



Letter of Invitation and Tour Brochure

**The Billy Blanks Fitness and Faith Holy Land Tour
10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime
Tour Host: Billy Blanks
October 15 – 24, 2023**

*"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways,
and we shall walk in His paths."*

ISAIAH 2:3



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To all my dear friends, family and Tae Bo followers,

I am thrilled to announce the first-ever Billy Blanks Fitness and Faith Holy Land Tour, a visit to the Land of Israel, The Holy Land, the Land of our faith, October 15 – 24, 2023.

My wife Tomoko, daughter Angelika, and I are blessed to invite you to travel with us to share in this sacred journey, which we know will be a spiritual, life-altering experience for everyone.

During our 10-day epic journey through the Holy Land, I will be combining Fitness and Faith as we schedule early morning Tae Bo workouts in Netanya, along the Mediterranean Sea, in Tiberias, along the tranquil Sea of Galilee, and in Ein Bokek, the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. On this tour, we'll live Biblical history, as the Bible unfolds all across this Land. We'll walk in the footsteps where our Savior Jesus walked in Jerusalem; we'll drive to Magdala, the hometown of Mary Magdalene, with its 1st century synagogue, where it is believed Jesus taught, and we'll witness the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

We will live and experience the AWE of a glorious history, where our ancestors dwelled, where faith was tested, where miracles occurred, where prophets inspired, where Abraham led, and Jesus taught. And we will sense the presence of G-D.

We look forward to sharing fellowship with you as we experience the sights and sounds, the tastes and touches of the legacy Jesus left for us to inherit. Say you'll join us.

Abundant blessings,
Billy



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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Signature Touch Service

Sites and Sounds, Tastes and Touches,
Amazing Activities and Extraordinary Experiences
... make memories last for a lifetime.

- Garden Tomb for Communion
- Ecce Home / Sisters of Zion
- Jerusalem Archaeological Park
- Davidson Center
- City of David + Movie + Tunnel Tour
- Yad Vashem earphones
- St. Anne's Church / Bethesda
- Western Wall Tunnel Tour
- St. Peter of Gallicantu
- Massada Cable Car
- Capernaum
- Private boat sail on the Sea of Galilee for Praise & Worship
- Beit Yigal Alon Museum and ancient fishing boat from time of Jesus
- Magdala, hometown of Mary Magdalene
- Muchraka, Mt. Carmel
- Mt. of Beatitudes, site where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount
- Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field, Church of Nativity
- Baptismal service at Yardenit for those wishing to be baptized
- Daily breakfasts and dinners, 3 Lunches, 1 Farewell Dinner
-and more, much more!



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The Billy Blanks Fitness and Faith Holy Land Tour

10-Day Spiritual Journey

October 15 – 24, 2023

TOUR FEATURES INCLUDED

- Porterage at hotels
- Tour Israel with Israel Government licensed, certified English-speaking guide
- Deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with HEPA filtration system and experienced driver
- All group greetings, assistance, arrival and departure transfers, entrance fees per Suggested Sites Itinerary unless otherwise noted, and hotel tax included. Participants must provide their flight itineraries to Israel Advantage Tours, Inc. no later than June 17, 2023. Transfers included are from Ben Gurion Airport to hotel in Tel Aviv on October 16, 2023 and from hotel in Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport on October 24, 2023.
- 7 days sightseeing, experiencing Israel, the Promised Land, the Holy Land with sites and activities to cherish for a lifetime
- 3 reserved lunches: St. Peter's Fish in Tiberias, in Qumran, in Bethlehem (beverages are not always included)
- Farewell Dinner at outside-of- hotel culturally-rich restaurant on final night in Israel
- Hotels** reflected, or similar, based on double occupancy, Half Board (Breakfast and Dinner); Single Room Supplement available with limited quantity
- Highlighted inclusions: Exemplary personal attention, preparation of orientation presentations, including Zoom gatherings, and Israel Advantage Tours *Signature Touch Service*
- Gratuities to Israel guide, Israel driver, Bethlehem guide, Bethlehem driver, hotel staff (reception, porterage, housekeeping, dining room), and scheduled out-of-hotel dining experience at restaurants
- Decorative Personalized Certificates commemorating the momentous occasion of this Fitness and Faith Holy Land Tour: 10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime

*Current pricing reflects land-only services. As of September 5, 2022, pricing for group airlines arrangements – 10 participants or more departing from the same gateway – will be published in late-December 2022/Early-January 2023. For Participants traveling as individuals – not with a group of 10 or more participants departing from the same gateway – Israel Advantage Tour, Inc. will be happy to assist you with airline arrangements. Airlines reserve the right to adjust cost for taxes and fuel surcharges up until day of ticketing.

