

Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies

The BEST of Israel

“Ask for the ancient paths; ask where the good way is,
And walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

\$3885 Boston r.t. • 15 Days
March 26 – April 9, 2019



Your Invitation:

Informative and transforming, the Bible Lands Seminar of the **Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies** (BICS) offers the traveler the opportunity to maximize one's biblical learning and spiritual development. We combine academic study with experience in venues where much of the biblical story unfolded.

We focus on vistas, the lay of the land, and on authentic biblical sites. We climb, hike, swim, and go to places off the beaten trail beyond ordinary, traditional tours. We dramatize Bible narrative. We make geographical and archaeological contact with the kings and prophets of Israel. We search out the land of Jesus – Galilee, Perea, and Judea. We investigate the ancient streets and subterranean archeology of Jerusalem. We come home with Bible learning written with “indelible ink.”

Mike Tuttle, Host:

Mike is the Director of Student Life at BICS and Minister of Family Life at Hope Church in Lenox, MA. He is an experienced Bible Lands traveler, having hosted/co-hosted the Seminar eighteen times. He participated in the archaeological dig at Khirbet al-Maqatir (biblical Ai on the west Bank). At BICS, Mike is the instructor of the Bible Lands Seminar. He holds the Master of Arts Degree in Biblical Counseling from Liberty University.

Professor Wesley Ross, Co-host:

Professor Ross, one of the founders of BICS, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, holding a Master of Music Degree. Formerly, he was Professor of Music at Berkshire Christian College for eighteen years. An experienced foreign traveler, Wes has hosted or co-hosted the travel Seminar fourteen times and led six tours to Great Britain. In addition to his teaching and administrative duties at BICS, he serves as the Minister of Music at Hope Church in Lenox, MA.

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REQUESTED HOTELS:

NETANYA: Ramada Hotel
TIBERIAS: Leonardo Club Hotel
DEAD SEA: David Dead Sea Resort & Spa
JERUSALEM: Ambassador Hotel



PIONEERS OF THE ACCLAIMED **REGIONALTOUR**SM
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Best of ISRAEL Regionaltour

\$3885 - 30 or more persons

\$3945 - 25/29 persons

Price is per person, double occupancy.

PRICE INCLUDES: Lufthansa Airlines r.t., from Boston Logan Airport, all overseas transfers, \$142 entrance fees, standard 1st class hotels (twin bedded, dbl. occ.), \$160 local tips, daily breakfast and dinner, English-speaking guide, portorage of one suitcase, Wilderness Desert trip and lunch, Nazareth Village and lunch, Farewell Dinner, and personal copy of BLR (satellite map tour resource).

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Other daily lunches, beverages other than coffee or tea at breakfasts, nor personal services requested.

REGISTRATION FORM

Group: BICS – March 26, 2019

Name: _____
(Gender and names as printed on passport!)

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone (area code): _____

E-mail: _____

Citizenship: _____
(Country issuing passport)

Passport #: _____
(Mail a copy of passport to IGM, do not fax.)

Departure City: _____

Roommate: _____
(Singles must pay surcharge!)

_____ I request single room lodging.
((\$1180 Israel single supplement)

I have carefully read the brochure and Tour Conditions and agree to these terms and conditions as a binding contract when my registration and deposit are received by IGM TOURS. Enclosed is my deposit of \$_____ (\$300 per person).

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail deposit to:
IGM TOURS, P. O. Box 20488
Castro Valley, CA 94546
PH: (510) 727-0380 / FAX: (510) 538-8777

Your Itinerary:

DAY 1/Mar 26 - TUE - BOSTON DEPARTURE

BLR = Bible Lands Resource: daily tracking & readings

Be at Boston Logan International Airport at least 3 hours before departure for the security and check-in procedures for the flight to Munich. *BLR Tracker: p. 2 - Roads, Rivers & Crossroads.*

Day 2/Mar 27 - WED- ARRIVE TEL AVIV

Change aircraft in Munich and continue to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival proceed through passport control into customs. Use free luggage carts (3-4 on each cart) to exit and meet your guide outside the airport terminal at "group's arrival." Depart for Netanya for a late snack and relaxation in a comfortable hotel.

