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# ISRAEL MEET YOUR GUIDE: DAVID FIELD

### Hello friends!

My name is David Field, I am a Canadian-Israeli who, along with my wife Desiree and dog Nuvik, have been living in Haifa, Israel, since 2019. The Bible, history and archaeology are my passion, and I love to help people get a whole new appreciation for these topics. I don't like copy and paste presentations and research, so I promise you, this tour will be unique and have you thinking from a whole new perspective by the end.

As a licensed guide I am sure I can help you get the most out of your trip to Israel, because the better your experience, the happier I am in my work. I also enjoy blending the local flavors into the tour, so if you enjoy sampling local whiskey, spirits, craft beers, or boutique wines, then I am happy to help you see the land with drink in hand!



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### **JERUSALEM**

As the heart of Israel and pilgrimages, Jerusalem is a city that you could spend weeks in and still not see everything. So, what should you see while you are here? I am happy to customize the tour based on your interests and make sure it is a trip to remember!

### SITE OPTIONS

If you are interested in Biblical archaeology, then the **City of David Park** is a great place to start. This can be combined with the **Davidson Center** which lets you see Biblical archaeology connected to Jesus and his disciples' ministry. The **Wohl Museum (Herodian Quarter)** and **Burnt House** focus on the first century Upper City of Jerusalem and the **Tower of David** in an interactive museum with a great lookout of the city.

For those interested on traditional Christian sites, Ecce Homo, Holy Sepulchre, Church of the Redeemer are along the Via Delarosa and shouldn't be missed. Outside the Old City walls are also Cenacle (the Upper Room) and Dormition Abby. A pilgrimage tour can be planned based on your denomination.

Further out, the **Garden of Gethsemane** and **Mount of Olives** lookout is a great place for Bible readers to visit. For those with the energy, I recommend walking from the Old City, into the **Kidron Valley**, and up the Mount of Olives, in the same way Jesus did many times during his ministry.

Other notable sites are **Ketef Hinnom**, a series of burial tombs where the silver scrolls were found, and **Ramot Rachel**, the site of the Judean Kings winter palace built around the time of King Jehoash.

The **Israel Museum** is where you will find most of the artifacts of Biblical importance, as well as the Dead Sea Scrolls and the First Century Model (plan to spend 2 to 3 hours here). Across the street there is also the **Bible Lands Museum** which often has exhibits of artifacts from ongoing excavations at Biblical sites.

For those interested in the modern history, **Yad Vashem**, the national Holocaust museum and memorial is a must visit. And for those interested in learning about the modern State of Israel, **Mount Herzl, Ammunition Hill,** and the **Knesset** are great places to start.

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I always recommend hotels along the light rail on **Jaffa Street** or nearby. It provides quick and easy access to the train station and Old City, and for those with rental cars, most hotels have underground parking. While staying in the Old City is a very cool experience, be aware that cars can not enter most areas, meaning you may have to walk with your luggage 5 to 15 minutes.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

Jerusalem is typically done as a walking tour. Being built on a series of hills, this means that there are a lot of ups and downs throughout the day. However, for those with mobility issues, we can modify this to avoid stairs, and most of the Old City is now wheelchair accessible. The one notable exception is the City of David Park (along with the Givati Excavation) which can only be accessed with a series of stairs.

I do not recommend Hezekiah's Tunnel for those who have back or knee problems, as there are long stretches where you may need to walk crouched or bent over. If you struggle with claustrophobia, or tight dark spaces, it is also not recommended.

### **PLANNING**

If you have the time, I recommend at least two days touring Jerusalem. This allows enough time to see the main sites on your list and also experience some of the local food, drink and culture.

The tour will be adapted to your schedule, but most of the sites open at 8:00am and close by 5:00pm. The exception is the Israel Museum. Please ensure to check the days you will be in Jerusalem with the museum hours. At the time of this writing, on Tuesdays they only open in the evening (4:00pm-9:00pm) and they close on Wednesday.

Sabbath (Shabbat) begins on Friday. This means that many sites close around 3:00pm, and some restaurants have different hours. Also, most city transit stops running from about Friday (around 5:00pm) until Saturday (around 4:00pm).





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### THE SHEPHELAH

The Shephelah is the term for the coastal plains, an area that was once the border between Israel and the Philistines.

