

Bible Lands Tour

An Educational Tour
Offered by East Asia School of Theology

Register Early
Space Limited to Enhance the Learning Experience

13-26 May 2012



A view of the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock from a church on the Mount of Olives

Shalom! Picture yourself cupping your hands to drink water at the same spring where Gideon's band of 300 select men did the same, . . . climbing the steps that led to the altar of the golden calf in the northern kingdom of Israel, . . . or studying about Jesus calming the storms as you sail across the Sea of Galilee.

This is not another pilgrimage that surveys churches and souvenir shops. Instead, I wish to use this experience to teach you God's Word in its original setting. I have taught Bible classes in over 30 countries. In addition, I lived and studied in the Holy Land for three years. As a result of our time together, you will envision more clearly some of the biblical events and why they occurred as they did.

Together we will travel from Dan to Beersheba, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. The Bible will come alive. You will never read the Scriptures the same way again. My wife and co-host, Jeannette, and I invite you to join us on this trip of a lifetime.

Please read carefully the exciting itinerary designed to enhance your appreciation of the Scriptures. Because this trip is designed to be a learning experience, space is limited. Do not delay in reserving your place on this tour. I trust you can join us.

Dr. Keith A. Shubert

Itinerary

May 13 (Sunday) Check-in at Changi Airport for our late evening departure for Istanbul aboard Turkish Airlines.

May 14 (Monday) Transit in Istanbul for a short time early in the morning and arrive in Israel mid-morning. After clearing Immigration we travel a short distance and hike through biblical gardens for hands-on experience of what life was like in Bible times – including our food for lunch. We stop at **Bet Shemesh** to overlook the **Sorek Valley** where Samson lived and where the ox cart came from the land of the Philistines carrying the Ark of the Covenant. We continue south to the **Elah Valley** where David defeated Goliath. We drive up into the **Judean Hill Country** to the area of **Kiriath-jearim** where the Ark of the Covenant remained about twenty years. We will spend the night in a community (moshav) originally developed by Finnish Christians. *Overnight at Yad Hashmoneh.*

May 15 (Tuesday) We drive along the Coastal Plain to **Caesarea**, on the coastline of the **Mediterranean Sea**. It was here that Peter preached in Cornelius' home and later Paul was imprisoned here for two years. We continue north to **Mt. Carmel**, where Elijah took a stand for God against the prophets of Baal. After lunch we walk through the strategic city, **Megiddo**, which Solomon fortified. At the base of **Mount Gilboa**, on the southern edge of the **Valley of Jezreel**, we stop at the spring where Gideon, in obedience to God's direction, selected 300 men to fight against the large Midianite army (about 135,000 men). We descend into the Rift Valley to the **Sea of Galilee** where we check into our lakeside kibbutz hotel. *Overnight at Maagan Holiday Village.*

May 16 (Wednesday) We travel through **upper Galilee** on our way to **Hazor**, the largest city in Palestine during the days of Joshua and Solomon. In **Dan** we climb the steps leading to the altar where Jeroboam placed a golden calf when the nation divided. We stop at **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter confessed Jesus to be the Messiah. We go up to the **Golan Heights** and see the plains of **Bashan** and pass by the eastern shore of the lake and see the area where Jesus healed a demonic and as a result a herd of pigs rushed over the cliff and drowned. *Overnight at Maagan Holiday Village.*

May 17 (Thursday) We ascend from the **Rift Valley** and travel to **Nazareth**, where Jesus grew up. We experience what life was like in that small village during the time of Christ. We follow the route similar to one that Jesus and the disciples would have taken as they walked through Galilee. Along the way we climb to the top of **Mt. Arbel**, to overlook sites of biblical significance in the region. We descend to **Tiberius** on the western shore of the **Sea of Galilee** where we learn more about the history of the Galilee region. In the late afternoon we have time to reflect, relax on the beach, or swim in the lake. *Overnight at Maagan Holiday Village.*

