



Discovery Insiders Tour of Israel:

*Connecting with the Leaders
of Ancient and Modern Israel
Offered by Discovery Institute*

*With Guest Host and Discovery Institute Senior Fellow **Michael Medved**
And the participation and ongoing input of Discovery Institute Senior Fellows
Stephen Meyer and George Gilder and archeologist **Titus Kennedy***

September 8-17, 2019

Join Discovery Institute and talk show host Michael Medved for an in-depth and stimulating tour of Israel. You will see not only the Holy Land and modern Israel but gain insight into the spirit of Israel and its leaders. Plus, you will explore the relationship between faith and science, the role of entrepreneurship in the development of new technologies, and the archeological evidence for Biblical history.

Today's crisis of leadership concerns us all. Join us for as we explore models of leadership from the Bible and the modern State of Israel, meeting leaders and individuals whose values and clarity of action serve as a source of inspiration.

This tour will take us to sites of religious, historical and cultural significance as well as great vistas of natural beauty in off-the-beaten-path locales in Israel. Meet heroes of modern Israel, commanders in the IDF, political leaders, visionaries and private citizens.

Stay in fine hotels, enjoy fine food with a famed Israeli breakfast every day and travel up close and personal alongside Michael Medved and his family as we explore Israel together!

Talk show host Michael Medved will offer his unique perspective and insight into Israel, its role as the Holy Land and the Jewish State.

Draft Itinerary

Sunday, Sept. 8: *Departure*

- Depart U.S.

Monday, Sept. 9: *Bruchim HaBa'im (Welcome)!*

- Arrive in Tel Aviv.
- Optional Walking Tour of ancient **Jaffa** and the pioneering **Tel Aviv** neighborhood of **Neve Zedek**.
- Cocktails and Dinner with **Michael Medved** overlooking the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Late Night: Michael Medved Live Radio Broadcast.**

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Tuesday, Sept. 10: *Modern Israel*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- ***Against All Odds:*** Visit **Independence Hall** to explore Israel's first prime minister **David Ben Gurion's** decision to declare Independence against the express opposition of U.S. President **Harry Truman** and his Secretary of State, former U.S. Chief of Staff **George Marshall**.
- ***Israel: A Light Unto the Nations?*** Meet with the founders of **IsraAID**, first responders in Haiti, Japan and other sites of natural disasters around the world to learn about Israel's vision of its role in and out of Israel.
- ***A Portrait of Israel:*** Visit selected art galleries for an insight into how the challenges facing the nation create art which expresses the depth of the nation's struggles.
- Continue to **Holon** to learn about the work of **Save A Child's Heart**, a unique institution which has provided life-saving heart surgery for over 3,400 children from Africa, the Middle East, Gaza and the West Bank.
- Dinner on own in ancient **Jaffa**, the town of Biblical origins from which modern Tel Aviv grew.
- ***The Israel Test:*** Hear **Discovery Institute** co-founder **George Gilder** discuss why the world's most besieged state is a beacon of freedom and hope for the world economy.
- **Late Night: Michael Medved Live Radio Broadcast.**

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, Sept. 11: *The Assyrian Threat*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Meeting at the hotel with Israeli author **Eshkol Nevo** for his insights into who are the heroes in Israel today. Mr. Nevo's grandfather, after whom he is named, was **Levi Eshkol**, Israel's prime minister during the Six Day War in 1967.
- ***Heroine of Co-existence:*** Travel to the city of **Lod** to meet with principle **Sharin Natur Hafi**, champion of the future of underprivileged Arabs of Lod and proponent of co-existence. Ms. Hafi, who is an Arab, holds a doctorate in Hebrew literature and teaches at a Jewish religious boys' school in Jerusalem.

