THE HOLY LAND: ISRAEL & PALESTINE
with Peter Machinist
Hancock Research Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages
September 6–16, 2020
On this in-depth exploration of fascinating Israel and Palestine, journey through golden deserts, volcanic plateaus, verdant mountains, and seaside Roman towns to behold some of the most sacred treasures known to humanity. Learn how Christian, Jewish, and Muslim cultures converge in this diverse land with profound importance for all three faiths. In the pleasant warmth of fall, marvel at biblical and archaeological sites whose stories helped shape Western Civilization.

Begin in Jerusalem, and immerse yourself in its unparalleled religious history, from a curator-led perusal of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum to an expert-guided tour of the Temple Mount. Explore the Israeli-Palestinian barrier zone with one of its original architects. On the edge of the Judean Desert in Palestine, travel to Bethlehem to see the iconic Church of the Nativity, a UNESCO-listed basilica thought to hold the birthplace of Jesus.

Discover Tzefat (Safed), which was once the center of Kabbalah, and admire the green mountain scenery of the Golan Heights. Visit ancient Capernaum, where Jesus studied and preached, and historic Tiberias, built on the Sea of Galilee by King Herod Antipas. Conclude in the vibrant Mediterranean city of Tel Aviv for a window into modern Israel at its stylish “White City.” On an excursion to the 3,000-year-old seaport of Jaffa, tour the Old Quarter as well as the Ajami neighborhood, unique in Israel for its mix of Arabs and Jews. Meetings with distinguished guests and political figures will enhance this deeply enriching tour.

Activity Level 3: ⛏️ ⛷️ ⛳️ ⛰️ ⛵️

WHAT TO EXPECT
This is an active program that involves extensive walking and standing during visits to museums and historic sites. Travelers should be in good health and fit enough to navigate stairs and walk along uneven terrain. Good walking shoes are a must! Temperatures during your stay in Israel and Palestine should range from the low 60s to the low 80s °F. During the day we recommend clothing that can be layered to provide warmth in the cool mornings and evenings and removed during the warmer parts of the day. At religious sites, men and women should cover their knees and shoulders.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, © Michael Wong

Peter Machinist is the Hancock Research Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages at Harvard University, where he’s been since 1991. He is a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, serving the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Committee on the Study of Religions, and the Harvard Divinity School. He also served as visiting lecturer and Lady Davis Visiting Professor in Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His primary interest is in the cultural, intellectual, and social history of the ancient Near East, focusing particularly on ancient Israel and the Hebrew Bible, and ancient Mesopotamia. Among his publications are Outsiders and Insiders; The Biblical View of Emergent Israel and Its Contexts, Biblical Traditions; The Philistines and Israelite History, and The Voice of the Historian in the Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean World. He is currently working on a volume of commentary on the prophetic book of Nahum.
Schedule by Day
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Departure
Depart on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Tel Aviv, Israel / Jerusalem
Arrive at Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion Airport and transfer to Jerusalem, a city central to three monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Accommodations for four nights are at the well-located David Citadel Hotel. This evening, gather for introductory remarks by your study leader, followed by dinner.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
Jerusalem
Following a morning lecture, tour the Tower of David Museum near the Old City’s Jaffa Gate. Built within a medieval citadel, the museum charts the long and complex history of Jerusalem. Before lunch, take a walking tour through the Christian and Armenian quarters to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Explore the Jewish quarter this afternoon, then stroll through the Ophel Archaeological Gardens, which showcase the Byzantine and early Arab excavations at the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount. The evening is at leisure. You may wish to dine at one of Jerusalem’s memorable restaurants or explore the city’s live music scene.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Jerusalem
Spend the morning exploring the Seam Line, an Israeli-Palestinian barrier zone, in the company of one of its architects, a colonel who led the Israeli Central Command and took part in negotiations with the Palestinians. Tour the Israel Museum, including the famed Dead Sea Scrolls, with a curator. Lunch is at a nearby modern restaurant. This afternoon, visit Yad Vashem, a memorial complex including the Historical Museum, the poignant Children’s Memorial, and the Avenue of the Righteous. Tonight dine at a popular local restaurant.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Jerusalem / Bethlehem
In the morning, join an expert to discover the Temple Mount, one of the most important religious sites in the Old City of Jerusalem. The tour will focus on its Islamic history as well as Muslim traditions today, followed by a walk through the Muslim quarter. Before lunch, a visit is planned to the ancient acropolis of Herodion with a renowned archaeologist. Then depart for Bethlehem, perched on a hill at the edge of the Judean desert in Palestine. See the Church of the Nativity, one of the holiest places in Christendom. A focal point of pilgrimages from all over the world, the church houses altars and shrines of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian denominations. The evening is at leisure.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Jerusalem / Tiberias
Today travel to the mountainous Southern Golan Heights, one of the most beautiful parts of the region. Conclude the day in historic Tiberias, built on the Sea of Galilee by Herod in honor of the emperor of the same name. Accommodations are at the U Boutique Kinneret hotel. Gather this evening for a traditional Shabbat dinner at the hotel.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Tiberias / Nazareth / Capernaum

