

# 11 Day Classic Israel

from \$1649 (Land Only)

Thursday departure



## Escorted Package Includes

- 9 nights First Class accommodations
  - 4 nights Jerusalem
  - 1 night Dead Sea
  - 2 nights Galilee
  - 2 nights Tel Aviv
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 15 meals: 9 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

## Special Features

- Discover Jerusalem's astonishing walled Old City and Western Wall
- Visit the site of Israel's Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem
- At Israel Museum, view some of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Visit Masada, the archaeological site of Roman and Byzantine ruins and the Dead Sea en route
- Visit the ruins of the Roman amphitheater in the impressive archaeological site of Beit She'an
- Stop at the Ancient Roman port of Caesarea to see its Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins and the impressive theater

*DAY 1, Thursday - Depart for Israel*

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

Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to your hotel in Jerusalem. This evening, meet your Tour Manager for an orientation at the hotel, followed by a light meal

**Overnight:** Jerusalem

**Meals:** Dinner

*DAY 3, Saturday - 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. Begin the tour just outside of the walls at Mt. Zion to visit the Room of the Last

Supper and the tomb dedicated to King David and Mt. Scopus to view the Wall of Life. From here, visit the David Citadel and stroll along the Via Dolorosa, a central street in the Old City and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which was constructed early in the 2nd century and has undergone beautiful restoration projects. Following free time for lunch rejoin the group to visit the Western Wall, a remnant of the original wall surrounding the Temple Mount. Savor dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for the evening

**Overnight:** Jerusalem

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Sunday - 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. 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, Monday - 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 the balance of the day at leisure. This afternoon, join the *optional* tour to the Herodian Mansions and the Burnt House in the Old City. This tour features two visits, The Herodian Mansions and the Burnt House. 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, Tuesday - Masada En Route to the Dead Sea

Today, travel to the desert mesa of Masada overlooking the Dead Sea. Ascend to the top of the 400 meter by flat 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, Wednesday - 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 amphitheater in the impressive archaeological site of Beit She'an. From here continue to Yardenit, a popular baptismal site on the Jordan River before proceeding to Galilee for overnight. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening

**Overnight:** Galilee

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 8, Thursday - 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, Friday - 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 in the heart of the city and incorporating nineteen distinct terraces. 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 for dinner and overnight

**Overnight:** Tel Aviv

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 10, Saturday - Full day in Tel Aviv

After breakfast there is the option to join a short walking tour of Tel Aviv with a local guide provided by the hotel. Take the remainder of the day to explore the coastal city of Tel Aviv independently. A more modern city than Jerusalem, Tel Aviv has become the financial, arts and business center of Israel. Take time today to wander along the promenade along the beach and to the Jaffa Port

**Overnight:** Tel Aviv

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### DAY 11, Sunday - Depart Israel

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

\*Please note that due to local events, the order of the Jerusalem sightseeing might be altered. Details will be provided locally by your Tour Manager

\*\* Optional Illuminated Jerusalem with Dinner will operate on Day 3 for departure dates: Jun 2 & 23. \*The Included Dinner will now operate on Day 5 instead of Day 3 for departure dates: Jun 2& 23.

### Optional Tours

#### **Day #4 Half Day Bethlehem 2:00 PM**

On this excursion, you will leave the State of Israel and cross the border to the Palestinian Authority. You will leave your Israeli guide and driver on the Israeli side, and upon arriving into the West Bank, you will be met by your Palestinian tour guide who will accompany you on this tour to Bethlehem. Large groups will necessarily split into smaller groups utilizing local shuttle buses, which will take you to visit the Church of the Nativity, commemorating the birthplace of Jesus Christ, with many restoration projects instituted throughout the years. Presently the facade of the Church of the Nativity is encircled by the high walls of the three convents: the Franciscan on the northeast side, and the Greek Orthodox and the Armenian Orthodox on the southeast side. A shopping stop for local souvenirs and olive wood handicrafts, a principal source of local income, is included in the tour.

Please note that Bethlehem is located six miles south of Jerusalem in the West Bank and governed by the Palestinian National Authority.

The Church is currently undergoing renovations which are scheduled to continue through 2017. Expect to see scaffolding on parts of the structure, and as work is ongoing, there may be construction noise during normal visit hours.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

#### **Day #5 Half Day Jerusalem Herodian Mansions & Burnt House**

This tour features two visits that take you back to the time of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, an era reaching back as far as 515 BCE. Your first stop will be a 6 house compound known as the Herodian Mansions. These were the homes of aristocracy, most especially Temple priests and their families. The homes were designed in the Hellenistic Roman style popular at the time. The design of the dwellings, and the findings revealed during the excavations, bear witness to the residents' wealth and high standard of living. They allow you to observe the living conditions and way of life of the Jerusalem upper class on the eve of the destruction of the Second Temple. The last visit on this tour will be to the Burnt House, which was excavated in the 1970's. It was believed to have been set ablaze by the Roman legions in 70 AD. It was owned by the Kathros family, members of the wealthy Temple priest aristocracy. You will view an emotional video reproduction of the 2,000 year old events, as they were appearing before your very eyes. Watch as they prepare their revolt against the Romans, the different political opinions of the family members, the storming of the city and the house, and the destruction of the temple and the torching of the house.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

#### **Day #5 Illuminated Jerusalem, Dinner & Sound & Light Show**

Jerusalem at night is truly a sight to behold, with the city's magnificent architecture beautifully illuminated. 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. Return to your hotel.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

#### **Day #8 Full Day Galilee & Golan Heights with lunch**

Drive to Safed, a holy city in Judaism and the center of the mystical Kabbalah. Stroll through the artists' colony and visit an ancient synagogue. Proceed to Golan Heights stopping at a kibbutz for a tour and lunch. Continue to Har Bental site of a former Israeli bunker. Next visit a kosher winery in Katzrin, the largest town in the Golan Heights. Return to your hotel.

Approximate tour duration is 9 hours.