

2024 CHRISTMAS HOLY LAND TOUR



Escorted by Anthony Sweat • December 28, 2024 - January 7, 2025

We invite you to come with your family and friends this year and enjoy a magically meaningful experience for all ages as we explore the homeland of Jesus Christ. Please join our special tour director, BYU Professor, LDS author, and artist Anthony Sweat this year as we experience Christ's birth in the fields of Bethlehem, His youth and ministry in the Galilee, and the last week of His life and Resurrection in Jerusalem. Each area will give an added spiritual dimension to your holiday traditions and special memories to the season that will last a lifetime. This tour has many highlights that will enhance the testimonies of all who join us and truly bring the Bible to life.

Date	Daily Schedule
12/28 - Sat	Depart USA to Tel Aviv/Jaffa
12/29 - Sun	Arrive in Tel Aviv
12/30 - Mon	Caesarea - Mt. Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth
12/31 - Tue	Valley of the Doves - Magdala - Sea of Galilee - Mount of Beatitudes - Tabgha - Capernaum
01/01 - Wed	Mt Tabor - Beit Shean - Gideon's Spring
01/02 - Thu	Bethabara - Qumran - Dead Sea - Masada - Jerusalem
01/03 - Fri	Dome of the Rock - Old City - Old Jerusalem
01/04 - Sat	Sacrament Services at the BYU Jerusalem Center - Bethlehem - Free Time
01/05 - Sun	Sifting Project - Davidson Center Archaeological Park - Western Wall - Hezekiah's Tunnel
01/06 - Mon	Mount of Olives - Gethsemane -Garden Tomb
01/07 - Tue	Travel Home

Price from **\$3,159**
per person/double occupancy
(11 Days/10 Nights)

Highlights of the Tour: 1 tour-bus experience for the whole tour! • Morris Murdock LDS tour Director for the whole trip along with local guides • VERY INCLUSIVE rate -Tour, transportation, Tips for Israeli guide and driver, & taxes, breakfast & dinner daily • We include all tipping for hotels and restaurants where meals are provided • Licensed, insured, and bonded travel agency with 65+ years of experience!! IT MATTERS!

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Tours:
(800) 809-9910

Scan the
QR code for a
full detailed
itinerary!



Your Tour Host:

Anthony Sweat is an Assistant Professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He is the author of several books such as: *Mormons*, *An Open Book* and *Why? Powerful Answers and Practical Reasons for Living LDS Standards*. He received his PhD in education from Utah State University and is a regular speaker at various LDS conferences, including BYU Education Week and Especially For Youth. He and his lovely wife, Cindy, are the parents of seven children.

What is Included:

- Accommodations tourist class 4/5-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees and all activities as specified in the itinerary
- Hotel portorage - 1 bag per person
- Whisper technology headsets to be used throughout the tour
- Experienced LDS guide traveling and services of a bilingual licensed Israeli tour guide throughout the tour
- Minimum prepaid gratuities for your Israeli guide and driver
- Transfers via deluxe air-conditioned motor coaches
- Group transfers
- Destination study and informational book
- Travel bag and document

Price does not include:

- Round-trip air to and from Tel Aviv - Group Air TBD
- Additional transfers when not arriving or departing with the group
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance
- Meals not specified in itinerary
- Gratuities for Morris Murdock Tour Director

Pricing:

- Double Occupancy: \$3,159 per person
- Triple Occupancy: \$3,159 per person (limited space)
- Single Occupancy: \$4,035
- \$100 cash discount

Payment Terms:

- \$500 deposit due at the time of booking
- Final payment due September 27, 2024
- Refer to our Terms & Conditions at www.MMETours.com

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—◆—
ESCORTED TOURS

Day 1: Saturday, December 28, 2024

Depart USA to Tel Aviv/Jaffa

Today we will board our plane to make our way to Israel. See you soon! **Meals: In-flight**

Day 2: Sunday, December 29, 2024

Arrive in Tel Aviv

Tonight, we rest from our journey at a seaside hotel in Netanya. We will also have a welcome dinner! **Meals: Dinner**



Day 3: Monday, December 30, 2024

Caesarea - Mt. Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth

"And on the morrow, they entered into Caesarea Cornelius thy prayer is heard." Enter Caesarea, remains of a city founded by Herod, 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. The scenery begins to change to the beautiful green pastures and high rolling hills of the Jezreel Valley as we approach Mt Carmel where the prophet Elijah and the priests of Baal contested their faith. 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. Our last visit will be to Nazareth Village, the quaint town where Jesus Christ spent his childhood, learned his earthly vocation as a carpenter, and grew and waxed strong in spirit. We will visit a recreated town from Christ's time and visit with the villagers to learn what life was like for Jesus as a boy. We end our day at the beautiful Sea of Galilee where we will stay for the next 3 nights. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 4: Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Valley of the Doves - Magdala - Sea of Galilee - Mount of Beatitudes - Tabgha - Capernaum

