



Dr. David Cloud & Friends Israel Tour

Feb. 13 - 27, 2019

From the Red Sea to Mt. Hermon

15 days/14 Nights on Land

Led by:
Dr. David Cloud

**An amazing
biblical experience.**



www.samsontours.com

Phone: US (352-414-5991) Israel (972-50-715-2575)

Fax: US (352-835-0885) Israel (972-77-215-2575)

PO Box 2713, Belleview, FL 34421 USA

sales@samsontours.com

Land Prices

Based on 15-19 adult travelers:

Per Person (adult) in a Double/Twin Room	\$3149.00
For 3 rd Person (ages 13+) in a Shared Room (\$130 discount can be split 3 ways)	\$2999.00
For the 1st Child (ages 2-12) in a shared room with Adults	\$2795.00
For the 2 nd Child (ages 2-12) in a shared room with Adults – Includes a Supplement for larger 2+2 Family-Style Room at certain hotels	\$2895.00
Add-Ons or Supplements Below	
Airfare (at cost).	At Cost
Single Supplement	+\$1200.00
Additional Overnight (3-star) in Tel Aviv (Pre-Arrival or Post-Tour), per person in a Shared Twin or Queen room on BB without transfer	+\$120.00
Additional Overnight (3.5-star) at Grand Beach, Tel Aviv (Pre-Arrival or Post-Tour), per person in a SINGLE room with Executive Lounge	+\$225.00
Additional Overnight (3.5-star) at Grand Beach, Tel Aviv (Pre-Arrival or Post-Tour), per person in a SINGLE room	+\$175.00
Private Transfer (per person) from airport to Tel Aviv, either way (minimum 2 passengers)	+\$50.00

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Private Transfer (per person) from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon (minimum 5 passengers)	+\$35.00
Final payment by credit card (approx 3%)	+\$90.00
For 11-14 Passengers (ADDITIONAL COSTS)	+\$350.00

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Our rate includes

- Meeting & assistance on arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport by Samson Tours elected representative.
- 1 Group Transfer to/from airport upon group arrival
- Porterage at airport and hotels.
- 15 days in Israel
- 14 overnights at mentioned quality 3-star hotels or better.
- 13 full days sightseeing as per your program below.
- English speaking tour guide throughout the entire tour.
- Luxury air-conditioned vehicle as mentioned above
- Meal arrangements: Half-board=full buffet breakfast & dinner daily, unless otherwise specified
- ALL Entrance fees per the itinerary, unless otherwise specified
- FREE WIFI on the bus and most hotels
- Welcome kit with hat, map and more.
- Credit card fees for **deposit** only.

Our rate excludes

- International Round Trip airfare (book your own to the closest group arrival/departure times, or contact us to assist.)
- Gratuities for the guide & driver. It is customary to offer this separately. The industry standard is \$12 per person, per day.
- Credit card fees for final balance payment. They are only included for the deposit payment. If you wish to pay the final balance, select the add-on in your account (3%)
- Additional overnights and transfers not mentioned in the schedule
- Soft drinks and special drinks at meals.
- [Visas](#) and border fees if required. Members from Nepal and certain countries must get a Visa prior in advance.

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Timetable

Milestones & Deadlines	Due Date	Action Required
Airfare should be purchased by	Sep 25th 2018	
Group Minimum Should be Reached	Oct 25 th 2018	
Final Payments are Due	Nov 24 th 2018	
Deposits become non-refundable to Samson	Nov 24 th 2018	
Late Registration Fee of \$200 Goes into effect	Nov 25 th 2018	
All Passenger Info is Due (Passports, Roommates, etc.)	Dec 10 th 2018	Updates Online

How to Register

- [Click here](https://samsontours.com/group-tours/1221-David-Cloud-and-Friends-Israel-Tour-2019) to register online or paste the following link into your browser:<https://samsontours.com/group-tours/1221-David-Cloud-and-Friends-Israel-Tour-2019>
- Fax your Registration Details to 352-835-0885 (see forms below)
- Phone us with your registration details at 352-414-5991

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Your Itinerary

This itinerary is subject to minor changes. Most tour days will require a 8 am departure with a return to the hotel by 6pm.

