

Jerusalem Seminar

AMBS–Great Plains Course ID: GP:BIB691

January 3-23, 2011

Description

A three-week travel seminar to Israel/Palestine that will study the geographical and historical context of the Bible, survey the religions and cultures of the area and explore some of the dynamics in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Based in Jerusalem, the seminar also includes four days in Galilee, a trip to the Dead Sea and a three-day trip to Jordan (including Petra). The seminar group will make other field trips as the political situation allows and speak with Israeli and Palestinian spokespersons from different political and religious perspectives. Estimated costs: \$4200-4500. Includes round-trip travel from New York, travel in-country, room and most meals, tips and entrance fees.

Jerusalem Seminar Tentative Schedule (as of March 2010)

Travel/study/renewal seminar to Israel, Palestine, Jordan

These are the four emphases of the seminar:

1. To understand the biblical text in the context of the history and geography of Palestine — including visiting significant archaeological sites.
2. To learn about the religions and cultures of the Middle East, particularly Judaism, Islam, and Eastern Christianity. Meet people from these traditions, visit their religious services.
3. To understand better the dynamics of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by meeting with Israeli Jews, Palestinian Christians, and Muslims representing various points of view.
4. To take time for reflection and silence together as we process what we are learning and experiencing. Regular times for group worship as well as personal reflection and prayer.

Co-leaders

Patricia Shelly, Professor of Bible/Religion at Bethel College, PhD in Biblical Interpretation, former director for MCC Palestine (1996-2000). She is a licensed guide in Israel who has studied, traveled, and led seminars in the Middle East for 25 years.

Douglas Miller, Professor of Biblical/Religious Studies at Tabor College, PhD in Old Testament.

Participants

Mixed group of college and seminary students, pastors and spouses, and other persons from our constituency. Participants should be capable of moderate levels of hiking and climbing.

Lodging and meals

Lodging will be in comfortable facilities in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. Additional lodging in hotels and kibbutzim while traveling in Jordan and Galilee. Breakfast and evening meals provided throughout; some noon meals will also be provided.

College or seminary credit available

Seminary credit (3 hours) through Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary–Great Plains Extension; college credit through Bethel and Tabor Colleges. Tuition costs are extra (in addition to seminar costs listed below), except for students already enrolled at Bethel or Tabor. For information on seminary credit, contact Lois Barrett, AMBS–Great Plains, 316-283-7098, lbarrett@ambs.edu

Cost

Estimated cost is \$4200-4500, including roundtrip travel from Wichita (or other point of departure, depending on airline) to Amman, travel in-country, room and most meals, tips and fees to museums,

archaeological sites, etc. Cost is partly dependent on price of airfare and number of participants. There is also a \$240 Bethel/Tabor audit fee for nonstudent participants in the seminar.

Application

Send name, address, phone number, and email address (if available) to Patricia Shelly, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas 67117 (or e-mail pshelly@bethelks.edu).

Deposit and Final Payment

Make \$500 deposit no later than September 1 (\$400 refundable until November 1). The remainder of trip expense is due November 1. Make checks payable to Bethel College and send to Patricia Shelly, or make payment at the college business office.

Travel arrangements

Travel agency yet to be determined.

Questions?

Contact Patricia Shelly, Bethel College, phone 316-284-5318; e-mail pshelly@bethelks.edu.

Tentative Schedule (draft)

January 3-23, 2011

This is a tentative schedule; there will be some modification as planning for the seminar continues. Our daily activities may change according to final flight arrangements and other variables, but these are the general visits that we are planning.

Mon, Jan 3 — Leave Wichita.

Tue, Jan 4 — Arrival in Amman.

Wed, Jan 5 — Drive the King's Highway to Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Karak. Night in Petra.

Thur, Jan 6 — Walk the Sikh canyon into Petra, view Nabatean and Roman ruins; drive back to Amman along the Desert Highway.

Fri, Jan 7 — Visit with MCC workers in Jordan and cross the Allenby Bridge at the Jordan River. Drive through Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Panoramic views of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus and Mt. of Olives. Overnight in Bethlehem.

Sat, Jan 8 — Visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. Walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem: Western Wall and Jewish Quarter, Temple Mount, Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Sun, Jan 9 — Free morning for worship and exploration. Afternoon: visit with local people. Night in Bethlehem.

Mon, Jan 10 — Visit Yad veShem (Holocaust Museum and Memorial) and begin trip to Galilee, overnight at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam.

Tue, Jan 11 — Drive to Tel Aviv/Jaffa (ancient Joppa), Caesarea Maritima. Night in Nazareth.

Wed, Jan 12 — Visit Nazareth churches, the Nazareth Village, Megiddo, Sepphoris. Night by Sea of Galilee.

Thur, Jan 13 — Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, Church of Loaves and Fishes, Capernaum. Boat ride on the sea. Night by the Sea of Galilee.

Fri, Jan 14 — Drive into the Golan Heights to Banyas (Caesarea Philippi), Dan. Night in Galilee.

Sat, Jan 15 — Visit sites around the sea. Drive to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley. Northern baptismal site, Bet Shean, Jericho. Night in J'lem.

Sun, Jan 16 — Free day for worship, rest, and exploration in Jerusalem.

Mon, Jan 17 — Visit the Dome of the Rock, and Alqsa Mosque and sites in Old City; visit with local people.

Tue, Jan 18 — Dead Sea day. Visit Qumran, Masada, En Gedi, float in Dead Sea.

Wed, Jan 19--Visit to Hebron, Cave of Machpelah/Ibrihimi mosque. Visit local people.

Thur, Jan 20 — Visit Second Temple Model, Israel Museum and Dead Sea Scrolls.

Fri, Jan 21 — Visit churches on the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Garden Tomb and Cenacle (Upper Room) on Mt. Zion. Sabbath Service in Evening.

Sat, Jan 22 — Free day. Evaluation and closure. Leave for North America.

Sun, Jan 23—Leave for North American at 12:40 am.