

# In the Footsteps of Jesus A Specialty Tour of the Holy Land

Curated for First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach

# **Trip Overview**

Trip Dates: October 11–23, 2026

Land Cost: \$4,300.00 per person Single Supplement: \$1,350.00

Air Cost: beginning at \$1550.00 per person (taxes approximate)

Deposit: \$500.00 per person due upon registration. Non-refundable after June 11, 2026.

**Interim Payment:** \$1,000.00 person due on June 11, 2026 (invoiced by Inquisitive Ventures, LLC). Non-refundable after August 3, 2026.

Final Payment: balance due on August 3, 2026. (invoiced by Inquisitive Ventures, LLC). Non-refundable.

# What is included in your trip:

- International roundtrip airfare from Orlando to Tel Aviv (with layover in Frankfurt)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Private bus transportation for sightseeing as specified
- Entrance fees to all sites on program
- Whisper guide system
- Tips for all program elements

<sup>\*</sup> Pricing is subject to AITS terms and conditions and is based on a group of 35 participants. Should the cancellation of individual participants diminish the group size below the minimum, Academy Travel reserves the following options: (a) carry on with the current program but with cost reducing alterations; or (b) levy a surcharge, based on final participation size.

# What is not included in your trip:

- Travel and cancellation insurance (highly recommended)
- Lunches
- Drinks other than water at meals
- Items of a personal nature phone calls, laundry, special transfers outside the group arrangement

**Passport Requirements:** Passports must be current and should be valid for at least six months from the date of return from the trip (April 23, 2027). Please upload an image of the signature and photo pages of your passport to Academy Travel as part of the registration process.

Hotel Information: Accommodations in single, double, or twin-bedded rooms as follows.

- 1 night in Natanya at the Seasons Hotel (or similar)
- 4 nights in Tiberias at the Magdala or Ron Beach Hotel
- 6 nights in Jerusalem at the Gloria Hotel (or similar)

For more information about the program: Please contact Eric Moore at Academy Travel (404-282-1055; <a href="mailto:eric@aitsatl.com">eric@aitsatl.com</a>).



# In the Footsteps of Jesus A Specialty Tour of the Holy Land October 11-23, 2026

Curated for First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach

# **Itinerary**



Day 1: Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026 — Departure for Israel Board your international flight departing for Tel Aviv.

## Day 2: Monday, Oct. 12, 2026 — Arrival in Tel Aviv

Arrive in Tel Aviv around 7:30 pm. Meet your guide after proceeding through customs and retrieving your luggage. Transfer to the Seasons Hotel in Netanya. Dinner and overnight in Netanya.

### Day 3: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026 — Drive to Tiberias via Caesarea, Mount Carmel, and Megiddo



Breakfast at the hotel and then check out. This morning you will depart for Tiberias in Galilee. Along the way, stop at Caesarea Maritima and next Mount Carmel. Resume your journey, stopping at the biblical site of Megiddo before continuing on to your destination, Tiberias. Check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

## Day 4: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026 — Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Magdala

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a day of activities on and around the Sea of Galilee. These include a boat ride on the sea — also called Lake Tiberias — as well as visits to two ancient villages, Capernaum and Magdala. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

### Day 5: Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026 — Mount Arbel, Sepphoris, Nazareth

Following breakfast, hike up Mount Arbel to experience breathtaking views of the Sea of Galilee, nearby villages, Mount Hermon, and the Golan Heights. (Possibly visit Mount Arbel in the afternoon instead depending upon weather conditions.) Next, visit the ancient cities of Sepphoris and Nazareth. After lunch in Nazareth, return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 6: Friday, Oct. 16, 2026 — Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Chorazin, Hippos After breakfast, depart for a full day of exploration. You'll first visit sites commemorating two of the most memorable moments in Jesus' ministry: Tabgha, associated with his miraculous feeding of the multitudes, and the Mount of Beatitudes, connected with his Sermon on the Mount. Next, travel to



Chorazin. This ancient village was the object of Jesus' "woes" in the gospels. Finally, transfer to the east side of the sea and the ancient village of Hippos, part of the so-called Decapolis. Return to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 7: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 — Drive to Jerusalem via Beit She'an and Jordan River Baptismal Breakfast and then check out of your hotel. Today, you will drive to Jerusalem. Along the way, visit the archaeological site of Beit She'an. Then continue on to Qasr el Yahud, a baptismal site on the Joran River. Resume your journey and arrive in Jerusalem. After checking into your hotel, walk to the Western Wall. Then dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.



