



Metropolitan Baptist Israel Tour

10 Days/9 Nights on Land in Israel

February 14-25, 2017

Led by: Pastor Mario Schiavone
[Metropolitan Baptist Church](#), Australia



Land & Air Rates Per person for 15 or more paying passengers	High 3 Star/Low 4-Star in US Dollars
Per Person in a Shared Double/Twin Room	\$2420.00
Third Per Person (age 13+) in a Shared Triple Room	\$2320.00
Infant Rates (0-24 months old) – Sharing Same Room as Parents and on Parents Lap during flight	Taxes for Airfare Only; Free on Land
Child Rates (2-12) sharing a room with an adult (max 2 children allowed per room with parents)	\$2115.00
Single Supplement	\$699.00
Supplement for Pre-Arrival Room on night of the 14th	\$115.00 Per Person in a Shared Room
Supplement for Transfer to hotel for late arrivals who are not on the group flights on the 14 th or the 15 th	\$50.00 Per Person in a private vehicle with 3 or more people

Credit Card fees are included. Make payments according to your budget.

[Register Online](#)

What's included?

- Transfers to and from Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport
- Luggage & Airport services upon arrival/departure
- 10 days of new air-conditioned tour bus & driver
- Licensed Israeli Tour Guide ([Eitan Chamberlin](#), M.A. Hebrew University)
- 9 nights in nice accommodations
- Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner each day (special drinks not included)
- All park fees & scheduled activities and entertainment
- Internal Headset Whisper System for groups of 20 or more
- Gratuities for hotel staff
- Traveler's Kit (hat, map, 2 starter water bottles)
- Bus Banners and Name Tags
- All Credit Card Fees

What's not included?

- **Round-trip airfare** from Sydney, Australia
- Pre-Arrival Night on February 14th at Seasons, Netanya for early arriving passengers
- Special Transfers for anyone not on the group flights
- Fuel & Taxes for flights
- Lunches
- Any *substantial* fuel surcharges or tax increases for flights
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls from room, mini bar, room service, etc.
- Gratuities for guide & driver (recommended minimum: \$13 per person, per day = \$130)
- Optional Traveler's Insurance through Travel Guard
- Visa Fees, if required
- Lunch on the final tour day

Deadlines

Milestones & Deadlines	Due Date	Action Required
Group Minimum Should be Reached	Oct 14th 2016	
Final Payments are Due	Nov 14th 2016	
Deposits become non-refundable to Samson	Nov 14th 2016	
Last Day for Early Bird Registration	Nov 14th 2016	
Late Registration Fee of \$200 Goes into effect	Nov 15th 2016	
All Passenger Info is Due (Passports, Roommates, etc.)	Dec 14th 2016	Updates Online
Airline Tickets are issued	Jan 14th 2017	

How to Register

- **[Click here](http://samsontours.com/group-tours/1139-metropolitan-baptist-israel-tour) to register online or paste** the following web link into your browser: <http://samsontours.com/group-tours/1139-metropolitan-baptist-israel-tour>
- **Fax** your Registration Details to 352-835-0885 (see forms below)
- **Phone us** with your registration details at 352-414-5991

Itinerary

* This itinerary is subject to minor changes. The final dates will be posted no later than 9 months prior to departure, once a group airfare has been secured. A final itinerary will be provided no later than 2 months before departure. Alternative hotels of similar or better class may be

substituted. **Final hotel arrangements will be posted no later than 4 months before departure.**

Monday, February 13th – (Meals & Entertainment in flight)

- 17:15 – ‘Pre-Arrival Group’ Departure from Sydney, Australia on Qantas Airlines QF 0005
- 22:30 – Arrival to Singapore
- 23:55 – Depart Singapore on Lufthansa Flight #LH 0779

Tuesday, February 14th – (Meals & Entertainment in flight + Dinner)

