Ordinands Study Tour
with Dr. Peter Walker

December 31, 2018 - January 7, 2019

The land-costs for this study tour are as follows:

• For ordinands and students registered on a course training for Christian ministry or pursuing biblical or theological research ........................................ £895.00 GBP
• For spouses of ordinands or such students ................................................ £995.00 GBP
• For all others, including eligible clergy (ordained in the last 4 years) ............ £1,195.00 GBP

Please note: the above land-costs do NOT include your flight costs to Tel Aviv.

Your Journey Includes:

Guided Sightseeing & on-site Lectures  .  All Administrative & Entrance Fees  .  Hotel Gratuities
Buffet Breakfast & Dinner daily  .  All Lunches in itinerary  .  Good-quality Hotels and much, much more!

*All prices are in British Pounds (GBP)
Are you a student on a Christian course or an ordinand preparing for public ministry in the Church?
Or have you been recently ordained (in the last three years) and now find yourself regularly preaching from the Gospels week by week?
Or perhaps you are doing research in biblical studies and would love to see the places where the great events described in the Bible took place?

This short study tour has been designed expressly with you in mind! In just 8 days we will see almost all the places in the Holy Land mentioned in the Gospels and Acts. And in each place we will be asking how that site’s geography and history can help us to understand the biblical text more fully—so that we can then communicate this more faithfully to people ‘back home’ in our preaching and writing.

So please join us for what we trust will be a ‘trip of a life-time’—full of biblical teaching and spiritual inspiration—which will resource you for a life-time of faithful biblical ministry in the service of Jesus. Together let’s be learning about Jesus as he truly was (the ‘historical Jesus’ in his first-century context) in order to speak about him more faithfully as he truly is—our Risen Lord!

Our chief guide in our journey together will be the Gospel of Luke. So it is fitting that we will start our tour with a ‘bonus’ visit to Caesarea Maritima, the coastal capital of ancient Palestine mentioned in the Book of Acts (chs. 10; 23-27) and visited by Luke himself when he visited this city with Paul en route to Jerusalem (Acts 21:8-15).

We then enjoy 36 hours in the territory of ancient Galilee, passing through Nazareth and staying in the lakeside town of Tiberias. We will enjoy great views, walk down the hillside from the Mount of Beatitudes, and pause in the middle of the lake during our boat-ride to remember Jesus’ calming of the storm. We will see the excavations of Bethsaida, Capernaum and Magdala, look at the so-called ‘Jesus boat’ and stand on the bank of the River Jordan to remember our baptismal vows. In each place we will open our Bibles (especially Luke 4-9), to learn more about Jesus’ ministry in its original context and to hear his Word to us for today.

Then, as Jesus ‘set his face to go to Jerusalem’ (Luke 9:51), we too will ‘go up’ to Jerusalem, travelling along the Jordan Valley, passing through Jericho before pausing in the Judean desert to ponder the significance of Jesus’ final journey up to Jerusalem (Luke 19). Your first view of Jerusalem will be from the Mount of Olives, looking across to the site of the ancient Temple and watching the winter sun go down over the Old City.

We then have three full days to enjoy the Jerusalem area: seeing the birth-places of John the Baptist and Jesus (Luke 1-2); sitting on the steps used by Joseph and Mary as they took Jesus into the Temple (Luke 2); walking along the route of Palm Sunday (Luke 19); looking up at the Temple where Jesus taught with authority (Luke 20); getting to know Jerusalem’s streets as we reconstruct the night of Jesus’ Passover Meal and pausing under the olive trees in Gethsemane (Luke 22); and, as a fitting climax, visiting the sites associated with Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection (Luke 23-24).

There’s a lot to take in! So it is good that we will have an opportunity on the Sunday morning to worship together alongside some of the city’s Christian communities; and then, on the Monday—no doubt after some final shopping!—to have some time in the countryside west of Jerusalem to consider the great story of the Risen Jesus speaking to two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24). Like them we will try to make sense of all that we have heard and seen in Jerusalem, and be asking the Risen Jesus to help us to understand better what has been written ‘concerning himself in all the Scriptures’ (v. 27) and to follow him more closely throughout our lives—truly walking in his steps.
Monday, 31 Dec. 2018 – Departure and Arrival
• Depart from London (flight times to be confirmed)
• Arrive at Tel Aviv airport & transfer to our hotel in coastal city of Netanya
• Orientation meeting (& early celebration of New Year)

Tuesday, 1 Jan. 2019 – The Coastal Plain and the Via Maris
• Roman Aqueduct and Theatre at Caesarea Maritima
• Nazareth: Church of Annunciation & ‘Sisters of Nazareth’ Excavations
• Lunch at ‘Nazareth Village’
• Drive through traditional site of Cana to view the Sea of Galilee from Mount Arbel
• Arrival at our hotel in Tiberias (for 2 nights)

