Insider’s Israel
Odyssey to the Holy Land

Pre-tour extension to Jordan
Nov 3–8, 2019

Greg Sterling
Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean of Yale Divinity School
& Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament

November 7–17, 2019
Dear Yale Traveler,

Israel is a country of great religious, cultural, and historic significance. On this journey through antiquity and into modern Israel, we’ll explore its evolution to the nation it is today and learn about the cutting-edge technologies that position it squarely in the 21st century.

Accompanied by Greg Sterling, Dean of Yale Divinity School, we land in Tel Aviv on Israel’s Mediterranean coastline and explore its varied and distinct regions as we traverse the country to Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, and Golan Heights, and finish out tour at the Dead Sea. Along the way, we’ll marvel at the natural beauty of both desert and mountains, visit active archaeological digs, and explore timeless religious monuments of profound significance.

Highlights include Tel Aviv’s Bauhaus district, a UNESCO World Heritage site often called the “White City” for its 4,000-plus buildings designed in the Bauhaus or International style. Throughout our travels, we’ll consider how Israel’s present and future mesh with its rich past, with a private talk by an eminent journalist, a specially-arranged meeting with a professor at Hebrew University, and a private visit to a technology startup. For those who wish to extend their stay, a pre-tour program in Jordan is offered, including a visit to Petra.

This exclusive program is limited to 36 guests, so I encourage you to reserve your space today by visiting yaleedtravel.org/israel19. We’re here to answer your questions at edtravel@yale.edu or 203-432-1952.

Best wishes from Yale,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Alumni Lifelong Learning and Travel

yaleedtravel.org/israel19
GREG STERLING, Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean of Yale Divinity School & Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament, a scholar with a specialty in Hellenistic Judaism, has concentrated his research on the writings of Philo of Alexandria, Josephus, and Luke-Acts with a focus on the ways in which Second Temple Jews and early Christians interacted with one another and with the Greco-Roman world.

He assumed the deanship in 2012 after more than two decades at the University of Notre Dame, where he served in several capacities at the College of Arts and Letters before becoming the first dean of the independent Graduate School. During the 2000–2001 year, he was a visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He returned to Israel frequently both to offer summer courses for the University of Notre Dame at Tantur and to lead faculty tours of Israel.

Dean Sterling is the author or editor/co-editor of eight books and more than eighty scholarly articles and essays. He is the general editor for the Philo of Alexandria Commentary Series (E.J. Brill), co-editor of the Studia Philonica Annual, and a member of the editorial board of Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft. He served as editor of the Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Series (University of Notre Dame Press) for twenty years.

He has held numerous leadership positions in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, and the Catholic Biblical Association. He is a minister in the Churches of Christ and serves in several leadership roles for his own denomination in addition to his other responsibilities.

Upcoming Trips
Shores of Iberia: Spain & Portugal aboard Sea Cloud II
May 16–29, 2019
Prof. K. David Jackson
Portuguese

Art & Science of Switzerland
Featuring CERN
August 9–17, 2019
Prof. Meg Urry
Physics and Astronomy

Japan: Bashô’s Road to the North
October 11–23, 2019
Edward Kamens ’74, ’82 PhD
Japanese Studies
Itinerary

NOVEMBER 7–17, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
(tentative)
Join the group at 4:00 p.m. Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call to learn more about what to expect and ask any questions you may have.

DEPART U.S. / TEL AVIV, ISRAEL  
Thursday & Friday, November 7 & 8
Depart home on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel to check in and relax before a welcome reception this evening.  
Carlton Hotel (R, Nov. 8)

TEL AVIV  
Saturday, November 9
After a morning lecture, visit Jaffa, one of the most ancient ports in the world and part of the Tel Aviv-Yafo unified city. Walk through Jaffa’s winding alleyways lined with art galleries, historic stone buildings, mosques, churches, and the Jaffa Flea Market to a panoramic vista overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the city’s natural harbor. Enjoy free time to explore and have lunch on your own. In the afternoon embark on a walk along Rothschild Boulevard through the Bauhaus architectural zone (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Gather for dinner at a local restaurant this evening. Carlton Hotel (B,D)

CAESAREA NATIONAL PARK / KFAR TIKVA  
Sunday, November 10
Start the day with a briefing on current affairs with an eminent local journalist. Then travel to the scenic coastline for a guided visit to Caesarea National Park to view the ruins of the maritime city built by King Herod. In the late afternoon, visit with a Druze or Arabic family for an ethnic cooking workshop. Enjoy the fruits of your labor at dinner.  
Mitzpe Hayamim Spa Hotel (B,L,D)

SEA OF GALILEE / GOLAN HEIGHTS / TEL DAN  
Monday, November 11
Depart for a guided visit to the Mount of Beatitudes Church on the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee. It was on this site that Jesus is said to have delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Ascend the Golan Heights to Mount Ben Tal, a dormant volcano in the northeastern part of the heights, for an overview of Israel's border with Syria. Enjoy an easy hike and picnic lunch along the Dan River through the Tel Dan Nature Reserve to the archaeological remains of Tel Dan, the northernmost city of the Kingdom of Israel, associated with the tribe of Dan.  
Mitzpe Hayamim Spa Hotel (B,L,D)

JERUSALEM  
Wednesday, November 13
Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who died and honoring Jews who fought against the Nazis and Gentiles who aided Jews in need. Yad Vashem also conducts research on the Holocaust in particular and genocide in general. Reflect on this somber historical event at the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations and the Children’s Memorial. Lunch at a social enterprise café that offers employment and care for adults with disabilities. The afternoon is free for independent exploration of this vibrant city. David Citadel Hotel (B,L)

JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM  
Thursday, November 14
This morning visit Hebrew University and meet with faculty members to learn about Israel’s role in technology and cyberspace security. Continue to Ammunition Hill to learn about the ongoing influence of the Six Days War on the
Israeli-Arab conflict. This afternoon, choose between two options: (1) enter the West Bank to visit the ancient city of Bethlehem, or (2) embark on a guided drive to learn about the separation/security fence, and try to understand the competing visions of Palestinians and Israelis.