### SITE OPTIONS

**Tel Bet Shemesh** is a quick stop for archaeology and a scenic view of the **Sorek Valley**. From Samson and the Ark of the Covenant, to the war of King Amaziah, there is a lot to learn here. **Khirbet Qeiyafa** are very interesting ruins in the **Elah Valley** connected to the battle of David verses Goliath. **Tel Azekah** provides a great view of the valley and insight into the Babylonian conquest, while **Tel Lachish** has some amazing evidence of Sennacherib's campaign and Hezekiah's spiritual cleanse of the land.

Maresha-Beit Guvrin Park offers a Roman and Crusader city and Israelite underground quarries. The Shephelah also has some amazing wineries that will allow you to relax and take in the view and local culture, and we are happy to include one of our favourites as a lunch destination during your tour.

### WHERE TO STAY

This day tour can be easily done if you are staying in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. This tour can also be adapted into a scenic accessibility tour. While some sites will be visited, it will focus more on scenic lookouts where we will discuss Biblical events.



THE SHEPHELAH - 5 / 16 -



### JEZREEL VALLEY

Located in the north, this valley stretches from Haifa across to the Jordan River.

### SITE OPTIONS

For those interested in Biblical history and archaeology, then **Tel Megiddo** is a must visit. **Mount Carmel,** where Elijah had the fire test with the baal prophets, is also a great site to visit. There are many other scenic locations throughout the valley like **Tel Jezreel, Mount Gilboa** and **Mount Tabor**, all connected to various Bible events.

For those interested in Jewish history, **Beit Shaarim** and **Sephoris (Tziporri)** are fantastic sites, and **Beit Shean** offers a mix of Israelite and Roman history.

For those interested in pilgrimage sites, Nazareth's **Church of Annunciation** and Cana's **Wedding Church** and Mount Tabor's **Church of the Transfiguration** are a must visit.

There are many lunch options, but I always reccomend one of the great boutique wineries in the valley that offer locally made bread and cheese, and dishes using produce grown by the community.

### WHERE TO STAY

This day tour can be easily done if you are staying in the north, in places around Haifa or Tiberias. While it is possible to visit the Jezreel Valley from Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, traffic can be a problem and cause some sites to be cut due to time.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. This tour can also be adapted for wheelchair accessibility.



- 6 / 16 - JEZREEL VALLEY



### GALILEE

Located in the north, the area around the Sea of Galilee (Kinneret) if rich in Jewish and Christian history and has been a popular place for pilgrimages since the 3rd century.

### SITE OPTIONS

Whether Jewish or Christian, I recommend **Magdala** and **Capernaum** as must visit locations. Both give a rich insight into the history of the region in the early Roman period, and for those wanting to make a Christian pilgrimage, both sites will be at the top of your list.

**Jordan River Park** also gives access to the ruins of **Geshur**, a city that was once home to King David's son Absalom. Some believe this may also be **Bethsaida**, the home of Jesus' disciples Peter and Andrew.

**Mount Arbel** offers a beautiful and scenic nature walk with a view of the Galilee. And if you want a similar view from the eastern shore, then the ruins of the Decapolis city of **Hippos Sussita** is also a great place to visit.

Other traditional Christian sites that can be visited are **Tabgha** and **Kursi**, and again, I am happy to tailor the itinerary to visit sites suited to your denominational beliefs.

**Tiberias** itself is a nice city to spend time in. The boardwalk offers many restaurants and options for boat rides on the Galilee. There are also hot springs and ruins of various time periods in Tiberias' rich history. For those interested in Jewish history, Tiberias is a great place to spend time in.



GALILEE - 7 / 16 -

It is best to stay in Tiberias or the surrounding area. Although that said, Haifa is only 40 minutes away, so it is possible to also visit the Galilee as a day trip if you are coming on a cruise ship.

There are many options in this area, including glamping, cabins, and camping. Although camping will be dependent on the season as the overnight temperature in the Galilee can be around 30c during the summer months.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. This tour can be adapted for wheelchair accessibility or to avoid excessive walking, however, some of the churches are not fully wheelchair accessible, so for those wanting to make a pilgrimage, I can provide further details on what will be possible based on your specific circumstances.

### **PLANNING**

If you have a full day, you can see a lot, as the sites are in close proximity to each other. However, if you want to also enjoy kayaking, swimming, or hiking, then two days is more ideal. There are other more niche activities that can be arranged like horseback riding.

Again, I am happy to provide recommendations based on your interests and the pace of travel you prefer.



- 8 / 16 - GALILEE



### HERMON

This part of Israel is a favourite for most locals, including myself, due to the rich history and culture, great food, and natural beauty. Although it is located along the Lebanese and Syrian borders, you will be very safe in this region.