BLR Tracker: p. 6, #1, #2

DAY 3/Mar 28 – THU - TO SEA OF GALILEE

Depart for nearby Caesarea Maritima. In Acts 10 read about Peter's encounter with the god-fearer Cornelius. Paul also stood here before Festus and Felix. View the Pontius Pilate Stone. Continue to Herod's summer home, overview the stadium, the harbor and the Roman aqueduct. Depart for Muhraqa to consider Elijah's encounter with the prophets of Baal. Self-host lunch is available at a nearby Druze village. Descend Mt. Carmel for the Jezreel Valley and the sites of Megiddo. This is the site of the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). Walk to an overview of the Canaanite circular bama (altar). Explore the ruins and descend into the water tunnel. Cross the Jezreel Valley and proceed to your lodging for five nights at Tiberias.

BLR Tracker: p. 6 – Coastal Plains



Caesarea Maritima

DAY 4/Mar 29 - FRI - SEA CIRCLE TRIP

Circle the sea visiting sites of Jesus' ministry. Depart for the Yarmuk River and ascend the Aphek Plateau for an unobstructed view of the Sea of Galilee from Kfar Haruv. Continue past Koursi ("demons into the swine") to Bethsaida, home of Peter, Philip, and Andrew. Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes (Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Mt. 5-7). Optional: a foot descent to the seaside of Tabgha. Visit Capernaum, the center for Jesus' Galilean ministry. Board the Jesus Boat, a double-scale replica of a Roman fishing boat (discovered in 1986) to sail the sea and enjoy some of the inspirational Bible geography references.

BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, p. 7 Overview, #17 Jesus at Galilee, Rift Valley

DAY 5/Mar 30-SAT - NAZARETH, MT. PRECIPICE

Return to the Jezreel Valley to visit the home town of Jesus, Nazareth. Visit the Nazareth Village to explore the lifestyles of Jesus' lifetime. Following orientation to the village lunch will be served. Ascend to Nazareth for a Mt. Precipice ridge view of Mt. Tabor and the Jezreel Valley. Visit Mary's Well and the Church of St. Gabriel. Walk to the Basilica of the Annunciation to view an archeological museum and excavations. Visit the nearby Sisters of Nazareth Convent to view a 1st Century burial site (tombs and rolling stone) and Byzantine era cave-church. Return to the Sea of Galilee with some leisure beside the sea.

BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Mountains & Valleys, Overview #4, #5

DAY 6/Mar 31 - SUN - THE UPPER JORDAN

Depart on the ancient Via Maris road to Chorazin (one of 3 cities cursed by Jesus), dwellings carved by volcanic basalt. Continue to Hazor (ancient crossroads, largest Canaanite city) for a brief stop. Proceed to Tell Dan. Walk into the Nature Preserve beside the roaring Dan River (Ps. 42) to Tell Dan (biblical Laish). View the High Place of Jeroboam. A self-host lunch time will be included. Proceed to Banias (Caesarea Philippi), Peter's confession of Jesus as Christ. Time permitting, visit the palace of Agrippa II. Return via Quneitra to view the Syrian border and continue to Tiberias.

BLR Tracker p. 7 - The Upper Jordan

DAY 7/APR 1 - MON - MT ARBEL, TEL BETH-SHEAN

Depart for Mt. Arbel for a dramatic overview of Jesus' public ministry on the north shores of the Sea of Galilee. Motor to the Valley of the Winds below the Arbel. Here one may see the untouched hills and valley as a reminder of what it was like in the days of Jesus. Continue walking to the seaside ruins of Magdala for the archaeology of a 1st century synagogue. After lunch visit Ma'ayun Harod (Gideon) and descend into the Jordan Valley to Tel Beth Shean. Approach a Roman bridge to ascend the Tel for the presentation of the death of Israel's first king, Saul. Descend to the reconstruction of Scythopolis, the leading city of the Greco-Roman Decapolis. Return to Tiberias.