B = Breakfast only
B/D = Breakfast & Dinner included

Wednesday, February 13th (B/D)

- Depart from your city of origin
- Arrive at Ben Gurion airport
- Upon arrival, immediately after Passport Control, as you enter into the luggage pickup carousel area, you will be met by our airport representative with a sign reading 'Samson Tours' and/or '**David Cloud & Friends**'. If for any reason, you miss our representative, please remain at your arrival flight's baggage carousel and call or send a WhatsApp or text message to +972-50-7152575. Never hesitate to ask an Israeli to borrow their phone to make a call.
- Transfer to your hotel
- Overnight & Dinner: [Leonardo Hotel Ashkelon](#)

Thursday, February 14th (B/D)

- **Ashkelon:** One of the five major cities of the Philistines (1 Sa. 6:17) ancient gate and wall and port shows the sophistication of the Canaanites, beautiful setting to see: gate, wall, area of old port
- Drive by the ancient city of **Lakhish**, where the Assyrians laid out their invasion on the Israelites in the days of Hezekiah.
- Drive via **Bet Guvrin**. Visit the gladiator colosseum and then stop by the Roman Milestones
- **Elah Valley:** Where David fought Goliath (1 Samuel 17:2), view of valley from below and above (Hill of Shaarayim)
- Stop by **Horvat Geres** to see the Roman road ('Way of the Caesar').

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- **Gath:** the biblical home of Goliath. Here we'll attempt to see the newly discovered gates.
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Leonardo Hotel Ashkelon](#)

Friday, February 15th (B/D)

- Drive to **Beer Sheba**
- Scenic drive to the **Yatir Forest**
- Visit **Tel Sheva**, the likely place where Abraham swore his oath to Abimelech.
- Drive through the Negev, viewing the biblical landscapes for the Israelite wanderings.
- Visit **Kibbutz Sde Boker**, the resting place of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister
- Lookout over the **Wilderness of Zin**
- **Ein Avdat**
- The wilderness of **Faran**, where Ishmael grew up and hunted
- Lookout over **Har Shlomo**
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Leonardo Royal Resort, Eilat](#)

Saturday, February 16th (B/D)

- **Today we'll tour Eilat and surrounding sites:** The location of Eziongeber, where Solomon's ships docked (1 Ki. 9:26); they were manned and piloted by Phoenicians from Tyre (1 Ki. 9:27); they made round trips to Ophir and other places for gold and other products. The location is Ophir is not known, could have been India or South Africa.
This was where Jehoshaphat's ships were broken because of his unlawful affiliation with Ahab (1 Ki. 22:48)
To see: the Red Sea and general area
- 09:00 - Private **agricultural tour of Yotvata**
- 11:00: King Solomon's Copper mines at **Timna**
- 12:00 - Visit the reconstruction of the original tabernacle at **Timna**
- Hike the Black Canyon
- Free Afternoon & even in Eilat

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- Overnight & Dinner: [Leonardo Royal Resort, Eilat](#)

Sunday, February 17th (B/D)

- Possible visit to the **Arava Institute** at **Qetura** to see the Methuselah tree.
- Drive to **Mt. Sodom** and visit the Perazim ravine: Edom and Moab bordered the east side, Sodom and Gomorrah were located somewhere in this area. Before the cities were destroyed, the area was like a beautiful garden (Gen. 13:10).
- See the famous **Zohar ravine** of Abraham, Lot and Lot's wife.
- **Masada**: Take the **cable car** up Mt. Masada (Dep. from Hotel at 07:15) view of the Dead Sea area, 2 hours of touring to focus on Herod's building work and the Jews' last stand. The last stand was not a glory for Israel; it was the end of the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy (Lu. 19:42-44; 21:20-24) To see: view of the Dead Sea area and the plain of Jordan, Herod's palace, synagogue, Jewish scribe.
- Hike to **Ein Gedi** to see the waterfall and the cave where most likely David hid from Saul.
- Lookout towards Mt. Nebo, Located on the western shore of the Dead Sea, where David hid from King Saul (1 Sam. 23:29, 24:1-22). Fishermen will fish here in the Millennium (Ezekiel 47:10) walk up to the cave, view of the Sea, wild goat, coney
- Enjoy the afternoon relaxing by **the Dead Sea**. Usually called the Salt Sea in the Bible (e.g., Gen. 14:3; Num. 34:3; Deut. 3:17; Josh. 3:16). It is 34 miles long and 11 miles wide at the widest point and 430 meters or 1,400 feet deep. Jordan flows into it. It has no outlet and there is no marine life other than bacteria and microbial fungi. It is the lowest place of any landmass on earth (400 meters or 1,300 feet below sea level). At about 33% salinity, it is one of the world's saltiest bodies of water, nearly nine times more salty than the oceans. Sea will be healed in Christ's kingdom.
- **Overnight & Dinner**: [Kibbutz Ein Gedi](#)