Wednesday, 2 Jan. 2019 – Jesus’ Ministry around the Sea of Galilee
• Bethsaida and the River Jordan
• Capernaum & the Lakeside
• Lunch on the Mount of Beatitudes, followed by walk down to the lakeside
• Magdala & the ‘Jesus boat’ Museum
• Boat ride

Thursday, 3 Jan. 2019 – Travelling up to Jerusalem
• Down the Jordan valley: ancient Decapolis city of Beit Shean
• Picnic lunch near Qumran, followed by floating on the Dead Sea
• Drive through Jericho for reflection in Judean wilderness
• Drive up to Jerusalem for panoramic view from Mount of Olives at sunset
• Transfer to our hotel (in Bethlehem) for 4 nights

Friday, 4 Jan. 2019 – Around Bethlehem
• Church of the Nativity
• Shepherds’ Fields
• Israel Museum: Dead Sea Scrolls & Model of 1st-century Jerusalem
• Picnic lunch in Ein Karem (birthplace of John the Baptist)
• Brief stop below Herodion (Herod’s fortress & burial place)
• Shopping & lecture at Bethlehem Bible College

Saturday, 5 Jan. 2019 – Old City of Jerusalem
• Mount of Olives: walk from Bethphage along the ‘Palm Sunday’ route to the garden of Gethsemane
• Lunch in Old City at ‘Ecce Homo’ Convent
• Via Dolorosa & the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
• The Garden Tomb

Sunday, 6 Jan. 2019 – Walking around Jerusalem
• Morning worship with local Christian community
• Temple steps & Western Wall
• City of David, with Hezekiah’s Tunnel (if time)
• Byzantine ‘Mount Zion’ (the ‘upper city’ of Jesus’ day)

Monday, 7 Jan. 2019 – Return Home
• Morning, free for shopping or sight-seeing
• Picnic lunch with reflection on the Road to Emmaus
• Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for your flight home (flight times to be confirmed)
Dr. Peter Walker read Classics at Cambridge University and then spent a further seven years in Cambridge pursuing doctoral and post-doctoral research on the topic of Jerusalem and the Holy Land—both in the New Testament and Patristic periods. He was ordained in 1989 and served his curacy in the diocese of Rochester. For many years he taught New Testament Studies and Biblical Theology at Wycliffe Hall in the University of Oxford and, from 2012 to 2017, was Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity School for Ministry (near Pittsburgh, PA, USA). He is now back in the UK, working on various projects, including the editing of a video filmed in the Holy Land (based on his book In the Steps of Jesus) and also acting as a theological advisor to the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC).

Dr. Walker is widely acknowledged as one of the foremost experts on the Holy Land. In addition to In the Steps of Jesus (Lion Hudson, 2006) and The Story of the Holy Land (Lion Hudson, 2013), his books on Jerusalem and the Holy Land include: Holy City, Holy Places? (Oxford University Press, 1990); Jesus and the Holy City (Eerdmans, 1996); Walking in his Steps (HarperCollins, 2001). He has also edited two volumes of essays, drawing together a wide variety of Christian approaches to the Holy Land today: Jerusalem Past and Present in the Purposes of God (Paternoster, 1994) and The Land of Promise (IVP, 2000).

... THE JERUSALEM CENTER FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES

This itinerary has been devised by Dr. Walker in collaboration with the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies—a non-profit organization established in 1973. It is an academic study centre, based just north of Jerusalem’s Old City, with a ministry of helping Christian scholars, pastors, students and visitors to visit the land of Jesus under the guidance of well-qualified academic instructors and Bible teachers. JCBS will be your hosts throughout the tour and are responsible for the delivery of the advertised itinerary. The Center, which is an accredited academic institution within Israel, has appointed Dr. Walker to be your academic instructor and spiritual guide for the duration of the study tour.

What people** on recent Study Tours with Peter have said afterwards:

- “To experience Peter’s leading of Holy Land tours is like being a member of a world-class symphony orchestra with Peter as the master conductor: the outcome is transformational! Peter’s years of Holy Land experience, passion for scripture and his academic foundation, when combined, all make for an experience that is not only educational but also inspired and Spirit-filled. There is no better combination than Dr. Peter Walker and the Holy Land.”

- “Peter Walker is a leader of pilgrims—those who go to places to be changed, transformed. Peter opens up the land, the people, and the places where Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose—making Him more real.”

- “We so appreciated Peter’s deep love of Jesus, his many years of advanced study and his intimate familiarity with the Holy Land. His thoughtful approach to each itinerary incorporates teaching and timing in a robust blend that allows for prayer, for reflection and for personal encounter with the Lord in the midst of travel.”

** Names can be supplied upon request