HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SETTINGS OF THE BIBLE



DAY 1: Arrival Day

On this day you will arrive for your program and check in to your housing accommodations. Get some rest and prepare for the start of your program the next morning!



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DAY 2: Old City Walk

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Begin the day with a program orientation to unpack logistics, tour JUC's campus, and meet your instructor. A lecture will lay the groundwork for future field studies, ending with a walk through the four quarters of the Old City.

Suggested Reading: Ps. 48:12–14



DAY 3: OT Jerusalem Walk

9, 6





This day involves an introductory lecture on the geographical, historical, and archaeological contexts of Jerusalem. Embark on a walk around the city, examining how its geography set the stage for historical Old Testament events. *Suggested Reading:* 2 *Sam.* 5; 1 *Kgs.* 7–8; 2 *Kgs.* 18–19; 2 *Kgs.* 24–25; *Ps.* 121



DAY 4: NT Jerusalem Walk

30 6





Set out on a final walk through the city, now looking at the geography of Jerusalem through the lens of the New Testament. A classroom lecture will familiarize you with the land of Benjamin before you explore it.

Suggested Reading: Mt. 23; Jn. 5:1-14; Jn. 9; Acts 2



DAY 5: Jerusalem Approaches

30 7





This field study brings you out of the Jerusalem basin to locate its connections to surrounding regions. This vantage point highlights the city's northern, eastern, and southern approaches, with sites like the Mount of Olives, Herodium, and Bethlehem. Suggested Reading: 2 Sam. 15; Ps. 48; Ezk. 10, 43; Luke 19:28-ch 24



DAY 6: Benjamin

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Today you will be introduced to the geo-political significance of Benjamin. By visiting sites like the Judean Wilderness, Jericho, the Benjamin Plateau, and Gezer, you can analyze the eastern and western approaches to the Judean Hill Country. Suggested Reading: Josh. 2-6; Josh. 9-10; 1 Kgs. 9:15-17; 1 Kgs. 15:9-24



DAY 7: Exploration Day

This day is here for you! Take advantage of a day without lectures to rest, study, explore new places, or revisit familiar sites.

*This is a sample map and itinerary that may not exactly represent the customized itinerary for each individual program. All itineraries are subject to change. Numbers listed for Miles, Hours, and Terrain are estimations and may not represent the exact realities in the field. ©2023 Jerusalem University College





DAY 8: Exam/Field Study Preview

Credit-seeking students will complete their first exam for the course. After the scheduled exam period, all students will gather on campus for a preview of their three-day field study to the south.



DAY 9: Judah, Shephelah, & Philistia







Today you will travel into the Judean Hill Country to investigate the region's isolated nature and the Israelites' appeal to it. Consider the valleys and corridors of the Shephelah that presented opportunity to ancient peoples of the hills and coast. *Suggested Reading: Judg.* 13–16; 1 Sam. 17; 2 Chron. 32; Isa. 5; Jer. 34:1–7



DAY 10: Negev & Great Wilderness

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Spend the day examining the geographical characteristics of the south. Become acquainted with the Biblical Negev by exploring sites like Beersheva, Arad, Ein Avdat, Avdat, and Makhtesh Ramon.

Suggested Reading: Gen. 20-21, 26; Num. 13-14; Deut. 15-18



DAY 11: The Dead Sea Area

10 7





On this day, you will explore sites such as Masada, Ein Gedi, and Qumran. Our objective will be to unpack how the geography of the area influenced its function as a border, a base of resources, and a place of refuge.

Suggested Reading: 1 Sam. 23-24; Ps. 63; Ezk. 47



DAY 12: Samaria

30 5





As you navigate sites like Shiloh, Shechem, Jacob's Well, Mount Gerizim, and the city of Samaria, compare and contrast the hill countries of Ephraim and Manasseh with that of Judah and assess the geo-political situation of the northern kingdom. Suggested Reading: Josh. 8, 24; 1 Sam. 1-4; 1 Kgs. 16:21-34; Jn. 4



DAY 13: Exploration Day

This day is here for you! Take advantage of a day without lectures to rest, study, explore new places, or revisit familiar sites.



