



STS Students & Partners

Study Trip to Israel – 23.12

December 9-21, 2023¹

Teacher/Leaders:

Dr. Doug Bookman
Dr. Peter Goeman
Dr. Clayton Schultz

Licensed Guide / Driver: Nabil Kort

HOTEL WEB-SITES
 Gilgal: www.hotelgilgal.com
 En Gev: www.eingev.com
 Masada: www.iyha.org.il
 Gloria: www.gloria-hotel.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
December 3 Telephone #s: Gilgal Hotel – Tel Aviv Masada Youth Hostel Gloria Hotel Bookman's Mobile Nabil's Mobile (Guide)	December 4 From the USA, precede with 011-972- 3 5111000 972-2-5945623 2-628-2431 050-709-5639 (Israel Phone) 973.685.5625 (US Virtual) 054 924-5552	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Trip offered on Land-Only Basis Travelers secure their own air flights Donor Partner Land Cost: \$3,800 Ministry Partner Land Cost: \$1,900 Please read <i>completely & carefully</i> all of the information on both sides of this sheet</p> </div>			December 7	December 8 <u>Optional Early Departure Date</u> ²	December 9 Depart for Israel by the flight of your choice and arrangement. ³
December 10 <u>Arrive</u> Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel Make your way to our hotel in Tel Aviv ⁴ Option: Independence Hall (?) Option: Joppa Walk Introductions & Preview ⁵ (after evening meal) ON: Gilgal Hotel Tel Aviv	December 11 <u>Coastal Plains & The Jezreel Valley</u> Caesarea Maritima Mt Carmel (Muhra)ka [Overview: Jezreel Valley] 2 nd Temple Tomb Tel Megiddo Mt Gilboa / Jezreel [Ein Harod Overlook] Nazareth: Mt Precipice ON: Golden Crown-Nazareth	December 12 <u>Sea of Galilee</u> Lower Galilee (drive thru) HoH / Mt Arbel (Hike) Magdala / Migdol Church of Beatitudes Capernaum Tabgha Nof Ginnosar Boat Ride ON: En Gev – Sea of Galilee	December 13 <u>Northern Galilee / Huleh Valley</u> Chorazim Tel Hazor Huleh Valley Tel Dan Baniyas Falls Caesarea Philippi/Baniyas Golan Heights/Syria overlook Qazrin ON: En Gev	December 14 <u>Jordan Rift</u> Beth Shan Border Road Route Jordan River Site Tel Jericho Qumran / Cave 1 [hike] En Gedi (overlook) Dead Sea Swim ON: Masada Youth Hostel	December 15 <u>Negev /Shephelah</u> Masada Arad / Beer-Sheva [drive-by] Tel Lachish Elah Valley / Azekah Sorek Val /Beth-Shemesh Up to Jerusalem Aliyah from the West PM: Visit to Western Wall ON: Gloria Hotel – Jaffa Gate	December 16 <u>Intro to Jerusalem</u> Gibeah of Saul [Cent Benj Plateau – overlook] Israel Museum: 2 nd Temple Model Shrine of the Book Archeological Museum Mt Scopus / Mt of Olives Haas Promenade PM: Optional Worship Service ON: Gloria Hotel	
December 17 <u>Judea/Ephraim/Samaria</u> [The West Bank] Drive thru Ephraim Hill Ctry Sychar/Jacob's well Shechem/Tel Balata Shiloh „Beitin / Bethel / Luz Et-Tell / Ai Burj Beitin [Ai on east, Bethel on west] Geba-Michmash overlook ON: Gloria Hotel	December 18 <u>Jerusalem / OT</u> [Along the way: Bar-Mitzvah watch & Cardo Walk-through] Hezekiah's Broad Wall City of David Warren's Shaft / Hezekiah's Tunnel / Pool of Siloam AFTERNOON: FREE ⁶ ON: Gloria Hotel	December 19 <u>Jerusalem / NT</u> Davidson Center [Southern Step Excavations] Western Wall Tunnel Holy Sepulcher Church AFTERNOON – FREE Evening: Jesus Final Hours (Pt 2) Priestly Villa & Stone Pavement [Jewish & Roman Trials] ON: Gloria Hotel	December 20 <u>Jesus' Final Hours</u> (Pt 1) Temple Mount [7:00 am] Cenacle/Upper room Walk to Gethsemane AFTERNOON FREE Farewell Dinner Depart for airport ⁷ – time per your arrangement ON: Aboard an airplane	December 21 Travel Home ON: In your own bed!	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Important Note: Schedule your departure time here – as close as possible to midnight, Wednesday, December 20 – Either very late on Wed, December 20 or as early as possible on Thursday, December 21..</p> </div>		

¹ **Cost [Land-Only]: \$3,800.** Note that this is a trip of 13 days, which includes 10 *full study days in Israel*, with guide/teachers throughout the trip, all lodging, travel, entrance fees and incidentals paid. This cost does not cover (1) airfare, (2) travel from and to the airport in Israel, (3) lunches or (4) any personal items (gifts, snacks, personal travel, etc.). Additional cost to not share a room with another trip attendee: \$800.

Restrictions and Requirements: This study trip will demand more of the traveler than the ordinary tourist trip, both in terms of daily schedule and physical exertion. Our days will begin early and involve several hours of study and hiking. It is important that each traveler be capable of walking 6 to 9 miles a day, often up and down steep hills, and almost certainly in warm to hot weather. Finally, remember that you must be in possession of a valid and unexpired passport [i.e., which does not expire within six months of the departure date].

Deadline Dates

☞ After receiving acceptance email, **non-refundable deposit of \$250 due by Sep 30** to secure a spot; ☞ The balance paid by **Oct 31, 2023**.

