

Israel 2010 Itinerary

A note about this itinerary from Pastor Andy:
The key word in our journey to Israel is “flexibility.” We have planned an ambitious schedule, but there is also room here for several surprise activities. We will follow our talented and experienced guide, Yoram Mor, and trust that God will lead us to the very best trip possible. My recent trip to Israel with Ray Vander Laan gave me fresh insight on how to best lead a tour. In short, we’re going to leave plenty of time for surprises, avoid as many tourists as we can, and do our best to step back in time, and re-discover the Bible. That said, here’s our plan ...

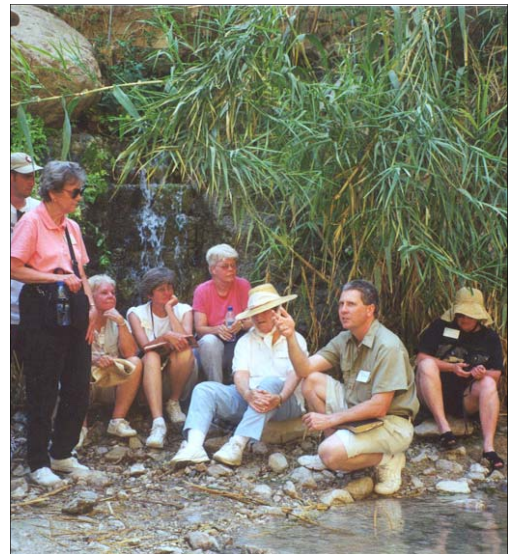
June 4, Friday night – Our journey begins with a long flight from Atlanta to Tel Aviv.

June 5, Saturday night – We’ll arrive in Tel Aviv about 5 p.m. By the time we clear customs and should have an hour or so of sunlight as we make our way to the coast, where we’ll spend a good night’s rest overlooking the Mediterranean Ocean.

Sunday, June 6 – Tuesday, June 8

After a hearty breakfast each day, our hiking and times of discovery will begin in earnest. Among the things we’ll do during these three days ...

- We’ll explore the “Shephelah,” to our lives as followers of Christ. We’ll spend the night at a nice hotel along the Dead Sea, our anchor point for the next three days.
- We’ll take a challenging hike through a wadi, finding new insight on a number of Bible stories, including the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the desert wanderings of John the Baptist, and of course, the time Jesus spent in the desert.
- We’ll visit En Gedi, where David took refuge
- We’ll hike up Masada, the rock fortress so important in Israel’s history.



Tucked in between the rugged wilderness of the Judean Wilderness (top), and the inhospitable waters of the Dead Sea (bottom) is the refreshing oasis of En Gedi.

□ We'll explore the Qumran community where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, along with the evidence of a most unusual community of faith that was in force while Jesus was teaching.

□ We'll spend each night in a hotel beside the Dead Sea, making sure you have plenty of time to experience the strangest water on earth!

June 9, Wednesday through Saturday, June 11
– We'll explore the Galilee! Our anchor point will be Nof Ginosar, a kibbutz on the northwestern corner of the Sea of Galilee, a place within walking distance of Jesus' adopted home town of Capernaum!

Among the things we'll do, we'll ...

- Ride in a boat across the famous Sea of Galilee
- Hike in the area of the Mount of Beatitudes
- Take challenging hikes to both Mt. Arbel and Gamla.
- Visit Capernaum
- Hike into Bet Sh'ean
- Hike in Tel Dan, take in the Banias waterfall and visit Caesarea Philippi
- Take a riding tour of the Golan Heights
- Hike up Mt. Carmel, where Elijah once defeated the prophets of Baal
- Hike to a secluded spot along the Jordan river
- Enjoy a Shabbat meal at our kibbutz as the sun sets on Friday.
- And as always, find some surprises along the way.

June 12, Saturday – We'll make our way toward Jerusalem, we'll take plenty of time at Caesarea Maritime, on the coast of the Mediterranean Ocean. Paul was once held in a prison here for two years. The discoveries include a 3,000-seat stadium, a Roman horse-racing track, the clear evidence of how violent the Roman army could be. This city was destroyed in AD 70, nearly 2,000 years ago. As you walk, look down. You'll find countless pieces of pottery shards. When the Romans destroyed a city, they literally left nothing for anyone else who might want to



In the Galilee, we'll tackle the cliffs of Arbel (top). In the final portion of our journey, we'll explore Jerusalem, the most famous city in the world. We'll pray at the Western Wall (bottom), explore the Old City Streets, and go underground for a walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel (middle).

rebuild. We'd make Jerusalem by mid or late-afternoon, enjoy a welcome to the most famous city on earth, and check into the nicest hotel on our journey.

June 13, Sunday – To get things started, how about a Sunday worship service on the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane? Our hiking portion of the tour will resume with a journey through the Kidron and Gehenna valleys, as we take in the layout of what Jerusalem looked like over the centuries. The Old City walls have changed several times, and the evidence of the city's existence can be found only in the valleys.

Sunday, June 13 through Wednesday, June 16

Count on seeing these incredible sites while we're in Jerusalem:

- We'll walk through Hezekiah's Tunnel.
- We'll explore the South Steps archeological park
- We'll pray at the Western Wall and be amazed during our tour of the Western Wall Tunnel.
- We'll visit the Temple Mount.
- We'll explore the Old City and leave plenty of time for shopping.
- We'll visit the Temple Institute, which hopes to rebuild the Jewish Temple on top of the Temple Mount.
- We'll walk the "Via Dolorosa," visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and have one of the most memorable worship services of our lives in the Garden Tomb.
- We'll visit Yad Vashem, the Jewish Holocaust memorial.

June 16, Wednesday night – We've got a very late flight home, so we'll eat a final meal together before heading to the airport.

June 17, Thursday morning – We'll arrive in Atlanta, and you'll understand why our tour host loves to tell people that we "visit Israel ... and return to the Holy Land!"