BLR Tracker: p 8 - Lower Jordan



Beth Shean - Scythopolis

DAY 8/APR 2 - TUE - SAMARIA, JERICHO, DEAD SEA

Depart for Dothan and Samaria. Continue to Nablus for Tel Balata and nearby Jacob's Well. Depart for the site of Shiloh to consider the tabernacle of Joshua 18:1. Time permitting; continue to Bethabara (Bethany beyond Jordan) for the excellent Israeli site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Return to Jericho to visit the archaeology of Jericho and Joshua's conquest. Depart for an oasis-like hotel at the Dead Sea for lodging. *BLR Tracker: p. 6, #8 Manasseh, #9 Ephraim, p. 8, #18 Lower Jordan, #19 Dead Sea*

DAY 9/APR 3 - WED - BEDOUIN TENT & LUNCH

Visit Tel Arad and the ancient temple sites on the edge of the Syro-African rift. The north-south stretch of land from the tip of the Dead Sea to the Red Sea is almost 100 miles. Although not a desirable route for ancient caravans, the nomadic Bedouins found subsistence. Ride camels into the Arabah sands. The journey into Makhtesh Ramon is a window of explanations about the Bedouin ways, desert, and the famous spice route. The lunch will be in a traditional Bedouin tent, and includes traditional Bedouin service and stories. Some Bible scholars note that until one visits the wilderness the land of the Bible has not been visited, that 70% of Bible narratives involve the wilderness. Return to the Dead Sea.

BLR Tracker: p. 8, #20 – ARABAH

DAY 10/APR 4 - THU - MASADA, TO JERUSALEM

Depart for the Masada fortress and ascend via the tram. Explore the legendary last stand of the Jewish Zealots against the forces of Rome. Explore the dig which includes the Jewish synagogue and the Roman assault ramp. Descend to the Dead Sea and Ein Gedi (David and Saul) and walk the path to the waterfall. Visit Qumran to view the caves. In route to Jerusalem detour on a Roman Road to the Wadi Qilt (reference to the Parable of the Good Samaritan). From the ancient road overview, see the cliff side St. George's Monastery. Return to the highway to visit Lazarus' Tomb in Bethany. Proceed to Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus for a first view of the Old City and an ancient Genesis welcome. Lodging is in Jerusalem. *BLR Tracker: p. 8 - #19 Dead Sea, p. 6 Overview: Jerusalem*

DAY 11/APR 5 - FRI - JUDAEAN SHEPHELAH

Descend Jerusalem on the Beth-horon Road into the Aijalon Valley (the sun stood still). Pass Nahal Sorek (Delilah) and arrive Beth-shemesh (Samson, Ark of the Covenant). Continue to the Valley of Elah. Visit Khirbet Qeiyafa (time permitting) to consider an early planned fortified city from the time of David. Ascend Azekah and reference the battle geography of David and Goliath. Depart for Hebron (conditions permitting) to view the extraordinary Herodian building, a classic structure illustrating the stone dressing of Herod the Great, the ancient master builder. Return to Jerusalem.

BLR Tracker: p.7 - #11 Judaeon Shephelah

DAY 12/APR 6 - SAT - JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

Visit the Mt. of Olives for orientation to Jerusalem's Old City (Ps. 122). Walk on the traditional Palm Sunday route past the Dominus Flevit Church and continue to the Garden of Gethsemane. Proceed to the Dung Gate and ascend the Temple Mount to walk past the Al Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Continue to the St. Stephen's Gate and walk on the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Depart for the Judaeon wilderness, the Herodium (Herod's grave) and to view Shepherds' Fields. Continue to Bethlehem's Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity. Visit an olivewood shop before departure for Jerusalem.

