

Draft Itinerary 2022
Armed Forces Christian Union

DAY	DATE	Activities	Notes	Evening	HOTEL
PRE	4/3/23	Pre Israel briefing day in Shrivenham	Come along for a day of pre-Israel meeting. There will be an opportunity for some context setting, meeting your fellow pilgrims and to have all your questions answered.		
1	Friday 5/5/23	Arrival at Ben Gurion airport. Shabbat Dinner at hotel 18:00-19:30 Evening meeting to discuss the tour from 19:30 – 21:00	Transfer is individually arranged and paid for. The easiest is to take the train from the airport. It takes approximately 2.5hours and costs around £10 p.p. There are trains every 30 mins. Please note that Shabbat starts at sundown and there are no trains/buses running from this time onwards. If you arrive later, you will need to take a taxi or a Uber which will cost £80-£100. Flight details can be shared with AFCU office@afcu.org.uk so that members can travel together as far as possible, sharing taxis etc.	Andy Smith - Understanding Israel today	Yehuda hotel conveniently situated on tramline in Jerusalem.

2	Saturday 6/5/23	Walking tour of Jerusalem from Mount of Olives, through Garden of Gethsemane finishing at Garden Tomb.	Starting at the Mount of Olives with its magnificent views of the Old City on one side and right down to the Dead Sea on the other, this day seeks to orientate you in the Holy Land and takes in key sites especially those connected with Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Each evening after supper we will have the opportunity to hear the perspectives of a number of local people, military and civilian; Israeli and Palestinian, as well as pray together for the land.		Yehuda hotel, Jerusalem
3	Sunday 7/5/23	City of David, Temple Mount, Western Wall, Hezekiah's Tunnel	If yesterday was all about the New Testament, today is clearly focused on the Old, and we will be having the opportunity to see what remains of Herod's temple that once stood in Jerusalem. We shall see the iconic Western wall, walk up and down the original temple steps and wade through the tunnel constructed in Hezekiah's reign when the city faced besieging by Babylon.		Yehuda hotel, Jerusalem
4	Monday 8/5/23	Ayalon Institute, Attlit Detention Camp, Mount Carmel, Meggido, Horns of Hattim (view over Galilee).	We leave Jerusalem and travel north, stopping at important historical sites including some that are especially pertinent to us as military Christian pilgrims (like Attlit and the Ayalon Institute) and those that <i>will be</i> significant one day in history; Meggido is the modern name for the Biblical Armageddon. We will also see where Elijah battled the prophets of Baal. Our day finishes in Galilee overlooking the lake.		Degania Bet, Kibbutz Hotel?
5	Tuesday 9/5/23	Nazareth & Nazareth Village @ 09:30am, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tabga, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee @ 16:00. Galilee Experience. St. Peter's Fish lunch @ 13:00	The sights and sounds of the gospels are vividly brought to life today with a visit to the living museum in Nazareth and a boat ride on the lake. We shall even be eating St Peter's fish at a local restaurant for lunch		Degania Bet, Kibbutz Hotel

6	Wednesday 10/5/23	Korazim, Army base visit (Malkia) @ 9am, Upper Galilee, Tel Dan, Banias, Golan Heights, El Rom Oz77 @ 14:30, Mt. Bental	A fascinating day of juxtapositions between the past and present, Biblical landscapes and modern political realities. This is a day when we will have an opportunity to see and pray for the Middle East as well as see how Jesus and the radical message of faith he offers is so unique. Banias is the place where Jesus asks his disciples 'Who do YOU think that I am?' At Tel Dan we will see stark evidence of the idolatry that led to the Exile.		Degania Bet, Kibbutz Hotel
7	Thursday 11/5/23	Return to Jerusalem with free afternoon	The free afternoon allows everyone to have their own choice of places to visit (without a guide) as there is SO much to visit and not time to see it all. E.g. to: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Friends of Zion Museum, Biblelands Museum etc.), then evening walk down via Dolorosa		Hotel in Jerusalem e.g. Christ Church
8	Friday 12/5/23	(Dead Sea Day) Judean desert (e.g. St George's Monastery (Wadi al Qilt), Ein Gedi, Qumran, Dead Sea swim	Don't forget your swimmers and newspaper for that iconic Dead Sea photo opportunity today! However, this day offers so much more than just a trip to the lowest place on earth. We shall drive past the caves the dead sea scrolls were found in, see the dessert that is the likely place of Jesus' temptation, the place David fled to escape Saul, and get a fascinating insight into a very different part of this fascinating land. Today is also the start of Shabbat and there is certain to be an extra special meal in the restaurant.		Jerusalem

9	Saturday 13/5/23	Bethlehem, Israel Museum including the 2 nd Temple Model and Shrine of the Book, View of the Knesset,	Our day starts with a visit to Bethlehem and an opportunity to experience the modern checkpoint that cuts between Isarel and the West Bank. In Bethlehem we will visit local Christian wood carvers and see some the olive wood carvings that are found throughout Israel being made. Then we head back into Jerusalem to think more about life in the first century as we visit the enormous model of Jerusalem in Jesus time, giving us great insight into what it must have looked like. We will also see the Dead Sea Scrolls and have an opportunity once again for prayer as we see the Knesset (Israel's equivalent of the Houses of Parliament).		Jerusalem
10	Sunday 14/5/23	Transfer to the airport with a lifetime of memories (OYO).	It's back to the airport again!		