

Holy Land Christmas Tour

10-Day Land Tour

12/26/2026 - 01/03/2027

This is a private tour for the Christensen friends and family.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to travel in the Holy Lands with Hank Smith & Bountiful Travel. This will be an awesome opportunity to discover the beauty, power and spirit of the Holy Lands with Hank as your tour directors. Hank is a popular religious educator and great teacher. You will love his humor, personable, teaching style and amazing scripture insights. Christmas is a good time of year to travel to Israel (the temperature is usually cool but nice). Make the most of our tour with your optional Jordan/Petra extension.

Headliners:



Hank Smith

Itinerary:

Day 1: Depart Home

December 26, 2026 (Saturday)

Depart for Israel. Overnight on the trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 2: Arrive in Tel Aviv

December 27, 2026 (Sunday)

Enjoy a relaxing evening, walk on the beach or swim in the Mediterranean as you recover from jet lag and prepare for our wonderful adventure.

Day 3: Tel Aviv - Jaffa - Caesarea - Mt. Carmel

December 28, 2026 (Monday)

We will begin our vacation with a bus tour of Tel Aviv and then a visit of Old Jaffa (Joppa) and the Artists' Quarters. Jaffa is where Peter received his vision leading to the expansion of missionary work to the Gentiles and is also the place that Jonah attempted to flee from the Lord's presence aboard a ship bound for Tarshish. We will discuss the doctrinal implications of these two events. From Jaffa, we will travel along the Mediterranean coast to the Roman, New Testament capital, Caesarea. Once in Caesarea, we will see an ancient Roman theatre, hippodrome and study a couple of the Biblical events that happened here (including the first recorded gentile baptism). From Caesarea, we will go to Nazareth stopping at Mt. Carmel (time permitting) on the way, where we will discuss the epic battle between Elijah and the wicked priests of Baal. We will overnight at our hotel in Galilee.

Day 4: Cana - Church of Annunciation - Nazareth Village - Nazareth Precipice or Mount Tabor, Megiddo

December 29, 2026 (Tuesday)

Today we will spend most of the day discovering the early childhood home of Christ. We will visit Nazareth Village, which will demonstrate life in a small, first century village such as Nazareth. We will visit Cana, where the first recorded miracle of Christ took place in the turning of water to wine. We will visit Mount Tabor and/or Megiddo (tour leader decision). Mount Tabor is the traditional location of the Transfiguration. We will read and discuss the events of Matthew 17. We will then return to our hotel in Nazareth.

Day 5: Sea of Galilee - Magdala - Capernaum - Mount of Beatitudes - Caesarea Phillipi (Banias)

December 30, 2026 (Wednesday)

Today will on the northern Israel border at the site of Caesarea Phillipp, also known as Banias. This is the location of Peter's testimony of Savior (Thou art the son of the living God " Matthew 16) and one of the sources of the Jordan River as it emerges from the foothills of Mount Hermon. We will then head to the Sea of Galilee region, where Christ delivered the Sermon on the Mount. On the Sea, we will read through and discuss several of the miracles that took place here. Upon arriving at the Mount of Beatitudes, we will find a quiet place to study the doctrines of that amazing sermon. Then we will visit Capernaum, which was the center of Jesus' Galilean ministry. In Capernaum, Christ performed many miracles and gave many profound teachings, including the Bread of Life sermon. We will see the remains of a synagogue from the time of Christ, which very well may have been the synagogue in which He taught. Lunch today is included as everyone will have the opportunity to try St. Peter's

Fish. Time permitting we will visit the site of Magdala, which is believed to be the home town of Mary Magdalene and the site of a first century synagogue. We will end the evening on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Return to our hotel in Nazareth.

Day 6: Bet She'an - Jordan Valley - Jericho Overlook (Wadi Qelt) - Jordan River (Bethabara) - Dead Sea Swim

December 31, 2026 (Thursday)

This morning will start with a drive to the strategic site of Beth Shean. At these impressive ruins we will see the splendor of Roman life and Hellenistic culture. It was one of the Gentile "Decapolis" cities of the New Testament. We will then drive through the Jordan Valley passing by Jericho and review some of the important scriptural events that took place on the road to Jericho from an overlook known as Wadi Qelt. We will stop at the traditional site where Christ was baptized and near where the Israelites crossed into Canaan. Before ascending into Jerusalem, we will float in the Dead Sea. From here we will continue on to Jerusalem. We will check into our hotel in Jerusalem. Following dinner, we will visit an olive wood shop for those who are interested.

Day 7: Mount of Olives - Jerusalem Center - Western Wall - Davidson Center Museum - Southern Temple Steps - Church of the Holy Sepulchre/Old City - Herodian Quarter or Gallacantu

January 1, 2027 (Friday)

We will begin this morning with a scenic view on the top of the Mount of Olives. Today we will tour the Old City in which we will see Mount Zion, visit the St. Anne's Church with the Pools of Bethesda, and the Antonia Fortress. We will walk through the Jewish Quarter to the Western Wall, visit the Herodian Quarter. In the afternoon, we will have an optional tour by way of the via dolorosa ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Free time in the Old City for those who would prefer.

