

The Society for Biblical Studies
10 Day Fact Finding & Peace Studies Program in Israel and Palestine
2—11 February 2026
4 Day elective *The Tent of Nations* returning 15 February 2026
OR
4 Day Elective: *The Wonders of Petra & Jordan* 15 February 2026
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for resolution
- To learn through conversation and dialogue with Israelis and Palestinians
- To explore the dynamics of conflict and examine the fundamentals of conflict resolution
- To explore the religious dimensions of conflict
- To examine models of effective advocacy

Itinerary:

Day 1 2.2, M	Depart USA
Day 2 3.2, Tu	Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to hotel, orientation and introduction overnight in Taybeh
Day 3 4.2, W	Theme: Palestinian Resitance & Activism Field trip: Seth Franz (Jerusalem Post), Mazin Qumsiyeh, Dar al Kalima (The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb), Sabeel, visit Taybeh brewery (time permitting) overnight in Taybeh
Day 4 5.2, Th	Theme: Zionism Reconsidered—Christian and Jewish Field trip: Beit El—meeting with Hagi Ben Artzi, Kibbutz Mishmar ha Emek—meeting with journalist/activist Lydia Aisenberg, Ibillin—meeting with Fr Elias Chacour, overnight in Galilee, dinner on your own
Day 5 6.2, F	Theme: The Jordan River Valley Field trip: Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee overnight in Bethlehem
Day 6 7.2, Sa	Theme: Gaza, the Negev & Israel's Bedouin Field trip: Gaza perimeter settlements, Nova festival site, Al Sira (Bedouin Village) overnight in Bethlehem

- Day 7
8.2, Su Theme: Progressive Israeli Perspectives
Field trip: Reut Macabbim, Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom, Breaking the Silence, Betsalem (Israeli human rights advocacy), Seth Frantzman (Jerusalem Post) Forum 5:00 PM Breaking the Silence (Talitha Kumi)
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 8
9.2, M Theme: The Eye of the Storm
Field trip: Harem esh Sharrif, WAQF/the Islamic Trust
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 9
10.2, Tu Theme: Hebron & Competing Narratives
Field trip: Tent of Nations, Al Arub refugee camp, Hebron: meeting with Jewish Community of Hebron, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 10
11.2, W Return to USA

4 Day Elective: Solidarity and Advocacy *The Tent of Nations*, \$1,229 (or \$893—on site lodging)

- Day 10-13
11-14.2 transfer to Tent of Nations, lodging on site or in hotel
volunteer work
W—Sa
- Day 14
15.2, Su Return to the USA

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan, \$1, 465 based on 10 enrolled

- Day 10
11.2, W Theme: The Negev and Wadi Araba
Field trip: Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Cave of Macphelah/Ibrahimi Mosque, The Negev, Ein Avdat, Maktesh Ramon, Araba crossing into Jordan,
Dinner on your own
Overnight Aqaba.
- Day 11
12.2, Th Theme: Desert Exploration
Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq al Barid (Little Petra), Overnight Wadi Musa
- Day 12
13.2, F Theme: Exploration and Wonder
Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra, Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 13 Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway
14.2, Sa Field trip: Shoback Castle (overview), Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Overnight Bethlehem

Day 14 Return to USA
15.2, Su

- Worship will be arranged in Nazareth and/or in Jerusalem with indigenous Christians.
- Meetings indicated in the itinerary are illustrative only and subject to change until confirmed. Meetings with indigenous people are always subject to change due to local circumstances. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
- Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc. Unavoidable modifications may be made due to local circumstances or to optimize the itinerary and these changes are not any basis for cancellation.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program