** Travel industry mandate notice: We do not anticipate any changes to hotel accommodations, though should unforeseen circumstances beyond our control necessitate hotel substitution, every effort will be made to secure hotels of comparable and similar level of service, standards, and cost.

NOT INCLUDED:

Travel Insurance and current Government of Israel mandate that all visitors purchase insurance that includes coverage for Covid-19 and/or its variants inclusive of a quarantine package (coverage), purchases of a personal nature, hotel wi-fi, hotel minibars, lunches, meals, beverages, other than those mentioned in the *Signature Touch Service*, any meals and beverages not mentioned in this program, love offerings (such acknowledgements are at group members' personal discretion) for tour guides, drivers, service providers, sites reflected on itinerary, i.e., Mt. of Beatitudes, Garden of Gethsemane, other sites of significance not herewith mentioned, anyone/any organization to whom/to which group member(s) wish to provide a gift, vaccines or associated testing that may be mandated by the Government of Israel and/or countries through which the group will be transiting, etc. Water will be available for purchase on bus for \$1 per bottle.



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Experience the footsteps **history preserves** and **walk** where others before us have walked, where the **Bible unfolds** and **grants testimony** to the land where our **ancestors dwelled**, where **faith was tested**, where **miracles occurred**, where **prophets inspired**, where **Abraham led**, where **Jesus pledged**, and **sense the presence of God**.

THE BILLY BLANKS FITNESS AND FAITH HOLY LAND TOUR

10-Day Spiritual Journey of a Lifetime

Suggested Sites Itinerary

Subject to change, pending time, weather, conditions, pace of participants

We suggest the following schedule for early-morning workouts:

6a	Wake-up call
6:30a – 7:30a	Workout session
7:30a – 9a	Return to room/Freshen up/Breakfast
9a	Depart hotel for touring (likely that departure from hotel on days with scheduled early-morning workout session will be later than 9a)

NOTE: Suggested Workout sessions, please note that such sessions are scheduled as follows:

Day 3	Early-morning Workout: Tel Aviv Beach along the Mediterranean Sea
Day 4	Early-morning Workout: Tiberias Famous Promenade
Day 6	Early-morning Workout: Dead Sea Beach
Day 8	Possible Spontaneous Tae Bo in Jerusalem's popular Mamilla Mall

NOTE: On Day 3 and Day 6, we must allow for an extra 30 minutes for hotel checkout and bus loading

DAY 1 Sunday, October 15, 2023

Depart from your home city for Israel's David Ben Gurion International Airport.

DAY 2 Monday, October 16, 2023

Arrive at David Ben Gurion International Airport / Dinner and Overnight at Herod's Hotel, Tel Aviv

Passengers will be arriving throughout the day. Airport and Transfer services to the hotel in Tel Aviv can be arranged pending participants sharing their flight details with us no later than June 17, 2023.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Tel Aviv along the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 3 Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Early-morning Workout on Tel Aviv Beach / Check out of hotel / Caesarea Maritima / Mukhraka / Megiddo / Dinner and Overnight at Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias

CAESAREA MARITIMA

Explore the great Roman port city and one of the largest archeological digs in Israel. This is where Peter baptized the Roman centurion, Cornelius, who became the first gentile convert to Christianity (*Acts 10*), and where Paul was tried by Festus (*Acts 25:6-12*). See the Roman Theater, Herod's Palace, the Palace of the Roman Procurator (*Acts 23:23; Acts 26:23 - Paul; Acts 10:20-48 - Peter & Cornelius*), and the Amphitheater.

MUKHRAKA

Travel through the Druze villages of Daliyat el Carmel and Usifiya to Mukhraka, the place on Mt Carmel, where Elijah battled the prophets of Baal (*1 Kings 18:25*) for a view of the Jezreel Valley.

MEGIDDO

Discover a fascinating *tel* (hill), comprising 26 ancient civilizations superimposed on one another, overlooking the Valley of Jezreel also known as the Valley of Armageddon – the place where the last battle of mankind is due to take place (*Revelation 16:16*), Megiddo was also one of Solomon's fortified chariot cities (*1 Kings 9:15*).

