

Bible Lands Tour

**An Educational Tour
Offered by East Asia School of Theology**

***Register Early
Space Limited to Enhance the Learning Experience***

28 May – 9 June 2011



A view of the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock from a church on the Mount of Olives

Shalom! Picture yourself cupping your hands to drink water at the same spring where Gideon's band of 300 select men did the same, . . . climbing the steps that led to the altar of the golden calf in the northern kingdom of Israel, . . . or studying about Jesus calming the storms as you sail across the Sea of Galilee.

This is not another pilgrimage that surveys churches and souvenir shops. Instead, I wish to use this experience to teach you God's Word in its original setting. I have taught Bible classes in over 30 countries. In addition, I lived and studied in the Holy Land for three years. As a result of our time together, you will envision more clearly some of the biblical events and why they occurred as they did.

Together we will travel from Dan to Beersheba, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea. The Bible will come alive. You will never read the Scriptures the same way again. My wife and co-host, Jeannette, and I invite you to join us on this trip of a lifetime.

Please read carefully the exciting itinerary designed to enhance your appreciation of the Scriptures. Because this trip is designed to be a learning experience, space is limited. Do not delay in reserving your place on this tour. I trust you can join us.

Dr. Keith A. Shubert

Itinerary

27 May (Friday) Evening check-in at Changi Airport for our Emirates Airlines flight to Dubai.

28 May (Saturday) Depart from Singapore a few minutes after midnight. Arrive in **Amman**, Jordan in the late morning and transfer to our air-conditioned tour bus. We travel across the **Plains of Moab** to **Medaba** where we have lunch. Afterwards we drive south through the regions of **Moab** and **Edom**. In the late afternoon we reach **Petra** – one of the seven new wonders of the world.

29 May (Sunday) Following an early breakfast we have a short ride on horseback to reach the canyon-like **Siq** which we walk through to reach the hidden rock city of **Petra**. We spend the morning exploring some of the palaces, tombs, and storerooms carved out of the cliffs. After lunch we travel south to the **Red Sea** where we cross the border into Israel and spend the night in **Eilat**.

30 May (Monday) After our Bible Study we head north to **Timnah Park** where we walk through a life-size model of the Old Testament Tabernacle. We continue north through portions of the wilderness where the Children of Israel wandered for 40 years. After lunch, we travel to **Beersheva**, the home area of Abraham and Isaac. In the late afternoon we descend below sea level to our hotel located on the southern edge of the **Dead Sea**.

31 May (Tuesday) In the early morning we ascend to **Masada**, which Herod the Great fortified and where the Jews had their final resistance against the Romans until A.D. 73. Upon returning to the hotel, we have the afternoon free to relax, reflect on what we've learned and experienced so far, and enjoy an "unsinkable swim" in the **Dead Sea**. In the evening we have a worship service reflecting on who God is and what we have learned.

1 June (Wednesday) We drive north along the **Dead Sea** and see the region of **Ein Gedi** where David hid near when he fled from Saul. At nearby **Qumran** we see where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered. Nearby is **Jericho**, the first city conquered by Joshua in the Promised Land. We follow the **Jordan River** north to **Bet Shean** where the Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons. Nearby is **Ein-Harod**—the spring where Gideon selected 300 men for his army. We continue north and check into our hotel near the **Sea of Galilee**.

2 June (Thursday) We travel through **upper Galilee** on our way to **Hazor**, the largest city in Palestine during the days of Joshua. In **Dan** we climb the steps leading to the altar where Jeroboam placed a golden calf when the nation divided. We go up to the **Golan Heights** and see the plains of **Bashan** before we stop at **Caesarea Philippi** where Peter confessed Jesus to be the Messiah. We return to our hotel near the **Sea of Galilee**.

3 June (Friday) Today we focus on sites from the life of Christ. We travel by boat across the **Sea of Galilee** and view the "**Jesus Boat**" which shows the size of boats used by fishermen in that area during the first century. Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount on the **Mount of the Beatitudes**. More of Jesus' recorded miracles were performed in **Capernaum** than any other city, yet they did not believe. If time allows, we climb **Mt. Arbel** to overview significant biblical sites along the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. We finish the day at a baptismal site on the **Jordan River** and return to our hotel where we enjoy a Sabbath dinner.