May 18 (Friday) Today we focus on sites from the life of Christ. We have a time of worship and teaching on the "Worship Boat" on the **Sea of Galilee** and view the "Jesus Boat" which shows the size of boats used by fishermen in that area during the first century. Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount on the **Mount of the Beatitudes**. More of Jesus' recorded miracles were performed in **Capernaum** than any other city, yet they did not believe. We conclude the afternoon at a baptismal site on the **Jordan River**. At sunset we start the Sabbath with a special evening meal at our lakeside hotel. *Overnight at Maagan Holiday Village.*

May 19 (Saturday) We leave the **Sea of Galilee** and drive south to **Bet Shean**, where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and Jonathan after Israel's defeat. We follow the **Jordan River** until we reach the **Dead Sea** and **Qumran** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered. We continue south to **Masada**, which Herod the Great fortified and where the Jews had their final resistance against the Romans until A.D. 73. We check into our hotel along the southern shores of the **Dead Sea**. *Overnight at Le Meridien Dead Sea.*

May 20 (Sunday) We travel towards the main city of the **Negev** region, **Beersheva**. This was home area of Abraham and Isaac. Afterwards, we descend below sea level to the southern edge of the **Dead Sea**. Upon returning to the hotel, we have the afternoon free to relax, reflect on what we've learned and experienced, visit the spa, or enjoy an "unsinkable swim" in the **Dead Sea**. In the evening we have a worship service reflecting on who God is and what we have learned. *Overnight at Le Meridien Dead Sea.*

May 21 (Monday) We drive north along the **Dead Sea** and stop by **Ein Gedi** where David hid near when he fled from Saul. We then go to **Jericho**, the first city the Israelites conquered when they entered the Promised Land. We go up the road of the Good Samaritan through the **Judean Wilderness** and stop at "Genesis Land" to experience what life was like for Abraham when he arrived in the Promised Land. After lunch we continue uphill to **Jerusalem**. We enter the Old City via the **Dung Gate** and walk up the **Southern Steps**, which Jesus would have used when He entered and left the Temple. In the late afternoon we check into our hotel. *Overnight at Jerusalem Grand Court.*

May 22 (Tuesday) We walk up to the **Temple Mount** area. A short distance away is the fortress **Antonia** where Pilate condemned Christ to death. We then follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, the site of the crucifixion. We walk through the **Jewish Quarter** and see a section of the wall Hezekiah fortified. In the afternoon we drive to the **Israel Museum** where we'll see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** display and view a **scale-model of Jerusalem** as it appeared in the time of Christ. *Overnight at Jerusalem Grand Court.*

May 23 (Wednesday) We begin our day at the ancient city of **King David** and walk down to **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, which King Hezekiah commissioned to bring spring water into Jerusalem. This wet hike will end at the **Pool of Siloam**, where Jesus sent the blind man to wash and be healed. We return to the hotel to change clothes then go to the **Holocaust Museum**. After lunch we travel a few kilometers south to **Bethlehem's Shepherd's Fields** where the angels told the shepherds of Christ's birth. *Overnight at Jerusalem Grand Court.*

May 24 (Thursday) We enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** via the **Dung Gate** and walk to the **Wailing Wall** where many religious Jews come to pray. We follow a tunnel along the **Western Wall** and see some of the large stones Herod the Great used in the construction of the **Temple Mount**. We follow the narrow streets of Jerusalem to the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the crippled man. We walk down the **Mount of Olives** to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus was betrayed. *Overnight at Jerusalem Grand Court.*

May 25 (Friday) After breakfast we gather at the **Garden Tomb** where we remember Christ's death and resurrection with a communion service. We have a final lunch celebrating all we have learned and new friendships gained. Afterwards we travel to the Ben Gurion International Airport and prepare for our departure on Turkish Airlines to Istanbul and on to Singapore.

May 26 (Saturday) We return to Singapore in the mid-afternoon. We read the Bible with a new understanding. We will never be the same.

