

Dear Friends:

We invite you to participate in an exciting travel/learning opportunity. In April, 2023, we will be hosting a group of pilgrims on an amazing tour to The Lands of the Bible (Israel/Palestine and Jordan). The trip will be led by Dr. Phil & Elizabeth Schroeder and Revs. David & Joy Melton, with special guest resource leader, Ying Woo. Rounding out the team will be our Israel guide, Samir Smier, and our Jordan guide.

Below, and attached, you will see the basic information about the trip. The registration brochure, outlining the study tour content and schedule, is enclosed with this cover letter. Please review the information, as we want to highlight several items for you.

1. The dates of the 12-day tour are **Sunday, April 16 until Friday, April 28, including Israel/Palestine and Jordan. We will be flying on Lufthansa Airlines, with flight service from Atlanta to Tel Aviv, Israel, and return travel from Amman, Jordan, to Atlanta.**
2. The trip is a combination of travel by plane (round-trip to/from Atlanta), bus (daily excursions in Israel and Jordan), and a meaningful boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
3. All of the lodging nights of the study tour will be spent in **First-Class hotels**.
4. Our basic schedule will be to travel by motor coach (bus) each day to the study sites. On some evenings, we will have discussions led by your leadership team to help us get the most from every day. ***See the registration brochure for projected daily itinerary. The daily itinerary may change***
5. The cost of the trip is **\$5,399.00, (based on double occupancy – single rooms are an additional \$1,075). This price includes** round-trip airfare, deluxe motor coaches, all breakfast and dinner meals (including tips) while in Israel and Jordan, ground excursions, guided sightseeing, tips associated with portering at hotels, tips for guides and drivers (totaling \$185), local taxes for lodging facilities, airport taxes, any fuel surcharges charged by the airlines (up to \$675), Jordan VISA, and entrance fees to sites visited. While on the ground in Israel and Jordan, the cost of lunch meals will be “on our own” at designated restaurants. Meals while in transit and not provided by the airline, will also be “on our own.” **A \$300 deposit, with a completed registration form, will register you for the trip. Each traveler will need to complete a registration form.**

The LAND ONLY price, inclusive of \$185 of tips, is \$4329.00 (Israel & Jordan) for persons wishing to make their own travel arrangements. The fuel surcharges do not apply to ground only as those are paid in your ticketing arrangements.

Persons who register for the tour will be encouraged to participate in the Trip Protection Plan offered by Consolidated Tours (a flyer will be included with the registration information, as well as, a QR Code on the registration brochure – contact Consolidated Tours for more information). While the Trip Protection Plan is optional, we highly suggest you purchase coverage. **You may purchase your trip protection from another carrier, if you wish.** You have 21 days from the date you register for the tour to cover pre-existing conditions, if purchasing the coverage provided through Consolidated Tours. Please see the attached Protection Plan flyer. If you have questions, contact Mary Hanania at Consolidated Tours, 404-767-2727.

6. There are two orientation sessions scheduled to prepare for our trip. ***The orientation sessions will take place from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM on Sundays – January 8 and March 12, at Dunwoody United Methodist Church.*** The orientation sessions are optional, but you will find them very helpful in understanding the content of the tour and the culture in which we will travel. It would be helpful for out-of-town guests to attend at least one of the orientation sessions.
7. Participants will need to be able to walk a minimum of 12,000 steps a day and climb & descend stairs and walk on uneven ground. **START WALKING NOW!!!**
8. The total number of participants on the tour will be limited. **DON'T DELAY - - REGISTER AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION BROCHURE! There is a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 48 for the tour.**

We are pleased that you have expressed interest in this unique travel/study tour! Please share this information with your friends, and let us know if you have any questions!

Peace,

Dr. Phil and Elizabeth Schroeder
770-394-0675, ext. 123
phil.schroeder@dunwoodyumc.org

Revs. David and Joy Melton
770-394-0675, ext. 114 or 770-542-1674
david.melton@dunwoodyumc.org

LANDS OF THE BIBLE TOUR



Israel, Palestine, & Jordan | April 16-28, 2023

Under the Leadership of:



Dr. Phil & Elizabeth Schroeder

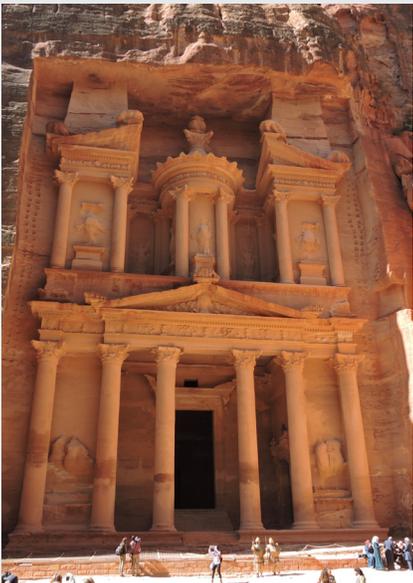


Revs. David & Joy Melton

Limited space available!
Sign up today to reserve
your spot.

