

# 2023 SPRING ISRAEL

April 28-May 8, 2023



## 2023 SPRING ISRAEL DISCOVERY TOUR WITH WILLIAM SCHAEFERMEYER

Welcome to an unforgettable experience! Immersing yourself in the spirit of the Holy Land with tour director William Schaefermeyer will help provide a greater appreciation of the numerous sacred sites and events as recorded in the Bible. The focus of our tour will be on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We will visit many sacred, traditional areas of Jerusalem (Mt. of Olives, Lazarus' Tomb, Gethsemane, Golgotha, Holy Sepulcher), Galilee, Nazareth, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Bethlehem. We are confident you will sense an increased love for, and knowledge of, the Scriptures and strengthen your testimony and conversion to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Date	Daily Schedule
April 28&29	USA to Tel Aviv
April 30	Caesarea - Mt Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth - Cana
May 1	Mt. Tabor - Sea of Galilee - Mount of Beatitudes - Capernaum
May 2	Banias - Tel Dan - Golan - Tabgha
May 3	Ein Harod - Gan Ha Shelosha - Beit Shean - Bethbara
May 4	Western Wall Tunnels - Dome of the Rock - Old Jerusalem
May 5	Qumran - Dead Sea - Masada
May 6	Jerusalem - Garden Tomb - Bethlehem - Church of the Nativity
May 7	Mount of Olives - Gethsemane - Israel Museum - Yad Vashem - Farewell Dinner
May 8	Flights Home to USA

Price from **\$2,539**  
per person/double occupancy  
(9 Days/8 Nights)

### INCLUDED:

Deluxe motor coach transportation; Local guides; Hotel accommodations in moderate-class hotels; Sightseeing tours as outlined on the itinerary; Entrance fees to all sights; Gratuities; All breakfast and dinner meals on the land portion

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## Day1 and 2: April 28 and 29, 2023

*USA to Tel Aviv*

Welcome to Israel! As you begin your journey in this ancient land, you will notice that the mountains have hidden secrets and the old ruins have legends. For 3,000 years on this small patch of land, men have toiled and battled; prayed and worshiped; and added their own small humanity to the history of this country. Listen and let the land of Israel tell you the stories of its past. Sitting on the edge of the Mediterranean, Jaffa still stands as one of the world's oldest ports. Tradition claims that Jaffa was settled by Noah's youngest son when the Flood receded; and ever since its founding, Jaffa has been a center of commerce, activity, and historical events. Located in one of the small alleyways, we will visit Simon the Tanner's house which remains a monument to the revelation, Peter, the Apostle received to go and preach to the entire world. We will check into our hotel for dinner and rest. (D)



## Day 3: Sunday. April 30, 2023

*Caesarea - Mt Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth - Cana*

Today we follow Peter to Caesarea where Cornelius lived and was taught by the chief apostle. Here we find the remains of a city founded by Herod, the residence of Pontius Pilate, and a prison for Paul. Sit in the well-preserved amphitheater overlooking the blue sea and hear the story of Paul's conversion of the Centurion and his defense before King Agrippa. The scenery begins to change as we approach Mt Carmel where the prophet Elijah and the priests of Baal contested their faith. Standing on the balcony of the Carmelite Monastery of Saint Elijah we have a marvelous view of the fertile Jezreel Valley. Not far away is Megiddo, the tragic site of ancient bloody battles where nations were won and lost. Upon these same tragic fields, the great and terrible last battle of Armageddon will be fought. As we make our way towards the Sea of Galilee, we will visit Nazareth and the historic recreation of Nazareth Village, a living presentation of the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth. (B, D)



## Day 4: Monday, May 1, 2023

*Mt. Tabor - Sea of Galilee - Mount of Beatitudes - Capernaum*

Mount Tabor is one of the mountains traditionally claimed to be the site of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. You will thrill to the hair-raising taxi ride up the mountain, but once at the summit, you will feel the peace and calm of the surrounding valley. This afternoon we sail upon the Sea of Galilee and have a demonstration of how the fishermen cast their nets. The Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount is always a highlight to visitors. Here we will ponder and see in our mind's eye the Master teaching the attentive throng. We will end our day in Capernaum, where Jesus lived and called the first of his apostles from among the fishermen. The well-preserved city will amaze you as you sit in the synagogue and imagine Jesus teaching and performing miracles for the multitudes. (B, L, D)



