

Jerusalem, Israel

Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies offers a four week, six week and 3 month programme. I attended the 4 week course.

To read and study the story of Jesus and the first Christians while physically in the Holy Land does not only shape our understanding of the Scriptures, but also how Christian faith is embodied in concrete, complex reality. Many guided excursions are included, among them a five-day trip to Galilee. Field trips focus not only on the archaeological remains, but also on the Christians from local eastern and western churches and their difficult situation as minorities, sharing land and life with Jews and Muslims.

St. Jerome was the first to say that the land is “the fifth Gospel” – that is, once you know the land, you will then understand the other four gospels more deeply. I truly believe that this course, this experience touches lives. To be in the land that gave birth to our Christian faith; to be introduced to the “living stones” (that is the Christians) who have faithfully lived in the Holy Land through the centuries, often at great sacrifice; to be introduced to their history and their contemporary existence, has undoubtedly have a profound effect on me. Not only was my knowledge and understanding broadened, but my spirit was renewed and lifted.

Website: <http://www.come.to/tantur>