BLR Tracker: p. 7 - #12 Judaeon Highland



Bethlehem – Church of the Nativity

DAY 13/APR 7 - SUN - JERUSALEM SIGHTSEEING

Proceed to the Dung Gate and enter the Ophel Ridge to walk on the Herodian pavement, view and touch the Temple foundation and sit on the Temple steps from Jesus' time. This is the one place where we know Jesus walked and taught (Lk. 19-21). This morning one may observe the celebration at the Western Wall of Bar Mitzvahs. Proceed to the nearby Hezekiah's Tunnel, (bring old shoes for the knee-deep water) and walk to the Pool of Siloam (Jn. 9). Visit the lower Pool of Siloam.

BLR Tracker: p. 6 - Overview: Jerusalem

DAY 14/APR 8 - MON - JERUSALEM

The walk through the Western Wall Tunnel is subject to time confirmation. Visit the Jerusalem Garden Tomb. There will be time for personal sharing. Proceed to the Damascus Gate and walk through the shuq (old city) to the Dung Gate. Proceed to the eastern slope of Mt. Zion for the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantua. Ascend the Mt. Zion entry into the Old City to visit the Upper Room. Walk to the Cardo and Hezekiah's Broad Wall. Enter the Wohl Museum to view the upper Jerusalem of Jesus' time. Motor to the Israel Museum to view the biblical archaeology and the 1/50 model of Jerusalem in the Herodian period. Nearby is the Shrine of the Book. Time permitting; visit David's Tower at Jaffa Gate. *BLR Tracker p. 3 - Mythologies & Philosophies, Greek & Roman Gods.*

DAY 15/APR 9 - TUE – RETURN TO BOSTON

This morning, proceed to the Ben Gurion Airport at Tel Aviv for the return flights to Boston via Frankfurt. Change aircraft and fly nonstop to Boston.

TOUR CONDITIONS:

1. **DEPOSITS:** Registrations require a signed and dated **IGM** form and a **\$300** deposit per person. **Late Deposit fees are:** \$50 for less than 100 days and **\$150 for less than 75 days (after invoice period)** before departure. **Late registrations** risk airspace not being confirmed.

2. **FINAL PAYMENTS:** Final payments must be received 60 days prior to departure. **Payments received 45 days prior will be assessed \$50 per person and must be paid by a Cashier's Check or Money Order. If final payment is not received by 40 days prior to departure, the participant's tour space will be canceled and the deposit forfeited.**

3. **DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENTS:** Payable to **IGM TOURS**.

4. **CREDIT CARDS:** Major credit cards are accepted.

5. **FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final tour documents (including airline tickets and any itinerary adjustments) will be available one week before departure to facilitate any last minute changes.

6. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS: Written cancellations must be sent directly to IGM TOURS.** Cancellations (for any reason whatsoever) are subject to an **IGM \$50 administrative fee.**

90 days prior: an additional \$150 per person plus applicable airline fee.

40 days prior: the full tour price is charged.

There are no refunds for international tickets once issued!

7. **AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Lufthansa group airfares (10 persons flying the same route) are non-refundable and issued about 40 days prior to departure. Tickets do not permit changes in names, cities, or dates without penalty. Airfares are subject to change until ticketed. Seat upgrades are not available. Those persons who wish to use miles or points for upgrades should register for the tour as Land Only and provide their own air transportation.

8. **HOTELS:** Prices are based on 1st class hotel rooms (twin bedded, dbl. occ.). If changed, similarly priced hotels are used. Single room occupants (for any reason) must pay single room surcharge.

9. **MEALS:** Daily breakfasts and dinners (table d'hote or buffet), and two lunches. Coffee or tea is included only with breakfasts.

10. **GROUP TRANSFERS & ENTRANCE FEES:** All overseas group transfers and entrance fees are included. Individual transfers are not included for those who deviate from tour itineraries.

11. **GUIDES:** An English-speaking scholarly guide will travel with the group from beginning to end.

