

# ISRAEL

MAY 16-27

Extension to **BYZANTINE ISTANBUL**

MAY 27-29

## Tour Hosts



Dr. Meredith  
Riedel



Dr. Beth M.  
Sheppard



organized by

**TUTKU**

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —



THOMAS  
UNIVERSITY 

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MAY 16-27, 2023

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**Dr. Meredith Riedel & Dr. Beth M. Sheppard**

## Itinerary:

Tue, May 16 Depart the United States on your international flight from ATL.

Wed, May 17 Arrive TelAviv Airport

Your guide will meet you with a “THOMAS UNIVERSITY – TUTKU” sign. You will be welcomed to the Holy Land by our representative and taken to your hotel in the Jaffa area on the shores of the **Mediterranean Sea** for dinner and overnight. (D)

Thu, May 18 **Tel Aviv**

On your own (optional) sites to see in Jaffa/Joppa before dinner within walking distance of the hotel—Jaffa Old City (Flea Market, Visitor Center, Small museum about history of Joppa/Jaffa, Art display by local artist—Suspended Orange Tree, Simon the Tanner’s House (significant for the raising of Tabitha by Peter), .Franciscan Church— St Peters (1888), Modern harbor on site of Jonah and the Whale. If possible, the newly excavated cathedral at Ashdod. (\*B, D)

Fri, May 19 **Tiberias**

You will begin your day with a visit to **Caesarea by the Sea** (Maritima) where Paul left for his final missionary journey. You will then travel to Acco, one of the fascinating ancient cities in Israel. It is a beautiful city perched on the coast of the Mediterranean rich in history. Your focus will be on the Crusader period in Acco (also known as Acre). Stop at the Aqueduct on way to hotel if possible. Overnight Tiberias. (B,D)



Sea of Galilee

Sat, May 20 **Tiberias**

Today you’ll begin with a **Boat Ride** across the **Sea of Galilee** where you’ll stop for a devotional service. You will then visit **Kibbutz Ginosar** where you’ll see the **ancient boat** from the time of Jesus. You will continue **Magdala** where you will see the ruins of a synagogue from the Second Temple period, one of the oldest synagogues in Israel. Magdala was a fishing town that was mentioned in Jewish writings of that time as a major site during the **First Jewish-Roman War** at the time of the destruction of the Second Temple. From there you will drive to **Nazareth** for lunch, then to **Zippori** where you will see a Roman villa and other buildings from the Roman period with beautiful mosaics that are very well preserved. Zippori was one of the local bases of the Crusaders and you will see the fort and watchtower that they built there. Your final visit of the day will be to **Belvoir Castle**, built by the Crusaders in the latter part of the 12th century. You will return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Sun, May 21 **Tiberias**

You will begin today with a drive to **Caesarea Phillipi**. You will visit **Capernum**, archaeological remains of Tiberias, a city that was important in the Jewish Wars, as well as during the Crusader period. This was the capitol of Galilee during Jesus’ Life and where Herod Antipas (from Jesus’ arrest and trial) lived. Visit the **Tomb of Moses Maimonides** (He is, for Judaism, roughly the equivalent of Martin Luther for Protestantism – one really shouldn’t leave Tiberius without learning a bit about this Jewish philosopher. After your visit there, return to your hotel for dinner & overnight. (B,D)

Mon, May 22      **Jerusalem**

This morning you'll travel along the **Jordan Valley with a stop by the Jordan River** on your way to **Masada**, the amazing mountain-top fortress built by King Herod. This is the site of the final battle in the Jewish Rebellion against the Romans. After your visit there, you'll drive along the **Dead Sea, stopping to soak in the Dead Sea**. On your way to visit **Qumran** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered**. You'll finish your day with a drive through the **Judean Wilderness** on your way up to **Jerusalem** for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

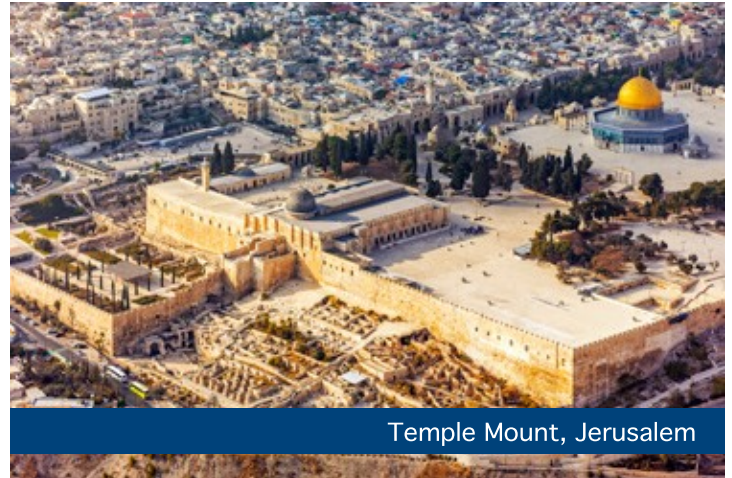
Tue, May 23      **Jerusalem - Bethlehem**