# Day 8: Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026 — Dead Sea, Masada, Ein Gedi, Qumran

Following breakfast, embark on an excursion to the Dead Sea. You will visit, in addition to the sea itself, remarkable sites of both natural and historical significance: Masada, Ein Gedi, and Qumran. After this full day, return to your hotel to rest up. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

# Day 9: Monday, Oct. 19, 2026 — Bethlehem Excursion

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing on another excursion. Heading southward, you will visit two important yet very different sites. The Herodium, or Herod's Palace, now an archaeological site, was built by Herod the Great. The palace/fortress also held significance, later, for Jewish rebels in their fight against Rome. In the village of Bethlehem, visit Shepherds Field and the Church of the Nativity — whose sacred grotto commemorates the birth of Jesus.

### Day 10: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026 — Mount of Olives and Holy Sites

Take breakfast and then begin a day devoted to Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem. Sites you will visit include the Church of All Nations, Dominus Flevit, Pater Noster Church, Church of the Ascension, St. Anne's Church, and the Pools of Bethsaida. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

# Day 11: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026 — Garden Tomb and Church of the Holy Sepulcher

After breakfast, visit two different sites commemorating the burial and resurrection of Jesus: the Garden Tomb and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Enjoy free time for lunch, perhaps a visit to the Davidson Center, and a stroll through the Old City. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.



## Day 12: Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026 — Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book

Following breakfast, head to the Israel Museum to view its model of ancient Jerusalem. Visit the Shrine of the Book. Afternoon free for lunch and exploring the Old City.

### Day 13: Friday, Oct. 23, 2026 — Return to the US

Eat an early breakfast and then check out of your hotel. Depart for the airport and your morning flight back to Orlando.



# **Israel Travel Tips**

# Passport, Visa, and ETA

You need a valid passport to enter Israel. Though you will not need it on a daily basis, you should always have it available. Keep it safe. Never pack it in your suitcase. And never carry it in your shirt pocket or hip pocket where it is visible to pickpockets.

Your US passport is an extremely valuable item and an important form of identification. I suggest that you take a picture of your passport with your cellphone, so that you always have a copy available. (It might be wise also to email that picture to yourself, so you can access it remotely.) <u>Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the return date of your journey.</u>

United States citizens do not need a traditional visa to enter Israel. However, it will be necessary to secure an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). <u>Here</u> is where you can apply for the ETA on the Israeli Government website (there is a small fee).

#### **Health and Vaccinations**

We expect everyone to be healthy and fit to travel. Some of our tours require walking distances over uneven terrain. If not sure about your level of fitness, please consult with your physician and discuss the prospect of your participation with the group leader.

Please check the <u>CDC vaccination recommendations for Israel</u> and, above all, consult with your primary care doctor about these precautions or any other health concerns.

If you take prescription medications on a regular basis, be sure that they are properly marked with prescription numbers as customs officials may be suspicious of unmarked drugs. <u>Here</u> you can find TSA instructions/recommendations for transporting medicine. Note that it is a good idea to keep any medicine you have need on a regular basis, properly contained and labeled, in your carry-on bag for ready access (and in case your checked bag gets misplaced).

#### Money, Financial Hints, and Tipping

The official currency in Israel is the Israeli Shekel (NIS). US dollars are accepted at many tourist-oriented businesses, and it is a good idea to have cash on hand for small purchases, tips, etc. —

especially in small bills. When you get a chance to use a safe and authorized ATM, you are advised to withdraw in the local Shekels. Most establishments will also accept major credit cards (Visa and Master are favorites). Lastly, it is a good idea to notify your bank and credit card companies that you will be traveling to Israel to prevent legitimate purchases from being declined.

