





About Your Instructor...  
**Mark Ziese, Ph.D.**

Discovering the place where faith begins is a passion for Mark Ziese. This experiential quest is at the center of his work as a Field Instructor with the Jerusalem Center of Biblical Studies, his archaeological excavations in the Middle East, and his regular engagement with college and seminary students.

Mark has been studying, speaking, and writing on matters related to the Bible and its world since 1984. He was named a Fellow at the Albright Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem in 2011.

Learn more about Mark at his website at:  
[www.biblelandexplorer.com](http://www.biblelandexplorer.com).

# ITINERARY

**January 6: Depart the USA**

**January 7: Arrive in Tel Aviv**

Arrive in Tel Aviv. Transfer directly to a late dinner and overnight on the Mediterranean Sea. Overnight at Island Suites in Netanya.

**January 8: Caesarea-by-the-Sea, Mount Carmel, Megiddo**

Travel to **Caesarea-by-the-Sea**, which was built as the imperial center for the Roman government. Its harbor, theater, and marbled streets signal the arrival of foreign occupation in the Heartland and, not surprisingly, the beginning point for Christianity in the Gentile world. Visit **Mount Carmel** (Muhraqa), where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. Travel to **Megiddo** and walk a site famous for its strategic position. Many battles were waged on and around this OT site. Transfer to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

**January 9: Nazareth, Mary's Well, Church of the Annunciation, Capernaum, Magdala**

Dawn comes early to **Nazareth**, the boyhood home of Jesus. Visit **Mary's Well** and walk through the **Church of the Annunciation**, a structure built over the traditional home of Jesus. Explore Nazareth's Old City in the morning hours. After lunch, return to the Sea of Galilee and visit **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus's Galilean ministry. Continue to **Magdala**, an industrial site on the edge of the Sea of Galilee. View impressive remains that illustrate the fishing industry from the time of Christ. Experience a synagogue that stands on the site where Jesus taught. Stay overnight in Tiberias.

**January 10: Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Boat Ride**

Experience the beauty of the far north. Leave the Sea of Galilee behind and travel to the site of **Tel Dan**. Here an Israelite high place, gate complex, and fortification walls are visible. Continue to the birthplace of the Jordan River at **Panias**, named after the goat-god, Pan. Nearby is the site of **Caesarea Philippi**, where Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ. End the day by **sailing on the Sea of Galilee**. Stay overnight in Tiberias.

**January 11: Qasr Yahud (Jordan River), Herod's Jericho Palace, Tell es-Sultan, Qumran**

Travel to the **Jordan River** and experience its water. Continue to **Jericho** for a visit to a desert oasis, a New Testament-era palace, and an Old Testament-era mound. Learn about the conquest of Canaan and the life and death one remembered as the "King of the Jews." Continue to **Qumran**, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Climb through the **Wilderness of Judea** to Jerusalem. Conclude this day with communion on the **Mount of Olives**. Arrive at your Jerusalem hotel for dinner and overnight.

**January 12: Herodium, Shepherds' Field, Church of the Nativity**

Begin this day with a short drive to Bethlehem. Visit the **Herodium**, the man-made mountain castle of Herod the Great. Travel a short distance to the **Shepherds' Field**, where the Good News was first heard. Follow the tracks of the shepherds to **Bethlehem** to the place where the Christian story begins: the **Church of the Nativity**. Return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

**January 13: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Pool of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Ecce Homo, Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

Start this morning on the **Mount of Olives** for a spectacular view. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road to the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Enter the Old City and walk the path of the **Via Dolorosa**. Along the way, visit the **Pool of Bethesda**, the **Church of St Anne**, and **Ecce Homo**. As a triumph of the pilgrim experience, visit the site dubbed the most sacred in all Christianity: the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus here. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**January 14: Temple Mount, Western Wall, Davidson Center, City of David**

Enter the Old City and consider the role of this famous place sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Walk on the **Temple Mount** where Solomon's glorious temple once stood, and Muslims continue to pray today. Experience the **Western Wall**, a place of meditation and celebration. Walk up the stairs that Jesus and the Apostles undoubtedly traveled as they visited the temple. Go underground and witness Jerusalem's earliest remains, including a Canaanite wall, the possible site of **David's palace**, and a spectacular water system (conditions permitting) that terminates in the **Pool of Siloam**. Dine and relax in your Jerusalem hotel.

**January 15: Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book**

Begin this final day of touring at the **Israel Museum**. Discover an enormous **model of NT Jerusalem**. Linger in the **Shrine of the Book** and witness some of the most important manuscripts of the Bible. After lunch, return to the hotel for rest, clean up, and final packing. After dinner, transfer to Tel-Aviv Airport and depart for home.

**January 16: Arrive in the USA**

