

The Land of the Bible
with Dr. Randy Smith
January 31-February 11, 2022

Day One: Monday, Jan 31, 2022

Depart Pittsburgh or Newark, NJ for Israel. Meals and overnight: In flight.

Day Two: Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. Transfer to the hotel near the Mediterranean coast for dinner and a good night's rest! Dinner and overnight: Tel Aviv area. D

Day Three: Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022

Four Conflicts in the Background of the Gospels: Highlighting example sites, this study focuses on four key conflicts in the background of Jesus' public ministry. Sites: Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, Valley of Armageddon, Zippori, Nazareth (including cave homes). Overnight: Sea of Galilee area. B, D

Day Four: Thursday, Feb 3, 2022

Characteristics of the Disciples: Using the four gospel accounts, we will investigate the hints on the background, education and theology of the disciples. Sites: Mt. Arbel, Magdala, Mt. Beatitudes, Capernaum, Ancient Boat exhibit, boat ride. Overnight: By the Sea of Galilee. B, D

Day Five: Friday, Feb 4, 2022

Private Teachings for the Disciples: Based on the five sermons in the Gospel according to Matthew, our focus will be on the common teaching style of the ancient rabbis. Sites: Tel Dan, Baniyas (Caesarea Philippi), overlook into Syria, Qatzrin (Talmudic Village). Overnight: By the Sea of Galilee. B, D

Day Six: Saturday, Feb 5, 2022

The Perea Ministry of Jesus: We will address the issues of the Perea Ministry, with particular examination of Luke 10-19, the "special section" of this account. Sites: Beth Shean, Jordan Valley, Jericho overlook, Qumran, Dead Sea. Overnight: Dead Sea spa hotel. B, D

Day Seven: Sunday, Feb 6, 2022

Hebrew Themes of the Wilderness: From the desert storm of Habakkuk, to the salt covenant of David, various Biblical wilderness themes will be highlighted, and then "Up to Jerusalem". Sites: Masada, En Gedi. Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

Day Eight: Monday, Feb 7, 2022

Messianic Expectations and Disappointments: With a specific view of the history of "other Messiahs" we will discuss the expectations for the Messiah, and their relationship to the record of the preaching of Jesus.

Setting of the Birth Narrative: We will investigate what the Biblical accounts tell us of Jesus' birth, based on both the Matthew and Luke accounts.

Sites: Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Shepherd's Fields area. Overnight: Jerusalem. B,D

Day Nine: Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022

A Living People: Visit to Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial) or Gush Etzion. Jewish Quarter (Cardo, Broad Wall, Herodian mansions), Western Wall plaza, Davidson Center with the Southern steps. Overnight: Jerusalem. B, D

Day Ten: Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022

Jewish Questionings and Roman Trials of Jesus: The arrest, trial and conviction of Jesus will be our subject as we journey through the "salvation geography" of Jerusalem in the Gospel according to John. Sites: Temple Mount, Pools of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Garden Tomb (with communion). Overnight: Jerusalem. B, D

Day Eleven: Thursday, Feb 10, 2022

Day at leisure. You'll have time to shop, do additional sightseeing, or just relax and take in the local culture. B,D

Day Twelve: Friday, Feb 11, 2022

Return flight from Tel Aviv to Newark (EWR), with connections to Pittsburgh, arriving later the same day.

Every effort will be made to complete the full itinerary. Yet, because conditions are often unpredictable in travel, we reserve the right to make changes during the tour.