Tour details inside





The trip of a lifetime to the Lands of the Bible: Israel & Jordan

April 16-28, 2023

Leaders and Tour Hosts: Dr. Phil & Elizabeth Schroeder, Revs. David & Joy Melton

COST: \$5,399⁰⁰

Inclusive of economy air travel on Lufthansa Airlines, ground transportation in Israel and Jordan, lodging (based on double occupancy), airport taxes, breakfast and dinner buffet meals, entrance fees.

LAND ONLY COST: \$4329⁰⁰

Traveler is responsible for all airfare (all other fees are included).



Itinerary Detail

April 16: Beginning our Journey

Our departure flight is from Atlanta to Frankfurt. We will depart Frankfurt for Tel Aviv, Israel.

April 17: Into the Lands of the Bible

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, we will transfer to our hotel for dinner, and overnight in Netanya.

April 18: All the Past Years with History

In the morning, we take the short drive to Caesarea Maritima where St. Paul was imprisoned, and Cornelius was converted. Our first stop is the Roman Theater. Caesarea was the capital of Judea during the Roman and Byzantine eras and the site of an important library. From Caesarea we will journey to Mt. Carmel and visit Megiddo. Continue to the Tel of Sepphoris (Tzippori), the first capital city of Galilee under Herod Antipas. Both Joseph and Jesus (and the brothers of Jesus) likely worked as builders in the city found here. After Sepphoris, we journey on to Nazareth to visit Mary's Well and the Church of the Annunciation. Built in 1960 - 68, the church encloses the crypt, which is one of the largest Christian sanctuaries in the Middle East. Continue to our hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for Dinner and overnight.

April 19: Galilee and Upper Galilee

The day begins early with a drive to the Golan. In the morning, we will visit Tel Hazor, the largest fortified city in Biblical Israel, on our way to Tel Dan, the site of Biblical Dan and one of the cultic centers for the northern Kingdom. Several important archaeological discoveries were found at Dan. Among them are an ancient mud brick gate dating to the time of Abraham; a golden calf thought to have been a worship symbol for the Northern tribes; and, an inscription noting the "House of David." From Dan, we move a short distance to the site of Caesarea Philippi in the time of Jesus (Matt. 16). After visiting Caesarea Philippi, we journey back to the Sea of Galilee, stopping for lunch on the way. The afternoon includes a visit to Bethsaida and Capernaum. Bethsaida was the village home of five of the twelve apostles: Andrew, Peter, James, John and Philip. Capernaum served as the central headquarters for Jesus' public ministry and is the site of many well-preserved ruins, including a 4th century synagogue built on the very foundation of the 1st century synagogue where Jesus taught. At the close of the day, we will walk down the Mt. of Beatitudes (flashlights) to a site thought to be the place where Jesus ascended to heaven from the Galilee. Here we will share a prayerful worship before returning to Tiberias and our hotel on the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight.

April 20: The Jordan Valley and Jericho

We will enjoy an early morning boat ride on the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) from Tiberias to Capernaum, where we will visit the ancient boat, discovered in 1986. We then make a brief visit to Tabgha (the Heptagon), site of the feeding of the 4,000. Moving east and then south around the lake, we stop at Tel Hadar, site of the feeding of the 5,000. Kursi, which is currently being excavated by archaeologists is our next stop. This is the location of two of Jesus' miracles; the deliverance of Legion (Mark 5) and the miracle of the fish and loaves (Mark 8). From Kursi, we will drive south to Bet She'an, one of the cities of the Roman Decapolis. We will have lunch at the Samaria Restaurant, Sebastia. Following lunch, we will visit Jacob's Well at The Greek Orthodox St. Photini Church, Sychar, and then drive down the Jordan Valley to Jericho and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

April 21: Jericho, Masada, Qumran, The Dead Sea

We depart Jericho today and enter the Wilderness of Judea. We proceed along the shores of the Dead Sea to Masada where we ascend by cable car to the fortress built by Herod the Great. From Masada we travel north to Jericho for lunch and to visit Tel El Sultan and the ruins of Old Jericho. We conclude our day with a visit to Qumran and a swim in the Dead Sea (passing by the "Zacchaeus Tree in route.") Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

