



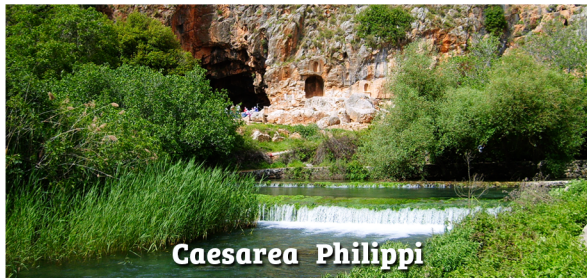
STUDY TOUR 2024 DISCOVER ISRAEL

With Dr. Bob Ross & Yehuda Hecht

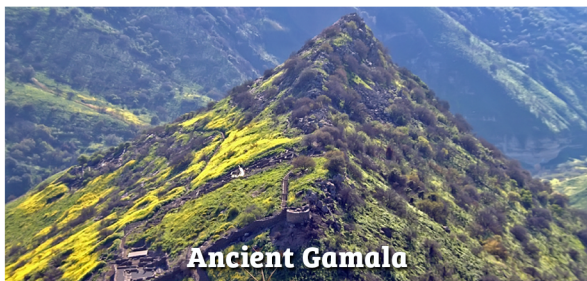
TOUR DATE: FEB 21 - Mar 5 • PETRA EXTENSION: Mar 5 - 8



Mount Hermon



Caesarea Philippi



Ancient Gamala



Capernaum Synagogue



Garden Tomb

Experience God's Land ... Israel

Day 1 – Wed. Feb 21 (Travel) ~ Day 2 – Thurs. Feb 22 (Arrive)

You must arrange for your flights to and from Israel. Please arrange to arrive the afternoon of the 22nd. We will gather at the **Netanya Leonardo Hotel** in Netanya for our evening meal on the 22nd. Following the meal, we will have our first group meeting and you will receive your personal audio receiver for the tour. **Note:** Please send us your flight information, including your arrival time in Israel. If several arrive about the same time, we will try to arrange for a van to the hotel. If not, please plan to take a taxi to our hotel.

“Welcome Home” to God's Land, Israel!

~ En route to the hotel, you will skirt **Tel Aviv**, the “beautiful new 100-year-old city”. One could spend weeks visiting the museums of this incredible Jewish city. **Our tour is a Biblical one.** We overnight at the **Leonardo Hotel, Netanya**, by the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Day 3 – Feb 23 – Friday

MEDITERRANEAN COAST / MT. CARMEL / LOWER GALILEE

~ After a large Israeli breakfast buffet, we visit ancient **Caesarea Maritima** (the **Roman Capital of Israel** for over 500 years). This was the city of **Peter's “Gentile Pentecost”** and **Paul's** imprisonment. We sit in the same amphitheater where **Paul** was tried, then stroll through **Caesarea's** amazing Roman ruins. We visit **Herod the Great's** palace (later **Pilate's** palace) beside the Roman hippodrome on the **Mediterranean Sea**.

~ We drive to the “horn” of **Mt. Carmel** to visit **Muhraka**, where **Elijah** had his contest with **Jezebel's** Baal prophets. From **Mt. Carmel**, we can view the **Valley of Jezreel** and **Kishon**, where **Elijah** slew 400 of **Jezebel's** Baal prophets. When Israel's drought was broken **Ahab** raced his chariot to his summer palace at **Jezreel**.

~ Driving to ancient **Megiddo**, we recall the 21 battles (in the **Hebrew Scriptures**) that were fought in this valley. The view is an unforgettable panorama of prophecy, as the **Armageddon** battlefield of **Revelation** spreads out before us. We view the **Canaanite** ruins, their cultic altar (for human sacrifice), the chariot stables of **Solomon** and **Ahab**.

~ Crossing the **Valley of Jezreel/Armageddon**, we pass **Mt. Tabor** to the East. Here **King Saul** visited the witch of **En Dor** by night and learned of his fate the next day. On the eastern slope of **Mt. Moreh**, **Jesus** raised the widow's son to life at **Nain**. And on the western slope of **Mt. Moreh**, **Elisha** raised a widow's son. On the western side of the valley stands **Mt. Gilboa**, where **Saul** and **Jonathan** were killed by the Philistines.

~ Traversing the **Valley of Jezreel** our bus climbs the hills of **Lower Galilee** to **Nazareth**. We will visit Nazareth Village. This replica of a **Nazareth** farming community or rural village has been reconstructed to resemble the area when **Jesus** grew up in the first century. Here in the synagogue, we will recall **Jesus' childhood** and early manhood.

~ Directly North of **Nazareth** lies the well-watered **Netofa Valley**. Above that valley is **Cana**, (**the Place of Reeds**) where, we believe, **Jesus** changed the water to wine.

We will bus through the traditional Crusader **Kefar Cana** on the **Pilgrim's Highway**.

~ Descending to the **Sea of Galilee** (686' below sea level) we proceed to our seaside **Ron Beach Hotel**, “our home” on the **Sea of Galilee**. The Sabbath begins at sundown. Enjoy the incredible view and the best hotel food in all Israel.

