



## Biblical tours

Since the beginning of Gateway Church, “to the Jew first” has been a foundational principle of the church’s identity based on Romans 1:16. The Bible comes to life when you visit Israel and hearts are transformed.

### **WHY DOES GATEWAY DO IT?**

We desire to see people grow through personal encounter and heart-based revelation of God’s word and develop a biblical, sincere love for Israel and the Jewish people.

### **WHAT DOES GATEWAY DO?**

Provide an experience that creates an atmosphere that invites the Holy Spirit to impart the truth of God’s word, bring forth a heart-based revelation, and an opportunity to initiate an active response.

### **HOW DOES GATEWAY DO IT?**

Plan trips with consistency and excellence, prioritizing a healthy theology that honors God’s heart for the land and people of Israel.

### **GETTING STARTED**

The following key elements can help create a good trip experience.

#### **Vision/Purpose**

Knowing the vision and purpose of the trip will guide the creation of an itinerary and can help identify the places you want to visit.

- Why do you want to go to Israel?
- What do you want the team to take away from the experience?

#### **Set Trip Dates**

When determining travel dates the following should be considered:

- Avoid traveling June-August, due to the heat and check the calendar for both Jewish and Muslim holidays when planning a trip.
- Avoid arriving on a Saturday, as it is Shabbat and hotels are not vacated until after sunset.
- Most hotels and preferred tour guides are booked 18-24 months out.

## Select Tour Company

The selection of a tour company is a foundational component of the trip experience. Make sure the tour company selected shares the same vision and biblical perspective.

Tour Companies in Israel will coordinate the land package from airport pick-up, tour bus, guide, and hotels. They also have experienced staff to help with creating an itinerary. Gateway uses Sar-El Tours or Keshet Journeys Tour agencies.

- [Sar-El Tours](#), Contact Ephraim Greenberg at [ephraim@sareltours.com](mailto:ephraim@sareltours.com) or +972 2 533 8000
- [Keshet Journeys](#), Contact Marnix Van Ede at [marnix@keshetjourneys.com](mailto:marnix@keshetjourneys.com) or +972 54 724 4802

## Select Teaching Resources

There are many resources available so select material that will complement the vision of the trip. Here are a few recommendations:

- *Then and Now Bible Maps*, by Rose Publishing.
- *Satellite Bible Atlas*, William Schlegel
- *Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently About the People and the Land*, by Gerald McDermott.
- *The Jewish Jesus: Reconnecting with the Truth about Jesus, Israel, & the Church*, by David Hoffbrand
- *Restoring the Jewishness of the Gospel*, by David H. Stern
- Bible Hub App Atlas.
- [Gateway Center For Israel](#)
- [Gateway Resource Library](#)

## Additional Resources

These resources are available in the [Gateway Resource Library](#).

- [Timeline](#)
- [Budget Template](#)
- [Leader Training](#)
- [Team Booklet](#)
- **Training Videos: World religion training videos - Jewish and Muslim**

## Itineraries

We have designed two unique trip experiences to provide opportunities for continuous learning.

[Phase 1 itinerary](#) is standard trip visiting most popular sites from the New Testament

[Phase 2 itinerary](#) expands to southern region of Israel to encompass more Old Testament sites and into Samaria

## **Timeline**

The example timeline is a helpful tool in the planning process.

### [Timeline](#)

## **Finances**

A travel agency can assist in calculating trip cost. When using an agency to coordinate the trip details, expect a mark-up on trip cost. This example budget is a helpful tool in calculating expenses.

### [Budget Template](#)

## **Team Preparation**

- **Prayer:** Establish a prayer team for the group. Encourage each team member to ask friends/family to pray for them during each stage of the trip. Physical and spiritual attacks will arise before the trip, so it is important to stand firm against those in the full armor that God has given us, prayer is a part of that armor! (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- **Walk:** Israel is very hilly with lots of steps and steep climbs/descents on rocky, unpaved paths should be expected. Encourage team to prepare their physical body. There are no ADA standards in Israel.
- **Build Community:** Gathering as a team, prior to departure, creates a stronger sense of community which can improve the overall trip experience.

Some say that you don't go to Israel, but instead, that you are sent to Israel. Spend time with the Lord and ask Him to reveal why He is sending you on this trip.

*What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Psalms 84:5 NLT*