

DTI Bible Lands 2024

Overview

A once-in-a-lifetime trip featuring authentic archaeology highlighting Old Testament and New Testament history. It includes lower and upper Egypt, Sinai, and Israel from top to bottom. There will be times for reading Scripture and worship at various sites. Each day typically includes a buffet breakfast and a buffet dinner. You eat well! You don't need to take a class to be ready for this trip – it's designed for you to learn in the best possible way: on-site.

Itinerary

- March 3 - Day 1 – Depart from Atlanta for Cairo at 11 pm, Egypt [Sleep on Flight, Delta Airlines/Air France via Paris]
- March 4 - Day 2 – Arrive in Cairo, Egypt, at midnight. Transfer to a hotel near the pyramids [Hyatt Regency Cairo West Resort, Giza]
- March 5 - Day 3 – Visit the Pyramids of Giza and Sphinx, Saqqara - graveyard to Memphis (Step Pyramid & Causeway & Butcher's tomb), and Dahshur's Red and Bent Pyramids. Yes, you get to climb and enter a pyramid! [Hyatt Regency Cairo West Resort, Giza]
- March 6 - Day 4 – Early morning flight to Luxor. Directly start the East Bank tour of Luxor at Karnak Temple. Felucca (sailing) on the Nile. Luxor Temple and Avenue of Rams at night. [Sonesta St. George Hotel]
- March 7 - Day 5 – West Bank of Luxor: Valley of the Kings [including tombs of Seti I (KV17), Ramesses V&VI (KV9), and more], Valley of the Workers, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Al Deir El Bahari, and Colossi of Memnon [Sonesta St. George Hotel]
- March 8 - Day 6 – Drive to visit Dendera Temple Complex and Abydos. Return to Luxor [Sonesta St. George Hotel]
- March 9 - Day 7 – Transfer to Luxor Airport. Flight to Sharm El Sheik, Sinai, via Cairo. On arrival in Sinai, transfer to St. Catherine [New Morgan Land Hotel].
- March 10 - Day 8 – Optional climb of Mt. Sinai (while still dark) for sunrise on the mountain [we can arrange an optional camel to get you up much of the way]. View of St. Catherine's Monastery. Drive through Sinai to Taba, en route (via boat on the Gulf of Aqaba) Etzion-Geber (Pharaoh's Island or Saladin's Citadel) [Movenpick Taba Resort]
- March 11 - Day 9 – Early morning land crossing from Egypt to Israel. Travel Negev to Avdat. Tel Arad. Transfer to the Dead Sea [David Dead Sea Resort & Spa]
- March 12 - Day 10 – Tram up Masada (or an optional early morning climb up the Snake Path). Descend via tram. En Gedi. Qumran (of Dead Sea Scrolls fame). Float in the Dead Sea (or dead sea water in the pool at your resort) [David Dead Sea Resort & Spa]
- March 13 - Day 11 – Jericho [Tel es-Sultan]. Beth Shean, back entrance walking down from the upper Tell. Transfer to Galilee. [Lake House, Tiberius]
- March 14 - Day 12 – Capernaum. Sussita. Arbel (with an optional climb down). Mt. of Beatitudes (walk down to Galilee). Jesus Boat. Boat on Galilee for sunset. [Lake House, Tiberius]
- March 15 - Day 13 – Hazor. Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas). Tel Dan. High overlook into Syria (road to Damascus). Olea Essence Olive Experience. [Lake House, Tiberius]
- March 16 - Day 14 – Transfer to Jerusalem. See Rolling Stone Tomb near Megiddo/Mt. Carmel (32°36'43.31"N 35°08'17.01"E). Jerusalem: Mount of Olives. Gethsemane (access to the private garden across the lane from the Church of All Nations and its garden). See ossuaries at Dominus Flevit Church on the way down. Caiaphas' Palace (Saint Peter in Gallicantu). Church of Holy Sepulcher. Shop in Old City. [Prima Kings Hotel Jerusalem]
- March 17 - Day 15 – Overlook of Wadi Qelt (Jericho Road). Jerusalem: Western Wall. Ophel (temple stairs/Solomonic wall). The City of David (optional wading Hezekiah's Tunnel), Ancient drainage tunnel from Pool of Siloam to Temple. The Pool of Bethesda, time permitting. [Prima Kings Hotel Jerusalem]
- March 18 - Day 16 – Transfer to Tel Aviv. Depart from Tel Aviv at 7:50 am for Atlanta (via Paris). Arrive in Atlanta at 6:50 pm.

