



**Center for Swedenborgian Studies Holy Land Tour**

Tour Dates: March 19 - 29, 2023

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<b>DAY 1: Sun Mar 19: Dinner and overnight at Hotel. O/N Jerusalem. (No Bus, No Guides)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Arrive and transfer to the hotel.
	Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem (Included Meals: Dinner)</b>

<b>DAY 2: Mon Mar 20: Jerusalem Old City Walking Tour. (No Bus, 2 Guides)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Breakfast at hotel - Meet your guides
<b>8:00</b>	Begin the day at the <b>City of David</b> and <b>Hezekiah's Tunnel</b> .
<b>9:30</b>	Meet local residents of <b>Silwan (Siloam)</b> to hear different views about the site and to discuss archaeology and national identity.
<b>11:00</b>	Take a tour of the <b>Old City's</b> Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holy sites with 2 guides - one Arab/Palestinian and one Jewish Israeli.
	Tour <b>Western Wall</b> and <b>Jewish Quarter</b>
<b>12:00</b>	Visit the <b>Temple Mount / Haram al Sharif</b> ; see the <b>Dome of the Rock</b> and <b>al-Aqsa Mosque</b> .
<b>13:00</b>	Lunch on own
<b>14:00</b>	Also visit <b>Armenian</b> and <b>Christian Quarters</b> , with stops at the <b>Tomb of Mary</b> and the <b>Church of the Holy Sepulcher</b> .
<b>18:00</b>	Have dinner at hotel and freshen up
<b>20:00</b>	End with a time of reflection at the <b>Garden Tomb - Communion lead by Rev. Jenny Caughman</b>
	Dinner at the hotel
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

<b>DAY 3: Tue Mar 21: Modern Jerusalem, West and East. (Bus, 2 Guides)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Breakfast at hotel

<b>9:00</b>	Begin the day with a descent down the <b>Mt of Olives</b> to the <b>Garden of Gethsemane</b> , with a stop at <b>“Dominus Fleuit - the Lord Wept,”</b> where pilgrims recall the tears of Jesus over the lack of peace in the Jerusalem of his day.
	Lunch in the Old City
<b>14:10</b>	Continue your two-guide model as you discuss events in the region and in Europe in the 19th and early 20th Century on the way to <b>Yad Vashem</b> , the Holocaust Remembrance Center.
<b>16:30</b>	Take a walking tour of West Jerusalem’s <b>Ein Kerem</b> , including discussion of both its religious significance and its place in different narratives about Zionism and the War of 1948.
	Discuss key events up to today and debrief with both guides.
	Bid farewell to one of your two guides.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 4: Wed Mar 22: Open Day (No Bus, No Guide)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at hotel
	Free Day: Some ideas individuals might do on own: Salah al Din Street for a taste of Palestinian life, and stop at the Educational Bookstore to browse large collection of books on Palestinian history, politics, and culture.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 5: Thr Mar 23: Bethlehem District Tour (Bus, 1 Guide)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at hotel
<b>9:00</b>	Meet an <b>Israeli West Bank settler</b>
<b>12:00</b>	Over lunch with a Palestinian family at their farm known as <b>Tent of Nations</b> .
<b>14:00</b>	Head to nearby <b>Bethlehem</b> , visit the <b>Separation Wall walk</b> , and take a tour of <b>Banksy Museum. Meditation with Dr. Devin Zuber.</b> Meet with a <b>local Palestinian refugee</b>
<b>16:00</b>	Visit the <b>Church of the Nativity</b> and take brief free time in <b>Manger Square</b> .
	Split into smaller groups toward the end of day for homestays with Bethlehem host families.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Bethlehem Homestays (Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 6: Fri Mar 24: Judean Desert (Bus, 1 Guide)

Time	Activity
<b>7:00</b>	Breakfast at hotel
	On Friday, head east out of Jerusalem for a steady descent into the Judean desert and <b>Jordan Valley</b> .

<b>9:00</b>	Visit <b>Jericho</b> , one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, and also one of its lowest. (Group leader to choose ahead: Take cable car to the monastery at the of <b>Mt of Temptation</b> , or take a tour of Hisham's Palace and its amazing mosaic floors.)
<b>11:30</b>	Also visit <b>Qumran</b> , site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the 20th Century, and discuss theories about why they were there, and who lived at the site.
<b>14:00</b>	Enjoy a float in the nearby <b>Dead Sea</b> , and stop for a time of reflection at the Jordan River site where pilgrims mark the baptism of Jesus, as well as the crossing of the ancient Israelites into Canaan.
<b>15:00</b>	Then head north along the Jordan to the Galilee - Stop for meditation with <b>Rev. Dan Burchett</b>
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Beatitudes Pilgrim House (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 7: Sat Mar 25: Galilee. (Bus, 1 Guide)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at hotel
<b>9:00</b>	On Saturday, visit the <b>Mount of Beatitudes church for meditation with Rev. Jane Siebert</b> , just outside your guesthouse, and tour <b>Capernaum</b> , a hub for Jesus' ministry in the Galilee.
<b>11:30</b>	Spend the remainder of the day in the <b>Golan Heights</b> , hear about the <b>Druze communities</b> there, the history of the <b>Golan</b> , and enjoy a hike to the waterfall at <b>Banias</b> .
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Beatitudes Pilgrim House (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 8: Sun, Mar 26: Galilee (Bus, 1 Guide)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at hotel
	On Sunday, pick up your boxed lunch, and bus into Tiberias.
	For those who have elected to bike the lake, pick up your <b>bike for a ride around the Sea of Galilee</b> / also known as Kinneret. Keep guide and driver informed of itinerary and planned stops, as those electing to stay with bus will follow same route, and your guide can offer information on the various stops around the waters.
	Stop for a boxed lunch, and include a boat ride in late afternoon. Return bikes before transfer back to your guest house.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Beatitudes Pilgrim House (Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)</b>

#### DAY 9: Mon, Mar 27: Nazareth and Givat Havivia (Bus, 1 Guide)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at hotel
	After three nights on the Galilee, depart for <b>Nazareth</b> . There, visit <b>St. Mary's Well</b> inside <b>Saint Gabriel Orthodox Church</b> , and discuss the role of icons in Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition.

	Visit with <b>Rev. Yohanna Katanacho</b> , the academic dean at Nazareth Evangelical College, to discuss Palestinian responses to various theologies of the Holy Land they encounter from Western Christians.
	Enjoy some time in the <b>Soukh</b> (stop by the famous Al-Babour Spice Shop if time permits!), and visit the impressive <b>Basilica of the Annunciation</b> with its collection of artwork from around the world depicting Mary and Christchild.
	As you head out toward Tel Aviv, stop at <b>Givat Haviva Kibbutz' Center for a Shared Society</b> to hear from a speaker about their work.
	Finally, bid farewell to your guide and driver.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

<b>DAY 10: Tue, Mar 28: Open Day (No Bus, No Guide)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Breakfast at hotel
	Finish your time in the Holy Land with an open day.
	Some possible alternatives (on own, any entrances and transport not included): Enjoy a day at the beach in Tel Aviv, explore Old City Jaffa, visit the cafes in Tel Aviv, head to Tel Aviv University for a tour of Rabin Museum, and much more. Don't forget to make arrangements ahead for transfer to airport as needed.
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv (Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner)</b>

<b>DAY 11: Wed, Mar 29: Depart on Own (No Bus, No Guide)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
	Breakfast at hotel
	Check out and transfer to the airport for your flight back home
<b>Hotel:</b>	<b>N/A (Meals included: Breakfast)</b>