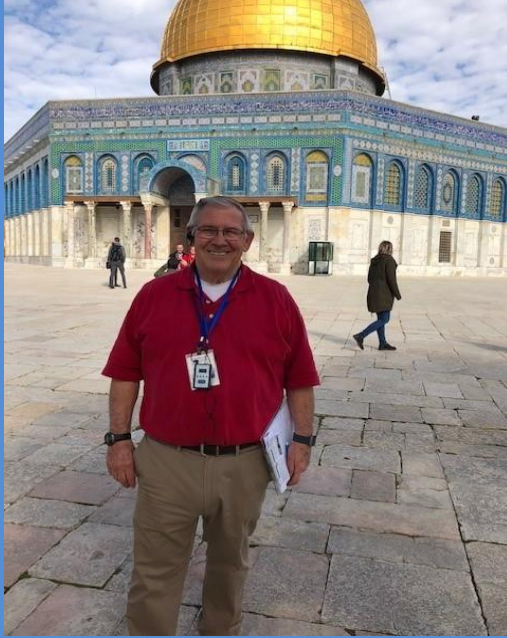


ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY

JOURNEY OF PURPOSE & DISCOVERY



Journey of Purpose & Discovery – Israel & Palestine

11 days / 9 nights

May 4-14, 2023

Estimated \$5999-\$6299

Single Supplement: \$1499

Join Butch Ferguson to explore Israel & Palestine, a region steeped in history, diversity, and local traditions. Experiencing the unique opportunity to connect with families and community members from a broad cross-section of multicultural backgrounds.

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Program Highlights

- Explore Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Dead Sea & Jerusalem.
- **Optional post-program extension** to Egypt.
- Many a bucket list includes taking a dip in the **Dead Sea**, one of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the world.
- Explore **Jerusalem** including a visit to the **Jewish Wailing Wall**, a walk along the **Via Dolorosa**, the **Church of Holy Sepulcher**, King David's tomb, the **Room of the Last Supper** and much more.

Cultural Exploration

- Explore **Yad Vashem**, a memorial to six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.
- Visit **Nazareth Village** to see and understand what life was like during the time of the Second Temple. Learn about the way of life in **Israel thousands of years ago** during the times of Jesus and his disciples.
- Visit **Megiddo** which was one of the strongest and most important cities of Canaan. The remains of the palaces, temples, gates, and the sophisticated water system of the city are evidence of its great power.

Community Focus

- Gain authentic cultural insight during a **home-cooked meals with local families**.
- Visit a family-owned coffee mill called **El-Babo**; meet the owner and learn about coffee making in the region.
- Visit **Beit Hagefen**, an Arab Jewish cultural center. Founded in 1963, their mission is to establish shared spaces that contain the diversity of identities and cultures in Israel and worldwide.
- Spend time with a local **Bedouin woman**, who will host you in her tent for a discussion on women in the Bedouin society, neighborly relations, traditions, and modernization.
- Have time to explore **local markets** and do a little retail therapy!

What's Included:

- Superior accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from the international airport
- International air (set *tentatively* out of Birmingham, AL)
- Local English-speaking guide
- Meals as mentioned and restaurant tips

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotel
- Meals not specified
- Tips for national guide & driver
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes if applicable



ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



📍 USA

DAY 1, Thursday, May 4, 2023

Depart for Israel today

Depart from USA today and make your way to Tel Aviv. Departure airport tentatively set as Atlanta, GA.

📍 Tel Aviv

DAY 2, Friday, May 5

Arrival in Tel Aviv & Transfer to Jerusalem

Arrive in **Tel Aviv** late this afternoon at the Ben Gurion International Airport. Upon arrival, the group will be met and transferred to your Jerusalem hotel. Relax this evening and settle into your hotel.

Harmony Hotel Jerusalem is in the lively Nahalat Shiva district and offers free Wi-Fi. There is a large buffet breakfast and free snacks in the lounge each afternoon. The area has nearby shops, cafés, and bars. Guest rooms have a flat-screen TV and air conditioning.

All travelers will gather this evening with your national guide and receive further information on the program. Enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight: The Harmony Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Dinner

📍 Jerusalem

DAY 3, Saturday, May 6

Introduction to Israel

After breakfast drive to the **Mount of Olives** for a panoramic view of the city. Stop at **Mount Zion** to visit **King David's Tomb** and the **Room of the Last Supper**. Located on the upper floor of the tomb Cenacle (Latin for dining room), it is considered one of the holiest sites for Christianity in Jerusalem and the place where the last supper took place. **Dormition Abbey** on Mount Zion is known as the location of the passing of Virgin Mary into heaven at the end of her earthly life. It is a massive Benedictine church visible throughout the city.