**Day 5: Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

*Banias - Tel Dan - Golan - Tabgha*

Besides being a place of great natural beauty Banias is the site of ancient Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus said of Peter “Thou art the Rock.” Here is one of the springs from which the Jordan River is formed. We will visit Tel Dan National Park, which combines a lush nature reserve with a biblical archaeological experience. As we make our way back south towards the Sea of Galilee you will see some of the rich farmland that has made Israel one of the leading agriculture leaders in the world. We will visit Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. We will view a fourth-century mosaic tile floor in the Church of the Multiplication depicting this miracle. (B, D)

**Day 6: Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

*Ein Harod - Gan Ha Shelosha - Beit Shean - Bethbara*

We next visit Ein Harod where Gideon gathered his army and limited them by the way they drank from the stream of water issuing from the base of Mount Gilboa. We will stop for a refreshing dip in the beautiful waters of Gan Ha Shelosha. We next travel to the ancient tel of Bet She'an, where 6,000 years and 18 levels of civilization have been discovered. It is at Bet She'an where the conquering Philistines fastened the headless body of King Saul, to the city wall. Adjacent to the tel is the wondrous excavations and restorations of the only Roman City of the Decapolis west of the Jordan. It is the best-preserved Roman and Byzantine City in the country. As we leave the fertile valleys of the Galilee, we follow the Jordan River Valley south to near Jericho where we will visit Bethabara the site where the Savior was baptized by John the Baptist. This evening we will journey to and get our first glimpse of the Holy City—Jerusalem ending at our Jerusalem hotel. (B, D)

**Day 7: Thursday, May 4, 2023**

*Western Wall Tunnels - Dome of the Rock - Old Jerusalem*

We will begin our day with a tour of the tunnels beneath the Western Wall. Above the wall is Mount Moriah where the Islamic shrine, the Dome of the Rock, is located. Entering the oldest quarter of Jerusalem, we follow the winding alleys and crowded streets to the Pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man who had an infirmity 38 years. We marvel at the Church of Saint Anne, a beautifully preserved Crusader church. We will discover the ancient city beneath the modern streets where the old paving stones are carved with Roman games at Antonia Fortress. Located in the old quarter of Jerusalem is the site believed to be the Room of the Last Supper. Our last stop will be at the House of Caiaphas with its dark and sad dungeon which once imprisoned the Savior. (B, D)

**Day 8: Friday, May 5, 2023**

*Qumran - Dead Sea - Masada*

We drive to the lowest point on the earth, the desert of the Dead Sea. Once the Biblical Lands of Moab and Edom, the Dead Sea basin has been a refuge to prophets, zealots, and outcasts throughout time. Buried in the beige limestone bluffs, the ruins of Qumran still tell the story of the Essenes, a reclusive Jewish sect that buried the now famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Further south lays Ein Gedi, the oasis where David hid from King Saul. Still further South is the spectacular cliff-top fortress of Masada, where a community of 960 Jews preferred death at their own hands to the

indignity of surrendering to the overwhelming Roman forces. From the desert floor, we will ascend by cable car to tour this ancient wonder. While at the Dead Sea, we will have the opportunity to enjoy a dip in the buoyant waters and bathe in the healing medicinal mud at Kalia Beach! Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, sent her slaves to retrieve this magical mud to preserve her legendary beauty. (B, D)

### **Day 9: Saturday, May 6, 2023**

*Jerusalem - Garden Tomb - Bethlehem - Church of the Nativity*

This morning we will enjoy sacrament meeting at the BYU Jerusalem Center. After we will bus to the top of the Mount of Olives on whose slopes the Garden of Gethsemane lies nestled. Here the atonement was made for all mankind which culminated on the cruel cross raised just across the valley. We will walk down the slope to the Church of All Nations where ancient olive trees dating back to the time of Christ are preserved. We will visit the peaceful and restored Orson Hyde Memorial Garden where we will read from his inspired dedicatory prayer. At the Garden Tomb, we will have time to contemplate and ponder the resurrection of the Savior and our promise of everlasting life and view Golgotha, one of two sites thought to be that of the crucifixion. Traveling South we will enter the West Bank city of Bethlehem and walk its streets to the Church of the Nativity, the traditional site where the Savior of the world was born. We will next gather at the shepherd's fields and remember that holy night when angels announced the birth of the Son of God. We will read the account recorded in Matthew and Luke and sing our favorite Christmas Carols. (B, L, D)

