



Temple Mount with Dome of the Rock above the Western Wall of The Temple from Jesus' Time



Dr Parker at work at Tel Gezer



Mediterranean lagoon setting of first night hotel at Hadera

## PROVIDENCE TRAVEL/NOBTS ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE and TEL GEZER PROJECT May 23 - June 2, 2018

Tour price of only \$3,695 (\$1,995 for qualified NOBTS students)  
Led by Dr. Clay Corvin, Dr. Jim Parker, and Dr. Allen Jackson



Garden of Gethsemane



Empty Tomb



Dead Sea Scroll Cave

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**Day 1, Wednesday, May 23:** flights depart from New Orleans, Miami, and Atlanta.

**Day 2, Thursday, May 24:** afternoon arrival in **Tel Aviv**, then up the **Mediterranean** coast to the resort city of **Hadera** and the hotel set on a magnificent lagoon along the Mediterranean shore, with direct access to the sea. Full dinner and breakfast buffets are included in hotels each day.

**Day 3, Friday, May 25:** drive to nearby **Caesarea Maritime**, artificial harbor and city built by Herod the Great. A restored Roman theater, where proof of the historical existence of Pontius Pilate was found, is a highlight, along with a Crusader fortress and an aqueduct built by Herod the Great. Continue north to **Mt Carmel** and the Carmelite monastery Muhraka for a breathtaking view of the Jezreel valley from the spot where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. **Megiddo** (biblical Armageddon) was the fortified chariot city for both Solomon and Ahab overlooking the always-contentious travel route linking Egypt to Babylon and the rest of the world's kingdoms and is now one of the world's greatest archaeological sites (and basis for James Michener's high-recommended historical novel *The Source*). Travel through the Galilean hills to **Nazareth**, stopping at the precipice overlooking Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home, where his neighbors assembled to hurl Him to His death for the supposed "blasphemy" of claiming to be the Messiah. Check in for three nights at a lovely hotel situated atop a dramatic vista in the Galilean Hills.

**Day 4, Saturday, May 26:** sail on the **Sea of Galilee** in an enlarged version of the boats used by Jesus and His fishermen disciples and see an actual boat from the time of Jesus as marine archaeologists raised it from the lake. See **Chorazin**, which Jesus cursed for its unbelief. Re-experience the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount at the **Mt of Beatitudes** chapel. At **Capernaum**, where Jesus based His 18-month Galilean ministry, stand within the foundations of the synagogue where He preached and healed and see the house of Peter's family where He stayed. **Tabgha's** ancient mosaic

remembers the Miracle of Loaves and Fishes and recalls where the risen Jesus fed His disciples after a miraculous catch and commanded Peter "feed my sheep." Marvel at intricate and lovely mosaics (including "The Mona Lisa of the Galilee") and a 1500-year-old synagogue in the ancient city of **Sepphoris**, near Nazareth, which some believe the carpenter Joseph and his young son apprentice helped construct.

**Day 5, Sunday, May 27:** explore the north of Israel, including **Kursi** on the "other side" of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus cast out the evil from the demoniac into swine. **Gamla** is the camel-backed hill that was the last redoubt of Jewish rebels against Roman rule in the north during the time of the destruction of the Second Temple. Set at the base of **Mt Hermon**, where the springs that join to form the Jordan River rise from snow melt runoff, see the remains at **Banias** of the political and pagan religious center **Caesarea Philippi** that appeared invincible when Jesus led his disciples there to challenge, "Who do men—and who do you—say that I am?"--then turned his face to Jerusalem on the road to the cross that would topple worldly kingdoms.

**Day 6, Monday, May 28:** stopping first at the banks of the Jordan River at **Bethabara**, thought by many to be where Jesus was immersed by John the Baptist, cross the lunar landscape of the Judean wilderness and come to **Qumran** on the shores of the Dead Sea, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Ascend by cable car to **Masada**, the fortress-palace built by Herod the Great overlooking the **Dead Sea**. Herod built the palace as a sunny winter get away from Jerusalem's chill and as a fortress from the always-threatened invasion by Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, to whom Mark Anthony delighted in giving chunks of Herod's kingdom as gifts . . . and where zealous Jews resisted Rome after the 70 AD destruction of the Temple. Back up toward Jerusalem and our hotel for the rest of the tour located in rural, green surroundings at the heart of the Judean Mountains, just a short ride from The Holy City of Jerusalem.