No other place on earth offers a better opportunity to “Walk where Jesus Walked”.

Day 4 – Feb 24 – Saturday (Shabbat)

SABBATH WORSHIP ON SEA OF GALILEE – Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

- ~ We begin our Shabbat at **Nof Ginnosar** to view the *“Jesus Boat”*. Then, we embark by boat for a unique **Shabbat Worship Service** on the **Sea of Galilee**. From the Sea we will recall the *“Sightings of Jesus”*; including the sudden storms, Jesus’ miracles, His Disciple’s fishing experiences, His teachings by the Sea and His ministry at the **Sea of Galilee** and the **Cove of the Parables**.
- ~ Debarking at **Capernaum Park**, then it is *“boots on the ground”* as we proceed to the Catholic excavations of **Capernaum**.
- ~ **Capernaum** was the headquarters of **Jesus’ Ministry** for 2½ years in **Galilee**, where we believe **Jesus** was the **Teaching Rabbi** of the synagogue. Here He called **Levi/ Matthew**, taught many parables, performed miracles, raised **Jairus’** daughter to life, and taught on *“The Bread of Life”* in the synagogue. In **Jesus’ Capernaum Synagogue** we will worship and recall the events of His ministry. **Wow!**
- ~ The **Cove of the Parables** and **Natural Amphitheater (Sower’s Cove)** is our host’s favorite *highlight of our tour*. Here **Jesus** called His **Disciples**, borrowed **Peter’s** boat for His teaching, taught many parables and healed the multitudes.
- ~ At the **Cove** we will consider the **NT “Jesus Sightings”**. While seated on the lush green grass and basalt rocks, our tour host, Bob Ross, will lead in a study of these events. His focus the last several years has *plumbed the depths of Jesus’ ministry here* at His favorite area.
- ~ On this seashore our **Resurrected Lord** appeared to His Disciples, provided the miraculous catch, and prepared breakfast for them. He forgave **Peter** and instructed him to *“Feed His Sheep”*.
- ~ Following the **Jesus’ Trail**, along the beautiful shoreline, we hike to **Tabgha**, (the largest spring feeding the **Sea of Galilee**) and there visit the ancient **Leper’s Pool** nearby.
- ~ Climbing to **Wilderness Cave** we will see the likely place where our Lord prayed all night before calling His **Apostles**.
- ~ Then, on the lower slope of the **Mount of Beatitudes** we will share **Jesus’ Beatitudes** (at the place where He shared them 2,000 years ago). This is a great place to consider **Jesus’ Word Pictures** from His *“Sermon on the Mount”*.
- ~ Afterwards, we will stroll to **Tabgha** to visit the Byzantine mosaic of the **Loaves and the Fishes** and discuss **Peter’s Primacy** at the beautiful traditional Catholic location.
- ~ After a marvelous lunch of **St. Peter’s Fish**, we follow the old **Roman Road** which skirts the North Shore. Crossing the **Jordan River**, **Bethsaida** is pointed out as the seaside home of **Peter, Andrew, James and John**, and **Zebedee’s** fishing company. (**Mendel Nun**, the authority on first century **Sea of Galilee** ports and water levels, believed that in Jesus’ day the fishing village of **Bethsaida** was located where the **Jordan River** entered the **Sea of Galilee**. He believed that the fishing village was part of **Bethsaida Julius**. Jesus healed the blind man from **Bethsaida**.)
- ~ Diving South we enter the **Gentile Decapolis** (on the Eastern shore). We will recall **Jesus’** healing the demoniac near **Kursi**, and visit the cliff where Jesus drove the demons into the swine. The pigs rushed over the cliff and were drowned in the Sea. Deviled ham did a “swan dive”.
- ~ Along this Eastern shore, rising above the Sea, is the incredible ruins of **Susita/Hippos**. To this Gentile city **Jesus** sent the healed demoniac as His witness. Later, there were 7 churches and 1 cathedral in this once pagan city. In **Jesus’** day, the stone pagan temples glistened in the afternoon sun casting their reflection over the Sea. We propose that this was the city **Jesus** pointed to and said, *“a city set on a hill cannot be hidden...”*
- ~ Returning to the southern end of the **Sea of Galilee**, we **Baptize** (those who desire) in the **Jordan River**, at beautiful **Yardenit**.
- ~ After our evening meal, you may want to close the Shabbat by strolling the quaint streets of **Tiberias** and enjoy dessert and coffee. Or... sit with friends by the water’s edge and enjoy the beauty of the evening and the stars over the **Sea of Galilee**.