- 06:00 - Arrive Frankfurt
- 10:05 – Depart Frankfurt on Lufthansa 0686
- 15:15 – Arrive at **Ben Gurion International Airport on Lufthansa (LH 0686)**
- Check in to our hotel, and enjoy a lovely stroll along the beaches of **the Mediterranean Sea**
- Overnight & Dinner for Pre-Arrival Group: [Seasons, Netanya](#)

Wednesday, February 15th – (B/D)

- Main Group Arrival - 15:15 - Arrive at **Ben Gurion International Airport on Lufthansa (LH 0686)**
- Check in to our hotel, and enjoy a lovely stroll along the beaches of **the Mediterranean Sea**
- Welcome ‘home’ dinner.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Seasons, Netanya](#)

Thursday, February 16th – (B/D)

- Visit **Caesarea Maritima**: Herod’s Port City. We’ll explore the Roman Theatre, the Praetorium (Governor’s Palace), the Hippodrome and the fabulous Roman Aqueduct. Caesarea was the home of Pontius Pilate, the scene for Cornelius and Peter (Acts 10:1) the imprisonment of Paul (Acts 23:23), the home of Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:40; 21:9) and the opening scene for the Great Jewish Revolt in 66 CE.
- Visit the site of **Muhraka**, where Elijah fought the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18).
- Enjoy a comprehensive visit to **Tel Megiddo** in the valley of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). At this UNESCO world heritage site, we’ll see the Canaanite Gateway, the controversial Solomonic Gate and Casemate Wall, ‘Solomon’s Stables,’ a lookout over the Valley of Armageddon and the amazing water shaft and tunnel built during the time of Ahab.
- Visit **the Nazareth Village**, a reconstruction of the 1st century village. (Note: your guide, Eitan Chamberlin, excavated here in 1999). At the end of our visit, you’ll have a lovely gift shop to enjoy.
- Drive via **Cana of Galilee** (John 2), the site of Jesus’ first miracle.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Maagan](#), on the Edge of the Sea of Galilee

Friday, February 17th – (B/D)

- Walk in **the Arbel Pass**, Jesus' passageway to the Sea of Galilee. This is one of the most impressive scenic overviews of the Sea of Galilee and provides an excellent backdrop for Jesus' ministry.
- Visit the pre-70 synagogue at **Magdala**. Here, we'll discuss the modern theories of Mary Magdalene and her role as one of Jesus' most dedicated followers (Mark 16:9).
- Visit the **1st century Galilee boat** at Ginosar's Yigal Allon Museum. Was this a boat similar to the one the disciples used?
- **Set sail on the Sea of Galilee**. While on board, we'll experience the silence of the Sea as well and see how a fisherman casts his net.
- Enjoy lunch on your own by the Sea of Galilee at St. Peters Fish Restaurant.
- Delve into the archaeological remains at **Capernaum**, mentioned more times in the New Testament than any other city except Jerusalem (Matthew 4:13, 8:5, 11:23, 17:24; Mark 2:1, 9:33; Luke 4:23; John 2:12).
- Walk about **Bethsaida**, the birthplace of 5 of the 12 disciples (and the ancient Israelite town of Geshur (Matthew 11:21; Mark 8:22; Luke 9:10; John 1:44).
- Weather permitting, we'll end the day walking down the **Mount of Beatitudes** (Matthew 5).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Maagan](#), on the Edge of the Sea of Galilee

Saturday, February 18th – (B/D)

- Visit **Tel Hazor** and see the destruction of the Canaanite city as reported in Joshua 11 and Judges 5. Here, we'll see the Solomonic Gate, the destroyed Late Bronze Age palace and an example of the Israelite House. (Note: your guide excavated here in from 1997-1998).
- Drive through the **Hulah Valley**, possibly the Waters of Merom (Joshua 11:5).
- Experience the **Tel Dan** Nature Reserve to see the "**Arch of Abraham**," **Jeroboam's temple**, and the discovery place of the 'House of David' inscription (Gen 14:13-16; Deut. 34:1; Josh 19:47; Judg. 18:1-2, 18:27-29; I Kings 12:26-33, 15:20; II Kings 15:29)
- Explore the **Temple of Pan** at **Caesarea Phillipi** (Matt. 16:13-28).
- Enjoy coffee & deserts in the Druze village of Ma'sade in the Golan Heights.
- Lookout from **Mt. Bental Volcano** into Syria and the **Road to Damascus** (Acts 9:1-20).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Maagan](#), on the Edge of the Sea of Galilee