Covid19

Current regulations do not require a covid vaccine or test to enter Egypt or Israel. All covid rules are subject to change without notice. The cost of any required testing by the US or your home country for return is your responsibility.

Included in the trip fare:

- International round-trip airfare with Delta Airlines and Air France
- Domestic airfare on Egypt's finest, Egyptair (3 flights)
- Boats on the Gulf of Aqaba, Nile River, and Sea of Galilee
- Arrival and departure transfers from/to the airport and at the borders of Egypt and Israel
- Breakfasts and dinners in the hotels daily
- Sightseeing per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all places per the itinerary
- Licensed English-speaking tour guides
- Experienced trip host with Brent MacDonald as Bible teacher and researcher
- Custom and coveted printed materials to help you understand and remember the sites
- Modern air-conditioned motor coaches
- Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person for the airports and hotels
- Most hotels have wifi, our bus in Israel may have wifi
- All airport taxes and fuels surcharges of Delta Airlines and Air France
- Departure taxes at Taba Border on the Egyptian side.

Not included in the trip fare:

- Visa fee to enter Egypt (\$25 USD)
- While we cover planes and boats, you're responsible for optional balloons, camels, carts, or other critters.
- Travel Insurance (which we recommend. Try: <https://www.insuremytrip.com/>)
- Lunches (but, seriously, with buffet breakfasts and dinners, you won't be that hungry at lunch)
- Bottled beverages at dinners or throughout the day
- Tips to tour guides, drivers, boat crews, dining staff, agents, porters, or any optional camel/cart drivers or balloonists. The best opportunities for camels are at Mt. Sinai. An estimate for tipping is \$16 per person per day.

Booking Details:

We host this trip on a non-profit basis, giving you the best possible pricing for an itinerary like ours. Actually, you'd be hard-pressed to find an itinerary like ours. For comparison, last year, we found a 10-day trip to Israel alone that was listed for \$5,690 (and airline pricing is up this year). However, our trip is two countries and sixteen days. A few discount trips skimp on the hotels and (automatically) the meals served at your hotel, but we feature 4 to 5-star hotels and multiple resorts. Another 14-day trip to only Egypt was listed at \$9,985 (and Egypt is usually lower cost than Israel). Again, we provide 16 days featuring both Egypt and Israel.

Simply put, our pricing and itinerary are unbeatable. For many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip, and we want you to have the best experience possible. It'll change the way you read the Bible forever.

The trip requires a minimum of twenty-four people, with thirty-four as our maximum since huge groups slow down everything from meals to restroom breaks. Big groups get extra discounts but also see and experience far less. Our group size is designed for group participation and interaction.

Trip Rate: \$5,250 USD

Deposit (per person): \$550

Balance by November 3, 2023: \$4,700

We can take credit cards, but we must pass along the credit card processing fee since we are doing this as a non-profit. That rate is 3.8%. We highly recommend sending us a USD check (or a USD cheque for our Canadian friends). Some credit cards include travel insurance which may be a reason to use one.

Rates are based on double occupancy per room. If you are a single traveler, we will try to match you with a roommate. Otherwise, a single supplement is available for \$1,300 (and you get a room all to yourself – but no guarantee about who sits next to you on the plane). Your deposit is refundable until November 3rd, less an administrative fee of \$200 required by our tour operator. Again, trip insurance is recommended.

While we create and host this trip, International Heritage Tours has professionally managed all our tour arrangements for decades. Safety is a top concern, and we work closely with each country to maintain excellent security arrangements. Our itinerary is subject to change based on circumstances on the ground. In decades of hosting trips, we have never had anyone not feel secure on our travels.

Contact

For questions, contact Brent or Angie MacDonald: brent@cottagecove.org or angie@cottagecove.org

One of the first rules of international travel is flexibility. So, thank you for your understanding.