Drive to Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus, which is inhabited by Christians and Muslims. We hope to meet with leaders of a local nonprofit organization and visit the Church of the Annunciation. After lunch, depart for ancient Capernaum, where the disciples James, Simon, John, and Andrew lived and where Jesus studied and preached. See the synagogue, which has been restored to its 4th-century beauty. Return to Tiberias, where dinner is at the hotel. B,L,D

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Tiberias / Caesarea / Tel Aviv

Drive through the Galilee region to Tzefat (Safed), home of the Kabbalistic school of Isaac Luria in the 16th century. Depart for Megiddo, which gave rise to the concept of Armageddon. Tour the ancient city and, time permitting, the on-site museum. A wine-tasting lunch is arranged at one of Israel’s vineyards before you discover the remains of Herod’s great Roman port city of Caesarea, overlooking the Mediterranean. Continue along the Mediterranean to Tel Aviv, a vibrant city both culturally and politically, where you will stay for three nights at the Carlton Hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the city’s many fine restaurants. B,L,D

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Tel Aviv

This morning is reserved for a specially arranged meeting with local experts. Also visit the Israeli Museum at the Yitzhak Rabin Center, which traces the history of the State of Israel. Drive south to Jaffa for lunch and a tour of the Old Quarter, now home to art galleries and boutiques, and the diverse Ajami neighborhood. The evening is at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Tel Aviv

Begin the day with a breakfast briefing and conversation with a political affairs officer from the U.S. Embassy. Afterwards, tour the Diaspora Museum (Beit Hatfutsoth). Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. You may wish to join an optional tour of the UNESCO World Heritage “White City” area or explore the shops in the historic Neve Tzedek area. Gather for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Tel Aviv / Return

After breakfast, depart for the airport for flights home. B
Details

• Join a curator at the Israel Museum to peruse the famed Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world

• Embark on an expert-led tour of Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, a hilltop complex in the Old City unique for its importance to followers of the three major Abrahamic faiths

• Delve into Israeli-Palestinian relations at the Seam Line, a border zone with fencing that extends for 450 miles, in the company of a colonel who was one of its architects

• Take excursions to important sites in the life of Jesus Christ, from his fabled birthplace in Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity; to his childhood home of Nazareth; to ancient Capernaum, where Jesus established his ministry; to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, site of his crucifixion

Accommodations

David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem
The David Citadel Hotel is a short walk from the Old City, new city center, and Mamilla Avenue. The hotel features a large swimming pool, gym, and a range of dining facilities. Guest rooms are modern and spacious, and free Wi-Fi is provided in the entire building.

U Boutique Kinneret, Tiberias
Located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, this recently opened hotel has 60 spacious rooms featuring espresso machines, minibars, interactive televisions, and safes. Amenities at the hotel include a private beach, spa, restaurant, swimming pool, and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv
This luxurious beachfront hotel has several restaurants, a bar with views of the Mediterranean, a rooftop pool and jacuzzi, and a health club. Amenities in the Carlton’s stylish rooms and suites include free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, safes, flat-screen TVs, and private balconies.

PROGRAM RATE (per person)
$8,999 double rate
$10,599 single rate

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Terms & Conditions

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS
Nine nights accommodations as per itinerary; meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners; airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights; enrichment program of lectures and talks; escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits; taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers.

NOT INCLUDED IN COST
International airfare; passport/Visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT
To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit per person is required. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due 120 days before departure.