Sunday, February 19th – (B/D)

- See the site of **Kursi** where Jesus healed the demonized man name Legion (Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:26-39)
- See **Gideon's Spring** (Mayan Harod) and watch **Judges 4** come to life.
- Have a short visit **Tel Beth Shean** next to Mt. Gilboa (I Sam. 31:8-13; II Sam. 21:12-14) to lookout over the Roman city, the ancient Tel. Beth Shean was the capital of the Decapolis in Jesus' day (Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20).

- Drive by **Tel Rehov**, a satellite city of Beth Shean and important for understanding Iron Age chronology, the Canaanite influence upon Israelites and the laws of *shmita*. (Note: your guide excavated here for two archaeological seasons and supervised area E – the high place to the goddess Asherah)
- Visit the baptismal site of **Qasr El Yahud**, where John most likely performed his baptisms (Matthew 3:13; Mark 1:9)
- Our last site of the day is **Qumran**, where some of the Dead Sea Scroll caves were copied and Cave 11
- Enjoy the rest of the day floating in the Dead Sea, the hotel's spa or enjoying the hotel's amenities.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Daniel Dead Sea](#) (Standard Rooms)

Monday, February 20th (B/D)

- Enjoy the morning at leisure in your hotel's spa and the Dead Sea
- 09:00 -Departure
- Explore **Masada**, Herod the Great's desert fortress and the last stand for the Jewish rebels in 73 CE (Luke 11:21-22).
- Visit the desert of **Ein Gedi** where David hid from King Saul (Isa 35:7; I Sam. 23:29, 24:1-22)
- Visit **Tel Jericho** (Josh 3:15-16, 6:1-27; II Kings 2:4-5, 2:18-22; Matt. 4:1-11, Mark 10:46-52; Luke 19:1-10), where the walls came tumbling down, and lookout over the Mount of Temptation.
- Lookout over the **Judean Desert** and the Monastery of St. George in **Wadi Kelt**
- Check in to our New Jerusalem hotel
- Overnight & Dinner: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Tuesday, February 21st (B/D)

- Have an early departure for the **Temple Mount** to see the site of the former Jewish temples and the current Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. Wa
- Say a prayer at the **Wailing Wall** and admire the grandeur of this sacred spot for the Jewish people.
- Visit the **Southern Wall Excavations (Davidson Center)** and walk up the 1st century steps of the Temple.
- Visit the newest excavations in the **City of David** and wade through Hezekiah's tunnel, and visit the **Pool of Siloam** (II Sam 5:7-9; II Chr. 32:2-5; I Kings 1:33, 1:38-40; II Kings 20:20, 25:1-9; Ps. 48:12-13; Isa. 22:11; John 9:6-11)
- Have lunch and some shopping time on your own in the Jewish Quarter
- Visit the **Jewish Quarter** to see **Hezekiah's Broad Wall** (II Kings 20:22; II Chr. 32:3-5; Isaiah 22:9-10 & the reconstructed Cardo, the north-south street that ran through the city in the Roman and Byzantine periods.
- Go underground to visit the 1st century **Burnt House**. Like Pompeii, this section of the Jewish Quarter provides a revealing moment in the destruction of the city by the Romans.
- Visit the **Temple Institute**

- **Around 18:00**, we'll have a special **evening** visit to the **Western Wall Tunnels**. Here we'll walk the full length of the newly exposed Western retaining wall for the Temple Mount and walk on portions of the first century street.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Wednesday, February 22nd (B/D)