Monday, February 18th – (B)

- **Qumran:** Here the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We'll see some of the original caves in which they were hidden.
- Walk **Wadi Qelt** from St. George, old Roman road, Herod's aqueduct, Herod's palace, Jericho tell, Russian museum and sycamore tree, lunch, squeezed oranges, cable car to **Mt. of Temptation**
- **11:00 - Jericho:** Moses viewed the land from Mount Nebo across from Jericho (Deut. 34:1). The first city conquered by Joshua (Joshua 6). Elijah ascended in a fiery chariot. John the Baptist baptized on the Jordan. Zacchaeus converted (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus healed the blind man and went up to Jerusalem from Jericho (Luke 19:28-40). The distance is 15 miles; full day journey
- **Qasr El Yahud:** where Israel crossed the Jordan River near Jericho (Numbers 31:12), and where it is believed John baptized Jesus.
- **Driving up north in the Jordan Valley** along the Jordan River route.
- End the day with a lookout over the Jezreel Valley from **Mt. Gilboa:** looking over Harod Valley, Jezreel, Bethshean. Saul and the Philistines, 1 Sam 28:4, Shunem, Endor, Bethshean, Jabeshgilead
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Kibbutz Beit Alpha Guesthouse](#)

Tuesday, February 19th (B/D)

- **Beth Shean:** A city of Manasseh (1 Chronicles 7:29). Saul's body nailed to the wall of the Philistine city (1 Sa. 28). The Romans built the capital of the Decapolis here in Jesus' day (Mark 5:20). To see: theater, cardo maximus, baths, temple ruins, walk up to the old city
- **Jezreel:** Ahab and Naboth, Jehu. Walk down to Harod Spring. Gideon; Midianites & Amalakites camped by Moreh (Jud 7:1); Ishmaelites (Jud. 8:24) Ishmael & Isaac. Orde Wingate; night squads 1936-39 during Arab revolt; grew up Plymouth Brethren and believed Bible prophecy; loved account of

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Gideon and established his headquarters near Harod Spring; died 1944; Ben Gurion said Wingate would have been first chief staff had he lived; his Bible is on display at the Harod kibbutz; on the flyleaf is Job 28:24, 28 - "For God looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven. ... And unto man he said, Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding"

To see: old palace ruins, grape pressing pits, view of the valley to the east from which Jehu approached, walk down to Harod Spring

- **Megiddo:** Armageddon means "hill of Megiddo" and it is the place where Christ will destroy the Antichrist's armies (Revelation 16:12-16). The valley here is called the valley of Megiddo and the valley of Jezreel. Barak and Deborah defeated the Canaanites (Jud. 4:13-14; 5:19). Gideon defeated the Midianites (Jud. 6:33-34). The Philistines defeated the Israelites (1 Sam. 29:1) and Jonathan and his sons were killed on Mt. Gilboa overlooking the plain (1 Sam. 31:1-7). 34 major battles. Barak - tabor Deborah judges 4-5. Gideon defeated Midianites judges 6. Saul 1 Sam 29-31 (Philistines by Moreh, Gideon Harod). Josiah killed by Pharaohnech 2 ki 23. Armageddon rev 16:12-16; Zechariah 12:1 - 13:2; 14:1-11. 1918 British defeated ottomans & liberated the land from 1250 years Muslim rule (drive Turkish observers from Megiddo hill, attacked from Sharon, 15,000 dummy horses in Jordan valley). To see: the overview of the valley, Solomon's gate, palace ruins, pagan altar, mangers, water system
- **Nazareth:** The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (Luke 1:26-27). Jesus grew up here (Matthew 2:23; Luke 2:39, 51). Jesus preached in the synagogue and the people tried to kill him (Luke 4:16-30)
- 15:00 - Enjoy a private tour of the **Nazareth Village**, where archaeologists discovered a 1st century agricultural center.
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Kibbutz Beit Alpha Guesthouse](#)