4 June (Saturday) We leave the **Sea of Galilee** and travel uphill to **Nazareth** where we experience what life was like during the time of Christ. We cross the **Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon)** and at the top of **Mt. Carmel** see where Elijah took a stand for God against the prophets of Baal. We stop at the strategic city, **Megiddo**, which Solomon fortified and then follow the ancient **Via Maris** road to **Caesarea**, on the coastline of the **Mediterranean Sea**. It was here that Peter preached in Cornelius' home and later Paul was imprisoned for two years. We leave the coastal plain and go up to **Jerusalem**, where we check into our hotel.

5 June (Sunday) We begin our day at the ancient city of **King David** and walk down to **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, which King Hezekiah commissioned to bring spring water into Jerusalem. This wet hike will end at the **Pool of Siloam**, where Jesus sent the blind man to wash and be healed. After changing into dry clothing we enter the **Old City** and go to the Davidson Center and climb the **Southern Steps**, which Christ would have walked when he entered and left the Temple. We follow a tunnel along the **Western Wall** and see some of the large stones Herod the Great used in the construction of the **Temple Mount**. Later we visit the **Pool of Bethesda** where Jesus healed the crippled man. We continue to the **Israel Museum** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are displayed and view a **scale-model of Jerusalem** as it was in the time of Christ.

6 June (Monday) We enter the **Old City** through the **Dung Gate** and walk up to the **Temple Mount** area. A short distance away is the fortress **Antonia** where Pilate condemned Christ to death. We then follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, the site of the crucifixion. After lunch we walk through the **Jewish Quarter** and see a section of the wall Hezekiah fortified. Observing remnants of a home destroyed in 70 A.D. helps us better understand the setting of the Book of Hebrews. Later we visit the **Upper Room** where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples. We have lunch in the **wilderness** east of Jerusalem in the area where Jesus was tempted and see what nomadic life was like for Abraham. We drive to the top of the **Mount of Olives** where we overview the **Old City of Jerusalem**. We walk down the **Mount of Olives** to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where Jesus was betrayed.

7 June (Tuesday) We travel a few kilometers south to **Bethlehem's Shepherd's Fields** where the angels told the shepherds of Christ's birth. We return to **Jerusalem** and gather at the **Garden Tomb** where we remember Christ's death and resurrection with a communion service. An unscheduled afternoon allows time to revisit significant places, shopping, reflection, rest or an optional visit to the **Holocaust Museum**. The Feast of First Fruits begins at dusk and we enjoy a special dinner at our hotel.

8 June (Wednesday) After breakfast we take the road of the Good Samaritan through the **Judean Wilderness** and pass **Jericho** on our way to the border. After crossing the border we travel up **Mt. Nebo** where Moses overlooked the Promised Land before he died. We cross the **Plains of Moab** and enter region of **Ammon** as we near the city **Amman**. We have a farewell lunch in **Amman** celebrating all we have learned and new friendships gained. We go to the airport and check-in for our flight. We arrive in Dubai in the evening and spend several hours there.

9 June (Thursday) The early morning hours in the Dubai airport allow extra time to explore the world's leading duty free shops. We return to Singapore in the early afternoon. We read the Bible with a new understanding and we will never be the same.

Tour Cost: SGD 4749 (Based on "Early Bird" discount up to SGD 350)

Included Costs: Airfare; airline taxes such as airport taxes, security tax, and noise tax (excluding fuel surcharge); standard room accommodations at hotels in Jordan and Israel based on twin sharing; daily buffet breakfast and dinner in Jordan and Israel; entrance fees to all specified sites; Israeli and Jordanian departure fees; Jordanian visa (for Singaporean citizens); rental of a horse to/from the Siq in Petra; roundtrip airport transfers in Amman, Jordan (if arriving/departing with main tour group); study guide for sites visited; services of English speaking guides; air-conditioned buses; portorage of one 30 kg piece of luggage and one piece of hand luggage; and **all** tips (guides, drivers, hotels, meals, and porters).

