



2024 Israel with NTD and AGK

PROGRAM ITINERARY | March 3-13, 2024

Day 1 – Sunday, March 3

We depart from the States for a life-changing journey to the Holy Land. 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 – Monday, March 4

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 – Tuesday, March 5

After a rich Israeli breakfast, we begin our tour of Israel at the in the **Negev Desert** of Israel at **Ein Avdat**, a nature preserve in the 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 city of **Beersheva**, the final home of Abraham and Sarah, as well many other biblical events. After Beersheva 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 – Wednesday, March 6

Leaving the Mediterranean coast, we travel to **Caesarea**, the location where Paul was held for two years, as well as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles. We will then head north to **Mount Carmel**, where Elijah held the contest with 450 prophets of Baal. We next will drive to **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home, and see the church and the ancient homes of Nazareth. Afterwards, to the overlook of **the Arbel Synagogue**, allowing for our first breathtaking view of the Lake of Galilee as we spend some time there in prayer, reflection, and worship.

Day 5 – Thursday, March 7

Today we will head to northern Galilee where we will visit the beautiful and lush ancient site of **Dan**. After, we will visit the area of **Caesarea Philippi** and discuss Jesus facing himself toward what was coming in Jerusalem. We will then visit an overlook of the **Damascus Road** as it leads into Syria. 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**. Overnight, Sea of Galilee.

Day 6 – Friday, March 8

We will begin our morning at the **Mount of Beatitudes**, then **Chorazin**, to view 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 **Jordan River** baptismal site, where participants will have the opportunity to be baptized. 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 – Saturday, March 9

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 area 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 8 – Sunday, March 10

We begin our day with a visit to 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. Following we will visit **Bethlehem**, including the **Church of the Nativity** and **Shepherds Field**. We will finish our day at **Elah Valley**. You will have time for shopping in Bethlehem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9 – Monday, March 11

We will begin our morning early at the Temple Mount. Following, we will explore the ancient **City of David** and see the **Pool of Siloam**. You will also have the option to walk through the wet **Hezekiah's Tunnel** or use the dry tunnel to reach the Pool of Siloam. After the City of David, we will have free time in the Jewish Quarter for shopping and lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the **Western Wall** for some personal prayer time. The Western Wall is the holiest site in modern Judaism through its connection to the Temple of the days of Jesus. Following this, 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. We will finish our day with shopping and free time in the Old City of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10 – Tuesday, March 12

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 Fleuit** ("Our Lord Wept"), which commemorates Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem. Continuing down the mountain, we will stop at the private **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 pass over the **Ginat Gate (Gate of the Gardens)**, where Jesus would have exited the city with the cross beam. Afterwards, we will walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. We will end the tour with prayer and communion at a rolling stone tomb. Late evening or early morning departure from TLV.

Day 11 – Wednesday, March 13

Arrive in the U.S.