



Lake Forest Holy Land Trip Information Sheet & Draft Itinerary

Topic	Information
What's the purpose?	Provide an interactive & intense first-hand experience of the Bible lands to include geographical, historical, and present-day context targeted toward the spiritual growth of participants.
When will we go?	Departure date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 Return date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 full weeks includes one day of travel on each side
Who can go?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Forest Huntersville & West Lake attendees Primarily for adults aged 16 or older due to physical demands First 45 to confirm with \$1,000/person deposit in September. We'll maintain a 10-person waiting list in case anyone cancels. After September 15, we'll open the trip to anyone.
What will we do?	The itinerary may include a visit to the Promised Land, Jerusalem, Jericho, Samaria, Jacob's Well, Bethlehem, Herod's Palace, the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, the Temple Mount, Western Wall, Garden Tomb, Galilee, Capernaum, site of the Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee boat ride, Nazareth Village, & Joppa. The exact itinerary may vary up until the time of the trip. There will lots of walking, learning, and hearing from our pastors.
Who's our guide?	Dr. Tim Laniak is a Senior Professor of Biblical Studies at Gordon-Conwell Seminary and co-founder of Bible Journey, an interactive curriculum that many of you have engaged over the last year. Tim completed his doctorate at Harvard University, researched Bedouin in the Middle East, and led educational tours in the lands of the Bible for many years. Of course, our own pastors, Bob DeBoer and Mitch White will also be joining us.
How much will it cost?	We estimate costs to be about \$3,000/person plus travel and incidentals. Guides, transportation in country, lodging and 2 meals/day are included. Current round-trip airfare from Charlotte to Tel Aviv is about \$1500/person. We recommend budgeting about \$5,000/person to be safe.
When will I have to pay?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial deposit: To reserve your spot, a \$1,000 per person deposit will be required by September 15, 2022. (refundable with paying replacement) 2nd installment of \$1,000/person will be due by December 1, 2022. Final balance (about \$1,000/person) will be due February 1, 2023.
How do we get there?	Each participant will be responsible for booking their own flight arrangements. We will share flight details early in case travelers want to try to fly together.
What if I have to cancel?	Cancellation anytime after September 15, 2022 will forfeit the \$1,000 per person initial deposit unless a paying replacement is secured. Any other funds paid over and above that will be refunded.
What's next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial deposit due September 15 Any changes, updates and developing information will be communicated via email. Make sure you're on the list. To get on the list, send your email request to dcrouch57@gmail.com. We'll have 4 in-person meetings conducted by Dr. Laniak prior to the trip to prepare. Attendance is highly encouraged.



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Tentative Site & Hotel Itinerary

(Note: schedule for sites subject to change before and during the trip)

Travel days: Saturday, **March 4:** Travel to Amman; Sunday, **March 5:** Arrival in Amman. o/n Hotel Geneva, Amman.

1. Monday, March 6: First Views of the Promised Land

Drive south (with some looks at Amman), stop at Mt Nebo and Madaba church. (o/n Hayat Zaman Hotel, Petra)

2. Tuesday, March 7: Following the Divine Shepherd (pt 1): Petra and Wadi Rum

Petra. Bedouin experience in Wadi Rum. o/n in Wadi Rum Bedouin Camp. (o/n Al Sultana Luxury Camp, Wadi Rum)

3. Wednesday, March 8: Following the Divine Shepherd (pt 2): Tabernacle and Nahal Zin

Cross border at Aqaba/Eilat. Tabernacle model in Timna. Nahal Zin. Active Option: hike up to Avdat (o/n David Resort & Spa, Masada)

4. Thursday, March 9: Following the Divine Shepherd (pt 3): Masada, En Gedi and Qumran

Masada. En Gedi. Option A: hike to upper falls. Option B: Dead Sea dip. Qumran (o/n Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem)

5. Friday, March 10: God's People Settle in the Land: The Jerusalem of Abraham, David, Jesus and Today; Shabbat

City of David: Wet and dry tunnels; 2nd Temple Steps. Jewish Quarter for lunch. (Old City shopping this afternoon) Western Wall and Shabbat of a Lifetime. (o/n Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem)

6. Saturday, March 11: Outsiders and Insiders: Jericho and Bethlehem

Crossing the Jordan (Joshua/Elisha/Jesus at Baptismal site). OT Jericho (Achan/Rahab). Mt of Temptation and views of NT Jericho (Cable car). Good Samaritan. Bethlehem (Ruth, Shepherds) dinner/discussion in "Tent" restaurant w Arab guest. Saturday night on Ben Yehuda St. (o/n Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem)

7. Sunday, March 12: Following the King of Israel: The City of David and Jesus; Excavating Jerusalem

Mt of Olives overlook. Garden of Gethsemane. Pilgrim's Road. Church of Holy Sepulcher. (lunch in Old City near Church). Afternoon options: rubble dig w archaeologist or free time in Old City (o/n St Joseph's Hotel, Bethlehem)

8. Monday, March 13: Historicity of the Bible: Temple; Resurrection; Herod's Palace; Israel Museum

Temple Mount. Western Wall Tunnels. Garden Tomb (worship/communion). Israel Museum/Shrine of the Book (scavenger hunt). Evening: Herod's Palace? (o/n St Joseph's Hotel, Bethlehem)

9. Tuesday, March 14: Patriarchal Precedents for the Messiah: Shechem and Mt Gerizim

To Galilee via Shechem. Mt Gerizim (Samaritan interview). Jacob's Well (Father Ioustenos interview). Mt Arbel overview before sunset. (o/n Hotel Kinar Galilee)

10. Wednesday, March 15: The Teaching and Miracles of Jesus: Around the Sea of Galilee

Capernaum. Magdala. Tabgha. Beatitudes. Sea of Galilee boat ride. St Peter's Fish lunch. Educational Option: Korazim & Bethsaida. Reflective Option: meditation afternoon along Sea. Everyone: Dan/Caesarea Philippi. Katsrin for interactive meal. (o/n Hotel Kinar Galilee)

11. Thursday, March 16: In the Footsteps of Rabbi Yeshua: Nazareth, (Sepphoris) and Cana

Nazareth Village (and shopping). Active option: "Jesus Trail" (15.5 km hike to Zippori, Cana). Educational option: Mt Precipice, Sepphoris and/or Cana. (o/n Hotel Kinar Galilee)

12. Friday, March 17: Mission to the World: Caesarea Maritime and Joppa

Caesarea Maritime. Joppa. Shopping. Dinner your choice. Most head to airport for night flights. (o/n option in hotel for those not leaving during the night)

13. Saturday, March 18: Travel home