- **David and Goliath:** Travel to **Tel Azeika** above the **Ela Valley** to understand the geography of the battle between the young shepherd David, son of Jesse and the Philistine giant.
- Wine tasting and light Lunch at the **Ela Valley Winery**.
- **Like a Bird in a Cage:** Visit **Tel Lachish**, site of Assyrian general **Sennacherib's** siege and conquest during the revolt of Judean **King Hezekiah** of Jerusalem in the Eighth Century.
- **50 Days of Life & Death Decisions in 3 Second Windows:** Visit an IDF base for a detailed briefing and discussion on the ethical challenges of combat in Gaza from one of the senior commanders of Israel's UAV squadrons.
- Travel across the **Negev Desert** to the **Dead Sea**, lowest point on earth. Along the way discuss the challenges of land management and the growing demands of Bedouin populations, one of Israel's most pressing social and security challenges.
- Dinner in the hotel.
- **The Bible and Archeology:** In this session with Discovery Institute Senior Fellow Stephen Meyer and Discovery Institute archeologist Titus Kennedy learn all the ways that modern archeology has been providing evidence for the historicity of the Bible.
- **Late Night: Michael Medved Live Radio Broadcast.**

Overnight: Isrotel, Ein Bokek.

Thursday, Sept. 12: *What Price Freedom?*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Time at the hotel spa (reserve treatments ahead of time).
- Visit **Masada**, stronghold of the Zealots to understand the historical background and implications of what happened there nearly 2,000 years ago.
- Visit the oasis at **Ein Gedi**, site of one of **David's** dramatic encounters with **King Saul**.
- Stop at **Qumran**, home of the **Essenes** and site of the discovery of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**.
- Visit **Ethiopian** Jewish immigrants in their homes in **Ma'aleh Adumim** to hear first-hand the account of their quest for freedom as they fled Ethiopia and trekked through the desert to **Sudan** where they waited for months in refugee camps before being airlifted to Israel by the **Mossad**.
- Transfer to **Jerusalem** with welcome ceremony overlooking the city in Biblical tradition.
- Dinner.
- Evening: Tour of one of Jerusalem's neighborhoods, **Nachlaot**, including a traditional challah bread baking workshop.
- **Late Night: Michael Medved Live Radio Broadcast.**

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem (Jerusalem's newest 5-star hotel!).

Friday, Sept. 13:***Biblical and Modern Jerusalem***

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the **Israel Museum** to see the **Shrine of the Book** with its **Dead Sea Scrolls** and the **Holy Land Model** of Jerusalem during the days of the Second Temple. Finally, explore the **Archaeology Wing** with its copies of the relief from **Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh** describing his siege and conquest of **Lachish** as well as the **Sennacherib Prism** describing the (unsuccessful) siege of Jerusalem during **King Hezekiah's** reign.
- Continue to the **City of David**. Here we'll discuss the history of the city, its founding as the capital by **King David**, the role of the prophets here and the heroic stand of **King Hezekiah** against the Assyrians. Meet with a staff archaeologist who will guide us through the remains thought by many to be remnants of the **palace** and **administrative center** of **King David** and **King Solomon**. Optional walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, a waterway carved before the Assyrian siege 2,500 years ago to bring water into the city during the siege.
- Lunch on own in the **Jewish Quarter**.
- View the **Broad Wall**, thought to be a part of the expanded defenses of Jerusalem built before the Assyrian siege and referred to by **Isaiah the Prophet** in **Isaiah 22:9 – 10**.
- Experience the hustle and bustle before Shabbat (the Sabbath) in Jerusalem at the vibrant **Machaneh Yehudah** open air fruit and vegetable market.
- Pre-Shabbat (Sabbath) session with **Michael Medved** on the meaning of Shabbat observance.
- Visit the **Kotel (Western Wall)** with dance and prayer as Jerusalem welcomes the Shabbat.
- Walk through the streets of Jerusalem to absorb its unique Shabbat atmosphere.
- Enjoy a festive Shabbat Dinner with Michael Medved and family, including his Venture Capitalist and entrepreneur brother **Jonathan Medved**.