Dinner and Overnight at our hotel in Tiberias, not far from the Sea of Galilee.



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DAY 4 Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Early-morning Workout on Famous Promenade in Tiberias / Caesarea Philippi / Magdala / Nof Ginosar with its Ancient Boat / Sea of Galilee Private Boat Sail / Reserved Lunch / Mount of Beatitudes / Capernaum / Dinner and Overnight at Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias

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CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Also known as Baal Hermon and Baal Gad in the Old Testament period, situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and at the base of Mt. Hermon, Caesarea Philippi is the location of one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River. This abundant water supply has made the area very fertile and attractive for religious worship. The great confession and the transfiguration both occurred in the vicinity of the city (Matt 16:13), then known as Caesarea Philippi.

MAGDALA

Visit the hometown of Mary Magdalene and the site of a first century Synagogue, where Jesus most certainly would have taught (*Matthew 4:23*). Explore the excavated city of Magdala and worship in the beautiful Duc in Altum. Prepare a special Ceremony in Duc in Altum, honoring the women of the Bible.

NOF GINOSAR

Stop by Yigal Alon Museum where a 2,000-year-old boat from Jesus's time is on display.

PRIVATE BOAT SAIL ON SEA OF GALILEE

Sail on the Sea of Galilee in a replica of a first century wooden boat. It is here Jesus walked on the waters and calmed the storm. This region around the Sea of Galilee is where Jesus lived more of his public life and performed His most glorious miracles.

MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

Pray on the hillside where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:1-12*).

CAPERNAUM

Explore the town where Jesus lived during His Galilee ministry (*Matthew 4:13; Mark 3:1*). Hometown to Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew.

Dinner and Overnight at our hotel in Tiberias, not far from the Sea of Galilee.

NOTE: Leonardo Plaza Hotel is a 2 – 3 minute walk to the Tiberias Promenade. The hotel has direct access to the Promenade from the pool area. We will ask the hotel to open the gate for easy access to the Promenade.

NOTE: In Magdala, visit: Synagogue, the city of Magdala, Duc in Altum and, time permitting, enjoy a special short ceremony honoring (10 – 15 minutes) women of the Bible in the Encounter Chapel or main chapel adjacent to the rotunda.

NOTE: Time permitting, drive to the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee from the Peace Vista.

DAY 5 Thursday, October 19, 2023

Check out of hotel / Yardenit for Baptismal Service / Be'it She'an / Jordan River Valley / Qumran / Dead Sea / Dinner and Overnight at David Resort & Spa, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea

YARDENIT

Visit the Jordan River baptismal site. We will have a baptismal service for anyone who wishes to be baptized or re-baptized, spiritually immersed, in the Jordan River.

BEIT SHE'AN

Be awed by one of the largest and most spectacular excavations in all of Israel. It was here that the bodies of King Saul and his sons were put on public display by the Philistines. The Roman city was known as Scythopolis during Jesus's time). (*Judges 7:4-8; 1 Samuel 31:10*).

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

Gradually descend through the Jordan River Valley from Beit Shean to the Dead Sea.

QUMRAN

Visit the home of the first century sect known as the Essenes, the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

DEAD SEA BEACH

Morning float on the salty waters of the Dead Sea. Bring water shoes; the salt deposits along the seashore can be sharp and slippery.

Dinner and Overnight at our hotel in Ein Bokek, at the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth.

NOTE: Possible Workout session in the evening after dinner in a banquet room, TBD.



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DAY 6 Friday, October 20, 2023

Early-morning Workout at Dead Sea Beach / Dead Sea Beach to luxuriate in the mineral-rich and salty water for those who do not wish to participate in the morning workout session / Check out of hotel / Massada / Ein Gedi National Park / Jericho Road (Wadi Kelt) / St. George Monastery Overlook / Jerusalem / Dinner and Overnight at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel on Mt. Scopus in the hills surrounding the Holy City of Jerusalem

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DEAD SEA BEACH FOR EARLY-MORNING WORKOUT OR OPPORTUNITY TO FLOAT IN DEAD SEA

Get pumped up for the day with a workout session with Billy along the 'salt sea' or you may choose to luxuriate as Cleopatra and King Herod did, swathing their soul and soothing their spirit in the mineral-rich and salty Dead Sea, 1300 feet below sea level, the lowest place on earth. This beach is famous for its mud-packs. Bring water shoes; the salt deposits on the seashore can be sharp and slippery.