– 2nd Overnight Ron Beach on the Sea of Galilee. –

Day 5 – Feb 25 – Sunday

HULEH BASIN / DAN / CEASAREA PHILIPPI / MT. HERMON / GOLAN HEIGHTS

- ~ Departing the **Sea of Galilee**, our bus takes us to **Upper Galilee** for a scenic drive overlooking the **Huleh Basin**. Passing ancient **Hazor** and proceed to the beautiful **Dan Nature Preserve**. The lush and beautiful **Headwaters of the Jordan** leave an indelible impression.
- ~ The excavations at ancient **Dan** include the altar where the golden calf was worshiped by Israel under **Jeroboam**.
- ~ After viewing **the Israel/Lebanon border**, we stroll to the new excavation of the **Canaanite Gate** from **Abraham’s** time. Then, visit the city gate of **OT Dan**, the *“Hill of the Judge”* to see the ancient city and the amazing *“Cyclop walls”*.
- ~ We drive to **Caesarea Philippi**, where **Jesus** brought his **Disciples** on retreat. This was the **Roman** pagan cultic center, featuring pagan temples and the *“gates of hell”*. **Jesus** asked His **Disciples**, *“Who do YOU say that I AM?”* **Peter** answered, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”*. One week later, **Jesus** was transfigured on **Mt. Hermon**.
- ~ While viewing the **Jordan Valley** from the **Golan Heights**, **Yehuda** will explain the *Arab/Israel War of 1967* and the conflict for this area.
- ~ Traveling the **Mt. Hermon** foothills, on a section of the **Damascus Road**, we recall **Saul’s** conversion near **Damascus**.
- ~ We drive past **Druze Villages**, as the snow-capped “granddaddy” of the mountains in Israel, Mount Hermon, towers above. What majesty!
- ~ We will enjoy an incredible Arab lunch at a Druze restaurant.
- ~ After lunch, in the *“Valley of Death”*, **Yehuda** will discuss the conflict of 1973. In all her wars, God has led Israel to incredible victories.
- ~ Descending through the **Golan** tableland, you will come to understand the agricultural and strategic military importance of the Golan Heights to Israel. The **Golan** must remain in Israel’s hands! As time allows, we hope to visit the **Jordan River** in this area of **Jesus’** ministry.

– We return for another overnight at our Ron Beach Hotel (3rd night) at the Sea of Galilee. –

Day 6 – Feb 26 – Monday

GAMALA / KATZRIN / KORAZIN / MOUNT of BEATITUDES / MAGDALA

- ~ **Gamala** is visited by few tourists. Usually, the lack of tour time (half a day) and physical strength of the group prevents tours from climbing the difficult path to the top of the abandoned city. However, we hope to make special arrangements, if the road is open, to bus to the site.
- ~ This unique first century Jewish ruin is often called *“The Masada of Galilee”*. An estimated 10,000 Jews died in the Roman conquest of Galilee.

(**Gamala** and **Masada** are two of the highlights on our tour). At **Gamala**, we hope to visit the synagogue (where we believe Jesus taught), see where the Romans broke through the wall and visit the famous round tower the Romans attacked.

~ We then drive to the capital of the **Golan** for a visit to **Katzrin's** reconstructed **NT Village** to discover Jewish life as it was in **Jesus' day**.

~ After an early lunch at the popular **Blueberry Restaurant**, we view the descriptive and fascinating museum film on **The Fall of Gamala**.

~ Bussing to the top eastern side of the **Mt. of Beatitudes**, we visit the third synagogue where **Jesus** served as the **Teaching Rabbi**. Here at **Korazin** we view the mikvah, the yeshiva, the synagogue of **Jesus' day**, and see the **Seat of Moses** where **Jesus** unrolled the scroll before reading the prescribed Shabbat Scripture of the week.

~ Traveling again through the **Valley of Ginnosar**, we come to **NT Magdala**. **Jesus** first came to the **Sea of Galilee** and cast 7 demons out of **Mary Magdalene**. Our architect friend, **Matti Avshalomon**, designed the quaint and beautiful **Reflection Church** near the shore. We will visit the recently discovered synagogue, yeshiva, and stroll through the beautiful **Reflection Church**. **Josephus** wrote his **Jewish Wars** at **Migdal**.

– **Our 4th and last night at the Sea of Galilee - Evening meal and overnight at Ron Beach –**

This is our last opportunity to enjoy dialogue and coffee in the moonlight at our hotel.

Most Christians leave “a part of their heart” at the Sea of Galilee. Enjoy this last evening in Galilee.

Day 7 – Feb 27 – Tuesday

BEIT SHEAN / GIDEON'S SPRING / JORDAN VALLEY WILDERNESS OF JUDEA / JERICHO / DEAD SEA QUMRAN

~ Departing the **Sea of Galilee**, we drive south through the **Jordan River Valley** to the incredible **OT** and **Roman** ruin of **Beit Shean**. This **Decapolis** city was the only Greek city of the ten west of the **Jordan River**. The excavations reveal a first century Roman city with temples, baths, a theater, and hippodrome. Strolling the streets, you will learn of the **Roman Empire**, and see the beauty of this pagan (Decapolis) city of **Jesus' day**. The **OT** tel of **Beit Shean** rises above the **Jordan Valley**. **Saul** and **Jonathan's** bodies were hung on the city gate.

~ We will visit **Gideon's Spring**, where God selected **Gideon's** 300-man army. This spring is one of the ten most beautiful “swimming holes” in the world. We will enjoy the park, but a swim may be a bit chilly. Your choice.