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Wednesday, February 20th (B/D)

- Visit **Sephoris**, the largest building project in the north during the reign of Herod Antipas and the days of Jesus, and the most likely candidate for Joseph performing his carpentry.
- Have a scenic experience at **Mt. Arbel, overlooking the Sea of Galilee**. The Arbel pass which was the road from Nazareth to the northern part of the Lake. Sea called Chinnereth (name of a harp), Gennesaret (a plain between Magdala and Kinneret), Tiberias. The Sea of Galilee It is about 33 miles in circumference, 13 miles long, and 8 miles wide. The deepest point is 43 meters or 141 feet. Harbors: Mendel Nun found the ruins of 16 harbors in the 1980s
- Visit **the Arbel Pass**, Jesus' most likely route between Nazareth and the Sea.
- 12:00 - Have a private tour of **Magdala**, home of Mary who was healed of demons, synagogue where Jesus preached, fishing harbor; - Home of Mary Magdalene out of whom seven demons were cast (Luke 8:2). She was one of the women who first saw the resurrected Christ (Mt. 28:1-10). Here, a first century synagogue (found in 2009) where Jesus preached (Mt. 4:23); in one room a coin was found dating to AD 29, which was at or near the time of Jesus' public ministry. One of the images in the mosaic floor is of a Galilee fishing boat with a sail and oars. Magdala had a large fish processing industry and its fish were sold in the markets of Rome. It had a large harbor; in AD 68 240 boats sailed from here carrying women and children as Titus approached with his Roman legion.
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Royal Plaza](#), Tiberias

Thursday, February 21st (B)

- FREE DAY (without guide and driver)
- **16:00** - Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Royal Plaza](#), Tiberias

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Friday, February 22nd (B/D)

- Visit the **Katzrin Talmudic Village** (private tour with demonstrations of millstone, olive press, etc.)
- Lookout over the Golan Heights
- **Visit Capernaum**, the home of Simon Peter and the home of Jesus' ministry in the Galilee. Capernaum is mentioned 16 times in the New Testament.
- See where the **Jordan River** enters into **the Sea of Galilee**
- **Bethsaida**, feeding of the 5,000 ("a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida" Lu. 9:10 - feeding the 4,000 on the east side of the lake after Jesus returned from Tyre and Sidon- healing of demoniac of Gergesenes - Carmel, Bashan (east of Galilee to Hermon), Gilead (east of Jordan south of Bashan) which are mentioned in the prophecy of Jeremiah 50:19 and Micah 7:14, so this region will be a part of Israel in Christ's kingdom; Obadiah 1:19 says Benjamin will possess Gilead
- Weather permitting, walk down the **Mt. of Beatitudes (Mt. Eremos)** to the Cave of Eremos
- **Tabgha** (Jesus preached parable of the sower from boat in cover; Jesus appeared to disciples third time after they had fished all night Jn. 21:1-140). Sermon on the Mount probably occurred on the hill above Tabgha. Parable of the sower (Jesus preached from a fishing boat; Near Tabgha is a cove that forms a natural amphitheater for preaching from a boat; possible place of the parable of the sower (Mr. 4:1-2)
- Drive to the Golan Heights
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Royal Plaza](#), Tiberias

Saturday, February 23rd (B)

- **Mt. Carmel:** Visit an olive plantation or modern olive press. The home of Nabal (1 Sa. 25:1-11). Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). It was a place of beauty and fruitfulness in biblical times (Isaiah 35:2). To the south is Sharon; rose of Sharon

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(Song 2:1). Carmel and Sharon will be glorified in Christ's kingdom (Isa. 35:2). To see: view from the monastery