- Enjoy a panoramic lookout from the **Mount of Olives** (II Sam 15:30; Numbers 19:1-10; Ezekiel 11:23; Ps. 122:3, 122:6, 125:2; Luke 21:37; Zech 14:4; John 8:1)
- Walk the **Palm Sunday journey** down the Mt. of Olives, stopping by **Dominus Fleuit**, where Jesus wept over the city (Luke 19:41-44) and engaging with the early Christian tombs discovered at the site.
- Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of all Nations** (Matthew 26:36ff).
- See the **Pools of Bethesda** at the Church of St. Anne (John 5:1-9).
- Walk the Via Dolorosa to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, noting key archaeological details. Learn 7 reasons why Jesus was crucified there (Matt. 1:17; Matt 27; Luke 23; John 19)
- Walk out the **Damascus Gate**, to where Stephen was stoned (Acts 6:5-15; Acts 7:1-8:2).
- Visit the **Garden Tomb**, a modern alternative for the place of Jesus' crucifixion. Guided by a local volunteer guide.
- Visit the **Upper Room** and **David's Tomb** on Mt. Zion.
- Visit **Herodium**, the burial place of Herod the Great
- Enjoy the rest of your afternoon exploring **Bethlehem** to visit the Church of the Nativity. (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-20; Matt. 2:1-12, 2:16-18).
- Overnight & Dinner: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Thursday, February 23rd (B/D)

- Gather up 5 smooth stones in the **Elah Valley** where David fought Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
- See the ruins of the newly discovered **Khirbet Qeiyafa**, possibly biblical Sha'aryaim, the most fortified early Israelite city ever discovered outside of Jerusalem.
- Stand on **Tel Beth Shemesh** to see the place of the 'return of the ark of the covenant' (2 Samuel 6:1f and Samson country, Zora and Eshtaol, the place of Samson's birth and stories (Judges 13-16).
- Visit the site of [Nicomolis](#), possibly the real Emmaus and the **Road to Emmaus**
- Visit **Jaffa**, where Jonah was swallowed by the whale and the place of Peter's healing of Tabitha and his vision.
- Overnight & Dinner: [Kibbutz Ramat Rachel](#)

Friday, February 24th (B)

- Enjoy the morning at your leisure and have **lunch** out on your own
- **13:00 - Transfer to the airport.**
- **16:20** – Depart on Lufthansa Airlines (LH 0687)
- **20:00** – Arrive to Frankfurt

- 22:15 – Depart for Hong Kong on Lufthansa (LH 0796)

Saturday, February 25th (Meals and Entertainment in Flight)

- 16:55 – Arrive to Hong Kong
- 21:25 – Depart from Hong Kong on Cathay Pacific CX 0161

Sunday, February 26th (Meals and Entertainment in Flight)