12. **PORTERAGE:** Overseas portage of 1 suitcase is included. All additional suitcases/flight bags are \$1 per hotel.

13. **LUGGAGE:** Group touring is limited to one normal size suitcase (not to exceed 50 lbs), one camera case, and one flight bag.

14. **PASSPORTS/VISAS.** Participants must provide **IGM** a legible copy of passports valid for 6 months upon return (**do not fax**). **Copies are required for security 90 days before departure for ticket processing.** Visas are not required for U.S. passports. All other passports must advise **IGM** at the time of registration. **A blank page is required!**

15. **SMOKING POLICY:** Smoking is not permitted on coaches or flights.

16. **ITINERARY CHANGES:** The itinerary has been planned under the direction of your tour leader. It is possible that the daily itinerary may be adjusted by unforeseen circumstances.

17. **PRICING FLUCTUATIONS:** Tour prices are based upon current tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure production, **June 2018**. These factors are outside the control of **IGM**, and will be defined by **IGM** at least 75 days before departure. **But if the fuel surcharges increase any time prior to ticketing you will be assessed.**

18. **DEVIATIONS/CHANGES:** Deviations/changes must be requested in writing to **IGM** (\$50 per person plus applicable airline fees) at least 90 days before departure, and are subject to airline regulations and possible airfare adjustments. **Requests less than 90 days (invoice period) are not accepted.** There are no exceptions.

19. **REFUNDS:** Refunds are made only per the guidelines listed below.

20. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** **IGM strongly recommends** the purchase of travel insurance for protection of one's tour and luggage investments. The coverage may commence from the day of tour deposit throughout the tour duration.

21. **TOUR OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITY: IGM TOURS, Inc.,** herein and hereafter referred to as **IGM** and/or its agents, act only in the capacity as a broker agent for the passenger in all matters connected with hotel lodging, sightseeing, tours and transportation, whether by air, rail, motorcoach, boat, or any other means and as an agent holds itself free of responsibility for any damage or expense resulting from any cause whatsoever. **IGM is a bonded wholesale travel broker which complies with California's "Seller of Travel State Law": CST#2018950-50. IGM and/or its agents will not be responsible for any damage or expenses or inconvenience caused by late registrations, late airplanes, trains, boats, or changes in any of their schedules due to strikes or any other reason whatsoever. IGM** operates 9:00 AM-5:00 PM weekdays excluding holidays. **IGM** will not be responsible for the loss or damage to luggage or any passenger's personal belongings. **IGM recommends the purchase of Travel Insurance to cover such events. IGM** reserves the right to refuse any person as a tour member at any time before or during the actual tour. **IGM** reserves the right to cancel, change, or withdraw the tour in whole or in part at any time. The sole obligation of **IGM** is to refund payments received in connection herewith if not acceptable by tour members. Refunds for canceled airfares and services abroad for any reason will be made only after having been received from the airlines, hotels, or companies performing these services, less any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the operation resulting from those cancellations and will follow the guidelines herein contained for cancellations. Requests for any refund due to absence from the itineraries abroad must be submitted to **IGM** in writing not less than 60 days prior to departure and are subject to agreements with overseas Operators. Any dispute arising out of these tours will be settled in the courts of the City of Hayward, CA.

22. **AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY: Lufthansa** is responsible only for the air travel portion of this tour performed for it on behalf of tour participants in accordance with the terms and conditions of their individual passage contracts and subject to the applicable laws, treaties and regulations governing air transportation. Tour services, including but not limited to carriage by land or sea, guide services, hotel accommodations, restaurants and all services other than carriage by air, are furnished by contractors who are independent and do not act for or on behalf of the above airline and the above airline shall not be responsible for any act, omission or event occurring prior to the tour participants embarkation upon or after his/her disembarkation from the aircraft. The usual passage contract by the airline when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participants and in purchasing a passage contract as part of this tour, the tour participant acknowledges and accepts the foregoing conditions. Turkish Airlines is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board its aircraft.