

Ridley College Tours  
Expertise, Fellowship & Value

2 - 9 Dec  
2020

# ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY

A guided tour of Israel with Dr John Dickson

Join us on a historical and  
cultural adventure for believers  
and sceptics alike

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**Tour Highlights**

Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Sepphoris, Nazareth,  
Galilee, Caesarea Martima





## Origins of Christianity 2-9 Dec 2020

### Cost per person

\$4,490 (excludes airfares,  
lunches and visa)

### Single supplement

\$950 (subject to  
terms and conditions)

What really happened in first-century Galilee and Judaea? Join author and historian, Dr John Dickson, on a journey throughout the length and breadth of modern Israel—from the Dead Sea to Lake Galilee, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean. We will investigate the key sites of Jesus' life, explore his cultural background, separate fact from fiction, and piece together how a peasant preacher changed the course of history.

Rather than a spiritual pilgrimage, this tour is a historical and cultural adventure for believers and sceptics alike, complete with daily onsite lectures from Dr Dickson on *The Varieties of First-Century Judaism*, *The Social and Political Influence of Rome*, *Jesus Among Other Healers*, *The Causes of Jesus' Death*, *How Christianity Became a World Religion*, and much more.

✳ Register now: [www.trybooking.com/BGVKP](http://www.trybooking.com/BGVKP) | Deposit required upon registration by 27 March 2020

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### Dec 2 Wed ✈ Arrival in Israel

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport at 07:40 am (Cathay Pacific from Hong Kong) we will clear customs and transfer to the holy city of Jerusalem. Check in to our hotel and freshen up before we set out to visit the Tower of David Museum to enjoy an overview of Israel's history and the geography of Jerusalem. We return to the hotel in the afternoon for a lecture by Dr Dickson on *Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship*.

- Accommodation: Prima Park Jerusalem
- Meals: Dinner

#### Dec 3 Thu • Judean wilderness – Masada – Dead Sea – Qumran – Wadi Qelt - Jerusalem

We have a fantastic day trip today with an early start departing Jerusalem and travel through the Judean wilderness to the fortress of Masada built by King Herod. We continue to Qumran, the site of the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls in 1947 and home to a persecuted Jewish Essene sect. We then travel to the Dead Sea and Wadi Qelt, and along the famous road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Finally, we return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. The lecture topic throughout the day is *The Many Judaism(s) of Jesus' Day*.

- Accommodation: Prima Park Jerusalem
- Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### Dec 4 Fri • Sepphoris – Nazareth – Galilee

We get to know the Galilee that Jesus knew. This morning we check out of our hotel in Jerusalem and go straight to Sepphoris, the capital of ancient Galilee. We then head to Nazareth Village, a working farm (near the ancient site of Nazareth) that replicates life as it was in the first century. The lecture onsite is *Galilee and the Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry*. By late afternoon we check into our hotel for two nights in the city of Tiberias (right on Lake Galilee). The rest of the day is free.

- Accommodation: Prima Galilee
- Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### Dec 5 Sat • Lake Galilee – Capernaum – Magdala - Galilee

We begin with a peaceful boat trip on Lake Galilee to Capernaum and learn of tensions between Jesus and the elites of his day. We have a brief lecture on the boat: *Jesus Among the Healers of his Day*. After an early lunch of 'St Peter's Fish', we travel by coach to Magdala, the hometown of Mary Magdalene and the site of recently discovered first-century buildings, including a synagogue. We have a brief lecture onsite: *The Women in Jesus life*. This afternoon you can go back to the hotel or head to one of Israel's best preserved ancient Roman sites in Beit Shean (Scythopolis).

- Accommodation: Prima Galilee
- Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## TOUR ITINERARY CONT.

### Dec 6 Sun • Galilee – Gamla – Mount Arbel - Jerusalem

We discover how radical Jesus' message was to some of his fellow Galileans. This morning after breakfast we check out of our hotel and visit Gamla, known as the 'Masada of the North' and John Dickson's favourite spot in Israel. Here you will see an impressive first-century synagogue, the ruins of houses, and a two-story oil press and storage centre. Gamla has spectacular views back to Lake Galilee. The onsite lecture is *Jesus and the Zealots*. We continue to the Golan Archaeological Museum in the town of Katzrin before returning to Galilee via Mt Arbel in the late afternoon to experience the best view in Israel. We then head for Jerusalem, arriving around dinner time.

- Accomodation: Prima Park Jerusalem
- Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Dec 7 Mon • Jerusalem

We explore the climatic events of Jesus' life (and his demise). Sunrise at the Mount of Olives gives you an exceptional overview of the Old City of Jerusalem. We grab breakfast, then head to the Temple Mount, where now stands the Al Aqsa Mosque and the (Golden) Dome of the Rock. We then visit the impressive Davidson Archaeological Park, located on the southern side of the Temple Mount. We will also visit the Wailing or Western Wall. The onsite lecture is *The Causes of Jesus' Arrest and Death*. Lunch will be in the Old City, followed by a visit to the Israel Museum. By late afternoon we will be free to explore the Old City or take up one of the optional extras.