David Citadel Hotel (B,L,D)

**JERUSALEM / DEAD SEA / MASADA**

*Friday, November 15*

The Dead Sea is a salt lake bordered by Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. Its surface and shores are the Earth’s lowest land elevation, and it is the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. At around 34 percent salinity, the water is too harsh to sustain plants and animals, hence its name. Drive along the shores of the Dead Sea for a close look at how this body of water is shrinking at an alarming rate from mineral mining and evaporation. Continue to the archaeological site at Masada, an ancient fortification atop an isolated rock plateau. Ascend by cable car to the extensive excavations of Herod’s fortress atop the plateau and overlooking the Dead Sea. It was here that the siege of Masada by Roman troops at the end of the First Jewish–Roman War culminated in the mass suicide of 960 Jewish rebels and their families. Enjoy lunch and a swim in the Dead Sea at a nearby hotel, and then take a short hike in the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve and natural oasis. Those who wish may choose to experience the beginning of the Sabbath at the Western Wall, considered the holiest place by Jewish people. This evening, enjoy a traditional Shabbat (Sabbath) dinner at the home of local residents, complete with the Shabbat ceremony.

David Citadel Hotel (B,D)

**JERUSALEM**

*Saturday, November 16*

Following a final morning lecture and discussion, tour the settlement of Efrat to meet a local leader and learn about the settlement movement. Enjoy a guided tour of the renowned Israel Museum including the Shrine of the Book, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and permanent and temporary exhibits in the Israeli Art Wing. After some time at leisure, gather this evening to celebrate your time in Israel at a festive farewell dinner.

David Citadel Hotel (B,L,D)

**JERUSALEM / HOME**

*Sunday, November 17*

Enjoy breakfast before transfers to the airport for flights home.

David Citadel Hotel (B)

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**Reserve Your Trip Today**

Book online: yaleedtravel.org/israel19
WHAT IS INCLUDED
• Educational program of lectures and discussions with Dean Greg Sterling
• All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including nine hotel nights
• Airport transfers on group arrival and departure days
• Baggage handling
• Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers
• Entrance fees
• Welcome and farewell wine receptions
• Bottled water on motor coaches
• Professional tour manager throughout the program
• Emergency medical evacuation services

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED
• U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel insurance • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Room service • Telephone, fax, Internet, and email charges • Gratuities for non-group services and other items of a personal nature

ITINERARY CHANGES AND COST ADJUSTMENTS
The itinerary as presented is subject to modification by Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (the tour operator), should unforeseen world events and conditions require such alterations for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant. Program rates are based upon current taxes, tariffs, fuel prices, currency values, and a minimum number of participants, and are subject to change (e.g., should fuel prices increase). If there are significant changes, we will notify participants in advance of departure.

GROUP SIZE 36 participants

AIR ARRANGEMENTS Please Note: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare between New York and Tel Aviv with return from Jerusalem is approximately $1,400 per person as of January 2019 and is subject to change without notice. Airtreks is our preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (800) 350-0646. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION
JORDAN  Nov 3 to 8, 2019
Extend your visit to this remarkable region with a five-night pre-tour extension to enjoy Jordan’s archaeology, history, desert culture, and rich cuisine. View the magnificent “rose-red” city of Petra, Jordan, where a 1,200-meter-long Siq, a narrow winding wadi (canyon), makes this site deservedly one of the modern world’s Seven Wonders. Embark on a 4-wheel-drive introduction to Wadi Rum’s sweeping dun-colored expanses, otherworldly rock formations, and ancient hieroglyphs, and walk among the columns and arches at the ancient city of Jerash.

Additional details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due July 10, 2019.

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**Accommodations**

Bed preference:
- Queen
- Twins
- I would like to know about roommates.

I am a
- smoker
- non-smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of July 10, 2019, I will pay the single rate.

I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms.

**Terms and Conditions**

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person payable to “CRITERION TRAVEL,” along with the completed reservation form, to: Yale Educational Travel, Yale Alumni Association, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or fax the completed form to (203) 432-0587. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due July 10, 2019.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $300 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before July 10, 2019. No refunds are made after that date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

WHAT TO EXPECT: At this time of year, temperatures in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem range from the mid-50s to the low 70s F, with a moderate chance of rain. During excursions outside these cities, such as to Masada and the Judean Desert, expect to encounter warmer temperatures, into the low 80s F. The pace of the trip is moderately active, with one to two miles of walking each day, occasionally on cobbled streets or uneven terrain. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel highly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 7-10 days of paying a deposit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

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**Contact Information**

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PRIMARY PHONE | SECONDARY PHONE

E-MAIL

**Payment Options**

- Pay by check made out to “Criterion Travel.”
- Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to AMEX Visa MasterCard Discover Card

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**Children’s Holocaust Memorial Jerusalem**
Insider’s Israel: Odyssey to the Holy Land

Greg Sterling
Reverend Henry L. Slack Dean of Yale Divinity School
& Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament

November 7–17, 2019

Explore Jerusalem in depth, including a variety of sites holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

Visit the Tel Dan archaeological site, the gorges and mountains of the Golan Heights, and the Dead Sea.