### SITE OPTIONS

For those interested in Biblical history and archaeology, then **Tel Hazor** and **Tel Dan** are the must visit locations. Both boast a wealth of Biblical history, including the high place of King Jeroboam. Another site of interest to Christians is **Banias**, known in the first century as Caesarea Philippi. Jesus preached here during his ministry, and it is a great example of how deeply entrenched Greek thinking had become in the region.

There are many lunch options, while some enjoy fresh fish from the Jordan River at Dag Al Dan, I prefer to take you into the Druze villages for a traditional meal you won't forget.

### WHERE TO STAY

It is best to stay in Tiberias or the surrounding area. Although Haifa is only one hour away, and there is a lot to see on the drive, so it is possible to also visit the Hula and Hermon regions as a day trip if you are coming on a cruise ship.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. This tour can also be adapted for wheelchair accessibility, however, much of the archaeology at Tel Dan is not accessible by wheelchair.



HERMON - 9 / 16 -

## NEGEV DESERT

The Negev offers a wealth of natural beauty and an off-the-tourist-trail experience. For those coming for a couple of weeks, the Negev is definitely something to consider.

### SITE OPTIONS

The Makhteshim are geological structures so rare that their scientific name is taken from Hebrew. Five of the seven makhtesh craters that exist are found in Israel and will give an interesting insight into the life of the Israelites who wandered this wilderness, as well as groups like the Nabateans who made their trade traversing this majestic landscape.

There are various Nabatean cities dot the region and offer an insight into early trade and also pilgrimages to the Holy Land. While **Avdat** is the most visited, **Mamshit, Shivta** and **Nitzana** are also off the trail option. There are also smaller khans that can be visited with 4x4 or hiking like **Moa** or **Saharonim**.

**En Avdat** offers a beautiful nature reserve, and if you don't see ibex climbing the cliffs or drinking the spring water, then a stop at **Midreshet Ben Gurion** will offer an up-close look at them.

For those interested in hiking, **Mt Hor** (Har HaHor, Har Zin) or **Red Canyon** are excellent options. And **Timnah Park** provides an in-depth look at the copper industry in Solomon's life, the culture of the Edomites, and a lot of opportunities to climb rock formations.

For Biblical archaeology, **Tamar** gives evidence of Solomon, Jehoshaphat and Amaziah's life and building works. On the northern edge of the Negev is **Tel Beer-Sheva**, which can sometimes be visited as part of the Shephelah.

The Negev Desert ends in the south at the **Red Sea** port of **Eilat**. This is a tax-free resort town, and from here you can cross into Egypt (to Taba and Mt Sinai) or Jordan (to Petra).



- 10 / 16 - NEGEV DESERT

If you want a hotel, Beer-Sheva is in the north, Mitzpe Ramon is central, and Eilat is in the south. Though there are many other options, like glamping, RV rentals, camping, or the Tube Hostel. Like all our other tours, the Negev is a place where it is best to customize based on your interests and how much time is available.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. Unfortunately, most sites in the Negev are not developed for accessible tourism. There are often rough gravel trails and hills to access the sites. Therefore, I can not offer an accessible tour to the Negev at this time.

### **PLANNING**

You will need at least two days to visit the Negev. From Jerusalem, Beer-Sheba is 1.5 hours, Mitzpe Ramon is 2.5 hours, and Eilat is 4 hours away. If you want to see it all, I usually recommend a day seeing the sites to Mitzpe Ramon. Then the next day travel to Eilat and then return to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. It is a very long day (12+ hours), so I charge more than the usual rate.

But again, I am happy to provide recommendations based on your interests and the pace of travel you prefer so that you can see and do as much as possible within your budget.



NEGEV DESERT - 11 / 16 -



A favourite for tourists and locals alike, this has become a resort region of Israel with popular hiking trails and spas. Note that in the summer months (June to August) the temperature can reach 48c. While in the spring (February to April), there is a high chance of flash floods which close the roads with little notice. With any tour planned for the spring, we often have a second tour option in the event of road closures.

### SITE OPTIONS

There are four main attractions in the Dead Sea region. Floating the Dead Sea is the obvious must, typically the beaches of **En Bokek** are best. **Masada** is one of the most popular archaeological sites in Israel and focuses on the Jewish-Roman war.

**Tel Arad** also offers some amazing Biblical archaeology, and the nearby Yatir winery will give wine lovers a option to taste something uniquely local.

The **En Gedi Nature Park** is also very popular and enjoyed by kids and adults alike. Coming here earlier in the morning usually provides a break from the many school groups. Though another option is the **Wadi Arugot Trail** which offers, in my opinion, an even better experience.