Tipping is covered for all events in the program. Naturally, travelers are expected to tip appropriately for non-covered personal services, such as hotel room service. As a general rule, tipping expectations are not as high as they are in the US. Sometimes, services charges are automatically included in restaurant bills. When they are not, it is customary to tip a waiter 10-15 percent of the bill. <u>Here</u> is a resource for helping to determine appropriate tipping amounts.

#### **Baggage**

Please do not bring more luggage than you can manage — specifically, one checked suitcase and one reasonably sized carry-on bag. You will also be allowed to bring a personal item such as purse, small backpack, or a laptop bag in addition to your carry-on bag.

The airlines have very specific rules about baggage. Generally, each checked bag must NOT exceed 20 kg or 158 cm (length+height+width). A 28-inch suitcase (i.e., 28 inches on the longest side) is about right. But make sure you check with the airline itself about size requirements for all bags (checked and carry-on) before packing and arriving at the airport. Here are baggage allowance specifications for Lufthansa.

Due diligence is also required when it comes to packing liquids of any kind in your carry-on bag. The rule of thumb is that any liquids in your carry-on bag must be no more than 3.5 ounces and should be packed in a clear, quarter-sized zip lock bag. This enables security agents to see items clearly. The bulk of medicines, lotions, and cosmetics can be packed (again, in zip lock bags) in your checked bag. But these general guidelines should always be checked against updated TSA information <a href="here">here</a>.

Finally, it is a good idea to pack enough underwear and overnight necessities in your carry-on bag for about two days. This is just in case your checked bag gets lost or delayed.

#### Clothing

Plan to dress casually but to bring at least one somewhat dressy outfit for any special occasion that arises. Some religious sites, moreover, may require head/shoulders (a scarf would do the trick for woman) and leg coverings. Temperatures in Israel can range from warm during the day to cool in the evening — <a href="here">here</a> is a look at temperatures across Israel during October — so pack accordingly.

It's recommended you bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. And be sure to pack comfortable yet sturdy shoes for walking. (Lighter-weight shoes can be brought too for use in the afternoons and evenings at the hotel.) If you wear glasses, think about bringing an extra pair. Handbags should have a strap across the shoulder.

## **Electricity**

In Israel, electricity runs on a 230 supply voltage and 50Hz. Power outlets are of type H (3 prong) and  $\underline{C}$  (2 prong). If you plan on bringing dual voltage devices only (often such items as mobile phones, tablets, kindles, etc.), you will merely need to bring a plug converter/adaptor compatible with the Type H/C plugs for the device to function safely. However, if you intend to bring any non-dual device which operates at the US voltage (110/120V) you will also need to bring a voltage converter. Travelers are responsible for verifying, individually, whether a plug adaptor and/or voltage converter is required.

#### Other Items

You may wish to bring a few over-the-counter medications for digestive issues, which sometimes arise during travel. Pepto Bismol and/or Imodium fit into this category. For a proactive approach, you might consider taking probiotics each day, something like Culturelle. Likewise, it is a good idea to bring items to address a potential cold (such as aspirin and Kleenex). And again, to be proactive, you might consider taking a vitamin boosting supplement like Air Borne. Other items that could come in handy include dry skin lotion, antibiotic cream, and hand wipes. But a caution is in order: when packing, remember the baggage size limitations!

#### Mobile Phones and WiFi

Most mobile phones can be used for international calling, texting, and internet access (data). Just be sure to check with your service provider for coverage and rates, as plans vary by service provider. For service not covered by your contract it is easy, inadvertently, to run up a bill of several hundred dollars in no time at all.

Another good communications tool is WhatsApp — a free app for your smartphone. Be sure to download it and learn how to use it in advance. Most hotels and cafes now offer free Wi-Fi, but it is not guaranteed. Check with the hotel for internet access options.

In case of emergency (i.e., a real emergency not birthday greetings), your family can always reach you through Academy Travel. The business number is 404-282-1055.



#### **Terms & Conditions**

Please read carefully and call Academy Travel with any questions: 404-282-1055.