Excluded Costs: Fees to obtain/renew a passport; airline fuel surcharge; travel insurance; extra beverages with meals; Jordan River baptismal fee; transfer and portorage of excess luggage in addition to one piece of checked luggage; upgrade of hotel room or airline seat; single room supplement; transfer fees if not traveling with the main group; personal expenses (such as phone calls, room service, use of mini bar, laundry, business center or internet connection fees, and shopping); costs related to a stopover in Dubai; travel to/from Jordanian or Israeli Embassies (for citizens of some countries where a personal appearance is required); and citizens of some countries may have higher visa fees for Israel and Jordan compared with citizens of Singapore and will be asked to pay the difference in cost.

Luggage: Each passenger coming from the Singapore is allowed only one piece of checked luggage weighing up to 30 kilograms plus one piece of hand luggage not exceeding 17" x 14" x 8". A fee will be assessed for more than one piece of checked luggage.

What to Bring: Bible, notebook, hat or umbrella for sun protection, sun screen lotion, sturdy walking shoes, casual clothing for touring, long trousers or skirt for certain religious sites, dress-up casual for Sabbath dinner, water shoes for use at the Dead Sea beach and in Hezekiah's Tunnel, flashlight and batteries for use in Hezekiah's Tunnel, camera with extra batteries and memory cards, skin lotion, personal toiletries, swimsuit, and spending money.

Documentation: Participants must ensure that their passports are valid for a minimum of six (6) months after entry into Israel and Jordan. Citizens of some countries may need to appear in person at the Jordanian or Israeli Embassy in Singapore to obtain a visa. If it is rejected, a maximum of two appeals will be made. Cruise and Tours will submit group visa applications to Jordan six weeks prior to departure as required by the government.

Accommodation Options: All accommodations will be on twin-sharing basis in standard rooms containing two beds at hotels.

- Married couples who wish to share one double bed should specify this request on the registration form submitted with the deposit.
- If a single person traveling alone wishes to share a room with another person of the same gender, he/she should indicate on the registration form submitted with the deposit that he/she is allowing the Organizers to assign a roommate of the same gender if such a person has signed up and would like a roommate. Otherwise the single participant must be prepared to pay for Single Room charge which is an additional cost of US \$856.
- There is no reduction of cost if three adults (including children ages 12+) share a room.

Children: Because of this tour has an educational emphasis, it is not recommended for children.

East Asia School of Theology (EAST) Class Credit: Those wishing to obtain four hours of masters-level credit can do so. Homework must be completed prior to the trip to enhance the learning experience. Questions about homework requirements can be sent to studytour@east.edu.sg. Those who indicate on the trip registration form that they wish to receive class credit will receive instructions how to register for the class. EAST tuition fees will be assessed upon class registration. The cost of the textbook is not included in the tuition fee.

Pre-Trip Sessions and Orientation: Since this is an educational tour there will be three pre-trip sessions at EAST prior to the trip for both those taking the class for credit and those going for personal enrichment. These sessions will provide biblical and cultural contexts of many sites/regions to be visited. A fourth and final orientation will occur about three weeks before departure to provide additional information about the schedule, flights, clothing, and security, or any other questions participants may have.

Travelers not Originating from Singapore and/or Using Frequent Flyer Miles: Participants not coming with the group from Singapore and/or those using frequent flyer miles will need to make their own flight arrangements. However, Cruise and Tours can assist participants originating from other countries with flight arrangements. Contact Mr. Ronnie Yeo at Cruise and Tours for more information. The land package cost is up to SGD3780 (see details on next page, including how to obtain the SGD350 early bird discount).

Arrangements should be made to arrive at Queen Alia International Airport (Amman, Jordan) prior to 10 a.m. on 28 May 2011 and depart after 5 p.m. on 8 June 2011 or from Tel Aviv (Israel) in the evening of 8 June or anytime on 9 June 2011. Accommodations and airport transfers for those not traveling with the main group can be arranged at an additional cost. To make these arrangements please contact Cruise and Tours via studytours@east.edu.sg.

