



# Israel: Timeless Wonders

December 2-13, 2023

**12 days for \$7,184 total price from Oklahoma City**  
(\$6,395 air & land inclusive plus \$789 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
seven-time honoree  
Travel + Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.



*Hosted by OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas  
and First Lady Jill Thomas*



Dear OBU Alumni,

Join OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas and First Lady Jill Thomas on an exclusive 12-day small group tour to Israel to discover a remarkable and timeless land, experiencing places of beauty and belief.

Begin with touring of vibrant Tel Aviv, where you tour the "White City" district and nearby Jaffa. In the hills of Galilee, stay at a hotel on the grounds of a kibbutz. Continue on to Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and take a day trip to Nazareth and Safed. Spending the next five nights at the renowned King David Jerusalem hotel, enjoy an in-depth discovery of the "City of Gold" that includes the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, the Old City, the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as an excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea. Explore "rose-red" Petra and the capital city of Amman with an optional 5-day/4-night post-tour Jordan extension.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly! Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Reserve risk-free today!

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk  
Director  
OBU Alumni Association

**OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RESERVATION FORM – ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS**

To reserve your place on tour, please call **Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

**If you prefer**, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**  
**Attn: Special Interest Groups**  
**One Newton Place**  
**275 Washington Street, Suite 300**  
**Newton, MA 02458**

**ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS • DECEMBER 2-13, 2023**

I/We would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)  
Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/We request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_  
I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)   
**Post-Tour "Jordan: Petra & Amman" Extension:** Please sign me/us up

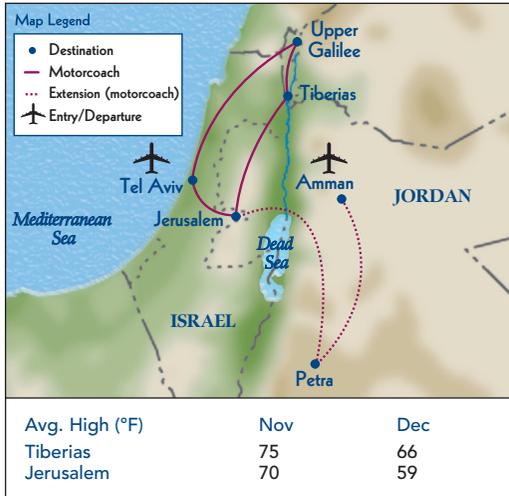
Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and friends

# Israel: Timeless Wonders

**12 days for \$7,184 total price from Oklahoma City**

(\$6,395 air & land inclusive plus \$789 airline taxes and fees)

*Encounter a land of extraordinary beauty and belief, of spirit and story, history and hospitality. From modern Tel Aviv to scenic Upper Galilee, ancient Tiberias and storied Nazareth to Jerusalem, “City of Gold,” we engage all our senses in a small group encounter with this extraordinary and holy land, with a five-night stay in Jerusalem at the legendary King David hotel.*



**Day 1: Depart U.S. for Tel Aviv, Israel**

**Day 2: Arrive Tel Aviv** We arrive today and transfer to our hotel. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities or meals planned and are at leisure to explore or relax as we wish.

**Day 3: Tel Aviv** Today we encounter the vibrant modern city of Tel Aviv, Israel's arts and culture capital. Our tour features Independence Hall, where the state of Israel was declared in 1948; the “White City” district of distinctive Bauhaus architecture, a UNESCO World Heritage site; and the recently renovated neighborhood of Neve Tzedek. We end the day visiting the nearby ancient port of Jaffa. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel. *B,L,D*

**Day 4: Tel Aviv/Upper Galilee** We travel north along the coast today to Caesarea to see the ruins of an ancient Roman amphitheater and harbor. We continue on to the artists' village of Ein Hod, set amidst olive groves at the foot of Mt. Carmel overlooking the sea. Here we have the opportunity to visit the homes of some local artists and tour their workshops. Then, we ascend (weather permitting) to the top of Mt. Carmel for a lecture and prayer by Dr. Thomas. We continue through the hills of Galilee to our hotel on the grounds of a *kibbutz* adjacent to a national park. Later we visit a working farm. *B,D*

**Day 5: Mount Bental/Tiberias** Today begins with a special tour of the *kibbutz*. We continue on to Mount Bental in the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Next: the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath; Tabgha, site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; and Kibbutz Ginosar, where we see the “Jesus Boat” carbon dated to 100 BCE. We travel on to Tiberias and our historic hotel on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Important in both Judaism and Christianity, this ancient city has attracted visitors, settlers, and invaders for more than two millennia. *B,L,D*

**Day 6: Tiberias/Nazareth** This morning we visit the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. Then the New Testament comes to life as we travel to Jesus' boyhood home of Nazareth, now a center of Christian pilgrimage. Here

## Small Group Tour Highlights

Tel Aviv touring, including “White City” of Bauhaus architecture • Jaffa's ancient port • Artists' village of Ein Hod • Overnight stay on a working *kibbutz* • Biblical sites of Tiberias, Nazareth, Mount of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee • Cooking demonstration • Five-night Jerusalem stay at legendary King David hotel • Jerusalem touring, including Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Old City, Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Israel Museum, Ein Karem • Dead Sea Qumran Caves • Fortress ruins of Masada

Day Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Tel Aviv	
2-3	Tel Aviv Hotel Dan Tel Aviv	Deluxe
4	Upper Galilee Hagoshrim Hotel & Nature	First Class
5-6	Tiberias The Scots Hotel	Sup. First Class
7-11	Jerusalem King David Jerusalem	Deluxe
12	Depart Tel Aviv for U.S.	

*Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.*

Cover Photo: We enjoy guided touring and ample time to explore on our own in Jerusalem.



We explore the ruins at legendary Masada on Day 8.

we visit the Church of the Annunciation, the largest church in the Middle East and where the archangel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. We enjoy lunch at a family-run dairy farm then continue to Safed, center of Jewish mysticism, home to many artists, and where we stroll the medieval streets. We visit some of the galleries here before returning to our hotel, where we dine tonight. *B,L,D*

**Day 7: Tiberias/Jerusalem** En route to Jerusalem today, we stop to tour the archaeological site of Beit Shean, where ongoing excavations have revealed the ruins of numerous cities dating as far back as the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Then we travel on to Jerusalem, the 3,000-year-old “City of Gold,” sacred to the world’s three major monotheist religions. We get our first look at this holiest of places from a panoramic look-out on Mt. Scopus. After lunch at a local restaurant, we check into our hotel and have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. We dine tonight at our hotel. *B,L,D*

**Day 8: Jerusalem/Masada/Dead Sea** Today we travel to the shores of the Dead Sea to explore the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956. We continue on to the ruins at Masada, the celebrated mountain stronghold (and UNESCO site) where outnumbered Jews held out against a three-year Roman siege in the first century CE then committed suicide rather than surrender. We ascend the mountain fortress by cable car to tour the ruins, which overlook the desert and the Dead Sea. Then we have the opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea – at a hotel beach with indoor and outdoor pools before lunch together at the hotel. We return to Jerusalem this afternoon. *B,L*

**Day 9: Jerusalem** We start today’s touring with a visit to the Haas Promenade for panoramic views of

the city before we continue to Jerusalem’s Old City for a tour of the excavated tunnels beneath the Western Wall. Then we visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional site of Golgotha where Jesus is believed to have been crucified and buried. This afternoon, we get acquainted with the New City, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. We absorb some of the flavor of this multi-cultural enclave at the bustling outdoor market of Machane Yehuda (“Shuk”), encountering local residents as they shop for fruit, vegetables, meat, and more. *B*

## Post-Tour Extension

December 13-17, 2023

### Jordan: Petra & Amman

5 days/4 nights for \$1,795 total price

Single Supplement: \$395

*Discover the “rose-red city, half as old as time” on this exciting exploration. Plus: the capital of Amman.*

## Your Tour Price Includes

- Private motorcoach transportation Jerusalem/Petra/Amman
- 4 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Petra at Mövenpick Resort Petra (Superior First Class); 2 nights in Amman at Grand Hyatt Amman (Deluxe)
- 9 meals: 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Extensive included sightseeing of Petra and Amman
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



... FAITH HOVERS OVER  
THE TOWERS OF JERUSALEM.”

– BENJAMIN DISRAELI

**Day 10: Jerusalem** Our day begins with a tour of haunting Yad Vashem, Israel’s living memorial to the Holocaust set on a 45-acre site on the Mount of Remembrance. Through exhibits featuring artifacts, photos, videos, documents, and more, the museum traces the history and chronology of the Holocaust. Then we travel to the Judean Hills to the picturesque village of Ein Karem, where we enjoy an ethnic cooking demonstration. We return to Jerusalem where the remainder of the afternoon is free to explore as we wish – or we may choose to join in a complimentary optional excursion to Bethlehem. *B,L*

**Day 11: Jerusalem/Old City** We return to the Old City today, starting at the original settlement of the City of David, dating to at least the Middle Bronze Age of 1800 to 1550 BCE. Our guide gives us an in-depth account of Jerusalem’s role throughout history before we embark on a walking tour: the Jewish Quarter; the ancient Cardo marketplace still in use today; and the Western Wall, sacred to Jews as the last remaining trace of the wall that enclosed and supported the Second Temple on the Temple Mount. We spend the afternoon at the Israel Museum, the nation’s leading cultural institution, whose treasures include the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Shrine of the Book, and a scale model of Jerusalem from the Second Temple era. Tonight, we celebrate our Israel adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,L,D*



*Devout Jews pray at Jerusalem’s Western Wall.*

## Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 23 meals: 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



*Hosted by OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas and First Lady Jill Thomas*

**Day 12: Depart Tel Aviv for U.S.** Very early this morning we transfer by motorcoach to Tel Aviv for our connecting flights to the United States. *B*

## Tour Departs: December 2, 2023

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$6,684
Miami, Washington, DC	\$6,984
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa	\$7,084
Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$7,184
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$789, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,995. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days from departure. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,995 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,695 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade prices are in addition to the costs above.

**Please note:** This trip involves considerable walking on uneven or cobblestone streets and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

**For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765**

**Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time**

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

**Not Included in Tour Price:** Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

**Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes:** If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

**Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

**Responsibility:** The liability of the Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

**Health and Medical Issues:** We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, the Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

**Air Transportation – Important Information:** Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

**COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols:** *The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided to you prior to your departure.*



OBU Alumni Association  
500 W. University  
Shawnee, OK 74804

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Odysseys  
Unlimited, Inc.



JOIN US FOR  
AN EXCLUSIVE OBU  
TOUR TO ISRAEL!

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully  
refundable up to 95 days before departure