Tour Cost: SGD 4799

\$100 discount for deposits paid before 22 December 2011

Included Costs: Airfare; airline taxes such as airport taxes, security tax, and noise tax (excluding fuel surcharge); standard room accommodations at hotels in Israel based on twin sharing; daily buffet breakfast and dinner in Israel; lunch each day in Israel; entrance fees to all specified sites; Israeli departure fees; roundtrip airport transfers from/to Ben Gurion International Airport (if arriving/departing with main tour group); travel insurance; study guide for sites visited; services of English-speaking guides; air-conditioned buses; portage of one 30 kg piece of luggage and one piece of hand luggage; and all tips (guides, drivers, hotels, meals, and porters).

Excluded Costs: Fees to obtain/renew a passport; airline fuel surcharge; extra beverages with meals; Jordan River baptismal fee; transfer and portage of excess luggage in addition to one piece of checked luggage; upgrade of hotel room or airline seat; single room supplement; transfer fees if not traveling with the main group; personal expenses (such as phone calls, room service, use of mini bar, laundry, business center or internet connection fees, and shopping); costs related to a stopover in Istanbul; travel to/from Israeli Embassy (for citizens of some countries where a personal appearance is required); and citizens of some countries may be charged for visa fees to Israel and will be asked to pay the fees.

Luggage: Each passenger coming from the Singapore is allowed one piece of checked luggage weighing up to 30 kilograms plus one piece of hand luggage not exceeding 17" x 14" x 8". A fee will be assessed for more than one piece of checked luggage.

What to Bring: Bible, notebook, hat or umbrella for sun protection, sun screen lotion, sturdy walking shoes, casual clothing for touring, long trousers/skirt for certain religious sites, dress-up casual for Sabbath dinner, water shoes for use at the Dead Sea beach and in Hezekiah's Tunnel, flashlight and batteries for use in Hezekiah's Tunnel, camera with extra batteries and memory cards, skin lotion, personal toiletries, swimsuit, and spending money.

Documentation: Participants must ensure that their passports are valid for a minimum of six (6) months after entry into Israel. Citizens of some countries may need to appear in person at the Israeli Embassy in Singapore to obtain a visa. If it is rejected, a maximum of two appeals will be made.

Accommodation Options: All accommodations will be on twin-sharing basis in standard rooms containing two beds at hotels.

- Married couples who wish to share a double bed should specify this request on the registration form submitted with the deposit.
- If a single person traveling alone wishes to share a room with another person of the same gender, he/she should indicate on the registration form submitted with the deposit either the name of his/her preferred roommate also going on the trip or that he/she is allowing the Organizers to assign a roommate of the same gender. Otherwise the single participant must be prepared to pay for Single Room charge which is an additional cost of US \$880.
- There is no reduction of cost if three adults (including children ages 12+) share a room.

Children: Because of this tour has an educational emphasis, it is not recommended for children.

East Asia School of Theology (EAST) Class Credit: Those wishing to obtain four hours of masters-level credit can do so. Homework must be completed prior to the trip to enhance the learning experience. Questions about homework requirements can be sent to studytour@east.edu.sg. Those who indicate on the trip registration form that they wish to receive class credit will receive instructions how to register for the class. EAST tuition fees will be assessed upon class registration. The cost of the textbook is not included in the tuition fee.

Pre-Trip Sessions and Orientation: Since this is an educational tour there will be three pre-trip sessions at EAST prior to the trip for both those taking the class for credit and those going for personal enrichment. These sessions will provide biblical and cultural contexts of many sites/regions to be visited. A fourth and final orientation will occur about ten days before departure to provide additional information about the schedule, flights, clothing, and security, or any other questions participants may have.

Travelers not Originating from Singapore and/or Using Frequent Flyer Miles: Participants not coming with the group from Singapore and/or those using frequent flyer miles will need to make their own flight arrangements. However, Cruise and Tours can assist participants originating from other countries with flight arrangements. Contact Mr. Ronnie Yeo at Cruise and Tours for more information. For travelers not originating from Singapore and making their own flight arrangements and/or using frequent flier miles, the land package cost is SGD 3299.

Arrangements should be made to arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (Tel Aviv, Israel) prior to 9 a.m. on 14 May 2012 and depart after 5 p.m. on 25 May 2012 from Ben Gurion International Airport (Tel Aviv, Israel). Accommodations and airport transfers for those not traveling with the main group can be arranged at an additional cost. To make these arrangements please contact Cruise and Tours via studytours@east.edu.sg.