April 22: Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem

We begin with an early morning drive to the Mt. of Olives with its outstanding view of the city. Our next stop is the Palm Sunday Church in Bethfage. As we walk down the Mt. of Olives, we will visit the Church of Dominus Flevit (church of the tears), the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations at the edge of the Kidron Valley. Lunch is in Bethlehem. In the afternoon, we visit the Basilica of Nativity. The Basilica is the oldest standing church in the Holy Land. You can still see mosaics from the floor of the first church built by Queen Helena on her visit in the early 4th century CE. Our visit to the Shepherd's Fields recalls the night the shepherds kept "...watch over their flocks by night." Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem

April 23: Jerusalem, the Holy City

Our day begins with a visit to Mt. Moriah (the Temple Mount for Jews and Christians and the Haram esh Sharif or "furthermost sanctuary" for Muslims) and the Dome of the Rock (enclosing the Rock of Sacrifice) and the Al Aqsa Mosque. Our next stop is the "Rabbi's Tunnel" that extends more than 900 feet beyond the designated prayer area of the Western Wall (known in history as the Wailing Wall). We then walk back toward the Dung Gate to visit the Ophel Excavations and Rabbi's Teaching Steps at the southern end of the Temple Mount. In the afternoon, our walk through the Old City of Jerusalem starts at Saint Stephen's Gate and the Church of Saint Anne near the Pool of Bethesda. We walk on to Lithostrotos to see the pavement of the Antonia Fortress to remember where Jesus was beaten by Roman soldiers and where he began his walk to the cross on the traditional Via Dolorosa. The walk continues through the bazaar to the Holy Sepulcher Church which is built over the site of Jesus' execution, burial and resurrection. We return to our bus at the Jaffa Gate. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

April 24: Israel Museum, Mt. Zion

The morning begins with a visit to Mt. Zion and the church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (the church of the crowing rooster). We continue to the site of the Last Supper and the Tomb of King David Synagogue. Next is the Dormition Abbey, a possible site for the burial of Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the afternoon, we visit the Israel Museum, the Shrine of the Book and the Model of the Old City of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

April 25: Jordan, Mt. Nebo, and Madaba

We leave Jerusalem early and drive to the Allenby Bridge to cross into Jordan. After entering Jordan, we will drive to the baptismal site at Bethany Beyond the Jordan which many believe to be near the place where Jesus was baptized. Certainly, this Bethany is one of the places where John the Baptizer baptized (John 1:28) and Jesus visited with his disciples. Following a wonderful visit to the baptismal site, we travel to Mt. Nebo where Moses looked into the promised land before he died. On the way, we stop at Madaba, the biblical Medeba, for a visit to the Greek Orthodox Church which houses 6th century mosaics. The discovery of this mosaic revealed one of the most important maps of the ancient world and one that has provided keys for archaeological discoveries in many other places. From Madaba, we will drive to Petra for overnight, stopping at sites of interest along the way as we learn about the wilderness. Arrive at our hotel for dinner and overnight near Petra.

April 26: Petra, The Red Rock City

The Red Rock City

Our morning visit is to Petra, the Red Rock City. Petra is considered the 8th wonder of the world, a complete city carved in colored sandstone, rediscovered in 1812. An unforgettable experience on horseback, you will ride through a narrow canyon to enter the Nabatean City of Petra to visit the Treasury, the theater, the Palace of Justice and other marvels. Refresh yourself at the Fountain of Moses from the fatigue of exploring. (Horse drawn chariots are available for passengers who cannot ride the horses or you may choose to walk so you may more closely inspect the sites of interest as you walk through the city.) Return to your bus after an exciting day and drive to our hotel in Amman for dinner and overnight.

April 27: Jerash, Amman

Begin your day with a visit to Jerash, the "Pompeii of the Middle East" and one of the most beautifully preserved Graeco-Roman cities in existence. The grand ruins – temples to Artemis and Zeus, a vast Roman Forum, Hadrian's Triumphal Arch and a mile-long Street of Whispering Columns, the fascinating Roman Theater and Nymphaeum that reflect the historic legacy of the city, and the enchanting Citadel which has stood since the ancient times of the Ammonites – all provide an unforgettable glimpse into the ancient world. Continue to visit the Citadel in Amman before returning to your hotel for dinner and preparation for our return trip. After dinner transfer to the airport in time for our departure flight home.