MASSADA

Ascend the mountain by cable car to view King Herod's magnificent desert fortress and the place of the last heroic Jewish stand against the Romans in 73 AD.

EIN GEDI NATIONAL PARK / UP TO JERUSALEM, IN HEBREW, PRONOUNCED YERUSHALAYIM, MEANING CITY OF PEACE AND CITY OF COMPLETENESS

Explore the desert oasis where David hid from King Saul (1 Samuel 24) and then toward the hills surrounding Jerusalem, the hills being Jerusalem's natural fortress and protectress. Jerusalem pronounced in Hebrew, is Yerushalayim, meaning City of Peace and City of Completeness.

JERICO ROAD (WADI KELT) WITH FAMOUS ST. GEORGE MONASTERY OVERLOOK

Along the way to Jerusalem, stand in amazement as you look across the wadi at the monastery built in the mountain.

JERUSALEM

Enjoy the bus ride as we ascend the road that takes us up to the glorious Holy City of Jerusalem where we spend our dedicated time exploring the sites of significance and their legacy, bearing witness to all our forebears left for us to inherit, walking in their footsteps, touching the places where Jesus taught, ministered, and died.

Dinner and Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 7 Saturday, October 21, 2023

Jerusalem / Mount of Olives / Palm Sunday Road (Hosanna Road) / Garden of Gethsemane / Tombs of Absalom and Zachariah / House of Caiaphas / Upper Room / Cardo / Western Wall (The Kotel) / Western Wall Rabbi's Tunnels / Pools of Bethesda / Church of St. Anne / Lion's Gate / Dinner and Overnight at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel on Mt. Scopus with its majestic view on a clear day, of the Dead Sea, the place we visited the past two days

JERUSALEM

Here we are, at last, our first morning in the Golden City of Jerusalem, where, it is written, "God partitioned 10 parts of beauty to the world, nine of them are found in Jerusalem" (Kiddushin 49:b). For thousands of years, civilizations have sojourned to this hallowed and magnificent city, some seeking power and triumph, others struggling for peace, yet many wishing to bear witness to the moments God reveals Himself. Welcome home, dear friends, to this stunning city that forever beckons to you, a city that never quite looks the same way twice. Breathe in, deeply, take in and hold on to all you can...be embraced by the majestic sights and sounds, tastes and touches of a richly-textured and colorfully-vibrant tapestry of cultures, drawing people of all faiths to gather here, capturing their attention, holding their vision captive, safely and comfortably, within the walls, some still standing, waiting for you to discover all that awaits you, here, where age-old treasures remain hidden, still, here.

MOUNT OF OLIVES / PALM SUNDAY ROAD (HOSANNA ROAD)

View the entire city of Jerusalem from this significant biblical site where Jesus has promised to return. Next, descend the mountain by foot on the same road that Jesus used on Palm Sunday.

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Visit the Church of All Nations and meet in the Garden where Jesus and the disciples would often come to pray and rest.

TOMBS OF ABSALOM AND ZACHARIAH/HOUSE OF CAIPHAS

We travel around the Old City walls, viewing the tombs of Absalom and Zachariah and continue to the House of Caiaphas where Jesus was held the night before His crucifixion. Here we will stand on the same stone steps Jesus would have walked up Mount Zion.

MOUNT ZION / THE UPPER ROOM

Gather where the disciples gathered after the ascension of Jesus (Mark 14:12-26; Acts 1:13).

CARDO

Discover the Cardo, one of two main streets from the Roman-Byzantine times.



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WESTERN WALL (KOTEL)

Pray at the Kotel, Judaism's most sacred site.

WESTERN WALL TUNNELS

Enter the Rabbinic Tunnels revealing the base of the Temple Mount and the street level during the time of Jesus.

POOLS OF BETHESDA / ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

See where Jesus healed the lame man (*John 5:1-24*) and continue to this Crusader era church and enjoy the amazing acoustics that resonate for 15 seconds. Listen to church choirs and praise teams from around the world share their love and praise of God.