Head to **Caiphas' House** at **Peter in Gallicantu**. Here is the site of Jesus' trial by the High Priests and where Peter denied Jesus three times just as Jesus prophesized. On this site is a 2nd Temple staircase that Jesus could have walked down on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

After lunch, enter the **Old City** and walk through the Armenian and Jewish quarters to the recently excavated and restored Cardo, the Roman Road. See the **Jewish Wailing Wall (Kotel)**. The Western Wall is a place of pilgrimage and sacred to the Jewish people as the only remains of the Second Temple.

Continue to the Christian Quarter to walk along the **Via Dolorosa** to follow in the footsteps of Jesus before his crucifixion. Head onward to tour the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the location of the crucifixion and tomb of Jesus of Nazareth. It is a site of great religious significance and pilgrimage.

Dinner is on your own this evening (own expense).

Overnight: The Harmony Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Jerusalem

DAY 4, Sunday, May 7

Explore Bethlehem

After breakfast, travel to **Ein Karem**, the traditional birthplace of John the Baptist and the site of a beautiful Church bearing his name. See the remains of 2,000-year-old agricultural terraces, part of this ancient village. Today this picturesque village is just on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

After lunch on your own, head onward to visit the **Church of Nativity** and Shepherd's Fields. The grotto is of great religious significance to Christians as the birthplace of Jesus. It is the oldest site used as a place of worship in the faith and is the **oldest major church** in the Holy Land.

This evening you will have dinner with a **local family** to enjoy delicious homemade Middle Eastern dishes and their warm hospitality.

Overnight: The Harmony Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Masada & the Dead Sea

DAY 5, Monday, May 8

Depart for the Dead Sea

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for the Dead Sea area. Traveling east through the Judean Desert, arrive at the shores of the Dead Sea and descend to the lowest land point on earth at 1388 feet (423m) below sea level.

Continue to **Qumran**, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls which were first discovered in the caves in 1947 by a Bedouin Sheppard who looked for a lost goat. The scrolls revealed to be the oldest biblical Hebrew scriptures ever found, shedding light on practices and beliefs of ancient Judaism, during the time of Christian origins.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue to the legendary mountaintop plateau of **Masada** and ascend by cable car to the ancient fortress. Explore the site with its synagogue and bathhouse. Here, was the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their struggle against the Romans.

Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to put mud on yourself and to float in the buoyant waters of the **Dead Sea**. Return to the hotel in Jerusalem and overnight.

Dinner is on your own this evening (own expense).

Overnight: The Harmony Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Jerusalem

DAY 6, Tuesday, May 9

Jerusalem City Tour

After breakfast visit **Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Center**. This memorial is dedicated to the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. This incredible museum will walk you through the lives of those lost and those who were left behind who are honoring their memories. End the visit at the very moving exhibit at the **Children's Pavilion**, commemorating the death of over 1.5 million Jewish children in the Holocaust.

Lunch is on your own this afternoon with time to explore the "**Machaneh Yehuda**" market, one of the most charming marketplaces in Israel, where you will feel the special atmosphere of Jerusalem & the preparations for the Sabbath. **You will receive a special card that includes 6 Shuk Bites - tastings at various vendors in the market.**

Return to the hotel for time to refresh and get ready for dinner and your evening show.

This evening the group will enjoy dinner followed by a night spectacular show at the **Tower of David**.

Overnight: The Harmony Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, tasting lunch & dinner

📍 Nazareth

DAY 7, Wednesday, May 10

Depart for Nazareth

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and drive to visit ancient **Shiloh**, the site of the Tabernacle and the first capital of the Israelite Kingdom, is one of the most importance heritage sites in Israel, with a history of 3,000 years. The layers of the different historical periods present the story of the region and its people.

Tour the ancient remains of **Beit Shean**, founded six millennia ago, mentioned in Scripture in the tragedy of King Saul's defeat on nearby Mount Gilboa. Some 2,300 years ago it was rebuilt as a Hellenistic city. It rose to greatness under the Romans and the Byzantines but was felled by an earthquake in 749 CE, leaving behind splendid colonnaded streets, a bathhouse, theater, and shrines, reconstructed in the shadow of the biblical tell.

Lunch is on your own.