RESPONSIBILITY/MANAGEMENT: In making travel arrangements for the tour, Inquisitive Ventures, LLC ("IV") dba Academy International Travel Services ("AITS") and/or its agents or sub-agents serves as an agent for the tour participants in all matters connected with hotel accommodations, sightseeing, transportation whether by rail, air, motorcoach, boat, or other types of conveyance and other components constituting the travel portion of this tour. IV dba AITS and/or its agents or sub-agents shall have no responsibility for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity, or additional expense arising from changes in schedule, fire, weather, breakdown in machinery or equipment, sickness, quarantines, acts of governments, or other authorities du jour or de facto, wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, theft, pilferage, improper documentation, or for any other cause beyond their control. IV dba AITS shall not be liable for any act or omission by any individual or firm contracted for services on behalf of the participant. IV dba AITS reserves the right to cancel the tour, reschedule the departure, amend the itinerary, substitute hotels of comparable quality, and generally make any alteration or substitution if improvements can be made or operating requirements make it advisable, or if unforeseen conditions beyond their control make such changes necessary. IV dba AITS also reserves the right not to accept or retain as tour participant any person whose actions, deportment, mental or physical condition impose upon or disturb other tour participants or impede the operation of the tour. In such cases the liability of IV dba AITS shall be limited to a refund of the cost of the unused travel services. By applying for participation in the tour and by utilizing the services of IV dba AITS and/or its agents or sub-agents, the participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. Quoted tour prices include planning, handling and operational charges and are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs, and taxes as of the date of this offer. IV dba AITS reserves the right to increase tour prices (not to exceed \$100 per person) to cover increased costs, tariffs, and taxes, or to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets, and to notify each participant in a timely fashion of an increase.

We regret that we're unable to provide individual assistance to participants with walking difficulties or other personal needs. The responsibility of the tour director/leader who accompanies your trip is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey. They cannot be relied upon to

provide ongoing individual assistance to any one participant. Participants requiring such individualized assistance must be accompanied by an able-bodied companion who can provide it.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Negotiated under separate contract and subject to the terms and conditions of each individual airline.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE: Subject to the terms and conditions of each airline, but generally each participant will be allowed one piece of checked luggage at no additional charge when traveling on an international carrier — weight not to exceed 50 pounds. One personal item (handbag, laptop bag, etc.), plus one carry on that must fit underneath an aircraft seat or in an overhead storage compartment. Participants are responsible for verifying baggage allowances with the respective airlines.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION ON TOUR: Air-conditioned, modern motorcoaches will be used throughout the trip for all excursions, touring and sightseeing. Ground transfers, including baggage, will be provided between all arrival/departure points and hotels except in the US where no such service is provided. Air-conditioned coaches cannot always be guaranteed for this service.

**NON-SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on transfer or on touring motor coaches. This policy is for the wellbeing of all tour members and is intended to provide an enjoyable group travel experience.

**HOTELS:** First-class hotels will be used throughout the trip. Per person costs are based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded or double room with private bath or shower.

MEALS: Meals are included as per the itinerary for the trip.

TAXES/TIPS/FEES: All service charges are imposed by lodging facilities. Admission fees to the sites or attractions on the official itinerary for the tour are included. Generally, tips for guides and drivers are included in the price of the tour and will be added to final invoice. This will allow the leader to handle the tipping for the group as a whole.

EXTRA COSTS: If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, AITS will assign you a roommate if one is available. If there is no one with whom you can share, you will be invoiced for a single room. No price reduction will be extended to those sharing a triple-bedded room. Items or services not specially mentioned as being included such as laundry or dry cleaning and all items of a personal nature are at the full expense of the participant. Beverages are not included with lunch or dinner and are available only at extra cost.

DOCUMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS: All checks should be made payable to Inquisitive Ventures, LLC. A deposit is due to reserve each place on the tour. Interim and final payments are due as per the payment schedule for the respective program. Full payment is non-refundable at time of

payment. All cancellations must be in writing. No claim will be allowed for any service or sightseeing provided but not used in the course of the trip.

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY: The several transportation companies which are contracted by AITS to provide services during the course of the tour are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their carriers or conveyances. The passenger contract used by the carriers concerned, when issued, constitutes the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of such services, and IV dba AITS assumes no liability or responsibility in connection therewith.