



Concordia University – Seward, Nebraska

HOLY LAND STUDY TOUR

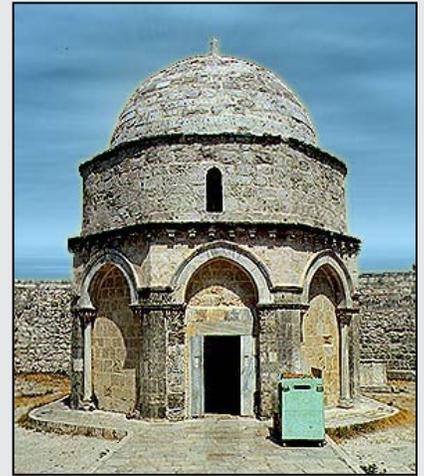
June 11-25, 2015 15 Days

Hosted by Dr. Mark Meehl, Professor of Theology

A tour of the Holy Land is the trip of a lifetime. During our Holy Land Study Tour 2015 you will encounter the land of the Bible on three levels. First, you will see the traditional sites associated with the Bible and visit archaeological excavations that will flesh out your picture of the ancient history of the region. Second, you will meet and talk with the people of the land – Palestinians and Israelis; Christians, Jews and Muslims - in a variety of settings to provide context and relevance to the events that occur in this land today. Finally, you will embark on a devotional journey that will add depth to your spiritual life for years to come. Our Holy Land Study Tour 2015 has been designed to be a pilgrimage in many senses of the word, uniquely tailored to the needs of Concordia's students, alumni, and friends.

The tour includes free time for you to explore and savor the atmosphere of Jerusalem at your own pace as well as experiencing a worship service in the thirteenth-century Crusader Chapel in the Old City. Come to the Holy Land with us, enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of the tour, and return with a wealth of new insights into the Bible and its world.

Dr. Mark Meehl has participated in excavations in Israel, Jordan, and Syria. He lived in Jerusalem for two and a half years, serving as Program Director for the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, before coming to Concordia University in 1991. This will be the fourth study tour he has led to the Holy Land.



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

THU 11 JUN **Depart USA**
Depart Omaha and connect in Newark with the transatlantic, overnight flight to Tel Aviv via United Airlines. (Meals in-flight)

FRI 12 JUN **Arrive Tel Aviv**
Upon late afternoon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, your guide, driver and motorcoach will be waiting to welcome you. Transfer to your hotel with a glimpse of Jaffa (biblical Japho) if time permits. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. Grand Beach Hotel (Meals in-flight, D)

SAT 13 JUN **Tel Aviv/Galilee**
After breakfast travel along the coastal road north to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of Palestine. See the Crusader fortifications, the Roman amphitheater, aqueduct, and the harbor from where St. Paul was taken to Rome. Proceed into the valley of Megiddo, one of Solomon's chariot cities. See the shaft and tunnel made by one of the twenty civilizations that built cities on this land. Continue to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation, the Greek Orthodox Church, and Mary's Well. Also ascend Mt. Precipice for sweeping views of the Jezreel Valley. Check in for a three-night stay at a kibbutz hotel adjacent to the Sea of Galilee. Kibbutz Ein Gev (B, D)

SUN 14 JUN **Galilee**
Begin the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum. Drive along the shore to Tabgha for visits to the Church of Multiplication, built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; and the Church of the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful in the Galilee. Enjoy a scenic vista of the sea from above Tiberias. Continue to Bet She'an where current excavations have revealed ruins of major archaeological significance. End the day at the baptismal site where the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee. Kibbutz Ein Gev (B, D)

MON 15 JUN **Galilee**
Explore the Upper Galilee region today. Travel to Hazor, one of Solomon's chariot cities, and to the Good Fence at Metulla. Stroll through peaceful Dan Nature Reserve and see the excavations of Tel Dan. Visit the Cave of Pan and Springs of Banias, also known as Caesarea Philippi, where Peter said, "Thou art Christ." Ascend Mt. Hermon and enjoy a view of the fertile Huleh Valley from the Golan Heights. Stop for lunch on own at a Druze

restaurant. Visit the church at Kursi, and end the day with a St. Peter's fish dinner in Tanureen Restaurant. Kibbutz Ein Gev (B, D)

TUE 16 JUN **Galilee/Bethlehem**
Drive to Belvoir Crusader fortress, then on to see the remains at Sebastiya (have lunch in Sebastiya) Continue to Nablus and see Jacob's Well, said to be where Jesus met the Samaritan woman. Arrive in Bethlehem for a tour of the Old City of Bethlehem including the Church of the Nativity and the Milk Grotto. Check in at your Bethlehem lodging. Lutheran Guesthouse (overflow at Grand) (B,L,D)

WED 17 JUN **Bethlehem**
Travel to Herodion, the hilltop palace and tomb of Herod the Great. Continue to Hebron to visit the Tombs of the Patriarchs, sacred to Muslims, Jews and Christians alike. Stop to learn about the art of Hebron glassblowing. Tour the Separation Wall that encircles Bethlehem and cuts off Palestinian communities from their farms and families. See the Shepherds' Fields and end the day with dinner of traditional Palestinian foods at the Grotto Restaurant. Lutheran Guesthouse (overflow at Grand) (B,D)

THU 18 JUN **Bethlehem**
Tour the International Center of Bethlehem this morning to learn of its works. The ICB has become vital to the Bethlehem economy through its hiring of local artisans and professionals for positions throughout the complex. Also visit Dar Al Kalima University. Visit a refugee camp for displaced Palestinians, followed by a visit to the Jewish settlement of Efrat. Evening program with the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb: "Who Are the Palestinian Christians?" Lutheran Guesthouse (overflow at Grand) (B, D)