**Day 7, Tuesday, May 29:** pray at the **Kotel or Western (Wailing) Wall**, leaving scrolls of your prayers in the giant stones remaining from the foundation walls of the Second Temple, from where Jewish tradition says prayers go most directly to heaven. We will actually go *under* the Temple area exploring the famous **Rabbis' Tunnel**. Up on **Temple Mount**, Muslim mosques squatting where Solomon and Herod the Great built the First and Second Temples cannot prevent Christians from standing at the Pinnacle of the Temple where Jesus was victorious over Satan's tempting. The structure now called "The Upper Room" recalls Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. Pray for loved ones at the healing **Pools of Bethesda**, then marvel at the acoustics as you sing in the **Church of St. Anne**. Walk the narrow streets of the Old City, still very like they were on the day when Jesus carried His cross on the **Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow)**. See remains of the original 4th century **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** in the Russian Orthodox Church, adjoining the current structure guarding traditional sites of Calvary and Empty Tomb. See the actual steps up which Jesus was dragged from the Garden of Gethsemane to his first imprisonment in the **House of Caiaphas**, high priest, where Peter denied His Lord thrice before the cock crew. Time during the day for lunch on your own in **The Jewish Quarter** with shopping in the Old City bazaar and the restored shopping street called The Cardo or "The Heart" of Roman Jerusalem.

**Day 8, Wednesday, May 30:** work with your hands at an actual archaeological site of the Center for Archaeological Research, the Tel Gezer Water System Project, begun in 2010 and jointly sponsored by NOBTS, the Israel National Parks Authority, and the Israel Antiquities Authority. The co-director of the excavation from the INPA is Dr. Tsvika Tsuk, Chief Archaeologist of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, working in conjunction with the Leadership Team from NOBTS: Drs. Daniel Warner, James Parker, and R. Dennis Cole. Gezer is listed in Joshua as a Levitical city. Discoveries related to biblical archaeology include a Canaanite high place with monumental standing stones, 13 inscribed boundary stones making it the first positively identified biblical city, a six-chambered gate similar to those found at Hazor and Megiddo, and a large Canaanite water system comprising a tunnel going down to a spring, similar to those found in Jerusalem, Hazor and Megiddo. The NOBTS dig concentrates on the water system to clarify the function of the water system, possible cultic function, and historic relationship to the contemporary city.

**Day 9, Thursday, May 31:** explore recent excavations in the original **City of David** and wade through the water tunnel Hezekiah had dug to bring water from the **Spring of Gihon** to the **Pool of Siloam** where Jesus healed a blind man (bring water shoes and a small flashlight if wading—and there is a "dry passage" for those who prefer not to have wet feet). Starting from the **Mt of Olives**, walk down the Palm Sunday path where Jesus rode the donkey and heard the hosannas from the crowds. Stop at **Dominus Flevit** where "Jesus wept" and view the **Eastern or Golden Gate** through which Messiah rode. At the bottom of the hill, in the **Garden of Gethsemane**, surrounded by olive trees still sprouting from roots dating to Jesus' time, pray as He did for strength to face the ultimate tests of life. Travel through **Shepherds' Fields to Bethlehem** and to the oldest continually serving church in the world, the 4th century Church of the Nativity, where a silver star marks the traditional spot of Jesus' birth.

**Day 10, Friday, June 1:** check out of the hotel and depart for a service of **Holy Communion at The Garden Tomb**, a lovely site overlooking a hillside nature has carved into what many see as a skull, **Golgotha**, and setting of an empty tomb from which the stone has been rolled away. After having experienced Jerusalem today, make a final orientation of Jerusalem in Jesus' time by studying the incredibly detailed, large-scale outdoor model of The Holy City at the **Israel Museum**, where you will also view actual scrolls and artifacts discovered in the Dead Sea caves of Qumran. Outside the city, explore **Herodian**, the artificial mountain that was Herod the Great's palace and recently discovered tomb. Visit the somber yet uplifting **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**. Stop at the **Valley of Elah** as did David when he picked up five smooth stones preparing his introduction to Goliath. Farewell dinner and then to the airport for the flight home, arriving back in the USA on **Day 11, Saturday, June 2**.