You will spend the morning at the **Israel Museum** and also, in one wing see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the **Shrine of the Book**. You'll finish your day in **Bethlehem** where you will visit the **Nativity Church** and see **Manger Square**. As you drive to the church you'll view **Shepherd's Field** where the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus. Finally you'll return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Wed, May 24      **Jerusalem**

Today's tour begins at the **Mount of Olives** where you'll see a breathtaking panoramic view of the **Old City of Jerusalem**. You'll walk part of the **Palm Sunday Road** to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus went with the disciples on the final night before his crucifixion. There you'll visit the **Church of All Nations** and the garden with its ancient olive trees. Next you'll walk through the **Kidron Valley** where you'll see monuments from **Second Temple period** that are mentioned in the writings of Josephus. You'll continue your walk to the **City of David** where you'll see the excavations still in progress: **King David's Palace, and Hezekiah's Tunnel**. The tunnel is 1750' long and was carved during the reign of Hezekiah in order to bring water from one side of the city to the other. You will walk through this tunnel—which may have water in it, so come prepared with water shoes and a flashlight! You will walk to the **Davidson Center**, on the southern side of the Temple area where you will see the excavations of the ruins from the time of the destruction of the Temple.

The **Southern Steps** there were the primary entrance to The Temple at the time of Jesus. After your visit there, you will return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Temple Mount, Jerusalem

Thu, May 25      **Jerusalem**

Your day will begin today with a visit to the **Temple Mount** where you'll view the exterior of **Dome of the Rock Mosque**. You'll continue from there to the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the crippled man. **Church of St. Anne**, a beautiful Crusader church, before you begin your walk down the **Via Dolorosa**. This traditional walk, following the path Jesus took to the cross, winds through the fascinating Arab market of today. You'll visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, and focus on the Crusader portion of that magnificent building. From there you will wind your way through the Old City to the **Western Wall**, the place most precious for Jews around the world today. Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnel** where you'll see the pavement of the streets at the time of Jesus. Also visit the Garden Tomb. (B,D)

Fri, May 26      **Jerusalem - Jericho**

Jericho-- **Hisham's Palace** (One of the Moslem Desert Palaces— Amazing mosaics. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Sat, May 27      **Fly back to ATLANTA**

\*Please note: This itinerary is subject to change to accommodate weather, site connections or other circumstances.

## INSTANBUL EXTENSION



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

Sat May 27 **Istanbul**

Hagia Sophia, Spice Market, Hippodrome Square, Mosque of the Conquest, Chora Church.

Sun May 28 **Istanbul**

Ferry to Chalcedon for church service Sunday.

Mon May 29 **Back to Atlanta**

### FOR TRIP RESERVATIONS, VISIT

<https://www.thomasu.edu/trip-to-israel>

## EXPENSES

<u>Israel</u>	<u>Istanbul</u>
\$6,454 per person (double room)	\$595 per person (double room)
\$1,560 additional for single room	\$180 additional for single room
<b>INCLUDES:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtrip international Air between ATLANTA-TEL AVIV on Economy Class</li> <li>• Sightseeing as per the itinerary</li> <li>• 1 Biblical lunch at Nazareth Village</li> <li>• 2 Night at the Dan Panorama Tel Aviv in Executive rooms</li> <li>• 3 Nights at the Magdala Hotel</li> <li>• 1 St. Peters Fish Lunch</li> <li>• 5 Nights at the Dan Panorama Hotel Jerusalem in Deluxe rooms</li> <li>• Boat on the Sea Of Galilee</li> <li>• 2 Nights at Moevenpick Golden Horn Istanbul (Istanbul Extension only)</li> <li>• English Speaking, bible-oriented tour guide during all touring days and transfers</li> <li>• Daily breakfast and 9 Dinners at the hotels (2 more dinners at the extension)</li> <li>• Entry fees to the sites and museums</li> <li>• Airport assistance – arrival and departure</li> <li>• Service charges and local taxes</li> <li>• Personal Headsets</li> </ul>	
<b>EXCLUDES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinks and lunches (except St Peter Fish Lunch")</li> <li>• Travel Health Insurance (HIGHLY recommended), COVID related tests and other expenses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Personal expenses</li> <li>* Tips to guide/driver (\$100 per person for ISRAEL and \$20 for ISTANBUL)</li> </ul>
<b>PAYMENT SCHEDULE</b>	
Deposit \$500 per person due September 1, 2022	Full Payment due February 10, 2023
<b>CANCELLATION</b>	
<p>120-90 days prior to departure: No Penalty            89-60 days prior to departure: 10%            59-45 days prior to departure: 25%            44-30 days prior to departure: 50%            29-15 days prior to departure: 75%            14 days &amp; After No refund</p>	