LION'S GATE

The start of the traditional Christian observance of the last walk of Jesus from prison to crucifixion, the Via Dolorosa begins here. Notice the four lions, two on the left and two on the right, carved into the wall above the gate.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 8 Sunday, October 22, 2023

Jerusalem / Yad VaShem / Bethlehem with scheduled lunch / Shepherd's Fields / Church of the Nativity / ½-day Mamilla Mall Shopping Experience and Leisure Time / Possibility of Spontaneous Tae Bo in Mamilla Mall / Dinner and Overnight at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel on Mt. Scopus with its stunning vista of Jerusalem before our very eyes

YAD VASHEM

Travel to the National Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, which includes: Valley of the Communities, Hall of Names, Children's Memorial, and the new Museum complex.

BETHLEHEM, SHEPHERD'S FIELD, AND CHURCH OF NATIVITY

Visit the birthplace of Jesus at the Church of Nativity and see the Shepherd's Field.

MAMILLA MALL

After our morning touring, we stop, shop, and savor the delicacies along the 2,000 foot pedestrian promenade lined by 140 stores, restaurants, and cafes in West Jerusalem's only open-air mall, the popular Mamilla Mall. Bus pick-up at designated location TBD at 5:30p.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

NOTE: Possibility of Spontaneous Tae Bo in Mamilla Mall pending permission from City of Jerusalem Municipality.

Day 9 Monday, October 23, 2023

Jerusalem / City of David / Davidson Museum / Southern Steps to the Temple Mount / Lithostratos / Pilate's Judgement Hall / Ecce Homo / Via Dolorosa / Church of the Holy Sepulchre / Garden Tomb and Communion / Farewell Dinner at Naura, a culturally-rich restaurant for our final evening in the Holy Land / Final overnight at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel

CITY OF DAVID

Tour the ongoing excavation in the ancient core of Jerusalem ruled by King David, including David's palace and a sophisticated ancient underground water system.

DAVIDSON MUSEUM

View artifacts from the First and Second Temple periods.

TEMPLE STEPS

Walk on the actual steps used by Jesus and the people of His time to enter the Temple (Psalms of Ascent)

LITHOSTROTOS / PILATE'S JUDGEMENT HALL / ECCE HOMO ARCH ("Behold the man!")

View the Jerusalem streets upon which Jesus would have walked and touch the pavement where Pilate condemned Jesus to death (*John 19:13*). See the remains of Pilate's Judgement Hall, stopping along the way at the Ecce Homo Arch, where the Roman procurator pronounced the words, "Behold the man!"

VIA DOLOROSA / CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Discover the Stations of the Cross leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, considered to be the location of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.



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GARDEN TOMB AND GORDON'S CALVARY

Receive communion at the Garden Tomb, considered by Protestants to be the site of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Enjoy a memorable communion service to conclude the journey.

Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem. Prepare belongings for your return flight home.

Day 10 Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Depart Jerusalem for Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport for your return home with cherished memories of your Fitness and Faith Holy Land Tour with Billy Blanks, a spiritual journey of a lifetime through the pages of the Bible. Transfer and Airport service from the hotel in Jerusalem to the airport can be arranged pending participants sharing their flight details with us no later than June 17, 2023.



The pomegranate, rich in symbolism, is a fruit with its own intrinsic spirit. Its imagery originally derived from the Bible, represents the fertility of the Promised Land and fruitfulness in life. The pomegranate also represents the biblical concepts of **knowledge**, **learning**, and **wisdom**, qualities that come from the understanding of the Scriptures.

Jewish tradition teaches that the pomegranate embodies values of righteousness because the fruit is said to contain exactly 613 seeds, corresponding to the mitzvot (commandments) of the Torah.

Our multi-faceted pomegranate is meant to capture the many attributes gracing the magnificence of this holy fruit.

At **Israel Advantage Tours**, we aspire to incorporate each of these biblical hallmarks into your tour program, while allowing multiple opportunities to deepen your understanding of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This pomegranate represents our promise to provide you with the very best Israel has to offer on a journey that will embrace and captivate you and your fellow sojourners.

You're invited to visit our website, www.israeladvantagetours.com, and become part of the Israel Advantage Tours' family. Subscribe to our newsletters, each focused on familiarizing you with the beauty and bounty of the Holy Land, the Land of Milk'n'Honey, the Land of Prophets, Promises, and Peace, and the land where the only thing missing is you. Like us on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/israeladvantagetours/> and stay tuned to the rest of the story.

Come and touch history. Walk with us through the pages of the Bible, in the very footsteps Jesus left for us to follow.