



Bethlehem
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

2013 BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

December 26, 2013–January 4, 2014

Walk where Jesus walked and use MUSIC as an outreach to non-Christians throughout Israel, including a **WORLDWIDE PREMIERE** performance in Manger Square in Bethlehem!



hosted by **PHIL BARFOOT**

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- **International Premiere** performance of "THE SONG OF CHRISTMAS" in Bethlehem!
- **Sing** in MANGER SQUARE in Bethlehem—just steps from where Christ was born!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **See** and **touch** the WESTERN (WAILING) WALL
- **Walk** the steps of Jesus through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem along the VIA DOLOROSA
- **Partake** of the Lord's Supper at the GARDEN TOMB
- **Ride a boat** across the SEA OF GALILEE and visit the ruins of CAPERNAUM
- **Experience** BETHLEHEM, the royal city of David, and kneel at the traditional place of the birth of Christ at the GROTTA OF THE NATIVITY
- **Special Teaching Moments** by our church pastors.



2090 BAKER ROAD ♦ SUITE 304-104 ♦ KENNESAW, GEORGIA 30144

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I am thrilled to be hosting the 2013 BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL—a historic music, ministry, and spiritual pilgrimage to Israel celebrating the birth of Christ. In addition to “Walking Where Jesus Walked,” you will be performing the International Premiere performance of “The Song of Christmas” in Bethlehem!

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO YOU!

Singers and Spouses are welcome!

I am asking you and your choir to be part of the initial “core” of the choir we are putting together for this project. Our goal is to have 200+ in the choir with plans to create DVD video that will include the full concert as well as tour highlights and testimonies. Although plans are still being finalized, we are concentrating on 2 concerts while on tour in addition to a number of stop-and-sings at key Biblical spots. Beyond the music, we will have opportunity to experience all that the Holy Land has to offer. Music and ministry highlights to include:

- **Using MUSIC to share the Gospel in unprecedented ways throughout the Holy Land.**
- **Connecting with non-Christian ISRAELIS and PALESTINIANS.**
- **Expanding the ministry of the BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE and its Music Outreach Department.**

I am only inviting a few choirs to be part of this initial core group. There is no doubt that the lives of you and your choir members will be completely changed by the events you will experience!

Sincerely,
Phil Barfoot, Artistic Director
2013 BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



DAILY ITINERARY

(Subject to Change)



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26: DEPARTURE

Depart the US on your international flight bound for Tel Aviv.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27: WELCOME TO THE HOLY LAND!

Afternoon arrival in Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport; after passport and customs formalities, meet our local tour guide, board our motor coach, and transfer to our Jericho hotel for check-in. We'll have dinner at the hotel followed by orientation and our first rehearsal together.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28: JERUSALEM

We start this day with a visit to Mt. Zion where we shall stop to see the Upper Room, the Tomb of King David, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, which is built over the Palace of Caiaphas, the High Priest, who imprisoned Jesus and interrogated him before his trial before Pontius Pilate (Luke 22:54). Afterwards, we'll visit to the last standing remnant of the ancient Temple at the Western (Wailing) Wall where we'll have the opportunity to place a prayer in the wall. Schedule permitting, we may also have the opportunity to visit the Temple Mount area. Late afternoon return to the hotel.

5:00p—Dinner at the hotel

6:00p-9:00p—Rehearsal



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29: BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

This morning we will sing in historic Manger Square followed by a visit to the Church of the Nativity to kneel at the traditional place of the birth of Christ. We'll spend the rest of this morning in Bethlehem, the Royal City of David.

2:00p—Arrival at Dar Annadwa (concert venue)

2:30p—Dress Rehearsal

5:00p—Light snack break

6:00p—**Performance of "The Song of Christmas"**

8:30p—Return to the hotel for dinner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30: JERUSALEM

After breakfast this day we shall start our pilgrimage in Jerusalem with a drive to the top of the Mt. of Olives, from which Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection. From the top of the Mount there is a magnificent view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem, the center of the Biblical world. We visit the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:40-46). Next we enter the old Walled City of Jerusalem and walk in the footsteps of our Lord as he bore the burden of our sins to the Cross at Golgotha. We will visit the Pools of Bethesda and walk along the Via Dolorosa, following the 14 Stations of the Cross from Pilate's Judgment Hall to the empty tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We finish this day with a meaningful communion service at the Garden Tomb. Dinner tonight is at the famous "Grotto" Restaurant in Bethlehem including traditional foods, entertainment, and fellowship with Palestinian Christians.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31: MASADA/QUMRAN/DEAD SEA



This morning, we drive down through the Judean desert and past the "Inn of the Good Samaritan" to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on the face of the Earth. We drive around the shores of the Dead Sea passing Ein Gedi en route to the mountain fortress of Masada. Ascend by cable car for an extensive tour of the site, which was the scene of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in the year 73 AD. After lunch, we'll board our coach and drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to visit the archaeological remains of the Qumran settlement where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2,000 years ago. Tonight we'll have a special New Year's Eve celebration at the hotel!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1: CAESAREA MARITIMA/MT. CARMEL/NAZARETH/TIBERIAS