### **Day 10: Sunday, May 7, 2023**

*Mount of Olives - Gethsemane - Israel Museum - Yad Vashem - Farewell Dinner*

On our last day in Jerusalem, we will discover the treasures of the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, the site chosen to house the Dead Sea Scrolls. This unique building is shaped like the ancient pottery jar in which the scrolls lay preserved for nearly two thousand years. While we are there, we will view the Holy Land Model, a unique scale model of Jerusalem at the time of Christ. The model visually explains the layout of the ancient city as well as the design and magnitude of the Second Temple. One of the most memorable and dark pages of Jewish history unfolds as we visit Yad Vashem, the official memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi-wrought Holocaust in Europe. Tonight, we will have a farewell dinner together as we prepare to leave the land we have grown to love. After clearing immigration and customs, we will transfer to the connecting gate for our flight back to our homes. (B, D)

### **Day 11: Monday, May 8, 2023**

*Flights Home to USA*

Today will be spent traveling home with a heart full of wonderful memories, love, and gratitude for the sights you've seen and truths learned. (In-flight)



**Your Tour Host:**

**Bill Schaefermeyer** was born in San Diego, California, but grew up in Vernal, Utah and Seward, Alaska. He served as a missionary in the Northeast British Mission. He received a BA (English/History) and MEd (International Education) from BYU and taught seminary for 8 years. For 8 years he wrote and published Old Testament and Church History curriculum for the Church Educational System. Prior to his retirement in 2008, Bill was employed for 22 years as a manager and director for the Church's Audiovisual Department the last 4 of which he was the Director of the LDS Motion Picture Studio in Provo and of the Conference Center studio and broadcast center in Salt Lake. His duties included supervising the technical productions for church pageants.

After his release as Stake President he served as Mission President in the Pennsylvania Philadelphia Mission from 2010-2013. He is presently serving as a Patriarch and Temple worker. He has made numerous trips to Church History and Holy Land sites professionally and as a tour guide. He and his wife Sharon, who usually accompanies him, are the parents of 6 children and sixteen grand children.

**Price Includes:**

Deluxe motor coach transportation  
Local guides  
Hotel accommodations in moderate-class hotels  
Sightseeing tours as outlined on the itinerary  
Entrance fees to all sights on the  
Gratuities  
All breakfast and dinner meals on the land portion

**Price does not Include:**

Round-trip air from Salt Lake City-Amman-Tel Aviv or Cairo-Salt Lake City \$TBA  
Additional possible airfare from cities other than Salt Lake City  
Sightseeing is not included in the itinerary  
Additional hotel accommodations  
Items of a personal nature (e.g., phone calls, room service, internet, etc.)  
Additional travel insurance and cancellation waiver  
Lunches except where noted  
Single supplement

**Payment Options:**

\$500 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking  
The final payment is due on Feb 24, 2023  
Payments made by check or electronic account bank transfer will qualify for a \$75 off per person cash discount

**Other pricing:**

Double Occupancy - \$2,539.00 per person double occupancy rate  
Single Occupancy - \$3,739.00 for those with their own room \*Ask about our Single Share option  
\$75 cash discount  
Optional Add On tours:  
Egypt Pre-Tour - TBA  
Rome Post-tour - TBA

**FULL Terms and Conditions are provided on all Bookings**

**COVID-19 WAIVER and TERMS:** By signing up for any tour I am agreeing to abide by all COVID-19 protocols while on tour as defined by the host country or business, which may include being fully vaccinated with booster, wearing a mask and producing proof of vaccination or negative test for COVID-19 prior to arrival. I understand that if I and/or my party does not follow all set protocols, it is grounds for removal from tour or specific tour activities.

**INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:** For all tours and cruises that include international air, a valid passport is required and must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of the trip. Morris Murdock Escorted Tours must receive a copy of your passport information page by final payment date. Airlines have strict policies concerning name changes/corrections after tickets have been issued. If a name change/correction is required on your ticket, you will be required to cover the cost of any fees.

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