

Gustavus Adolphus College Holy Land Study Tour 2021 October 9-22, 2021



Highlights & Inclusions

Experience the enrichment, education and fellowship as part of a traveling Gustavus Alumni community under the leadership and teaching of Dr. Darrell Jodock and Rev. Grady St. Dennis.

Learn about biblical history as well as current political and cultural insights visiting Israel and Palestine with the services throughout of an English-speaking tour manager/guide along with the use of an audio headset system for touring.

Travel on flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Tel Aviv based on estimated airfare, taxes and surcharges.

Stay in select accommodations for 12 nights. Pricing is based on sharing a room in hotels described in the itinerary.

Journey throughout in a private, deluxe motorcoach. Included is loading/unloading one piece of baggage at each hotel.

Enjoy 28 included meals: breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 12 dinners.

Feel the ease and comfort of knowing entrance fees for inside visits and activities described in itinerary are included along with the gratuities for tour manager, motorcoach drivers, restaurant and hotel staff plus group travel insurance.

About Your Program

Israel "is a land where the Bible is at home. This tiny corner is the spot where the most sublime moments of encounter between God and man took place, where the most precious visions were born. Just being in the land is a recalling. It is like being embraced by an air of spirit. Living in the land is a confrontation with the prophets. The land is different. It is an inspired land. Just to be in the land is a religious experience."
Adapted from "Israel: An Echo of Eternity," by Abraham Heschel.

Gustavus invites you to travel to the Holy Land with alumni and friends. We have crafted a journey that will engage your whole person--mind, body, and spirit. Daily devotional thoughts and educational sessions have been designed to accompany and enhance each powerful experience of the planned itinerary. Your visit to places mentioned in the Bible will bring alive the narratives and teachings recorded there and inspire you to understand them differently. Hearing from contemporary Israelis and Palestinians will add significant insights. And traveling with interesting and interested colleagues will enrich the overall travel experience, including its enjoyment. We look forward to having you along.

Hosted by **Dr. Darrell Jodock**
and **Rev. Grady St. Dennis**

About Your Hosts



Dr. Jodock is a Professor Emeritus at Gustavus, where he served for 13 years as the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor of Religion. He also served for 2 years as the Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy at St. Olaf College. Earlier, he taught for 21 years at Muhlenberg College in PA and for 7 years at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. A graduate of St. Olaf (BA), Luther Seminary (M.Div.), and Yale University (Ph.D.), he has honorary degrees from Carthage College and Concordia College (Moorhead). He currently teaches adult education classes in a variety of congregations, represents the ELCA at the National Council of Churches and the national Jewish-Christian dialogue, and chairs the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations.



Rev. Grady St. Dennis serves as College Chaplain and Director of Church Relations in the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus Adolphus College. Called to the college in early 2007, St. Dennis leads the college's church relations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its congregations with focus upon the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. A 1992 graduate of Gustavus, St. Dennis earned a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul and is currently working on a Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership from the School of Theology at Boston University. As Director for Church Relations and College Chaplain, St. Dennis works to build, strengthen, and support Lutheran higher education in general and Gustavus in particular. St. Dennis represents the College at ELCA gatherings, synod assemblies, and other church-related gatherings. St. Dennis and his wife Angie have two adult daughters Anna and Isabel.

Customized Program Itinerary

Saturday, October 9 MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL DEPARTURE. Depart from MSP on flight to Tel Aviv with a connection en route. (Flights will not be in range to confirm until late November 2020.)

Sunday, October 10 ISRAEL ARRIVAL/HADERA. Arrive at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. Receive a greeting of *shalom* and *salaam* from a local tour manager/guide along with an awaiting private motorcoach. Drive up the Mediterranean coast to the site of ancient **Caesarea**, the city built by Herod and where Apostle Paul was imprisoned. Lunch on own in Caesarea area. Drive to the city of Hadera, located about 40 miles north of Tel Aviv, for hotel check-in at **Ramada Hadera**, dinner and a night's rest. (D)

Monday, October 11 HADERA/GALILEE. Depart for the archeological site of **ancient Megiddo**. Walk among the remains and view the Jezreel Valley. Group lunch near Megiddo. Continue on a one-hour drive to the shore of the Sea of Galilee, 600 feet below sea level, for time to explore ancient **Magdala**. Arrive late afternoon at **Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Guest House** to get settled for a three-night stay and dinner. During one of the evenings at Nof Ginosar, meet with a kibbutz member after dinner. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 12 GALILEE. Leave this morning for a visit to **Mar Elias Educational Institutions** (MEEI), founded by Melkite priest, Fr. Elias Chacour. Tour the campus, learn about the mission at the school to nurture peacemakers through education, and possibly meet with some students and Fr. Chacour (pending confirmation). Continue through the Galilean hills to Nazareth. Falafel lunch en route. Visits to the **Synagogue Church** built over the remains of an ancient synagogue where perhaps Jesus first learned, prayed and preached, and the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, adorned with artwork from around the world. Marvel at the **ancient wooden boat** found buried in the sea on display in the museum on the kibbutz. Dinner at kibbutz guest house. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 13 GALILEE. Travel north into the Upper Galilee to **Banias Nature Reserve**, location of biblical Caesarea Philippi, with an informal rededication/remembrance of baptism by group leaders. Picnic lunch en route today, weather permitting. Drive through the Golan Heights back to the Sea of Galilee. Enjoy a beautiful panoramic view over the Sea of Galilee at the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of Sermon on the Mount, for communion service. Visit the **Church of the Multiplication** and stop along the shore where it is believed Jesus appeared and ate with disciples after his resurrection. Explore the remains of ancient **Capernaum**, where Jesus began preaching. Boat ride from Capernaum, ending at Nof Ginosar. Dinner at kibbutz guest house. (B,L-box,D)