- 09:45 - Group Arrival back to Sydney, Australia

Policies

- **Final Itinerary & Hotels:** The itinerary may be updated from time to time at the discretion of Samson Tours, its guide and its tour leader. Final Hotel Arrangements will be posted no later than 100 days before departure. In the event of a hotel change, Samson Tours will guarantee a replacement at the same quality or provide an upgrade to a higher class of accommodations at no extra charge.
- **Group Minimum:** A minimum of **15** paying participants are required for this tour program. If the group minimum is not reached by 4 months before departure, Samson Tours or its tour leader will have the right to either a.) request that all tour members pay a supplement for the increase in costs of no greater than \$500.00 per person and operate the group at the same quality; b.) lower the hotel class by at least 1 star to offset the increased costs; or c.) postpone the dates until a minimum number of participants are achieved.
- **Group Maximum:** A maximum **50** paying participants will be allowed to join this unique tour program.
- **Group Airfare:** Samson Tours works alongside the tour leader to find the best airfare and best price for the group. In order to request a group airfare price, there must be at least 10 passengers on the group flight. The airfare will be paid to the airline in full upon their request and subject to their cancellation/refund policies.
- **Booking your own Airfare:** If you are not joining your tour's group airfare, please do not book your airfare until 90 days before the tour departure date or until the Notice of Group Minimum has been sent to you.
- **Flight Diversions:** If you elect to be on the group flight and wish to depart from a different city of origin, you can a.) Book your own domestic airfare connection or b.) Select the Add-On in your My Account for a \$50.00 Domestic Flight Booking Fee. Any costs or savings for the additional flight will be added or deducted from your tour balance. Please [contact us](#) with your specific departure city request.
- **Deposit & Payments for Land:** To ensure your spot on the tour, we request a **\$300.00 deposit** be paid upon signup. The deposit (less a \$100.00 non-refundable fee per person) and any other payments made are refundable up to 90 days before departure. After that, the remaining deposit amount is non-refundable, but can be used as a future credit with Samson Tours or converted into a Gift Certificate which you can transfer to a third party. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, money order, bank transfer, debit or credit card. If the tour is canceled by Samson Tours, then you will be entitled to a full refund without any cancellation fee. This refund of cancellation fee does not apply to tour leader cancellations or postponements due to group minimums not being reached. For cases of political instability or cancellations or postponements due to *force majeure*, please see the Force Majeure section below.
- **Final Payments:** The final payment will be made 90 days before departure. Payments made by check or cash will be made in US\$ to Samson Tours, Inc. Payments made by debit or credit card to Samson Tours, Inc. will be charged the full balance. If there are any unpaid fuel surcharges for the group flight, they will be billed to you at cost per the group airline contract either before or after the tour. There is a Late Payment Fee of \$200.00 if the balance is paid after the final payment date.
- **Late Registrations & Payments:** Theoretically, you can join a tour anytime up to the time of the departure date (Land Only and subject to Hotel Availability). There will be a Late Payment Fee of \$200.00 and an additional \$50.00 fee if you require airfare assistance. If a hotel or other service listed in the itinerary is unavailable, we will find an alternative hotel for you, however you will be responsible for any transportation costs to/from joining the main group.

- **Land Diversions:** If you arrive either before or after the recommended group departure/arrival time, or if your flight is delayed beyond a reasonable waiting period, or if you elect to divert or add-on additional days to the trip, then it is understood that you will arrive at the hotel or to the airport at your own expense. We will more than happy to assist you with these arrangements
- **Refunds (Land):** The following refunds for the **land portion** of the price will apply **for non-insured travelers only:** Your balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person, which is transferable or can be applied to future tours if cancelled 90+ calendar days before departure. 75% refund of balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person if cancelled 89-60 days before departure. 50% of balance less a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per person refund if cancelled 59-30 days before departure. 0% refund if cancelled 29 or less days before departure.
- **Refunds (Group Air):** Per group contract with airline. Typically, there is a \$100 non-refundable fee up to 3 months before departure and 100% non-refundable 30 or less days before departure. Most airlines will, however, allow you to postpone your travel dates for a re-ticketing or name transfer fee.
- **Force Majeure:** If Samson Tours decides to postpone the tour do to political unrest or for any reason beyond our company's control that could compromise your security, then your balance will carry over to the new tour dates. Depending on the new dates, there may be an increase in costs for tours that are rescheduled within 1 year. If you are unable to join the new tour dates, then you will be entitled to a refund, less the cancellation fee (see Deposits) and any other non-refundable deposits that may be imposed on us by suppliers such as airlines and hotels. The deposit and/or balances amount can also be applied to any future tour or may be transferable to a third party.
- **Travel Insurance** – Samson Tours does not require travel insurance. It is, however, strongly advised that **all travelers** equip themselves with a comprehensive travel insurance plan through Travel Guard. You can obtain an individual travel insurance quote, by visiting our [Insurance page](#) and clicking on any of the 'Get a Quote' links that refer you to the Travel Guard website. Travel Insurance coverage begins **ONLY** from the time you have purchased travel insurance. It is advisable only to purchase travel insurance when you have made non-refundable payments that exceed the amount of travel insurance purchased.
- **Add-ons** once you have registered for a tour you can select from a variety of add-ons in your My Account area you may select or deselect any of these add-ons (extension tour, hotels, late fees, etc.) until 30 days before your tour.
- **Your Health:** All participants should be in good health and walking condition. This program is active and involves a lot of walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. All locations may not be accessible for the disabled. Having a disability does not disqualify you from joining any tour. However, be advised that you may have to forgo portions of the said itinerary by waiting on the bus or in a safe location until the main group has returned. If you require special accommodation, please report this at the time of your reservation so that we can better serve you.
- **Single Supplement:** For single travelers, a single supplement fee for the hotels is required. This usually amounts to around 85%-90% of the Double Room cost. If a person has ordered a double room and his or her roommate cancels his or her tour, then the individual holding a double room must find a new roommate or pay the single supplement.
- **Exchange Rate:** Samson Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a supplement to the price if the dollar falls below the 3.5 threshold. To date, we have never yet had to charge an exchange rate surcharge.
- **Government Imposed VAT or taxes:** Currently there are no VAT taxes for foreign on tour land packages to Israel. Should such a tax be imposed before the start of the tour, even after 'final payment' has been made, Samson Tours will notify all of its participants in writing. In order to participate in the tour, you will be required to pay all such taxes before the start of the tour. If you are an Israeli Citizen you will be asked to pay VAT at the time of you final payment.
- **Responsibility** - Samson Tours, Inc., its agents, suppliers, guides, leaders and representatives shall be, in no way, liable or responsible for any personal or property loss, damage or injury howsoever caused. The company shall also not be responsible for penalties for privately-booked flight tickets if purchased before the minimum is reached.