Day 8: Jerusalem Center - Old City - Garden Tomb & Golgotha - Bethlehem

January 2, 2027 (Saturday)

We will begin the day with a visit to the Garden Tomb, where we are also able to view the ancient Golgotha. Here we will be discuss and ponder the final moments of Christ's mortal life and his glorious resurrection. We will then attend Church Services at the Jerusalem Center. Following Church, we will head to Bethlehem, where we will see the church of the Nativity as well as the Shepherd's fields.

Day 9: Garden of Gethsemane - Masada -

January 3, 2027 (Sunday)

We will begin our morning in the peaceful Garden of Gethsemane where we will discuss the events that took place on that hillside. We will then head South, passing Wadi Qelt where we will have a beautiful overlook of Jericho and the Judean Wilderness. We will then head to Masada. Here we will take a cable car to the top of Masada to see the ruins of the palace-fortress built by King Herod. We will discuss the history of the Zealotâ€™s last stand against the Romans.

Those going to Jordan will continue south to the Red Sea where they will cross over into Jordan.

Those going home will transfer to airport around 7:00 PM for late night flight home.

Flight should be scheduled for after 11:00 PM.

Day 10: Arrive Home or Continue to Jordan

January 4, 2027 (Monday)

Arrive home for those not going onto Jordan

Day 10: Red Sea Snorkeling (optional on own) - Wadi Rum Jeep Tour

January 4, 2027 (Monday)

The morning begins with a pickup ride through the Wadi Rum desert. The scenery is surreal and the site of many movies, ranging from Lawrence of Arabia to the most recent Star Wars movie. After returning from the desert, you will have free time to enjoy shopping, swimming, snorkeling or just relaxing on the beach. The hotel is right on the beach. Or you can also try out the world class snorkeling in the Red Sea. For about \$30 you can grab a shuttle to the reef where snorkel gear is included (paid for at the hotel).

Day 11: Petra

January 5, 2027 (Tuesday)

Today we will leave our amazing resort on the Red Sea around 9:00 AM to visit the amazing site of Petra. Petra is a historical and archaeological city in the Jordanian governorate of Maâ€™an that is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. It was made famous from the Indiana Jones movie. Petra was established sometime around the 6th century BC as the capital city of the Nabataeans. It is a symbol of Jordan as well as its most visited tourist attraction. We will have about 5 hours on site in Petra before leaving for the airport in Amman. We will arrive to the airport around 8:30

PM.

Schedule your flight to depart after 11:00 PM.

Information:

INCLUDED

5 Star Premium Hotels – Carlton, Magdala, Mamilla Jerusalem, Aqaba Intercontinental

Local Guide & LDS Tour Director

Breakfast & Dinner (lunches not included)

First Class Coach/Bus

All entrance fees

Whisper Head Sets

NOT INCLUDED

Tips: Additional information in the pricing section below

International Airfare: We email the group about 3-4 months prior to the tour with the suggested flight schedule. We do not arrange group airfare since usually it is considerably more expensive to do so. We are flexible on flights and we will give you an arrival time for when you should arrive in Tel Aviv. Flights are usually around 2,000 out of SLC.

Lunches, Personal Items, Phone, Internet, etc.

Pricing:

Price

- Price: \$5200 per person, based on double occupancy.
- Single Supplement: \$250 per night

Optional Petra Add-on

- \$760 per person based on double occupancy.
- Jordan Visa included
- Israel Exit Tax included (about \$35 per person).

Tips

- We collect pre-paid tips in advance of \$120 per person for the Israeli guide and driver. You will need to tip hotel baggage porters if they take your luggage for you.
- We are often asked about tipping the LDS tour director. They greatly appreciate tips. As with any service, tipping is at your discretion.
- Tips are not collected in advance for any tour extensions, such as Jordan or Egypt. We recommend \$5 per person, per day for the guide and \$3 per day for the driver on those tours.

Payment Schedule

- \$500 per person due at time of booking (deposit is non-refundable â€” it can be transferred to another person on the same tour date. We will attempt to find someone to take your spot if you cancel but we cannot guarantee it).
- Final Payment: Final payment is due three months before the tour departure date.

Cancellation Policy

To cancel, you must notify us in writing (by email). Additional fees may be assessed to cover non-refundable bookings such as flights and hotels. There is no refund for cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure of the tour.

- If you cancel before final payment due date: Deposit is refundable or transferable as long as we (or you) can fill your spots. After final payment, the full amount is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- If Bountiful Travel cancels the tour: We will refund all deposits and any other payments unless the tour is canceled due to a pandemic or civil unrest.
- If Bountiful Travel cancels due to a pandemic or civil unrest: The deposit is non-refundable. However, the deposit is transferable to a future tour. The balance (minus the deposit) will be refunded.
- No changes can be made to land tour bookings within 30 days of tour departure date, including name changes.

Bountiful Travel recommends the purchase of travel insurance to help avoid loss of your travel expenses due to cancellations.

Check Your Invoice Names: Please check to see that your names are spelled correctly. Your first and last names must appear as they appear on your passport for International travel and Driverâ€™s License for domestic tours.

COVID: Vaccines are currently not required to enter Israel

PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED and should be valid 6 months after the end of the tour.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the nature of this tour you must be able to climb stairs and walk unassisted at a moderate pace 4-7 miles per day.

Please note that minor changes to the itinerary may occur due to local conditions and to better accommodate our group.