Thursday, October 14, GALILEE/BETHLEHEM. Leave Galilee early this morning traveling south into the Jordan River Valley to Bethlehem, with a brief stop to view the Monastery of St. George in the Judean Hills, if time permits. Possible visit to **Dar Al-Kalima University and College**, an institution of higher education offering advanced training in visual and performing arts as well as Palestinian cultural heritage, design and tourism related studies. Meet with President **Dr. Miatri Raheb** (pending confirmation), who may join the group for lunch afterward. End the day with shopping time for items carved of olive wood by local artists. Arrive at **St. Gabriel Hotel** in Bethlehem to get settled for a two-night stay. Dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, October 15, BETHLEHEM. Walk this morning to Manger Square to visit the **Church of the Nativity** built over the site where Jesus is believed to have been born. Meet with a local resident of Efrat, an Israeli Settlement. A break for lunch on own and time for shopping. Visit the **Dheisheh camp**, home to around 15,000 Palestinians and supported by the United Nations. Devotions at the Field of Shepherds. Dinner at Bethlehem hotel. (B,D)

Saturday, October 16 BETHLEHEM/JERUSALEM. Today leave Bethlehem driving into Jerusalem for a panoramic introduction from atop the Mount of Olives. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane. Hotel check-in, dinner and overnight at the **Dan Boutique Hotel**. (B,D)

Sunday, October 17 JERUSALEM. Morning worship at the English-speaking service in the St. John's Chapel at **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**. Greeting and conversation with minister during fellowship time. Walk into the Jewish Quarter to discover the ancient **Cardo** with a guided tour of the Burnt House, followed by the Western Wall. Lunch on own with afternoon for independent exploration. Guest speaker Professor Abu Sway at hotel early evening (pending confirmation). Dinner at hotel. (B,D)

Monday, October 18 JERUSALEM. Begin this morning early with a visit to the Temple Mount on which the Dome of the Rock and Al Aksa Mosque are located (limited access to Temple Mount and visit may not be available). Walk the Way of the Cross to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, built over the site of crucifixion and burial. Possible meeting with members of the reconciliation organization **Parents Circle-Families Forum**, at hotel before dinner. Dinner at Jerusalem hotel. (B,D)

Tuesday, October 19 JERUSALEM /MASADA AND DEAD SEA VISIT. Leave Jerusalem for a full day excursion to the Dead Sea area descending to 1200 feet below sea level in just over one hour. View the archeological site of **Qumran** (with multi-media presentation) where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found among the caves. Take a cable car ride to **Masada** where Herod built a palace and Jewish Zealots resisted the Romans. At the **Ein Gedi Spa** (locker and towel provided), try a float in the Dead Sea and experience the highest concentration of salt water in the world. Return to Jerusalem hotel for dinner. (B,D)

Wednesday October 20, JERUSALEM. Morning visit arranged by group leaders to the bilingual and multicultural **Peace Preschool at the Jerusalem International YMCA** and tour the facilities of this historic building, a place of reconciliation since 1933. Drive to western Jerusalem for visit to **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust museum and memorial with audio-guide. Discover the magnificent **scale model of Jerusalem** during the first century at the Israel Museum along with the Shrine of the Book. Possible speaker at hotel before dinner. (B,D)

Thursday, October 21 JERUSALEM. Early walk with one of the leaders to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for those who would like to climb down to the tomb. Remainder of the day is at leisure for individual exploration. Early evening farewell dinner at hotel in private room. (B,D)

Friday, October 22 TEL AVIV/MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL RETURN. Early morning transfer to Tel Aviv airport for departure back to Minneapolis-St. Paul. (B)

Flight schedule confirmed when available in late November 2020

Included meals: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner

Itinerary subject to change due to local scheduling.

Click hotel names or other sites in blue for website link.

Program Cost

**\$5,550 - \$5,855 from
Minneapolis-St. Paul***

Supplement for single accommodations - \$1,425

Limited availability of single accommodations.

This comprehensive cost includes estimated airline ticket taxes and fuel surcharge.

Program cost based on group size of 27-37 and will increase if group size is smaller.

*Note about cost at time of printing brochure:

The program cost has been calculated on the best available information over a year and a half in advance. The flights are not in range to confirm requiring the use of an estimated airfare. **When flights are confirmed in late November 2020, final pricing will be confirmed and registration will open in December.**

Further Information

To place your name on an interest list and receive updated Holy Land Study Tour information, please contact:

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