☞ Cancellations: full refund less deposit & administrative costs

Registration Procedure: If you would like further information, please contact:

Thomas Ross, Shepherds Seminary, 6501 Tryon Rd, Cary NC 27518 [O:929.573.1571]; e-mail: tross@shepherds.edu
Clayton Schultz, The West Institute, 4801 Quarter Horse Dr, Laramie WY 82070 [O:307.742.6781]; claytonschultz@yahoo.com
Doug Bookman, 115 Strathburgh Lane, Cary NC 27518 [O: 919.573.1551; M: 616.713.8999]; e-mail: doug.bookman@gmail.com

NOTE: If you would like to register for the *Study Trip*, please send your deposit to the underlined address above. Make the check to "Shepherds Seminary" and put "23.12-STC Israel Trip" on the memo line. Please be careful to include the following information:

- 1) the full name of all travelers (as the name appears on his/her passport);
- 2) complete mailing address(es);
- 3) phone numbers (day & evening);
- 4) e-mail addresses;
- 5) passport number(s) & expiration date(s);
- 6) any questions or special concerns you may have.

Note: It is recommended that travelers consider purchasing **accident/health insurance** for the trip. If your health insurance does not adequately cover you when abroad, consider short-term policies that cover only the time you are in Israel; they are quite affordable, and they do provide thorough and accessible coverage. An American company which provides policies primarily for Christian workers is MissionaryHealth.net. Phone: (800) 647-4589; e-mail health@missionaryhealth.net; website: www.missionaryhealth.net. A fine Israeli provider is Chacoty Sasson General & Life Insurance Agency, www.chacoty.co.il. Click the American flag for English, then *Options*, then *Insurance for Tourists*; download, print and complete the application form and submit it by fax. Allow at least two weeks to accomplish this. Further, it is strongly recommended that you purchase **Trip Cancellation** Insurance. A close friend of Doug's who offers this is Craig Dunning at <https://discipleshiptravel.com>; find the banner entitled "Need Travel Insurance" (right side of page), click and follow the prompts. Note: do *not* insure the land-cost, as that will be refunded to you if you are unable to go for any reason. You are wise to insure the cost of air passage, as the airlines are reluctant to refund that cost.

²The group will gather at the Gilgal Hotel in Tel Aviv on Sunday, December 10, 2023. However, if you would like to have a day to recoup, you are welcome to arrive a day (or more, for that matter) early. The hotel will be alerted that some travelers may choose to arrive early, but you must make those arrangements yourself. Contact the hotel manager, Itai Merone. The contact info is below

Address: 7 Nes-Ziona St. Tel Aviv 63904 Website: <http://www.hotelgilgal.com-israel.com> Itai's e-Mail: itaym@Afi-Hotels.co.il

Hotel phone: +972 3 545-0000 // WhatsApp (Itai): – 972-5-44300055; Note: Mention that you are with the Bookman Study group.

The Gilgal Hotel is about a ten-minute walk from a very nice Mediterranean beach. The price of a regular room for *Sunday* night (the 1st night of our tour) is built into the cost of the trip; if you choose to arrive early, you will need to cover the charge for the additional night(s).

³Arrival in Israel on Sunday will mean departing the US on Saturday. Select any carrier, but be careful to *schedule your arrival sometime on (or before) Sunday, December 10*. The earlier you arrive, the more time you will have to gather yourself before we start out early Monday morning.

⁴ **Getting from the airport to the first night's hotel.** The least complicated and most dependable way of getting from the airport to the Gilgal Hotel in Tel Aviv is simply to take a taxi. There are shuttle services, but they are no cheaper (in my experience) and they involve a level of complexity and uncertainty (e.g., in case of flight delays) which are simply not worth the effort. To secure a taxi could hardly be easier or more dependable. After passing customs and picking up your luggage, proceed through the Greeters Hall and exit at Gate #3; turn left at the sidewalk, find the dispatcher's station and ask for a taxi to the Gilgal Hotel in Tel Aviv. (Have the address available.)

NOTE: Taxi drivers are required by law to offer to use the meter on all trips. If you know the accepted rates, it is acceptable to set a price beforehand. For long trips, the driver must charge passengers according to the Ministry of Transport price list posted in all taxis. Further, a 25% surcharge for night trips is in effect from 9:01pm – 5:29am (from 4pm on Fridays & holiday eves). Trips out of Ben Gurion Airport are charged an additional NIS 5.00, and passengers pay approximately NIS 3.00 for each suitcase.

Please do not be intimidated by this, as it is very simple and entirely dependable. Further, note that the cost of getting to the hotel is not covered in the cost of the trip, so you will have to pay for this yourself. The trip has been arranged in this way in order to provide maximum flexibility for the traveler, and to keep your cost at a minimum.

⁵We will regularly gather in the evenings to review the day's travels and learning and to preview the region we will be exploring the next day.

⁶One important stop not on our itinerary is Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in West Jerusalem. This would be a good day to take the commuter tram to the museum and spend 2 or 3 hours thinking through the exhibits.

⁷**Please schedule your departure as close to midnight as possible on Wed night (Dec 20), or as early as possible on Thursday (Dec 21).**

Several airlines have departures close to midnight, which works best as it gives us a full day on Wednesday, saves us paying for a room on Wednesday evening. Your room will possibly be available to you as late as you need it on that Wednesday; we'll settle this when we are there. Once we know the various departure times, we will work to arrange either taxis and/or a bus to get us to the airport in plenty of time for the various departure times. Again, plan to cover the cost of the trip from Jerusalem to the airport, as that is not covered in the cost of the trip.