DAY 14: Exam/Field Study Preview

Credit-seeking students will complete their second exam for the course. After the scheduled exam period, all students will gather on campus for a preview of the four-day field study to the north, in and around the Sea of Galilee.

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DAY 15: Sharon Plain & Jezreel Valley







A visit to Caesarea Maritima will shed light on the historical decisions that made the Sharon Plain a doorway for international influence. Stops at Mount Carmel, Megiddo, and Tel Jezreel will help unpack the Jezreel Valley's strategic importance. Suggested Reading: Judg. 4–5, 7; 1 Sam. 28, 31; 1 Kgs. 18; 1 Kgs. 21



DAY 16: Upper/Lower Galilee







With a new understanding of the Sharon Plain as an international doorway, this field study will help you interpret the varied responses from people of the north. To do so, you will visit and compare cities like Nazareth and Sepphoris. Suggested Reading: Josh. 19:10-23, 32-39; Lk. 4:14-30; Jn. 2:1-12



DAY 17: Huleh Basin & Golan Heights

9,7





Grow acquainted with the routes of the Upper Jordan Valley and hear the stories of those who traversed them to cultivate an understanding of why historical figures positioned themselves in its vicinity.

Suggested Reading: Josh. 11:1-15; Judg. 17-18; Mt. 16:13-17:23; Acts 9



DAY 18: Sea of Galilee

10 5





This day focuses on Jesus' ministry around the Sea of Galilee. By tapping into the context in which he lived, you will gain insight into the geographical and cultural realities that influenced his teachings and decisions.

Suggested Reading: Mt. 4-11, 14; Mk. 4-5; Lk. 8



DAY 19: Exam/Departure Meeting

Credit-seeking students will complete their third exam for the course. After the scheduled exam period, all students will gather for a final departure meeting.



DAY 20: Exploration Day

This day is here for you! Take advantage of a day without lectures to rest, study, explore new places, or revisit familiar sites.



DAY 21: Departure Day

This day marks the conclusion of your program. Plan to depart Tel Aviv on your scheduled flight. Thank you for entrusting JUC with your journey through the Land of the Bible. We hope to welcome you back again one day!

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HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SETTINGS OF THE BIBLE SAMPLE SITE MAP

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ITINERARY KEY:



Miles on Foot



Hours in the Field



Terrain Intensity (1=Easy, 5=Difficult)

- 1. Jerusalem
 Old City, Mount Zion,
 City of David, Western Wall,
 Church of the Holy Sepulchre,
 Temple Mount Southern Steps,
 Pools of Bethesda,
 Mount of Olives
- 2. Bethlehem Shepherd's Field, Church of the Nativity
- **3.** Herodium
- **4.** Wadi Qilt
- **5.** OT Jericho
- 6. Nebi Samwil
- **7.** Gezer
- 8. Gibeah
- **9.** Beth Shemesh
- 10. Valley of Elah
- 11. Bet Guvrin
- 12. Lachish
- 13. Ashkelon
- **14.** Beersheba
- **15.** Arad
- 16. Ein Avdat
- 17. Avdat
- 18. Makhtesh Ramon
- 19. Masada
- **20**. Ein Gedi
- 21. Qumran
- **22**. Dead Sea
- 23. Shiloh
- 24. Jacob's Well
- **25**. Shechem
- **26.** Samaria
- **27.** Mount Gerazim
- 28. Caesarea
- **29.** Mount Carmel
- **30**. Megiddo
- **31.** Jezreel Valley
- **32.** Beth She'an/Scythopolis
- **33.** Nazareth
- **34.** Sepphoris
- **35**. Mount Arbel
- **36**. Hazor
- **37.** Dan
- **38.** Banias/Caesarea Philippi
- 39. Golan/Damascus Road
- **40.** Capernaum
- 41. Magdala
- **42**. Tabgha/Primacy of Peter
- **43**. Chorazin
 - **44.** Mount of Beatitudes
- **45**. Kursi
- **46.** Sea of Galilee