

Jerusalem Field School Tour

www.jerusalemfieldschool.com

By: Andrew Cross

Day 1 – Arrive in Jerusalem

You flight arrives in the morning. We will visit Gezer on our way up to Jerusalem, a Canaanite city located at the mouth of the Aijalon valley guarding the main approach to Jerusalem. From there we will visit Emmaus and a portion of the Roman road that led from Emmaus to Jerusalem. Our final stop will be Nebi Samuel, where we can look out over the territory of Benjamin and the city of Gibeon.

- a. Gezer
- b. Emmaus
- c. Nebi Samuel

Day 2 – The City of David

We begin our day with an early morning walk through the Old City of Jerusalem to the Western Wall. While it is still cool we will go up on the Temple Mount and then walk down the spur of the hill that once comprised the city of Jerusalem in the time of David. The last portion of tour will take us into Jerusalem's underground water-system and Hezekiah's tunnel.

- a. The Broad Wall
- b. Temple Mount
- c. The Western Wall
- d. Ophel
- e. City of David

Day 3 –Bethel, Ai, Jericho, Qumran

We will begin early in the morning and look at an old Byzantine church that is probably very near the place mentioned in the Bible where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob pitched their tents. Ai and Bethel are nearby. We will stand on the ancient mound of Ai and reconstruct the siege of that city as described in the book of Joshua. From there, we will take the road down to Jericho and investigate what is left of that ancient city. Our next stop is Qumran, famous for the scrolls discovered in caves in this region. We will hike up to Cave 1 hidden in the hills above Qumran.

- a. Bethel & Ai
- b. Jericho
- c. Qumran
- d. Cave 1 and 11
- e. St George's Monastery

Day 4 – Herod’s Jerusaelm & the Last Days of Jesus

First thing AM we will go to a look-out and study the geography of Jerusalem. We will then go to Bethany and trace the route Jesus would have taken into Jerualem during the Passion Week. We will see what Jerusalem looked like in the time of Christ and how it came to an end in the 70 AD destruction.

- a. Hill of Evil Counsel
- b. Bethany
- c. Mount of Olives
- d. Gethsemane
- e. The Stone Pavement
- f. The Cenacle
- g. Burnt House
- h. Wohl Museum
- i. Bethesda
- j. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Day 5 – The Shephelah

We will spend the day touring the Shephelah. From Tel Azekah we get a bird’s eye view of the Wadi Elah where the famous face-off between David and Goliath took place. The Philistine city of Gath is nearby, the home town of Goliath. We will finish off the day at Lachish – the city at the center of the traumatic events that ultimately culminated in Sennacerib’s siege of Jerusalem.

- a. Azekah
- b. Khirbet Keiafa
- c. Gath
- d. Lachish

Day 6 - Samaria

We will visit Shilo, the site where the tabernacle once stood, and then the Samaritan sanctuary on Gerizim. You will see why Gerizim and Ebal are representative of the blessings and curses of the Law. Jacob’s well is still there, where Jesus met with the Samaritan woman. At Shechem we can see the strong walls that characterize Canaanite cities and the temple tower that was put to the torch by Abimelech. Finally, we will visit the city of Samaria, the capital of Israel until it was destroyed by the Assyrians in 720 BC.

- a. Shilo
- b. Gerizim
- c. Jacob’s Well
- d. Shechem
- e. Samaria

Day 7

The morning will be reserved for visiting several of Jerusalem's museums. The afternoon and evening will be free.

- a. Israel Museum
- b. Yad Vashem

Day 8 – Southern Judean Hills

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is one of the best preserved of Constantine's churches. We will see why the traditions associated with this site should not be too quickly dismissed. In Hebron we will see the best preserved of Herod's buildings – the Cave of Machpelah. We will also visit Tel Rumeida to look at the ancient gate and walls of Hebron that would have stood in Abraham's day. We will then take a driving tour down through the southern hills of Judah to Arad, the southernmost outpost of Judah.

- a. Herodion
- b. Bethlehem
- c. Solomon's Pools
- d. Mamre
- e. Hebron
- f. Arad

Day 9 – Dead Sea to the Galilee

While it is still cool, we will take the gondola to the top of the desert fortress of Masada where the last Jewish rebels held out against the Romans after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. The springs of Ein Gedi are nearby, mentioned in the Bible as the place where David hid from Saul for a period of time. Then we drive north, up the Jordan Rift Valley towards the Galilee. Along the way, we will visit Scythopolis (Beth Shean), the chief city of the Decapolis in the time of Christ. The mountains of Gilboa are nearby where Saul was slain with his son Jonathan.

- a. Masada
- b. Ein Gedi
- c. Bet Shean
- d. The Mountains of Gilboa

Day 10– Arbel, Capernaum, Nazareth

We will explore the the north coast of the Sea of Galilee, with stops at Taghba, Capernaum and Bethsaida. At Capernaum we will see one of the earliest Christian churches and a well-preserved synagogue. In the afternoon we will drive to Sepphoris to check out the amazing mosaics there, and then to Nazareth where we will look for what remains of the 1st century AD Jewish village.

- a. Capernaum

- b. Arbel
- c. Sepphoris
- d. Cana
- e. Nazareth

Day 11 – The Golan

Our first stop is Hazor, a city that figures prominently in the biblical account of the conquest by Joshua and is also an important city from the time of Solomon. We will continue our ascent up the flanks of Hermon where we will visit the incredible sites of Dan and Banias, and also the Druze town of Majdal Shams.

- a. Hazor
- b. Dan
- c. Caesarea Phillipi / Banias
- d. Majdal Shams
- e. Valley of Tears

Day 12 – Megiddo, Carmel, Caesarea

Our last day will be spent in the Jezreel Valley, the scene of the last battle in the book of Revelation, and of a great many others too. We will ascend Carmel and see where the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal may have taken place, and finish our day at Caesarea Maritima, a significant place for the history of the early church.

- a. Gideon's spring
- b. Jezreel
- c. Megiddo
- d. Carmel
- e. Caesarea Maritima

Day 13 – Airport