Istanbul Stopover: Some participants may wish to stopover in Istanbul either before or after the tour. Requests for a stopover in Istanbul either before or after the tour must be noted on the initial registration form. Participants can choose to either make their own accommodation, travel, and tour arrangements or avail of packages available through Cruise and Tours. All expenses related to a stopover in Istanbul are not included in the tour package price. Some nationalities may need to obtain their own Turkish visas prior to leaving Singapore while other can obtain visa in Istanbul. The stopover is subject to availability of airline seating and there will be an additional surcharge to adjust the airline ticket from group to individual rate, if there are less than fifteen people on the same stopover flight schedule.

Facilities: Certain facilities such as museums and sightseeing tours may not be available as stated. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible.

Minimum Number of Participants: The cost of the trip is based upon a minimum of 30 participants. Cruise and Tours and the East Asia School of Theology reserve the right to cancel a group if it falls below the minimum number of participants based on the price pegged. It may be agreed that an add-on or supplement be applied for a smaller group.

Payment Procedures: All payments should be made directly to East Asia School of Theology. Contact Ms. Jaclyn Ng at EAST for exact details on how/where payments can be made. Participants residing outside Singapore should email her for details regarding bank transfer of funds. She can be contacted by email at Jaclyn@east.edu.sg or by telephone at (65) 6291-9744 ext. 204.

Airline Fuel Surcharge: Fuel surcharges are not fixed and subject to change. The charge for this will be assessed at the time of ticketing and payment made as part of the third payment (see below).

Schedule of Payments:

		Participants from Singapore <i>or</i> those residing outside of Singapore but traveling from Singapore with the group (SGD4799.00)	Participants from other countries making own travel arrangements <i>or</i> individuals using frequent flyer miles (SGD3299.00)
Deposit (<i>Non-refundable but transferable</i>)	Due by 22 December, 2011	\$1000**	\$1000**
1st Payment	Due by 31 January, 2012	\$1500	\$1000
2nd Payment	Due by 29 February, 2012	\$1500	\$1000
3rd Payment	Due by 30 March, 2012	\$799 + fuel surcharge	\$299

** Deposits paid on or before 22 December qualify for a \$100 discount.

Cancellation Charges:

Prior to 13 March, 2012	\$300 administration fee
60-45 days prior to departure	25% of total price
44-30 days prior to departure	50% of total price
29-15 days prior to departure	75% of total price
14-8 days prior to departure	90% of total price
7 days through day of departure	100% of total price

Tickets once purchased are subject to the airline cancellation fees if the participant cannot join the trip.

Cancellation Procedures: Participants who need to cancel are requested to accomplish the cancellation request in writing with accompanying documentation (such as medical certificates). The reason for cancellation should be stated. The request must be submitted to Cruise and Tours on or before departure date. Cruise and Tours and the EAST organizers reserve the right to forfeit the deposits when a participant cancels his booking. The deposit amount however may be assigned by the participant to someone else (new sign up) with charges.

Responsibility: Cruise and Tours, a division of AT Travel Agency Pte Ltd, and the East Asia School of Theology tour organizers act as intermediary between contractors (airlines, guides, hotels, transport companies, etc) and the participant. They cannot assume responsibility or liability for any loss, injury, delay, accident, or irregularity that may occur while carrying out the services of the contractors. The participant agrees that Cruise and Tours, a division of AT Travel Agency Pte Ltd, and the East Asia School of Theology, shall not be liable for any damage, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss) or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or any insurer, insurance of any other person including hold departure orders and denied boarding or entry by Immigration Officials of the countries of origin or destination.

Questions?? If you would like more information about the trip please contact studytour@east.edu.sg

How to Sign-Up for the Trip: The trip registration form is available either at the EAST website (www.east.edu.sg) or from the EAST Administrative Office. An individual will be considered as signed-up for the trip when the EAST Administrative Office has received the following: (1) the completed registration form, (2) a photocopy of the passport ID page, and (3) the deposit.

East Asia School of Theology

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