**Late May weather** in Israel will be sunny and warm, so bring broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and swimwear.

**No pilgrim on an American Christian group tour has ever been harmed by violence in Israel, not one, not ever.** Every American group comes back amazed at the calm, so different than imagined from watching TV news that the most common comment is, "I felt safer in Israel than in any large U.S. city!"

**Registration details on back of brochure**

# Terms and Conditions

U.S. passport valid through December, 2018, is required; anyone with non-U.S. passport, contact tour operator.

**Payment schedule:** \$500 deposit required to guarantee a place on the tour. Second payment of \$700 is due November 1. Third payment of \$795 is due January 15 (this is final payment for qualifying students). Final non-student payment of \$1700 is due March 15. **Use of credit cards:** please note that an additional and non-refundable 2.5% credit card transaction fee will be added to the amount charged for any payment toward the total tour cost.

## **Tour price includes:**

**Air transportation** can be on any scheduled airline, economy class. Cancellations after the air tickets have been issued are subject to a cancellation penalty as imposed by the airline. Current air taxes and fees are included but may change up or down till tickets are issued. Please note: frequent flyer miles or credit card points cannot be used to purchase or upgrade air tickets; however, if you arrange your own airfare, deduct \$1400 from the brochure price.

**Accommodations** in superior hotels with private bath. Two persons share each room; if anyone does not have a roommate, tour organizers will do their best to find a suitable roommate but cannot guarantee it. Extra cost for anyone staying in a single room \$520.

**Meals** daily buffet breakfast in hotels and dinner daily either in hotels or restaurants.

**Sightseeing** as specified in the itinerary, including entrance fees and services of English-speaking guide. Each tour participant will have an individual headset to hear the guide clearly at all sites.

**All tips** are included for guide, driver, hotels, restaurants, and porters.

**One regular-sized suitcase** per person, maximum 50 pounds, is currently allowed free of charge plus one airline approved "under seat" bag and one personal item like purse or small backpack. Tour organizers accept no liability for loss or damage to any baggage.

**Tour price does not include** lunches and beverages not part of normal menu; sightseeing or services not specifically mentioned or noted as optional; baggage charges that may be implemented by airlines (none apply at time of printing).



**Sea of Galilee Panorama**

**Cancellation policy:** Full refund minus \$200 administration fee if written cancellation is received through December 31, 2017. Refund, minus a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of 90% of the total tour price if written cancellation is received between January 1 and March 31, 2018. No refunds for cancellations after March 31 (and, in addition, scholarship students will owe additional \$1700 scholarship reimbursement after March 31). No refund made for missed services while on tour. *In addition to the above cancellation fees*, airline tickets are not refundable once issued. Information on included and additional optional travel insurance is available on written request.

**Responsibility:** New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Providence Travel, Drs Jim Parker, Clay Corvin, Allen Jackson, and Blanca Phillips and Ronald L. Cansler dba Escorted Travel Concepts, LLC, and their agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters, and as such, are not responsible for any damages, expense, or inconvenience caused by late plane arrival or departure or by any change of schedule or other condition, nor the loss of or damage to any person or property from any cause whatsoever. The sponsoring organization has the right to withdraw the tour at any time, or make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the convenience or safety of the tour. Services of any regularly-scheduled jet carrier may be used on this tour. *Payment of deposit by tour participants indicates acceptance of above terms and conditions.*

To register, make out \$500 per person check to "NOBTS—Israel May" and mail to Israel May, Attn: Blanca Phillips, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., Box 98, New Orleans, LA 70126  
For info/assistance contact Blanca Phillips at [travelprograms@nobts.edu](mailto:travelprograms@nobts.edu), 504-816-8441