Shabbat Shalom - This is the official Jewish greeting on the Sabbath, and we have a great day planned. This morning we walk a short distance in the Valley of the Doves to experience the route Jesus would have taken from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. We then visit the Magdala Center where we explore a 1st century synagogue. On the Sea of Galilee, we board a replica of an ancient fishing boat and then enjoy a delicious lunch of St. Peter's Fish. Following lunch, we visit the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. This is always a highlight for visitors. While here we can see how it was possible for Jesus to teach the multitude all at the same time as we learn more about his teachings. From here



we will visit Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. There is a beautiful Byzantine mosaic on the floor you will not want to miss. We will then venture over to Capernaum, where Jesus lived and recruited his first followers 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 masses. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Day 5: Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Mt Tabor - Beit Shean - Gideon's Spring

And he lifted up his hands and blessed them while he blessed them; he was carried up into heaven. Mount Tabor is one of the mountains traditionally claimed to be the site of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. You will thrill to

the almost 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 will travel to the ancient tel of Bet She'an, where 6,000 years of civilization seem to unfold among the ruins. It is believed to be the very Bet She'an of the Old Testament where the former King of Israel, Saul, was fastened to the city wall without his head by the conquering Philistines. Our last stop will be Gideon's Spring, also known as Harod Spring. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



Day 6: Thursday, January 2, 2025

Bethabara - Qumran - Dead Sea - Masada - Jerusalem

As we leave the fertile valleys of the Galilee, we enter the strange and barren 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. We will 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. Buried in the beige limestone bluffs, the ruins of Qumran still tell the story of the essences, 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.

From the desert floor, ascend by cable car to the spectacular cliff-top fortress of Masada, where a community of 960 Jews preferred death at their own hands to the indignity of surrender to the overwhelming Roman forces. While at the Dead Sea, you cannot miss the opportunity to enjoy a dip in the buoyant waters and bathe in the wonderful medicinal mud! Even Cleopatra sent her slaves to retrieve this magical mud in order to preserve her legendary beauty. This evening we will journey to the beloved city of Jerusalem for the next four nights. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 7: Friday, January 3, 2025

Dome of the Rock - Old City - Old Jerusalem

Our first stop of the day is the Temple Mount to see the Muslim Mosque and Muslim shrine—Dome of the Rock. Next, we experience the incredible acoustics of the St. Ann Church. At the Pool of Bethesda, we marvel once again at Christ's miracles. In the Old City, we will see the area where the Antonia Fortress once stood and where Christ was scourged. We then walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. After a break for lunch, we visit the House of Caiaphas where Jesus was imprisoned before His final day in mortality.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 8: Saturday, January 4, 2025

Sacrament Services at the BYU Jerusalem Center - Bethlehem - Free Time

This morning begins with Sacrament services at the BYU Jerusalem Center. Next, we drive to the little town of Bethlehem. We enjoy a unique lunch in a Bedouin Tent restaurant overlooking the shepherds' field, then we spend some time in the shepherds' field as we contemplate the events that took place near there so many years ago. Next, we visit the Church of the Nativity to remember the birth of Christ. This afternoon will be free time for shopping and exploring the Old City. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Day 9: Sunday, January 5, 2025

Sifting Project - Davidson Center Archaeological Park - Western Wall - Hezekiah's Tunnel

This morning we tour the BYU Jerusalem Center and then get our hands in the dirt as we have a special opportunity to participate in a sifting project of dirt taken from under the Dome of the Rock or the City of David. Here we can find a bone, pottery, and possibly an ancient coin! Next, we visit the amazing Jerusalem Archaeological Park, we see the ancient southern steps leading to the temple mount that Christ must have tread. From here we visit the Western Wall. The Western Wall, also known as the “Wailing Wall” or the “Kotel”, is the most religious site in the world for the Jewish people. Our last stop will be at the City of David to explore the ancient waterway of Hezekiah’s Tunnel! When Jerusalem was preparing defenses against the approaching Assyrian army in the 8th century B.C.E., King Hezekiah decided to protect the water source by diverting its flow deep into the city with an impressive tunnel system. This engineering feat was accomplished by digging a 1,750-foot tunnel into the mountain we can explore today.



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Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10: Monday, January 6, 2025

Mount of Olives - Gethsemane - Garden Tomb

First thing, this morning we stop at the Mount of Olives overlook for an excellent panoramic view of the incredible city. Next, we visit the Garden of Gethsemane (and Orson Hyde Park if you want to walk UP the hill) and the Church of All Nations. Here we walk among ancient olive trees and feel the spirit of that sacred area. Following our stop at the Grotto of Gethsemane, our final stop is the beautiful Garden Tomb, believed by some to be the site of Jesus’ burial. Next to the Garden, there is a limestone hill which many revere as Golgotha, the site of the crucifixion.



After our farewell dinner, we transfer to the airport for our return flights to the USA. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



***Please note that due to the nature of this tour, you must be able to climb stairs and walk unassisted at a moderate pace. You will walk an average of 4-6 miles each day. The days are full of touring from breakfast to dinner time with "down-time" only in the evening.**

Introductory Terms and Conditions

(Full Terms & Conditions available on our website and included with each booking)

HEALTH & HYGIENE, MOBILITY and CANCELLATION POLICIES: By signing up for this or any of our tours, you are expressly agreeing to be bound by the TERMS & CONDITIONS contract that will be provided to you with your confirmation, specifically that you understand: i) All policies outlined therein regarding current health and hygiene requirements that may be required by the countries and locations visited; ii) The required mobility needed for the tour; and, iii) The Morris Murdock Escorted Tours cancellation policy may be more restrictive than a vendor or cruise line with which you are traveling.

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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