~ We bus south through the **Jordan River Valley**. The **Jordan River** and the country of **Jordan** lie to the East, and the **Mountains of Samaria** to the West. The hour-and-a-half drive takes us in and out of the “**West Bank**” territory. (See the **Discover Israel** map on page 169.)

~ Depending on the changing political climate, we may have lunch in **Jericho**. The city spreads out around **Elijah's Spring**, at the foot of **Tel e-Sultan** (dating to the Stone Age). **Jericho** is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, inhabited since approximately 10,000 BC.

~ A **Neolithic** tower, the world's oldest building, dates to 7,000 BC. At **Jericho** “*The walls came tumbling down*” (the result of **God's** judgement). It was **Israel's** first conquest in “**God's Land**”. Unfortunately, the city is today in the hands of the PLO. Above **Jericho** rises the **Mt. of Temptation**, the traditional site of **Jesus' temptations** in the **Wilderness of Judea**. We bus the descent to the **Dead Sea**.

~ **John the Baptist** often ministered in this area, slightly North of where the **Jordan** enters the **Dead Sea**. In this area **Our Lord** was baptized.

~ The **Dead Sea** is 1,300 feet below sea level and is the lowest place on earth. The rainfall here is less than 4” per year. The surrounding area is “*a dry and thirsty land*”. The mountains of the **Wilderness of Judea** tower above the Sea on the West.

~ We view the area of ancient **Gilgal**, located just north of the **Dead Sea**. **Gilgal** was the largest of all Jewish cities (until today). Here, the **Twelve Tribes** of **Israel** first dwelt when they entered the **Land of Canaan**. At **Gilgal** the men of Israel were circumcised, the manna ceased, and Israel sacrificed to God. **Gilgal** lies just south of Jericho, the first city **Israel** conquered. Between **Gilgal** and **Jericho**, **Joshua** met “*the angel of the Lord*”, who took over leadership and led **Israel** to conquer the “**Land of Canaan**”.

~ Driving along the west side of the **Dead Sea**, we will point out the cave where archaeologist **Vendyl Jones** searched for the “*Ashes of the Red Heifer*” and the Temple Treasures at **Wadi ha Kippah**. The fictitious movie, **Indiana Jones**, was based on Vendyl's experiences, with the usual embellishments by Hollywood. You will hear the details on our tour. Most interesting!

~ We visit the extensive ruins of **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found. For years, it was felt that the inhabitants were the **Essenes**, and that they recorded the scrolls. However, our guide will tell the story of the **Sect of the Wilderness of Judea**, who recorded and hid the scrolls from the invading Romans. Because of their beliefs, today many see the sect as a “pre-Christian” community. **John the Baptist** and our Lord held many of the same beliefs as this **Sect** (that is; a pierced Messiah with pre-mortal existence, a new covenant, sabbath observance, the last days, judgment, resurrection, angels, and the afterlife). They spent their days committed to reading, studying, and writing the Scriptures. We believe that **John the Baptist** was perhaps raised and educated through yeshiva (seminary) by the **Qumran** community.

~ **Muhammed adh-Dhib**, a Bedouin man, discovered the first of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** while caring for his sheep. He sold them to an antiquities dealer in **Bethlehem** by the name of **Kando**. The Syrian archbishop of Jerusalem obtained 4, and **Dr. Eleazar Sukenik** of the **Hebrew University** purchased 3 of the scrolls on Nov. 29, 1947 (the very day that the **United Nations** voted for the re-creation of the Jewish state, **Israel**, after 2,000 years). You must hear **Yehuda's** miraculous story about the scrolls. Then, we proceed to our hotel on the **Dead Sea**.

Judea. Relax and enjoy the spa, a massage, and float in the Dead Sea.

– Overnight David Spa Hotel, Ein Bokek (2 nights). –

Day 8 – Feb 28 – Wednesday

WILDERNESS OF JUDEA / MASADA / EIN GIDI / DEAD SEA / PALESTINA LIMITUS

Our “**Bravest Warriors**” can hike to the top of Mt. Masada (discuss arrangements please, it is not an easy hike). All others who have “Good Common Sense”, will take the cable car to the top about 8:00am.

~ **Masada** is one of the most important mountains in world history. You will hear the incredible story of the **Jewish Freedom Fighters** who held out against the **Romans** in **73 AD**. The story of the struggle, the excavations, and the view from the top over the **Judean Wilderness** and **Dead Sea** will long burn in your memory as a *highlight* of the tour. From the top of **Masada**, one can see **Jordan**, **Edom**, the **Arabah Valley**, and the **Negev**.

~ Departing Masada, we travel north to **Ein Gedi/ Spring of the Wild Goats**. Then we hike to the waterfalls and recall **David** hiding from **King Saul** in the mountain cave behind the veil of the waterfalls. **Ein Gedi** is known for her beautiful cascading streams and refreshing pools. **David** spared **King Saul's life** here. Incredible story.

~ Following lunch, we travel south along the **Dead Sea** to view the modern Israeli chemical operations at this incredible Sea. En route, we will discuss the destruction of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**. According to the *Hebrew Scriptures* **God** literally *turned the earth upside down*. Nothing is left of the two cities today.