- **Caesarea Maritima:** This Caesarea is on the coast, which is why it is called Caesarea Maritima. Caesarea Philippi is north of the Sea of Galilee. The home of Cornelius (Acts 10:1), the place where Paul was imprisoned (Acts 23:23), the home of Philip the Evangelist (Acts 21:8)
To see: Theater, Herod's Palace, race track, newly opened
- **Jaffa:** It is one of the world's most ancient ports (2 Chronicles 2:16; Ezra 3:7). Jonah boarded a ship (Jonah 1:3)
To see; the harbor, the view up the coast toward Tel Aviv
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Jerusalem Gardens Hotel](#), Jerusalem

Sunday, February 24th (B/D)

- Early Departure
- Go up to the **Temple Mount** to walk around the site of the former temple, today's Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque
- Visit the **Southern Wall Excavations** & the Davidson Center
- Experience the **City of David** (3D Movie)
- Journey into Warren's Shaft and Hezekiah's Tunnel
- At the end of the day, we'll have a **VIP** Tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Jerusalem Gardens Hotel](#), Jerusalem

Monday, February 25th (B)

- Begin the day with a lookout and great pictures from the Mount of Olives
- **Mt. Gerizim:** Gerizim was the mountain where part of Israel spoke the blessings of the law of Moses, and Ebal was the mountain across the valley where part of Israel spoke the curses (Deut. 11:29; 27:12-13; Joshua 8:33). Gerizim and Ebal were west of Shechem and east of the city of Samaria. The Samaritans built a temple on Gerizim. They still have their Passover sacrifices here.
To see: view from Gerizim, Samaritan temple ruins

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- **11:00 - Shiloh:** The location of the Tabernacle for 369 years (Josh.18:1; 1 Sa.1:3). Hannah and Samuel. Destroyed by the Philistines (Jer. 26:9). To see: and photograph: view of the area from high point, direction of Ramah, olive oil presses
- **Mikhmash:** Jonathan will give an overview of the events from a strategic and safe place
- Return to Jerusalem
- Visit **Ethiopia Street**, to hear the story of Eliezer Ben Yehuda and the Ethiopian church.
- Enjoy the rest of your afternoon on your own at **Ben Yehuda Street** and the **Machane Yehuda Market** in New Jerusalem
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Jerusalem Gardens Hotel](#), Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 26th (B)

- Enjoy a full day on your own at **the Israel Museum** and/or Bible Lands museum.
- **Overnight & Dinner:** [Jerusalem Gardens Hotel](#), Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 27th (B) – RETURN HOME

- Free day. You can keep your luggage in security and use the hotel's amenities until your transfer time.
- Transfer to airport. Pickups and individual transfers to the airport will take place approximately 4 hours before your scheduled departure time.

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 adult 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 45 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

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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 \$400.00 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 to Samson Tours 60 days before departure. If the tour leader is collecting all payments, they may specify their own timeline. 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

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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 World Nomads. 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 our partner's website. Travel

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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.

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- 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.

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Helpful Tips

Prior to Departure

It is highly suggested that you arrive at least 3 hours prior to your flight's departure for security checks and proper seating arrangement.

You do not require any airline documentation (e-tickets, etc.) for your flight. Upon arrival to the check-in, please simply offer your passports to the counter attendant and confirm your seating choice. At this time, you can typically confirm your seats for your international flight as well as your return domestic flight. The airlines do not typically issue flight seats for the return international flight from Tel Aviv until the day of departure.

Kindly note that we have made any seating request you have made to the airline. The airlines are notorious for not computing this in advance. In the event that a seat choice that you prefer is not available, it is advised to check with other members of the group to see if someone will switch with you.

Upon Arrival to Ben Gurion Airport

After deboarding the plane, enjoy an easy walk to Passport Control (paying note to 'A Nice Piece of History' - see next section - along the way).

