



Israel and the Holy Land Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1, Saturday - Depart for Israel

Depart the USA on an overnight flight to Israel

DAY 2, Sunday - Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to Jerusalem

Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to your hotel in Jerusalem. (Airport transfers not included). This evening, meet your Tour Manager for an orientation at the hotel, followed by a light meal.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3, Monday - Jerusalem Old City Tour

This morning, enjoy a walking tour, exploring Jerusalem's walled Old City with its four distinct sections known as the Christian Quarter, Jewish Quarter, Muslim Quarter and Armenian Quarter. At Mt. Zion, visit the Room of the Last Supper and the traditional tomb of King David. Ascend Mt. Scopus to view the magnificent panorama of the city. From here, on to Tower of David Museum, guarding the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City. Follow the steps of the Via Dolorosa through narrow alleys and souks to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the holiest sites in the Christian world. After time on your own, continue to the Western Wall, the only remaining remnant of the Second Temple. At dinner this evening, savor local specialties.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Tuesday - Jewish Quarter Tour

After breakfast, return to the Old City and focus on touring the Jewish Quarter this morning. Visit the excavation of the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount at the Davidson Center followed by a visit to the Western Wall tunnels. From here walk through the Cardo, the ancient Roman market street that has been excavated to reveal another layer of the city's long history. It brings to life the mural of the ancient Roman Cardo that is located near the entrance of the Davidson Center viewed earlier this morning. End the tour with a quick stop at the remains of the Broad Wall, an ancient defensive wall and free time for lunch on your own. The remainder of the day is at leisure or, join the *optional* Bethlehem tour to visit the Church of the Nativity, commemorating the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Optional: Half Day Bethlehem (PM)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Wednesday - Jerusalem New City Tour

Today, embark on a morning tour of Jerusalem's New City, beginning at the Israel Museum. While here, visit the Shrine of the Book where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls are kept. Not far away is the enormous replica of Jerusalem, built in a 1:50 scale. The model depicts the city as it was nearly 2000 years ago in 66 AD. Following the museum visit continue to the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery, Israel's largest military cemetery, and part of the greater national cemetery. The respect and admiration shown to those lost is evident when viewing the identical headstones of all who served, regardless of rank. End the tour with a visit to the site of Israel's Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem, located on the western slope of Mt. Herzl, also known as the "Mount of Remembrance." Spend time in the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum, before returning to Jerusalem. Balance of the day is at leisure. This afternoon, join the *optional* tour to the Herodian Mansions and the Burnt House in the Old City. Tonight attend the *optional* Illuminated Jerusalem, Dinner & Sound & Light Show. The evening begins with dinner at a popular restaurant. Next, drive to the Tower of David to attend the spectacular "Sound & Light" Show that tells the story of Jerusalem accompanied by original music and virtual reality images

Optional: Half Day Jerusalem Herodian Mansions & Burnt House (PM)

Optional: Illuminated Jerusalem with Dinner (PM)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6, Thursday - Masada En Route to the Dead Sea

Today, travel to the desert mesa of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea. Ascend to the top by cable car to visit the archaeological site of Roman and Byzantine ruins. Excavations of the site have uncovered structures not only of Herod's Palace and a Byzantine church but also a swimming pool, a synagogue, rebel dwellings and a mosaic workshop. At the bottom of the hill, visit the newly constructed Museum of Masada that contains artifacts discovered from the mountain and the surrounding area. Arrive at the Dead Sea this afternoon and enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening

Overnight: Dead Sea

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, Friday - Jordan Valley, Beit She'an En Route to Galilee

This morning travel into northern Israel through the Jordan River Valley passing Qumran, the archaeological site near the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Afterwards, stop at Beit Alpha. Go back in time and visit the mosaic floor of the ancient Synagogue depicting lunar Hebrew moons and their corresponding zodiac signs. After a short lunch break on your own, visit the ruins of the Roman theater in the impressive archaeological site of Beit She'an. From here continue to Yardenit, a popular baptismal site on the Jordan River before a stop in Caprice, famous for the diamond factory. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening

Overnight: Galilee

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Saturday - Full Day in Galilee

Enjoy a full day at leisure in this lush region with a deep religious heritage to the west of the Sea of Galilee. The region offers much to do in nearby towns and cities, such as Tiberias, or venture out on the Sea itself to get a glimpse of the natural beauty of the area before dinner this evening. Participate in the *optional* full day tour to the Golan Heights to understand more about this strategic area

Optional: Full Day Galilee & Golan Heights with Lunch (AM)

Overnight: Galilee

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Sunday - Nazareth, Haifa, Caesarea En Route to Tel Aviv

Head towards the Mediterranean Sea this morning through the Galilean hills to Nazareth. Here there will be a chance to visit the Church of the Annunciation, the largest basilica in the Middle East. Continue to Haifa to view the impressive Baha'i Gardens incorporating nineteen distinct terraces in the heart of the city. Follow the Mediterranean coast, stopping in the ancient harbor of Caesarea to see its Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins and the impressive theater. Watch history come alive with a multi-media presentation at the visitor centre. Drive south along the coastal highway to Tel Aviv. After checking into the hotel, you will have an included dinner.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10, Monday - Full Day in Tel Aviv or Optional Tour to Petra

Today, enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the coastal city of Tel Aviv independently or take a full day optional tour to the historic and wondrous city of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Petra is one of the New 7 Wonders of the World that was lost for hundreds of years, and rediscovered only recently. You'll leave Tel Aviv by air, flying south to Eilat, before being picked up and transferred to Jordan. Once in Aqaba, the Jordanian port city, across the bay from Eilat, head north along the Desert Highway through the spectacular scenery of Wadi Rum, to Petra. At Petra, your guide will introduce you to the highlights of this incredible city - including the Siq, Obelisk Tomb, Calligraphy, Treasury, Jabal Madbach (sacrificial palace), Tombs, Theater, Mountaintop Tombs. You'll enjoy an authentic lunch in a Jordanian style restaurant, before returning south to Eilat, experiencing a quick tour of the city of Aqaba on the way, if time permits. From Eilat, you'll transfer to the airport, and fly back to Tel Aviv.

NOTE: There is no need to pre-arrange a visa to Jordan for this tour. Price excludes border fee of \$65, Jordanian visa fee of \$60 paid in cash at the border and round trip transfers to and from Tel Aviv Airport.

DAY 11, Tuesday - Depart Israel

Spend the day exploring Tel Aviv on your own before your evening departure to the airport for your return flight home. (Airport transfers not included).

Meals: Breakfast