~ Just south of the **Dead Sea** is the overlook the **Arabah Valley** and the farthest outpost of the **Roman Empire, Palestina Limitus**. The great Roman Empire extended from here to **Cold Water, Scotland** (a five-hour flight today).

– **Returning to our hotel, David's Spa, in Ein Boqek, we relax and prepare our minds and hearts for the Holy City of Jerusalem.** –

Day 9 – Feb 29 – Thursday

WILDERNESS OF JUDEA / NEGEV / ARAD / BEERSHEVA / VALLEY OF ELAH THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM

~ Departing the Dead Sea hotel, we bus through the northern **Negev of Israel**. The difference in the topography of **God's Land** will amaze you. This desert area of Israel presents a majesty of its own.

~ We will visit **Tel Arad** (5,000 years old), and see a sanctuary built according to the layout of the **Holy of Holies** (instructed by God) in **Solomon's Temple**. How did the ancients know? **King Solomon** had a fortress near here.

~ Journeying West we come to the **Capital of the Negev, Beersheba** (meaning "**Well of the seven**"). At **Tel es Seba Abraham** dug 7 wells before he entered a covenant with the **Abimelech**. **Abraham** lived here, the angel spoke to **Hagar**, **Jacob** fled from **Esau**, **Jacob** offered sacrifices to God, and the angels fed **Elijah**. The OT proverbial expression "**from Dan to Beersheva**" described the size of Israel in **David's** day. A stone highway connected the two.

~ We will visit ancient underground **Beersheva** (6,000 years old) and see "**Abraham's Well**". The whole ancient city is a marvel indeed.

~ After lunch, we travel north through ancient **Judea** and **Philistia** to visit the **Valley of Elah**, where **David** slew **Goliath**. Don't miss Yehuda's story of the event.

~ Next, we view the **Valley of Sorek** from **Tel Beit-Shemesh** ("Temple of the Sun"). The inhabitants of this Israelite city received the returning **Ark of the Covenant** from its captivity in **Philistia**. The **Sorek Valley** was the site of **Sampson's** early exploits and where he dated **Delilah**.

~ Our bus climbs from the **Shephelah** (low foothills) into the **Judean Mountains** toward the **Holy City of Jerusalem**. The pilgrims of the **OT** sang the songs of Ascent" (**Psalm 120-134**) as they ascended the highways leading to **God's Holy City**, for the annual Feasts.

the "**Songs Entering Jerusalem from the West, we make our way to our "Jerusalem Home"**

– **Jerusalem Cassia Hotel (Night 1)** –

Concerning our tour in Jerusalem...

Our guide, Yehuda Hecht, and his ancestors have lived in **Jerusalem** since the Twelfth Century AD. He has carefully planned our itinerary choosing the best days and times to experience his "hometown". Every site possible will be seen, but not necessarily in the order on our itinerary. We leave **Jerusalem** in his capable hands. Yehuda will coordinate our site visits with Shabbat, and any Jewish holidays, even working around parades or marathons. Though our itinerary may change in **Jerusalem**, Yehuda will seek to cover every site listed, and more, much more. Thanks Yehuda!

Day 10 – March 1 – Friday Morning

The Holy City of Jerusalem

MOUNT OF OLIVES / GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE / KIDRON VALLEY / CAIAPHAS' HOUSE WAILING WALL / SOUTHERN EXCAVATIONS

~ Our day begins on top of the **Mount of Olives**. From here we have an incredible panoramic view of the **Temple Mount**, the **Dome of the Rock**, the **Golden Gate**, the ancient **Walls of Jerusalem**, and the **Kidron Valley**. Our guide will share a marvelous presentation of the Biblical and historical events related to **Jerusalem**. His **Historical Overview** will cover pre-Biblical **Jerusalem**, through the **Hebrew Scriptures** and **New Testament** events, up to present day **Israel**.

~ We walk down the traditional path of **Jesus' Triumphal Entry**, to the edge of the **Kidron Valley**. Here we visit the beautiful **Garden of Gethsemane**. Our devotional time here will recall **Jesus'** experiences related to the **Pasover** and **Gethsemane**.

~ From the Garden we enter the **Kidron Valley**, past the **Tomb of the Kings**, and then climb up **Mt. Ophel** to the Temple walls.

~ We visit the **House of Caiaphas/ St. Peter in Gallicantu**, the place of **Jesus'** early *interrogation and/or "Jewish trials"*. In the courtyard **Peter** denied **our Lord** three times. Here, we teach that **Jesus was kept in the Prison Pit, Tortured**, and "**Flayed**" or "**Caned**" by the Jewish authorities. You will learn of the details of **Jesus'** suffering for us. After viewing the first century Roman street **Jesus** used, we will overlook the "**Field of Blood**" where **Judas** hanged himself. At this location, you are standing just above the confluence of the **Kidron, Cheesemaker** and **Hinnon Valley** at **New Testament - Gehenna (the Place of Burning)**.

~ After lunch, we will take quality time at the **Wailing/Western Wall** and worship with Jews prior to their Sabbath.