April 28: Amman — Frankfurt, Atlanta

Acceptance of Invitation

Print all details legibly. One signed form per traveler.

Mr.

Mrs.

Name:

Ms. _____

(Name as it appears on your passport)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone:

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

Cell: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Tour Hosts:

Schroeder/Melton

Tour Number:

1297

Roommate: _____

Please indicate if **Land Only** traveler (no airfare).

Single room on tour – \$1,075.00

Indicate departure city other than Atlanta (additional charges may apply).

Mail checks made payable to:

Consolidated Tours, 5665 New Northside Drive, Suite 150
Atlanta, Georgia 30328 | Contact 404-767-2727 for questions.



Self-enroll in Travel Insurance:

Once you have sent in your registration, please scan the QR code to enroll yourself and your party into travel insurance coverage. **The travel insurance must be purchased within 21 days of your deposit date (the date on the check) to cover pre-existing conditions.**

Signature: _____

Please read the tour conditions carefully. Your signed registration and payment of a \$300 deposit for the tour constitutes acceptance of the tour conditions. Please include a copy of the information page and your passport with this application.

BOOKING AND CONDITIONS

Deposit and payment. A deposit of \$300.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Final payment must be made no later than 75 days (January 31, 2023) prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be made in writing. Cancellations made up to 60 days prior to departure, refunds will be made less \$100.00 per person administrative fee. Cancellations made 59-36 days prior to departure will be subject to \$300.00 per person administrative fee and the nonrefundable ticket (if tickets have been issued). Cancellations received 35 days or less prior to departure have to pay a charge equivalent to 75% of the cost of the basic tour from the Gateway City.

Tour is planned and operated by:
Consolidated Tours, Atlanta, GA

Tour Conditions

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Economy class jet connecting IATA and ATC carriers. Airfare is based on SUPER APEX 6 – 21 days plus domestic add-on fares where applicable. Airfares are based on September 2022 rates and are subject to change without prior notice.

BAGGAGE: Limited to one normal size suitcase, the weight of which should not exceed 50 pounds. Flight bags, cosmetic bags, briefcases, and camera cases remain in the personal care of tour members and are not included in the 50 pounds.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Superior First Class Hotels, two persons sharing a twin bedroom with private bath. A limited number of single rooms are available at

\$1075.00 supplemental cost. Confirmation required before departure.

MEALS: Two meals per day. Full breakfast and Table d'Hote for dinner daily in hotels.

SIGHTSEEING: As detailed in the itinerary, using comfortable and convenient transportation. English speaking Escort and local government licensed guide. All entrance fees are included when applicable to specified sites.

TIPS: Tips associated with portering at the hotels, meal gratuities, GUIDES and DRIVERS rendering services totaling \$185.00 per person are included.

TAXES AND FUEL SURCHARGE: Service charges as imposed by lodging facilities, taxes by local administrations and government authorities on lodging ARE included on all services rendered to the group. Airport taxes, any fuel surcharge, that may be charged by the airline ARE included up to \$675.00 in the price of the tour and are subject to change without prior notice. Passengers will be billed or refunded for any differences. (These charges are not applicable to Land Only cost.)

THE TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: Cancellation charges with medical reasons certified by a hospital and accepted by the airlines and suppliers will only be made based on refunds from suppliers and less \$300.00 per person administrative fee. TRAVEL PROTECTION IS HIGHLY SUGGESTED. This insurance can be obtained through our insurance carrier at a reasonable cost. There are no refunds for services or sightseeing rendered and not used by tour members. Consolidated Tours RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL, withdraw or change the tour in whole or in part at any time in the event a change is deemed necessary by CTO, Inc. The sole obligation of CTO, Inc. is to

refund payments received in connection herewith if not acceptable to tour members.

RESPONSIBILITY: Consolidated Tours (CTO) and their Agents assume no liability or responsibility for any injuries or loss of property, accident, delay, changes in schedule or itinerary or incidental damages, occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of CTO, Inc. or by any person or reason whatsoever, including but not limited to default or omission of and by any third party providing services or facilities related to or included in this tour or any part thereof or in arranging for same. The IATA carriers, steamship firms and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their respective conveyance. The passage contract in use by these companies, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passenger and CTO, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility in connection therewith.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL

PASSPORT

American citizens traveling abroad must have a valid passport. Apply at your nearest passport office or clerk of superior court immediately. Non-American citizens need to check with CTO requirements.

VISA

ISRAEL: NONE.
JORDAN: AT
BORDER.

VACCINATION

None at this time.