



Concordia University – Seward, Nebraska

# THE HOLY LAND

May 27 – June 10, 2021 15 Days

Study Tour hosted by Dr. Mark Meehl, Professor of Theology

gtd  
Group Travel Directors

**A** tour of the Holy Land is the trip of a lifetime. During our Holy Land Study Tour 2021 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 2021 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 sixth study tour he has led to the Holy Land.



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

**THU 27 MAY** **Depart USA**  
Depart Omaha and connect in Newark with the transatlantic, overnight flight to Tel Aviv. (Meals in-flight)

**FRI 28 MAY** **Arrive Tel Aviv**  
Upon morning arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, your guide, driver and motorcoach will be waiting to welcome you. Stop in Jaffa (biblical Japho) before checking in at your hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. Grand Beach Hotel (Meals in-flight, D)

**SAT 29 MAY** **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 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. Check in for a three-night stay at a kibbutz hotel adjacent to the Sea of Galilee. Kibbutz Ma'agan (B, D)

**SUN 30 MAY** **Galilee**  
Begin the day with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum. Visit the Church of the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful in the Galilee, and the Primacy of Peter. See the Jesus Boat and enjoy lunch on own at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar. 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. Kibbutz Ma'agan (B, D)

**MON 31 MAY** **Galilee**  
Explore the Upper Galilee region today. Drive by Kursi and stop at the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes before visiting Hazor, one of Solomon's chariot cities. Then to the Good Fence at Metulla on the Lebanese border. 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. Stop for lunch on own at the Birkat Ram Druze restaurant. Afternoon visits include the Valley of the Tears Golan overlook, Mt. Bental overlook, and the Peace Vista at Kibbutz Charuv. End the day with a St. Peter's fish dinner at the hotel. Kibbutz Ma'agan (B, D)

**TUE 01 JUN** **Galilee/Bethlehem**  
Drive to Belvoir Crusader fortress, then to Burqin to visit the Church of the Ten Lepers. See the remains at Sebastiya followed by a delicious lunch of chicken mushakhan in Sebastiya at the Samaritan Restaurant. Visit Tel Balata (Schechem) and continue into Nablus to see Jacob's Well, said to be where Jesus met the Samaritan woman. Stop at the Samaritan Temple on Mt. Gerizim. 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. Grand Hotel (B, L, D)

**WED 02 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 a traditional Palestinian dinner at the Grotto Restaurant. Grand Hotel (B, D)

**THU 03 JUN** **Bethlehem**  
Tour the region's only arts college, Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture. Meet with The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (subject to his availability), faculty, staff and students to learn how arts and cultural initiatives ensure that today's Palestinians have abundant life. This university also serves the needs of the broader community through a range of contextual and holistic programs via Dar al-Kalima's Outreach program for Older Adults, Youth and Families. DAK partners with Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the U.S. Visit a refugee camp for displaced Palestinians, followed by a visit to the Jewish settlement of Efrat. Grand Hotel (B, D)

**FRI 04 JUN** **Bethlehem**  
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 with a slow walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Return to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight. Grand Hotel (B, D)

**SAT 05 JUN** **Bethlehem/Jerusalem**  
Make an early start to 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. Stop in Bethany to see Lazarus' tomb. Check in at your hotel located the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**SUN 06 JUN** **Jerusalem**  
Worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City, then 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. On return to the Old City visit St. Anne's Church and the Pools of Bethesda then follow 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 pavement from Jesus' time. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**MON 07 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 08 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 tour this national memorial to the Holocaust. This evening join the group for a farewell dinner at an Armenian restaurant a short walk from the Jaffa Gate. Gloria Hotel (B, D)

**WED 09 JUN** **Jerusalem/Departure**  
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. Gather for dinner at the hotel before transfer this evening for flight check-in and departure about 11:10P. (B, D)

**THU 10 JUN** **Return to USA**  
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 January 12, 2021. Final payment is due no later than March 12, 2021. The fee for late payment is \$50 per traveler. **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 January 11, 2021 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; January 12 - May 12, 2021 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 13, 2021 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 January 12, 2021. A minimum fee of \$100 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:** Thirteen nights accommodation in superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- ☒ **MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily plus one lunch as outlined in the itinerary.
- ☒ **GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- ☒ **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.
- ☒ **GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$169 per person has been included).
- ☒ **TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$703 per person).
- ☒ **ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

**PRE-EXISTING**  
medical conditions and other  
circumstances are covered  
when travel protection is purchased  
within 14 days of registration.  
Contact Travel Insured for more  
info. 800-243-3174

## COST SUMMARY

**\*\$4799**

Group Flights From Omaha

Tour Gratuities (\$169).....Included  
Airport Taxes (\$703).....Included

\*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Single Room Supplement\*.....\$889

\*In addition to base tour cost.

Limited availability on request basis.

**Costs:** The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Omaha (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of December 2019, a minimum of 25 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 travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection 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 visa.

**This tour requires considerable walking. Please check with your tour leader if you have any questions.**



## RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#210501 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Concordia University : May 27 - June 10, 2021 • (G#210501) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Day/Year

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
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 PROTECTION (please check one)

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

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$668 per person **inclusive of travel protection.**
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$395 per person **without travel protection.**
- 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#210501**

*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 PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 21 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 866-684-0218 (refer to Agency #47346). Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

### GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION 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 \$7500 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$273 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. Fairmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

### EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician; the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment; due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

### 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:

*Be assured that GTD continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed the U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for this destination was Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution); refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>*

### For more information, contact:

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