After breakfast, we'll board our coach and begin our journey north towards the Sea of Galilee. En route we'll visit the ruins of Caesarea Maritima, which was seat of government of the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. Next, we journey to Mt. Carmel where we visit the "Place of Sacrifice" where the Prophet Elijah had an encounter with the Priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our final stop will be the town of Nazareth, the town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew to manhood (Matthew 2:23). Here we will visit Cana in Galilee, the scene of the wedding feast, where Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2:1-11). Some of you may choose to renew your wedding vows here. Afterwards, we'll visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, a modern Catholic Church built over the remains of Byzantine (dating from the 4th or 5th century) and Crusader churches. It incorporates the cave in which the Virgin Mary received the news from Gabriel that she would give birth to Jesus. Early evening arrival in Tiberias where we check into our hotel overlooking the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 2: CAESAREA PHILIPPI/GOLAN HEIGHTS/JORDAN RIVER



After breakfast, we will journey to one of the sources of the River Jordan at Banias, which is the site of Caesarea Philippi where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 16:13-17). En route we drive through the Golan Heights stopping at the lookout point where we can see the "Road to Damascus." A lunch of St. Peter's Fish is ready for us in a restaurant on the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee. After lunch, we continue our drive around the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the Baptismal Site along the river Jordan offering an opportunity for those who wish to be baptized. Dinner at the hotel this evening followed by a special worship celebration.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3: SEA OF GALILEE/CAPERNAUM/MT. OF BEATITUDES

The Sea of Galilee is rich in memories of the three years of Jesus' ministry around its shores. After breakfast, we begin our pilgrimage in the Sea of Galilee with a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee to visit the ruins of Capernaum, which in Jesus' time was a flourishing border town and was called "his own city" because of the frequency with which Jesus visited it and the mighty works He did there. We will visit the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes and the Chapel of the Primacy at Tabgha. Finally, we will stop for some meaningful time of worship together on the Mount of Beatitudes, the scene of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) for a teaching moment. Late afternoon we begin our trek back to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight return flights to the U.S.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 4: WELCOME HOME!

Arrival back into the U.S.

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QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Q How safe is Israel?

A Very safe! The main industry in Israel is tourism. Because of that the government implements safeguards to protect pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. Many of the reports we may see on the news from time to time are isolated to Gaza, which is located far to the south.

Q Can my friend, spouse, or other family members go?

A Yes! If they live in a different part of the US we will work with them in arranging their air connection to the international points of departure.

Q Will we have a guide with us during the entire tour?

A Yes! Not only will there be a professional guide on each bus, but Brad Matheson, President of Harmony International, along with his staff, will be accompanying the tour every step of the way.

Q I have some special health considerations, what if a situation arises?

A As part of your tour package we have included a FULL health and emergency package covering you in the event of a medical situation outside the United States.

Q What are our hotels like?

A We will have two hotels during our time in Israel; both will be 4-star deluxe hotels known for their comfort and quality.

Q What will our transportation be like?

A We will be traveling in new luxury European-style buses for the duration of the tour.



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN OUR PROJECT?

1. **Transportation within Israel** by new/modern motor coach.
2. **Sightseeing/Religious/Educational/Cultural Arrangements. Admissions to all itinerary events:** National Park ticket unlimited entries, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Masada round trip cable car, Qumran, Capernaum, ALL INCLUSIVE ON ITINERARY.
3. **Accommodations** at FIRST CLASS 4-star hotels. The price is based on double/triple occupancy, all rooms with private facilities.
4. **Breakfast and Dinner provided each day.** Because of our group itinerary lunch will be on your own each day but coordinated by HI staff.
5. **Sightseeing excursions** as outlined in the day-by-day itinerary. Guides are also selected based upon experience, referral, knowledge, and ability to deal with people.
6. **Assistance** from HI staff as requested. Members of the HI staff will be with the group throughout the Tour. We will also have a global cell phone for transcontinental use in case of emergencies.
7. A pre-departure **HI Travel Packet** is available to each participant containing useful information about travel preparation, destination information, useful packing, cultural conditioning suggestions, as well as insights and travel documents.
8. A **Printed itinerary** is given to each individual listing hotel addresses, local contact phone numbers, and HI staff contact procedure.
9. **Individual health insurance coverage** is included in ALL HI projects covering each individual (see summary of coverage below).
10. **Tour Management** is conducted by HI working directly with local agencies to establish objectives, develop itineraries, and coordinate all items related to the Tour.

Summary of Coverage

Accidental Death & Dismemberment.....	\$100,000/Person
(Reduced to \$10,000 for those under age 12 or over age 70)	
Disability Income, for 1 st through 100 th months, Accident	1,000/Month
For 101 st through 200 th months, Accident.....	\$500/Month
For Sickness 50 Month Benefit	
3 Month Waiting Period	\$250/Month
Medical Expense, \$100.00 Deductible	\$10,000
Note: \$2,500 of this benefit can be used to meet eligible medical expense incurred in the U.S.	
Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
Family Coordination and Repatriation of Mortal Remains	\$25,000
Medical Assistance (24 Hour Telephone Service)	
For Assistance with Worldwide Medical Emergencies.....	Included
Property (Baggage) Insurance	
\$100.00 Deductible	\$2,500
Aggregate Limit.....	\$2,000,000

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR

1. US Passport or process of obtaining a passport
2. Meals not specified in itinerary
3. Tips to guides/drivers of approx. \$6/day (to be billed with final payment)
4. Airfare

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