In Israel, we do not stamp passports, but issue a separate tourist Visa card for entering the country. **Please keep this card in your Passport throughout your entire trip. Many hotels and Stores require this now for Tax Exemption.**

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For all incoming travelers, our airport representative will be meeting you immediately **after Passport Control**, holding a **sign for "Samson Tours."** If you have a major flight change, please contact us asap to ensure that we are prepared; otherwise, we'll be tracking your flight and there is no need to worry. Our representative will assist you to the baggage carousel, through Customs and into the Arrivals Hall to meet your driver. If you are not on the group flight, please contact us to ensure that we have your separate flight details and instructions on how to meet the group.

IF, for some reason you bypass our agent or are not met properly, please wait at your baggage carousel until see your bags. If not met by our representative by then within a reasonable time, you may exit the Arrivals Hall and remain at the Coffee shop (off to your right) with your bags and remain there until you are received by a representative. You may also **phone or text +972-50-7152575** at any time to connect with our Agency.

A Nice Piece of History at Ben Gurion Airport

As you enter Ben Gurion Airport, look up just before you enter the customs hall. The mosaic on the top left is from Bethlehem in the Galilee; it is roughly 7 miles west-northwest of Nazareth. This town dates from the early biblical period (12th cent. BCE), being a portion of the land of Zebulun (Joshua 19:14-16) and perhaps the home of the Judge Ibzan (Jud 12:8-10). The Jewish town belonged to the 24 Mishmerot Cohanim (Temple Priests) villages (1 Chronicles 24:5-6, 9).

The mosaic on the top right is from Beth Shean and has a Greek inscription: "Peace to the one who enters and to the one who exits" (see Deut 28:6). Obviously, this text is appropriate for those visiting the Holy Land.

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Your Security & Safety

Israel continues to be a very volatile place but with the strongest security in the world, as well as one of the best track records in safety for its tourists. We would highly recommend that you read our [Security Page](#) on our website to familiarize yourself with the proactive steps we take to ensure that your trip runs safely and smoothly. Our guides and drivers are expertly trained in how to respond to immediate security and safety issues. Sometimes this may entail foregoing a site and replacing it with an equal or better experience.

If you have any specific questions, before or during the tour, please do not hesitate to ask your guide how you should respond to a certain security risk, and be certain to make your guide known of any specific health limitations that you might have, so that he can take into consideration from site to site.

Free WIFI on the Bus, Hotels & Ways to Connect

We were the first company in Israel to provide guaranteed free WIFI to tour members, so that you can stay in touch with family members via email or share your experiences instantly on Social Media. Enjoy, but try to remember...you're on vacation!

Most of our hotels will offer free WIFI too, at the very least in the lobbies.

We highly recommend that all members use [Stops.com](#) so that we can remain connected at all times. Stops is a great way to share pictures, be in Messenger contact with your guide, agent and tour leader, and also stay connected with family and friends back home. Once you have downloaded the application, please let us know if you do not see yourself as a member of the group's Cube = Messenger group. Please note, this app is safe for your phone and is at the early stage of a 6-month period of pilot testing before public delivery.

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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 World Nomads. 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 our partner’s 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.

Cellphones in Israel

You can order a Cell Phones or SIM Card for as little as \$1 per day Samson Tours works with [Israel Phones G Cellular Network](#) to provide all of your communication needs in Israel. You can easily pick up and drop off your cell phones from Ben Gurion International Airport upon arrival and departure.

Israel Phones provides unlimited plans for as little as \$0.99 per day; you can rent SIM cards, wireless plans and more.

ORDER A PHONE or SIM card now by [clicking here](#).

Remember also that there also a lots of cheap phone call applications out there like Skype, Google Voice, or even WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger that can save you some serious roaming charges.

The Weather in Israel

Historically, the weather in Israel and Jordan during the month of **February is an average High of 60F and an average Low around 49F**

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in Jerusalem. Note that at the Dead Sea and in Jordan we should expect temperatures at least 7-10 degrees higher.

For a complete historical overview of weather by month, please visit [this website](#).

To check the 10-day weather forecast at the start of the tour, [click here](#).

Money Exchange

Unless specified, most everything is included in the tour price, except for lunches, some dinners and gratuities for your guide and driver (tips for hotel staff are already included). It is suggested that you bring around \$250-\$500 cash with you to cover these expenses throughout the tour. Of course, you can withdraw money easily throughout the tour.