Dubai Stopover: Some participants may wish to stopover in Dubai either before or after the tour. Requests for a stopover in Dubai either before or after the tour must be noted on the registration form. Participants can choose to either make their own accommodation, travel, and tour arrangements or avail of Emirates Airlines "Dubai Stopover" packages available through Cruise and Tours. All expenses related to a stopover in Dubai are not included in the tour package price. Some nationalities may need to obtain visas for UAE prior to leaving Singapore. The stopover is subject to availability of airline seating and there may be an estimated surcharge of SG100-175 to adjust the ticket from group to individual rate.

Facilities: Certain facilities such as museums and sightseeing tours may not be available as stated. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible.

Minimum Number of Participants: The cost of the trip is based upon a minimum of 30 participants. Cruise and Tours and the East Asia School of Theology reserve the right to cancel a group if it falls below the minimum number of participants based on the price pegged. It may be agreed that an add-on or supplement be applied for a smaller group.

Payment Procedures: All payments should be made directly to East Asia School of Theology. Contact Ms. Jaclyn Ng at EAST for exact details on how/where payments can be made. Participants residing outside Singapore should email her for details regarding bank transfer of funds. She can be contacted by email at Jaclyn@east.edu.sg or by telephone at (65) 6291-9744 ext. 204.

Schedule of Payments:

	Participants from Singapore <u>or</u> those residing outside of Singapore but traveling from Singapore with the group (SGD5099.00 **)	Participants from other countries making own travel arrangements <u>or</u> individuals using frequent flyer miles (SGD3780.00 **)
Deposit (<i>Non-refundable but transferable</i>) Due by 7 December, 2010	\$1000	\$1000
1st Payment ** Due by 7 January, 2011	\$1500	\$1000
2nd Payment ** Due by 7 February, 2011	\$1500	\$1000
3rd Payment ** Due by 7 March 2011	\$1099 + fuel surcharge	\$780

**** "Early-bird" Discount:** When a payment (deposit or payments 1-3) is made in full on or before the stated date, the participant will receive a SGD75 discount for that payment. Thus, if a person pays the deposit and all three payments on or before the stated dates, he/she will receive discounts totaling SGD300. There is an additional discount of SGD50 if the third and fourth payments are paid in full on or before 7 February 2011.

Airline Fuel Surcharge: Fuel surcharges are not fixed and subject to change. As of 21 October 2010 the fuel surcharge for round-trip Singapore-Amman flights on Emirates Airlines was SGD155.

Cancellation Charges:

Prior to 27 March, 2011	\$300 administration fee
60-45 days prior to departure	25% of total price
44-30 days prior to departure	50% of total price
29-15 days prior to departure	75% of total price
14-8 days prior to departure	90% of total price
7 days through day of departure	100% of total price

Tickets once purchased are subject to the airline cancellation fees if the participant cannot join the trip.

Cancellation Procedures: Participants who need to cancel are requested to accomplish the cancellation request in writing with accompanying documentation (such as medical certificates). The reason for cancellation should be stated. The request must be submitted to Cruise and Tours on or before departure date. Cruise and Tours and the EAST organizers reserve the right to forfeit the deposits when a participant cancels his booking. The deposit amount however may be assigned by the participant to someone else (new sign up) with charges.

Responsibility: Cruise and Tours, a division of Eurotours & Travel Pte Ltd, and the East Asia School of Theology tour organizers act as intermediary between contractors (airlines, guides, hotels, transport companies, etc) and the participant. They cannot assume responsibility or liability for any loss, injury, delay, accident, or irregularity that may occur while carrying out the services of the contractors. The participant agrees that Cruise and Tours, a division of Eurotours & Travel Pte Ltd, and the East Asia School of Theology, shall not be liable for any damage, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss) or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or any insurer, insurance of any other person including hold departure orders and denied boarding or entry by Immigration Officials of the countries of origin or destination.

Questions?? If you would like more information about the trip please contact studytour@east.edu.sg .

How to Sign-Up for the Trip: The trip registration form is available either at the EAST website (www.east.edu.sg) or from the EAST Administrative Office. An individual will be considered as signed-up for the trip when the EAST Administrative Office has received the following: (1) the completed registration form, (2) a photocopy of the passport ID page, and (3) the deposit.

East Asia School of Theology

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Cruise and Tours

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