- **Update** – These policies may be updated from time to time. Upon update, you will be notified by Samson Tours, Inc. or its group leader.



Confidential Information for Samson Tours, Inc. or tour leader's use only!

1 About you

Name(1) _____ Birthdate (1) _____

Name(2) _____ Birthdate (2) _____

Name(3) _____ Birthdate (3) _____

Email(1) _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Best time of day to phone: Morning Afternoon Evening or Specific _____

Home Address _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

2 Degree of Interest

I'm definite! Attached is my **\$300.00** (per person) **check or cash deposit**

For sure! I'll pay by **debit/credit card** (see the Credit Card form)

I will submit payment via another means. Please specify: _____

I'm sitting on the fence (will decide later)

3 Travel Information

Travel information is required 3 months before departure. If you do not know this information now, leave blank and we will contact you at a later time.

- Ⓧ What kind of room are you requesting? SINGLE DOUBLE TRIPLE
- Ⓧ If you are in a DOUBLE room, would you like a TWIN/SPLIT QUEEN-size bed?
- Ⓧ I'd like to share a DOUBLE room with _____
- Ⓧ I'd like to share a TRIPLE room with _____
- & _____
- Ⓧ Do you have any medical conditions or limitations? YES NO
- Ⓧ Medical Notes or Special Requests: _____

4 Passport Information

This information (along with a copy of your passport) is required 3 months before departure. Please print your name EXACTLY as it appears on your passport.

Passport Name (1) _____ Country _____ Passport # _____

Passport Name (2) _____ Country _____ Passport # _____

Passport Name (3) _____ Country _____ Passport # _____

Date Issued _____ Date of Expiration _____

5 Your Signature

Ⓧ _____

(By signing, you have read and agree to the **Policies** for this tour.)

Please submit this form to the tour leader or fax us directly, along with your credit card form, to 352-835-0885.



CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM
(Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Amex)

1 *Credit Card Details*

*Type of Card: Visa - MasterCard - Discover - Amex

*Name(s) on card _____

*Card number _____

*Expiration _____

*Security Code (see image to right) _____

*Email _____

*Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

*Billing Address for credit card _____



2 *Payment Schedule*

Please process my **deposit** payment now **and** my **final payment** later with this card. Note: we will process your final payment 4 months before departure.

Please process my **deposit payment only** with this card. I will pay the balance later via another means. _____

Please process my deposit payment and set up a **payment plan** for the balance. I will pay the deposit now and you can automatically bill my credit card the remaining balance over 3 4 5 6 9 payments.

3 *Your Signature* _____

(By signing, you agree to let Samson Tours, Inc. and/or its agents to process your payments with the details provided above.)