ATMs (Hebrew: *kaspomat*) are widely available throughout Israel. Upon arrival, you'll have the opportunity to either withdrawal monies in either Shekels (all bank ATMs) or U.S. dollars (Leumi Bank only) from your debit or credit card. It is not suggested to change money at the airport due to poor exchange rates. You'll have plenty of opportunities in your first few days of touring. Traveler's checks are discouraged as most change places charge a fee or provide you with a lower exchange rate for them. \$100 bills typically provide you with the best rate of exchange. To check the current exchange rate, visit [Yahoo's currency converter](#).

Water in Israel

Israel has some of the highest drinking water standards in the world. Throughout the trip, you'll be able to purchase water bottles at a discount price from the bus driver. You'll also be able to refill your water bottles

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with fresh drinking water at the national parks and hotels at your leisure. To learn more about Israel's water supply, visit the [Mekorot](#) website.

Packing?

Definitely bring

- Your Passport (*obviously*)
- Your Travel Insurance Documentation (if you purchased travel Insurance) and Health Insurance information (if you have it!)
- Hat (to protect from the sun). We'll also provide one for you!
- Head scarf or shawl for women (for the Western Wall, Temple Mount and other holy sites)
- Medicines (aspirin, etc.)
- Umbrella (for February rains)
- Backpack
- Camel-pack or refillable water bottle (that holds up to 1 liter of water)
- Comfortable, closed-toed shoes (already broken-in) that preferably cover your ankle.
- Sandals
- Towel. Note: it is not always permissible or convenient to take one from the hotel.
- Backup pair of prescription glasses
- Soap Sponge or Hand Towels (hotels typically do not provide them in Israel)

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Highly recommended to bring:

- Bible
- Electrical adaptor (two-pronged, European style for 220v Wall Socket); most computers and cell phones only require an adaptor.
- Converter for your 110v electrical items (to convert to Israel's 220v) – mostly just for hairdryers and such. If you must have a hairdryer each day, then bring your own with a convertor. Not all hotels provide them.
- Digital camera with backup memory card
- Disk-on-key for backing up documents and pictures
- Cell-phone instructions for international calls or Sim-key for adding a local SIM card.
- Mini flashlight (for caves and Hezekiah's tunnel)
- Waterproof sandals (Hezekiah's Tunnel, Dead Sea)
- Travel first-aid kit (Band-Aids, Neosporin, etc.)
- Extra lightweight duffle bag (just in case you buy too many souvenirs, or your luggage is damaged in transit)
- Travel laundry detergent
- Travel alarm-clock (cellphones are good too!)
- Travel shampoo and soap
- Dirty-clothes bag
- A few evening/going-out outfits, but only nicer casual clothing....no dress clothes required
- Bathing suit
- Travel Pillow
- Ear Plugs (for potentially snoring roommates)
- And most important...plastic Zip-Lock Bags for collecting pottery and rocks or simply water-sealing things!

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A Note from Samson Tours CEO:

Eitan Chamberlin

It has been a pleasure to work with your tour leader David Cloud to build this “experience of a lifetime.”

You can be assured that our highly proficient staff will be in the background along the way to make sure your journey is a memorable one. Your guide has great experience with groups, and you will for certain have an excellent time. Quality control is extremely important to us, and there is no time of day or night that you will be a bother to ensure that you have the most pleasant and comfortable stay with us. Thank you for coming to Israel!

Contact Us

If you have any questions between now and your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us at sales@samsontours.com or 352-414-5991 or 972-50-7152575 or via WhatsApp +972-50-7152575.

Other Important Numbers (by priority)

1. Ori Katzir - Guide - +972-50-577-2525
2. Eitan Chamberlin - Agent - +972-50-7152575 or locally 050-715-2575
3. Hoor Japheth - Sales - +972-50-621-4274 or locally 050-624-4274
4. Roxene Chamberlin – U.S. Sales & Customer Service: 352-414-5991 or private cell: 352-5988688
5. Nathan Akimov – Technology - +972-58-652-4893 or locally 058-652-4893
6. Daniel Ashbel – Bookings - +972-52-627-5016 or locally 052-627-5016

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