On the north end of the Dead Sea is the **Qumran National Park**. This is where the first cache of Dead Sea Scrolls was found, and the archaeology is focused on the first century Jewish community that lived there.

In the area to the north is also the **Jordan River baptismal site**, which is often visted by Christian groups, and the **Church of the Good Samaritan** offers a glimpse into an aspect of Jesus illustration involving the Road to Jericho.



- 12 / 16 - DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea region has a lot of resort and spa hotels in the En Bokek area. While at En Gedi, less expensive accommodations can be found. If you don't plan to stay in the Dead Sea, then Jerusalem or Arad are also close options, and a day trip from these areas is possible. There are also glamping and RV camping options throughout the region.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

A car is needed for this trip, but I am happy to arrange transportation for the group. This tour has limited accessibility. While it can be done, we will need to discuss your specific needs first.

### **PLANNING**

The time of year will affect what you can see and the reliability of the parks being open or accessible. In the spring, ensure that you have a Plan B, as the general rule is that if it is raining in Hebron today, tomorrow access to the Dead Sea will be closed due to flash flood warnings. I am happy to provide recommendations based on your interests and the pace of travel.



DEAD SEA - 13 / 16 -



## THE COAST

From Rosh HaNikra in the north, to Ashkelon in the south, the coastline is full of vibrant culture, bustling cities, Biblical archaeology, and natural beauty.

### SITE OPTIONS

If you want Biblical archaeology, then there are a few sites to consider. **Ashkelon** is one of the most popular sites in Israel and features the ruins of the Philistine city and temple. **Caesarea** is the first century port from where the Apostle Paul sailed in and out of and spent two years under house arrest. It is also the city that Peter converted Cornelius and where Philip raised his daughters. The **Old City of Yaffo** (Jaffa, Joppa) has St. Peter's Church and is where Peter resurrected Dorcas while at the home of Simon the tanner.

While **Acco** (Acre) is mentioned briefly in the Bible, it is home to a fantastic Crusader city that had been buried underground by the Mamluks and is also the furthest reach of Napoleon's conquest.

The **Dor National Park** has archaeology from the Israelite period and also some of the best beaches in Israel. And the grottos of **Rosh HaNikra** are a popular site for school groups and tourists.

**Haifa** is a relaxed city and easy to navigate. The nightlife is focused in the areas of the German Colony, Merkaz Carmel, and City Center. Haifa is home to the beautiful Bahai Temple Gardens and Haifa is the only city with public transit working on sabbath.



- 14 / 16 - THE COAST

**Tel Aviv** is a sprawling modern city which offers a varaiety of tour options. From museums and galleries, to street markets and graffiti art tours. This is the birthplace of the modern State of Israel, and so it is a hub of Israeli culture. Unlike Haifa, almost everyone is Tel Aviv speaks English, and they are always happy to help you find your way or recomend a place to eat.

### WHERE TO STAY

Tel Aviv and Haifa are hubs, and as such are more expensive. But if you are short on time, then it is better to be close to the action. Outside the main cities, places like Hertzliya, Rehovot, Ashdod offer nice hotels and BnB's while older cities like Acco have many boutique hotels in historic buildings.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS**

It depends what you want to see and do. In some cases, walking or public transit is enough for the tour, and saves time on finding parking, a sometimes near impossible task in Tel Aviv. As such, the accessibility will also vary, so it is best to make a plan tailor to your needs.

### **PLANNING**

If you want beach season and swimming in the Medditeranean Sea, then June to September is the best time. Though those months can also become uncomfortably hot for walking tours. You'll need to determine if you want a more relaxed tour in the hotter months, or a faster paced tour in the cooler months.



THE COAST - 15 / 16 -



### PRICE AND BOOKING

To book your tour, you can email your interest to info@drinkoffering.com or fill out the form on our website: <a href="https://www.drinkofferingtours.com/tours">https://www.drinkofferingtours.com/tours</a>

If you want, we can also meet on Zoom to discuss over a video-call details and options for your trip. A tour is not confirmed until a deposit is paid. This helps me to know your commitment to the trip, and I can reserve the dates for you. The deposit is non-refundable if the trip is cancelled less than 30 days prior to the start date.

Depending on the group size and needs, the price will vary. Quotes will include the guiding rate and also park entrance fees so there are no unexpected costs. I am also happy to provide more inclusive pricing that involves transportation and lunch. Typically, the day rate for a tour in Israel is \$300.

I look forward to touring you through this amazing land of the Bible, Israel!

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