AIRFARE Arrangements Abroad will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including suggested flights or individual requests for a processing fee of $40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your welcome packet.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
All cancellations must be made in writing to Harvard Alumni Travels and are subject to a $500 nonrefundable administrative fee. Cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure will be charged a fee in the amount of 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS
The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare, and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. A brochure for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY
Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/israel-palestine-2020. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER
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QUESTIONS
Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu. CST 2059789-40

Registration Form

The Holy Land: Israel & Palestine
September 6–16, 2020

To register, please fill out this form and return it to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable).

Please return this form by mail to:
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

Program Name Start Date

First Person Name on Passport Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone Work Telephone

Second Person Name on Passport Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone Work Telephone

Method of Deposit

Check (please enclose check) Debit Card

MasterCard Visa Amex Discover

Card Number

Expiration Date Credit Security Code

Name as it appears on card

I/We confirm that I/We have read and accept the General Information for this tour, including Refunds and Cancellations and the Responsibility Clause at Alumni.Harvard.edu/Travel.

Signature

Signature

Accommodations

Hotel Room Preference

One Bed Two Beds Single

Name of Person Sharing With

Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, photo by Dennis Jarvis

NAME OF PERSON SHARING WITH

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL ROOM PREFERENCE

ONE BED TWO BEDS SINGLE

NAME OF PERSON SHARING WITH
Trip Sampling

**LAND & RAIL**

Village Life in Dordogne  
MAY 14–22, 2020  
Susan Suleiman

HMSC Native American Voices  
MAY 31–JUN 8  
Philip Deloria

Landscapes of Peace: the Legacy of World War I in Belgium & France: Rolling Vineyards & Farm to Table Cuisine  
JUN 15–23, 2020  
Nicholas Burns

Incredible Bhutan  
OCT 5–19, 2020  
Michael Szonyi

Legendary Turkey  
OCT 6–20, 2020  
Khalil Abdur-Rashid & Samia Omar

Discover Ethiopia  
OCT 11–28, 2020  
David Foster

Kumano Kodo: The Sacred Sites & Pilgrimage Routes of the Kii Mountains of Japan  
NOV 6–14, 2020  
Gavin H. Whitelaw

**CRUISES**

Mediterranean Masterpieces: Cádiz to Nice on Sea Cloud II  
APR 16–25, 2020  
Joseph A. Greene

Baltic Treasures & Viking Lands: Helsinki to Copenhagen on Sea Cloud II  
JUN 27–JUL 9, 2020  
Timothy J. Colton

Cruising Alaska’s Glaciers & the Inside Passage on Le Soleal  
JUL 29–AUG 5, 2020  
Harvey Fineberg & Mary Wilson

Celtic Classics on the Irish Sea on Sea Cloud II  
AUG 8–16, 2020  
Catherine McKenna

Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Catania on Sea Cloud II  
OCT 4–12, 2020  
Lino Pertile

Sicily by Sail: Catania to Naples on Sea Cloud II  
OCT 11–19, 2020  
Diana Sorensen

New Year’s Galapagos on Origin  
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021  
James Costa

**RIVERS & LAKES**

Elbe River Cruise on Elbe Princesse II  
MAR 31–APR 11, 2020  
Thomas F. Kelly

Springtime in Provence & Burgundy on Amadeus Provence  
MAY 6–14, 2020  
Sue Schoof

The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma on La Venezia  
MAY 9–17, 2020

Quintessential Peru: Lake Titicaca, Machu Picchu & Upper Amazon on Delfin II  
SEP 7–18, 2020  
Werner Sollors

Egypt & The Nile: A Journey into Antiquity on Sanctuary Sun Boat III  
DEC 29, 2020–JAN 9, 2021  
Jay Ellison

**FAMILY ADVENTURES**

Greece Family Odyssey: The Peloponnesse on Running on Waves  
JUN 18–27, 2020  
James Simpson

Japan Family Adventure (Tokyo, Kyoto & Hiroshima)  
JUN 27–JUL 8, 2020  
Ted Gilman

Tanzania Family Safari  
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021  
Hopi Hoekstra & James Mallet

Egypt & the Nile (A Family Adventure) on Sanctuary Nile Adventurer  
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021  
Jen Thum