FRI 19 JUN **Bethlehem**
En route to Jerusalem stop in Bethany to see Lazarus' tomb. Arrive on the Mount of Olives for a panoramic, first glimpse of the Golden City. Tour Augusta Victoria Hospital, supported by Lutheran World Federation and the Church of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives. Continue on foot down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Return to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight. Lutheran Guesthouse (overflow at Grand) (B, D)

SAT 20 JUN **Bethlehem/Jerusalem**
Travel through the Judean wilderness to Jericho, the world's oldest and lowest lying city. View the Mount of Temptation and Hisham's Palace. Depart for Masada where the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors in

the 1st Century A.D. Take the cable car up to this rocky plateau followed by a swim at the Dead Sea. Make a short stop at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Check in at your hotel located near the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

SUN 21 JUN **Jerusalem**
Worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Crusader Chapel in the Old City, then visit St. Anne's Church and the Pools of Bethesda. Begin your journey past the first nine Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in which the last five Stations of the Cross are housed. En route stop at Ecce Homo to see the actual pavement from Jesus' time. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

MON 22 JUN **Jerusalem**
Spend the day in the Coastal Plain area, visiting the Valley of Elah, Emmaus (near Latrun), Tel Beth Shemesh, Tel Gezer, and Ashkelon. Excavation site visit(s) arranged by Mark Meehl. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

TUE 23 JUN **Jerusalem**
This morning visit the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif, then see the Western Wall and visit the Jerusalem Archaeological Park. Drive through the New City and stop at Yad Vashem for time to visit this national memorial to the Holocaust. Visit the scale model of Jerusalem in Jesus' time. Enjoy time to explore the Israel Museum and see the original Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

WED 24 JUN **Jerusalem**
Check out of the hotel this morning – two day rooms will be available until departure. The entire day is at your leisure to explore Jerusalem or enjoy some quiet reflection. This evening join the group for a farewell dinner at an Armenian restaurant a short walk from the Jaffa Gate. Transfer this evening for flight check-in and departure at 11:10P. (B, D)

THU 25 JUN **Return to USA**
Pass through Immigration and Customs in Newark this morning and connect with the continuing flight to Omaha. Arrive home this same day enriched with a new understanding of the Bible and the people of the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$395 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due February 6, 2015. Final payment is due April 7, 2015. The tour price is based upon cash payment.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to February 5, 2015 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; February 6 - May 27, 2015 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 28, 2015 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than February 6, 2015. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Omaha via United Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Twelve nights accommodation in superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily with one lunch as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach with the exception of June 24 during the day.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv with the exception of June 24 during the day.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$156 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$740 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

***\$4599**

Group Flights From Omaha

Tour Gratuities (\$156).....Included
Airport Taxes (\$740).....Included
*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Single Room Supplement*.....\$649
*In addition to base tour cost. Limited availability on request basis. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Omaha (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of January 2014, a minimum of 22 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only. Not all bookings have been made and all space/rates are subject to availability at time of booking.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. Please refer to the Travel Insurance section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry vis

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#150602 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Concordia University : Holy Land • June 11-25, 2015 • (G#150602) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Omaha.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land-only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

- \$ _____ **\$668 per person inclusive of travel insurance.**
- \$ _____ **\$395 per person without travel insurance.**
- I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre-existing waiver.

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#150602

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE

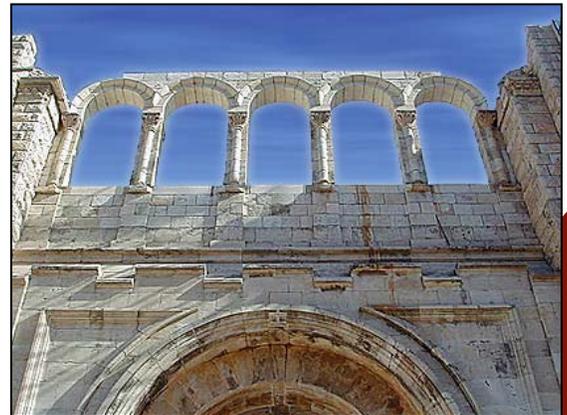
Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, e.g., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Trip Cancellation..... | up to Tour Cost* |
| Trip Interruption..... | up to 150% of Tour Cost** |
| Travel Delay..... | \$750 |
| Missed Connection..... | \$300 |
| Baggage..... | \$1,000 |
| Baggage Delay..... | \$200 |
| Medical Expense..... | \$50,000 |
| Evacuation/Repatriation..... | \$500,000 |
| Accidental Death..... | \$10,000 |
| Political Emergency Evacuation..... | \$100,000 |
| ID Theft Resolution Services..... | included |
| Assistance Service..... | included |

* a maximum of \$5000 per person
 ** a maximum of \$7250 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is \$273 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. *NOTE: Residents of Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington will receive a state-specific Description of Coverage, which can also be requested by calling 866-684-0218.* Once purchased, travel insurance is non-refundable.



CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

For more information, contact:

Mark Meehl
 Concordia University
 800 North Columbia
 Seward, NE 68434
 tel: 402-643-7301
 fax: 402-643-4073
 email: mark.meehl@cune.edu

or

Group Travel Directors
 2000 West 98th Street
 Minneapolis, MN 55431-2593
 tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
 fax: 952-881-6276
 email: groups@gtd.org
 www.gtd.org