~ We visit the **Southern Excavations**, and the southern **Temple Entrance** in **Jesus'** day.

AFTERNOON – DAY 10

MT OPHEL / KING DAVID'S CITY / HEZEKIAH'S TUNNEL / POOL OF SILOAM / JEWISH QUARTER

~ At **King David's City** on **Mt. Ophel**, we will visit the incredible **Canaanite** ruins, the **Jebusite** water system, **David's Tomb, Joab's Tunnel**, and exit at the recent excavations of the **Pool of Siloam**, connecting to **Hezekiah's Tunnel**.

Note: Arrangements can be made to walk thru **Hezekiah's Tunnel** and meet our group at the **Pool of Siloam**. The tunnel is about knee-deep in water. Digging from both ends, the workers met in the middle, beneath **Mt. Opel**. The tunnel is an unforgettable 45-minute wet hike. Wear old water shoes or tennis shoes. Bring a flashlight or elastic cap light. The water is comfortable, and most of the base is plastered and quite even for our tunnel adventure. Don't plan on this hike if you are claustrophobic.

~ If time allows, we will visit the **Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem** to consider her history and view **Nehemiah's Wall**.

The Sabbath begins at sundown. Enjoy the special Shabbat meal and celebrate the "Joys of the Shabbat" in Jerusalem.

– Jerusalem Cassia Hotel (2nd night). –

Day 11 – March 2 – Saturday (Jerusalem on Shabbat)

JERUSLAEM'S OLD CITY / TRIALS OF JESUS / VIA DOLOROSA / CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHER

~ Our day begins at the **Lion's Gate**, to focus on the importance of **Israel's return to the Holy City in June of 1967, "The end of the Age of the Gentiles"**. Our guide, **Yehuda**, led Israel's reconnaissance unit, **Rabbi Shlomo Goren**, and the Israeli troops through this gate on **June 7th, 1967 (Six Day War)**. What an incredible story!

~ We proceed to the **Pool of Bethesda**, where **Jesus** healed the lame man. Here we visit the **Crusader Church** of **St. Anne** and experience the incredible acoustics of the chapel. Who will sing for us?

~ Nearby is the **Tower of Antonia**, **Praetorium** and **Pilate's Judgment Hall**. Our **Lord Jesus** was tried here before **Pontus Pilate**, beaten by the **Roman Cohort**, received the **Crown of Thorns** and took up **His Cross**. Here we view the **King's Game**, inscribed on the **Pavement** stones near **Pilate's Judgment Seat**. The **Ecce Homo Arch** is where **Pilate** told the Jews **"Behold, the man"**.

~ The **Ecce Homo** begins the **Traditional Via Dolorosa**, with the **13 "Stations of the Cross"** (determined by the **Crusaders**, not very **Biblical**). We will visit the **Praetorium Prison**, where we believe **Jesus** was imprisoned, and where **Peter** was likely imprisoned and released by **God's** angel. The **Crusader Via Dolorosa** route leads to the 4th century **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, the traditional **Catholic/Orthodox site of Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection**.

~ After lunch, in the **Old City of Jerusalem**, there will be a brief time for shopping.

Calvary and the Garden Tomb Experience...

~ We pass through the **Damascus Gate**, en route to **Calvary** and the **Garden Tomb**. We believe this is the most reliable site for **Jesus' Crucifixion (The Hill of the Skull)**, **His Burial**, and **Resurrection** (the **Garden Tomb**). After visiting the **Empty Tomb**, we will discuss the **events in Jesus' Death and Resurrection**, in detail. **Celebration of the Lord's Supper** will close our worship time.

~ We will have time for personal prayer time in the **Garden** and allow time to shop in the **Garden Tomb Book Store**.

– We return to our Cassia Hotel (3rd night). –

Day 12 – March 3 – Sunday

TEMPLE MOUNT / HERODIUM / BETHLEHEM / SHEPHERD'S FIELDS

~ We begin our day on the **Temple Mount**, with a lecture about the **Temple's** historical background. You will view the Muslim **Mosque of El Aksa** over the **Dome of the Rock**. We will visit the **Dome of the Spirits**, where we believe the **Holy of Holies** stood on **Mt. Moriah/Mt. Zion**. This was the location of **Solomon's**, **Zerubbabel's**, and **Herod's Temples**. Here **Abraham** prepared to sacrifice **Isaac**. The mount became the place for sacrifices for Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures. At the north end of this **Mountain of Sacrifice - Our Lord** laid down His life.

~ Departing **Jerusalem**, we drive to the **Herodium**, the mountain that **Herod the Great** moved to build his palace. **Jesus** referred to the **"kings in their palaces,"** and **Herod** had two palaces in this location. The **Herodium** was the place of his elaborate funeral. (His tomb was only recently discovered.) From the **Herodium** you have an incredible view of **Bethlehem**, the **Wilderness of Judea**, and the **Negev**.

~ Crossing into the **"West Bank"** at the **Israeli/Palestinian Checkpoint**, we proceed to **Bethlehem**. We will briefly visit **Bethlehem Square** and the traditional place of **Jesus' birth**, the **Church of the Nativity** (built by **Constantine's mother, Queen Helena - the second oldest in world**).