Visit **Megiddo** which was one of the strongest and most important cities of Canaan. The remains of the palaces, temples, gates, and the sophisticated water system of the city are evidence of its great power. Megiddo's strategic location at the crossing of military and trade routes gave the city an importance far beyond its size. For Christians, the word Megiddo is synonymous with the end of the world as mentioned in the Book of Revelation, Megiddo, or Armageddon as it is also known will be the site of the Final Battle.

Drive to Nazareth and check in your hotel where you will enjoy dinner.

Legacy Hotel is in the heart of the city. The hotel has onsite dining, a gym, and free Wi-Fi. They are strategically located just a short walking distance from the famous Basilica of the Annunciation and the lively colorful market.

Overnight: Legacy Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Nazareth

DAY 8, Thursday, May 11

Cultural Exploration

After breakfast, visit **Capernaum**, where a second century synagogue was discovered throwing light on the life of the community of that era. According to the Christian tradition, Jesus served here as a local rabbi and performed miracles. The traditional house of Saint Peter is also located here.

Visit **Mount of Beatitudes** where Jesus gave his famous Sermon on the Mount. Enjoy a magnificent view of the northern part of Sea of Galilee including Tabgha and Capernaum. Next visit **Tabgha - Church of the Multiplication**, the traditional site of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and the third resurrection appearance of Jesus.

After time for lunch on your own, visit **Bethsaida**, Birthplace of the apostles Peter, Andrew, and Philip, and where Jesus performed several miracles. It was here that Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fishes and fed the multitude (Luke 9:10-17). When Jesus came to Bethsaida they brought a blind man to him, and Jesus healed him (Mark 8:22).

Take a **boat ride** on the calm waters of the Sea of Galilee sail across the same waters that Jesus and his disciples did 2,000 years ago. Return to your hotel to freshen up.

This evening, have **dinner with a local family** and enjoy delicious homemade Middle Eastern dishes and their warm hospitality.

Overnight: Legacy Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

📍 Nazareth & Cana

DAY 9, Friday, May 12

Cultural Exploration & Community Visit

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and explore Nazareth, the cradle of Christianity, the city where according to tradition, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the place where Jesus spent his childhood and youth.

Stop at an old and special coffee mill owned by one of the local families, named **El-Babor**, meet the owner and hear from him about the process of making the best cup of freshly ground coffee.

Stop at **Nazareth Village** to see and understand what life was like during the time of the Second Temple. Learn about the way of life in Israel thousands of years ago during the times of Jesus and his disciples.

Stop at **Kfar Cana** to visit the Church of the Wedding where Jesus turned water into wine.

Proceed to **Wadi Nisnas**, a unique Arab neighborhood, known locally for its delicious culinary delights. Enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants in the area, at the footsteps of the spectacular Bahai Gardens.



Head to Haifa and visit **Beit Hagefen**, an Arab Jewish cultural center. Founded in 1963, their mission is to establish shared spaces that contain the diversity of identities and cultures in Israel and worldwide.

Head to **Tel Aviv** this evening to check into your hotel with dinner on your own.

Tal Hotel by the Beach is just a minute's walk from Tel Aviv's Metzizim Beach. The hotel has a gym, sauna, gym, and free Wi-Fi.

Overnight: Tal Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

📍 Tel Aviv

DAY 10, Saturday, May 13

Negev Desert Tour & Bedouin Experience

After breakfast, drive to the Negev Desert and visit **Mitzpeh Ramon**, the world's largest natural crater. Stop at the Visitor's Center, which offers an experience combining the life story of the Israeli astronaut, Col. Ilan Ramon, while enabling visitors to become familiar with the largest makhtesh in the world and its unique natural phenomena.

Head to the impressive remains of the ancient Nabatean city of **Avdat**, located on the hilltop above the Tsin Stream watercourse.

Drive to the city of **Yerocham**, where *Salima Sagaira*, a local Bedouin woman, will host you in her tent for a discussion on women in the Bedouin society, neighborly relations, traditions, and modernization (traditional Bedouin tea and light food tastings will be served during your visit).

Visit **Shivta National Park**, which showcases the impressive remains of a Byzantine city that existed in the heart of a desert area with no natural water sources. The splendid churches, streets and homes are astonishing even today.

This evening the group will enjoy a special **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Tal Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Tel Aviv

DAY 11, Sunday, May 14

Depart for the U.S.

After breakfast say farewell to Israel and fly back to the U.S., with arrival the same day.

Overnight: N/A
Included meals: Breakfast





ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Jerusalem, Israel

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