- Optional afternoon activities include:
  - Visit to Bethlehem
  - Holocaust Museum
  - Hezekiah's Tunnel
- Accomodation: Prima Park Jerusalem
- Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Dec 8 Tue • Jerusalem – Caesarea Maritima – Jerusalem

We walk the bridge from Jesus to Christianity. An early morning visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre with a lecture on *What can Historians say About Jesus' Resurrection?* We then drive to the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea Maritima, where Paul was imprisoned for a time, and from which Christianity spread to Rome. We will have lunch at the site. Dr Dickson will deliver a lecture: *How Christianity became a World Religion*. We drive back to Jerusalem, and conclude the tour with a special 'farewell' dinner at the lovely Notra Dame Center with its gorgeous views of the Old City.

- Accomodation: Prima Park Jerusalem
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Dec 9 Wed ✈ Depart Jerusalem

You have the morning free to relax before a 10:00 am departure to Tel Aviv airport for your flight home. The Cathay Pacific flight departs at 2:00 pm with a stop in Hong Kong.



I never tire of visiting Israel. I get excited every time I introduce people to these ancient places that still have so much to teach us today. Whether believer or doubter, everyone can benefit from exploring the geography, archaeology and history of a land that has influenced the world out of all proportion to its relative small size.  
- Dr John Dickson



## YOUR TOUR LEADER

**DR JOHN DICKSON** John's story is eclectic. Starting out as a professional singer-songwriter, he now works as an author, speaker, historian, media presenter, and the host of the popular *Undeceptions* podcast. He has published more than 15 books, and appears in three television documentaries on the history of Christianity. He teaches a course on the historical Jesus at the University of Sydney, Australia, and researches the origins of Christianity in the Roman empire. For 2017-2020 he is also a Visiting Academic in the Faculty of Classics at Oxford University in the UK, and in 2019 he was appointed Distinguished Fellow in Public Christianity at Ridley College, Melbourne. In all that he does, whether in the media or the church, creative or academic, he strives to be a public advocate for the Christian faith in doubting times. Having lost his father in an air disaster at 9, John is mindful of the sorrows and questions of our world, and values his wife and three children above all other gifts of this life.

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### REGISTRATION

Please register via this link:  
[www.trybooking.com/BGVKP](http://www.trybooking.com/BGVKP)

Deposit payable upon registration by  
**27 March 2020.**

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### DATES

**Registrations**  
Now open

**Non-refundable deposit of \$500 due:**  
27 March 2020

**Balance Due:**  
31 July 2020

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### CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact **Sarah Quinto:**  
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Ridley College  
is an affiliated College of the  
Australian College of Theology.  
Cricos Provider: 02650E

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### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### Tour Price Inclusions

Seven nights lodging in superior hotels, meals as indicated, tour leader and guide, services of air-conditioned deluxe coach, entrance fees as noted in the itinerary except those described as 'optional', touring and transportation as appears on itinerary. Baggage handling at hotels (one piece), and tips to driver, guides and hotel staff are also included.

#### Tour Price Exclusions

Anything not explicitly listed in the itinerary. The price does not include airfares, travel insurance, lunches, drinks, visa and personal expenses.

#### Tour Payments and Cost

The land cost of the tour is \$4,490. Single supplement is \$950.

A deposit of \$500 per person is due upon registration by 27 March 2020 to confirm a place on the tour. The remaining balance is due on 31 July 2020.

#### Age & Fitness Limitations

The tour is not particularly strenuous, although it does involve walking, some of which is over uneven ground and on stairs. Participants must be capable of self-care throughout the tour. Children under 15 are not permitted.

#### Passports & Visa Requirements

All international tours require a current passport with at least seven months validity from the date of entry into the foreign country.

#### Single Travellers

Every effort will be made to find roommates for single travellers wishing to share a room with another same-sex traveller. Participants will be required to pay a single supplement if a roommate cannot be found.

#### Dietary Requirements

Whilst most special dietary requirements can be met at our hotels and restaurants, certain needs cannot always be met.

#### Travel Insurance

Participants are required to have travel insurance. It is the responsibility of participants to purchase insurance. Travel insurance should be obtained when flights are booked.

#### Security

In the event of an elevation of the travel warnings by the Australian Government it may be necessary to vary the itinerary. While Ridley College will try and absorb any extra costs associated with any variations, it may be necessary to levy additional charges where variations are significant. Under these circumstances Ridley may, at its discretion, offer full refunds of tour costs as an alternative. Ridley College will not be responsible for international air fares and other costs incurred directly by participants.

#### Flights

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own international airfares from and to Australia. Details of recommended flights are provided in the itinerary. These will be met by the tour operator and transfers will be provided. Participants are not required to travel with the group on recommended flights. Where a participant organises flights other than those recommended, they are responsible for their own transfers, and in the event of missed connections are responsible for any extra costs associated with meeting the group.