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem.

Shabbat, Sept. 14:***Shabbat in Jerusalem***

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **OPTION1: MOUNT OF OLIVES**
 - Tour the Mt. of Olives, including the chapel of **Dominus Flevit**, the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Basilica of All Nations**.
 - Visit the **Garden Tomb** to remember the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.
- **OPTION 2: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM**
 - Time to join one of the many synagogues near the hotel for Shabbat morning services.
 - Jerusalem neighborhoods walking tour.
 - The Third Meal (dinner): Enjoy a shared meal towards the end of the Sabbath.
- Both groups:
 - **Havdalah** service, commemorating the conclusion of Shabbat.
 - Evening: **Science, Faith, and Intelligent Design**: Hear Discovery Institute Senior Fellow **Stephen Meyer** and a panel of distinguished Israeli scientists discuss the growing evidence of intelligent design in nature.

Overnight: Orient Hotel, Jerusalem.

Sunday, Sept. 15 The Conquest of the Land

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Briefing by former IDF Chief of Staff and Defense Minister **Moshe “Bogey” Ya’alon**: Israel’s Military Challenges (upon availability).
- Continue to **Qasr El Yahud**, traditional site where the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land and site of the baptism of **Jesus** by **John the Baptist**.
- Visit **Jericho**, oldest city in the world. Meet with **Tass Saada**, former PLO operative and now founder of **Seeds of Hope**, working with kindergarten children and their parents to create a better future. Then visit **Tel Jericho**, including newly understood evidence of the destruction of the city at the time of **Joshua**.
- Climb to **Et-Tell** to see evidence of the city of **Ha’Ai**, the second city conquered by Joshua with **Discovery Institute** archeologist **Titus Kennedy**.
- Continue to the **Jordan River Valley**. Visit **Bio-Bee** at **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu**. Learn about kibbutz and Bio Bee Biological Systems, one of the leading international companies in the field of Biologically-based Integrated Pest Management.
- Travel to **Tiberias** on the **Sea of Galilee** for Dinner and a sunset cruise.

Overnight: Ramot Hotel overlooking the Sea of Galilee

Monday, Sept. 16: *Jesus in the Galilee*

- Breakfast at the hotel. Today we’ll have two options in the morning through the early afternoon:
- **Option I: *Jesus in the Galilee***
 - Tour **Capernaum**, home base of Jesus’ Ministry.
 - Visit **Tabgha** where the miracles of the loaves and the fishes is commemorated.
 - Continue to the **Mt. of Beatitudes** to remember the **Sermon on the Mount**.
 - Explore the newly excavated **Migdal** Synagogue, home town of **Mary Magdalene**.
- **Option II: *Between A Rock and a Hard Place***
 - Travel to **Zefat**, city of Mysticism for a tour of the Old City and its ancient synagogues.
 - Visit the **Ziv Hospital**, where hundreds of injured Syrian civilians have been treated throughout the **Syrian Civil War**.
 - **Art and Kabbala**: Meet acclaimed mystical artist David Friedman in his studio to understand Kabbalistic ideas as expressed in his paintings.
 - Travel to **Rosh Pina** to meet with **Hezi Segev** to hear the powerful and touching story of his son **Nimrod** who fell in Lebanon in 2006 and his efforts to memorialize him.
- **Both Groups:**
 - Travel to **Tel Saki**, battle sight from the **Yom Kippur War** in 1973 to meet with **Nir Atir**, one of the heroes of that war in which a handful of determined soldiers stopped the advance of a vastly larger and better equipped Syrian army.
 - Return to our hotel for a BBQ Farewell Dinner overlooking the Sea of Galilee.
- **Late Night: Michael Medved Live Radio Broadcast.**

Overnight: Ramot Hotel.

Tuesday, Sept. 17: *The Galilee in the Time of Jesus*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Additional touring or use the hotel facilities based on flight details.
- Transfer to the airport for flights back to the US.

