple where we walk the steps ancient pilgrims took to ascend to the Temple. After a farewell dinner at Satya, we depart Jerusalem for Ben Gurion Airport where you will return to your home country refreshed, challenged, and renewed in your faith.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023

Return to USA