~ At **"Shepherd's Field"**, we discuss **Joseph and Mary's** visit to **Bethlehem**, and **Jesus' Birth**.

~ Then, we enjoy an incredible Arab meal at **The Tent**. Wow! You won't forget this meal or atmosphere.

~ After lunch, we visit an **Olive Wood Factory and Shop**. You may want to select items or gifts from the world's most beautiful **olive wood** carvings. You will learn of the **Plight of the Christians**, who live under **Bethlehem's** Muslim administration.

– We return to Cassia Hotel (4th night). –

After our evening meal at the hotel, we will gather for a "share time" together. Be prepared with a "love gift" and a word of "Thanks" for our guide and driver at this time. Please attend.

Day 13 – March 4 – Monday

NEW JERUSALEM / YAD VASHIM / ISRAEL MUSEUM / MODEL of FIRST CENTURY JERUSALEM

~ In the **New City of Jerusalem**, our morning is spent in **Yad Vashem, Israeli's Holocaust Museum**.

Warning: You will not come out of this museum the same person as when you entered.

~ Next, we visit the amazing **Model of Century Jerusalem** and the **Israel Museum**.

~ While at the **Museum**, we visit the **Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls)**.

The balance of the day is in the hands of our Guide, Yehuda to "wrap" up his hometown of Jerusalem.

Our schedule is at his discretion. This is always fun.

– We return to the Cassia Hotel (5th Night) to pack for tomorrow's return. –

After the evening meal, go to bed as early as possible. Get rest for your return flight

Day 14: March 5 – Tuesday “SHALOM ISRAEL!”

- ~ Since flights vary, times of departures and transportation to the airport will also vary. We will assist you on airport transportation.
- ~ **Thank you for being with us. It has been an incredible joy to have you.**
- ~ **Your Israel Study Tour has been intense. Try to rest on your return flight. It is the most difficult part of the tour. Expect jet lag when you return.**

IMPORTANT: To Register for This Tour, you must Promise that You are Physically Able To Walk at least **3 Miles per day... (Not continuous, with Rest Stops).**

(Two days in 2023 we walked over 4 miles a day).

Do Not Overestimate your Ability. Your Health is our Concern!
If you are not able to keep up, you will slow the entire group.

PETRA EXTENSION (In Jordan): March 5-8

MAR 5th | Cross from Israel into Jordan at **Allenby Bridge**. Proceed to **Mt. Nebo** where Moses viewed the Promised Land. At **Madeba** see the world's oldest mosaic map. Travel to **Machaerus**, Herod's incredible palace, where John the Baptist was in prison. We bus thru **Moab** and **Edom** to our **Petra Hotel**.

MAR 6th | Enjoy a 5 hour visit to ancient **Petra**, the ancient Nabatean capital and a “*Wonder of the World*”. Bussing to **Amman**, the capital of **Jordan**, we will visit her Roman ruins and spend a memorable night.

MAR 7th | We drive thru the **Gilead Mountains** to majestic **Jerash** (a Roman Decapolis city). Descending thru **Gilead** we cross back into Israel over **King Hussein's Bridge** and drive to beautiful **Tel Aviv**. Some may visit **Jaffa**, the world's oldest seaport, where Jonah set sail and Peter had his roof top vision. Today **Jaffa** is a quaint artist's colony. **TEL AVIV OVERNIGHT**

MAR 8th | *Shalom Israel*. Fights return to the U.S.

This tour is Filling Fast. Register NOW!



Experience Eleven Full, Thrilling Study Days in Israel – Tour Cost \$4,800
(This Cost does Not Include your Air Travel, Noon Meals and a “Love Gift” for Guide and Driver)

What to Expect on our Tour:

- **Excellent Hotels, Deluxe Coach and Incredible Food & Services.**
- **Your black and white Bible will change to Living Color.**
- **A new understanding of Middle East politics and Biblical “End Times”.**
- **A deeper love for the Lord, His Word, His Land and His People.**
- **Israel's Best Guide, Yehuda Hecht. And we should know! This is our 49th tour.**
- **Yehuda Hecht to share the Historical, Geographical and Archaeological information of Israel.**
- **Dr. Bob Ross will share *The Jewishness of Jesus*, Devotions and Bible Color.**

For Tourist's - Israel is the Safest Place on Earth

- **No nation has better security. No nation is better prepared for terrorism.**
- **No person, on an organized tour, has ever been attacked (or injured) by a terrorist in 68 years !**
- **Israel averages 3.6 million tourists/visitors annually. What a record!**

Why should you Choose our Study Tour?

- It is **Not ... A typical “canned tour”** (visiting a minimum of 3-4 sites per day).
- It is **Not ... A traditional “Pilgrimage to the Holy Land”** (visiting numerous churches).
- **Our Tour Focus Is ... God's Word, His Land, and Jesus' Jewishness and ministry.**

Come Understand – God's People, Israel, His Miraculous Land.

