

Experience Israel

With Campbell University
Divinity School and Nurturing
Faith Experiences

May 11-22, 2019

Join Dr. Tony Cartledge (professor of Old Testament), Dr. Alicia Myers (professor of New Testament), and veteran guide Doron Heiliger for an unforgettable study tour of important sites in Israel and the West Bank.



\$3850 from Raleigh-Durham, (shared room, possible surcharge from other airports), plus \$200 to cover lunches and tips = \$4,050.

\$250 deposit due to reserve your place (refundable until February 1)

\$1,900 payment due February 1 (to cover airfare)

\$1,900 (plus potential airport surcharges) due April 1

Tentative Itinerary (abbreviated):

May 11 (Saturday) – depart from RDU or other airport



May 12 (Sunday) – We arrive in **Tel Aviv** in the morning, visit the **Church of the Annunciation**, the **Synagogue Church**, and **Mount Precipice in Nazareth**, then drive to the Nof Ginosar Hotel on the **Sea of Galilee**, our home for four nights.

May 13 (Monday) – We begin with a devotion on the **Mount of Beatitudes**, then drive to **Tel Hazor** and through the **Huleh Valley** to **Tel Dan**, then to **Banyas/Caesarea Philippi** and the **Golan Heights** before concluding at **Migdal** (biblical Magdala).

May 14 (Tuesday) – We drive west past **Mount Carmel** en route to scenic **Caesarea Maritima** (Herod's capital city), then back east to **Tel Megiddo** and on through the **Jezreel Valley** to **Jezreel**. We then go to **Tiberius**, where we board a large **boat** for a ride across the **Sea of Galilee** to the **Ancient Boat Museum**, next to our hotel.



May 15 (Wednesday) – Today we visit the church of **Peter's Primacy** and take a short ride to **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught in the synagogue, and to **Geshur** and **el-Araj**, potential sites for **Bethsaida**. We drive south along the eastern side of the sea to **BethShean/Scythopolis**, and return by **Jardenit**, where those who wish may remember their baptism in the **Jordan River**.



May 16 (Thursday) – We drive south to **Jericho**, then visit **Qasr el Yahud**, a baptismal site located across the Jordan from **Bethany beyond the Jordan**, where John baptized Jesus. We continue south to the village of **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found, and overlook the north end of the **Dead Sea**. We drive up the **old Jericho Road** to view St. George's monastery, deep in the **Wadi Qelt**. We then return to the modern highway and go up to **Jerusalem**, where we get our first view of the **Old City** and drive to the kibbutz hotel of **Ramath Rachel**, our home for the next six nights.

May 17 (Friday) – We go first to **Tel Mareshah** in the Beit Guvrim national park for a three-hour **hands-on dig** before heading south to **Tel Lachish**, second only to Jerusalem before it was destroyed in 701 BCE. We drive back through the **Valley of Elah**, where David famously battled Goliath, and where we can see the important hill sites of **Azekah**, **Socoh**, and **Khirbet Qeiyafah** on the way to **Beth Shemesh** and back to Jerusalem.

May 18 (Saturday) – Today we drive to the **Dead Sea**, from 2600 feet above Sea Level to the lowest spot on the surface of the earth at 1400 feet below Sea Level. We go south through the bleak wilderness until we come to the oasis of **'Ein Gedi**, where we can hike to a series of waterfalls and see caves such as those David used when hiding from Saul. We continue south to the impressive fortress city of **Masada** before heading to a spa where those who wish can "swim" in the **Dead Sea**. In the evening, we enjoy a sumptuous Shabbat meal.





May 19 (Sunday) – Today we put on our walking shoes for a long day in the **Old City of Jerusalem**. We begin at the **Western Wall**, and if conditions permit, we will go up onto **Temple Mount**, crossing over and exiting near the **Pool of Bethesda**, where we will pause to sing in the **Church of St. Anne's**, built by the Crusaders. We then walk to the site of the **Antonia fortress**, where Jesus may have been held before his crucifixion, and view the **Lithostratos**, part of the very Roman road Jesus would have walked. We then follow most of the **Via Dolorosa** through the crowded streets and market stalls of the **Muslim Quarter** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, where many believe Jesus was both crucified and buried. We will then go to the **City of David** excavations and have a chance to walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, which was dug in the 8th century BCE to bring water from the **Gihon Spring** to the **Pool of Siloam**.

May 20 (Monday) – Today we begin atop the **Mount of Olives**, then descend the steep **Palm Sunday Road**, stopping in the massive Jewish cemetery before looking in on an early burial site near **Dominus Flevit**, where Jesus reportedly wept over Jerusalem. We continue down to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, and visit the **Church of All Nations**. We then go to **Bethlehem**, where we will visit **Bethlehem Bible College**, then venture on to the **Church of the Nativity** and possibly **Shepherd's Fields**.

May 21 (Tuesday) – We begin with a brief visit to the **Yad VaShem**, Israel's holocaust memorial. We then pass by the **Knesset**, Israel's parliament, on the way to the **Israel Museum**, where countless historical artifacts are housed. We then visit the **Garden Tomb**, another traditional site of Jesus' burial place, and celebrate communion. Afterward, we enjoy a special "farewell dinner," probably in Bethlehem.



May 22 (Wednesday) – We say goodbye to our new friends and depart from Ben Gurion airport for our journey home.

Note: This is an ideal schedule: inevitably there are changes along the way. Sometimes we add more sites, sometimes we have to shift and see something on a different day, but we will do our best to include all of the sites mentioned above. Flexibility is the word.

Health: Participants should be in good health and capable of walking a mile or more, including many steps, both up and down. Some activities, such as walking through Hezekiah’s Tunnel, are optional. Be sure to bring any needed medications in your backpack or carry-on.

Weather: In May, the weather in Israel is quite pleasant. Rain is rare. Temperatures will probably be in the 80’s in the Galilee, a bit cooler in Jerusalem, and warmer in the south.

Clothing: Bring at least two pair of good walking shoes. Avoid sandals unless they are designed as hiking sandals (no flip-flops except around the hotels). Water shoes will be helpful more than once. Pack light, mix & match, and plan to wear everything at least twice. “Holy” sites may require shoulders and knees to be covered. The checked luggage limit is 50 pounds, and carry-on rules change often.

Price: includes airfare from RDU, all meals (except in layover airports), and tips. You need money only for souvenirs and incidentals. A traveler’s health insurance policy can be purchased cheaply through Campbell University. Airfare and ground package are paid to vendors in advance and may not be refunded. Traveler’s insurance seeking refunds if unable to go is optional and must be purchased individually. (Note: despite increases in hotel costs, the price is \$145 less than two years ago.)

A **passport** valid for six months past the travel date (November 22, 2019) is required and should be obtained at least three months prior to travel (airlines require passport numbers).

Participation is limited to 50 persons. Students have priority until January 1. We are planning to fly on Air Canada, via Toronto, to Tel Aviv. The airlines will not guarantee more than 40 spaces (already reserved). We will try to obtain additional seats with Air Canada, but it is possible that a few participants (who are comfortable doing so) may need to fly separately.

For more information or to reserve your spot: Contact Tony Cartledge at cartledge@campbell.edu. A website for online payments will be up and running soon.