TRIP DETAILS

Send **\$500 Deposit** (plus **\$100** if you add Petra) as soon as possible, to assure your place on our tour.

This tour is filling quickly. Please Don't Wait to Register. The First 45 deposits will go!

Deposit Secures your Place - The Price Includes...

Hotels, guide, driver, a beautiful, air-conditioned motor coach, breakfast and dinner, your individual audio receiver, fees to sites and museums, as well as a copy of our host's study manual, *Discover Israel - An Illustrated Guide*.

Cool bottled water will be provided daily on our tours.

Prices Do Not Include...

- Travel Insurance is encouraged and is the responsibility of each traveler. Details after you register.
- Noon Meals: Our Israeli breakfast and evening meals are enormous. Guide's choice for mid-day lunches between sites. These **average about \$15+ per day with two special meals at \$25 each... about \$200 total per person.**
- Personal Expenses: Souvenirs, laundry, phone calls, special drinks, and any personal room orders. A "Love Offering" for Yehuda and Driver will be collected near the end of the tour. Please remember.



GIL TRAVEL

Your Personal Link With The World

For further tour information or questions, please contact ...

1) Bob Ross: 214-801-3681 Mobile Phone

2) Anna Evenzahav: 800-801-4795 or 561-394-0821

REGISTER TODAY!

Don't Delay! Tour Limit is 45 Persons. We have Limited Capacity

Deposit and a Copy of Passport Picture must accompany Your Registration below.

NOTE - Covid Requirements: 1) **Entry to Israel is permitted regardless of vaccination status.**

2) **No more Covid testing/isolation requirements!**

CLIP and MAIL

MAIL DEPOSIT CHECK TO: Discover Israel Ministries, 2700 Juniper Court, Heath TX 75126

Make following RESERVATION/S for: ☐ **TOUR DATE: Feb 21-Mar 5, 2024** ☐ **Petra Extension: Mar 5-8**

My/our DEPARTURE CITY _____ (Remember you arrange your flights.)

Full NAME 1. _____ (EXACT on Passport)

2. _____

Full ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ PHONES: Home _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____

- ☐ Deposit is **\$500 per person** (Add **\$100 for Petra Extension**) that will secure your place and this deposit is non-refundable. **TOUR COST \$4,800 • PETRA extension add \$1,400**

NOTE: Tour Deposit Deadline - September 15 • Final payment is due - December 15, 2023. We will bill this final payment. ☐ **Single room supplement is an additional \$1,635.** (Check box if requesting.)

Gil Travel will send all information about packing and other arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE - You are responsible for your own airline transportation.

After you register, you will be sent a complimentary copy of our study guide, *Discover Israel - An Illustrated Guide*. Please Study Places You Will Visit and Prepare.

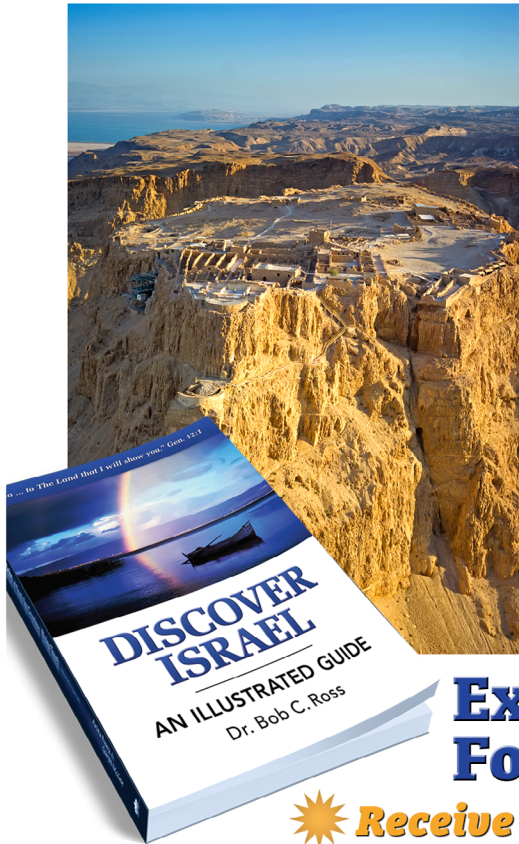


For Any Cancellation or Tour Deviations, Please Contact us Immediately.

- \$500 deposit is non-refundable, if you choose to cancel.
- 60-45 days before departure: Another 50% of land cost is non-refundable.
- 45-0 days before departure: 100% of total cost can not be refunded. (Your insurance covers, if health related).

***Your passport must be valid for 6 months after your return date. Call us if you have any problems registering for this tour.**

"Go... to The Land that I will show you." Gen. 12:1



Experience God's Miracle of Israel Forty Centuries in Eleven Days

☀ Receive a FREE Discover Israel book with tour deposit

Israel is 256 miles long, 64 miles wide, but 4000 years deep



DISCOVER ISRAEL

2700 Juniper Court • Heath, TX 75126

**2024 STUDY TOUR
Feb 21-Mar 5**

bobcross.tx@gmail.com

www.DiscoverIsraelMinistries.com



Bob & Yehuda invite you to experience God's Land