

9 Day Affordable Israel

from \$1149 (Land Only)
Wednesday departure



Escorted Package Includes

- 7 nights accommodations
 - 4 nights Jerusalem
 - 2 nights Tiberias
 - 1 night Tel Aviv
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 11 meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager per itinerary
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Special Features

- Discover Jerusalem's astonishing walled Old City
- Tour the impressive archaeological site of Beit She'an, dating back to King Saul
- At the Jordan River stop at the popular baptismal site of Yardenit
- Visit the age-old fishing village of Capernaum frequently mentioned in the Bible
- In Tiberias, enjoy the pristine Sea of Galilee, the largest freshwater lake in Israel
- Visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well in sacred Nazareth
- In Haifa, view the golden-domed Baha'i Shrine and stunning Baha'i Gardens
- Tour the astounding Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins at ancient Caesarea

DAY 1, Wednesday - Depart for Israel Depart for Israel

DAY 2, Thursday - Arrive in Tel Aviv, Transfer to "Golden" Jerusalem

Welcome to Israel. Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv and transfer to your hotel in the "golden" city of Jerusalem. Time to rest, relax and acclimate to your new time zone. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink and orientation with your Tour Manager

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY 3, Friday - Jerusalem Old City Tour*

Begin your walking tour of Jerusalem at the walled Old City with its four distinct sections; the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Armenian Quarters. Follow the steps along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the holiest sites in the Christian world. Pass through the narrow alleys and souks to Mt. Zion; visit the Room of the Last Supper and the traditional Tomb of King David. The remainder of the day is on your own. Stroll through the lanes of the Old City, visit the exotic bazaars or join the throngs of people at cafes along the *Midrachov*, Jerusalem's main shopping street. The *optional* afternoon tour to Bethlehem includes a visit to the Church of the Nativity, commemorating the birthplace of Christ. A stop for local olive wood handicrafts is included. This evening, dinner together at the hotel

Optional: Half Day Bethlehem (PM)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Saturday - At Leisure in Jerusalem

A full day to discover this fascinating city on your own. In Jerusalem, center of three of the world's greatest religions, there are endless opportunities to explore. A walk through the city's colorful neighborhoods reveals a diverse blend of traditional and modern cultures. Or, join the fascinating *optional* full day tour to Masada and Dead Sea that begins with a drive along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, to Masada. Ascend by cable car to the top of these heroic heights; listen to the brave tale of the Zealots who chose to perish rather than live under Roman rule. Visit the archaeological sites including the remains of Herod's Palace, a synagogue, bath houses, dwellings and workshops. After a visit to the Museum of Masada at the base, drive to the Dead Sea for an "unsinkable" swim in the salty and buoyant waters before returning to Jerusalem. Tonight's very special *optional* evening includes dinner at a popular restaurant, attendance at the spectacular Sound & Light Show at the Tower of David, and a drive through magnificent illuminated Jerusalem

Optional: Full Day Masada and Dead Sea (AM)

Optional: Illuminated Jerusalem, Restaurant Dinner and Sound & Light Show (PM)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Sunday - At Leisure in Jerusalem

Immerse yourself in this ancient city on this day at leisure. There is so much to do, and so much to see! Learn more about the fascinating history of the Old City on the *optional* morning tour that begins at the Zion Gate. Visit the Cardo, a colonnaded Roman shopping street during the Byzantine period, the Jewish Quarter's four Sephardic Synagogues and the Burnt House, set ablaze by the Romans. Then, on to the state-of-the-art Davidson Center in the archaeological Park with its exhibits and interactive multimedia, including a virtual reality reconstruction of the Herodian Temple Mount in the year 70 CE. In the afternoon, visit the contrasting New City on the *optional* tour. Drive via the Supreme Court building and the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to the Israel Museum. Here, view the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed and the miniature model of Jerusalem during Second Temple period. Then, to Yad Vashem, Memorial to the Holocaust on the Mount of Remembrance. This evening, dinner at a local restaurant highlighted by delectable local

favorites

Optional: Half Day Jerusalem Old City - Jewish Quarter (AM)

Optional: Half Day Jerusalem New City (PM)

Overnight: Jerusalem

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Monday - Beit She'an, Jordan River, Capernaum, Tiberias

Travel north via the Jordan Valley and reach the impressive archaeological site of Beit She'an, an ancient city dating back to King Saul; see the remains of an ancient Roman city and the ongoing excavations. From here, travel to the Jordan River, considered one of the world's most sacred rivers; stop at the popular baptismal site of Yardenit. Drive to the age-old fishing village of Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, home to a celebrated Byzantine-era synagogue and frequently mentioned in the Bible as Jesus' base during his Galilean ministry. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Tiberias

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, Tuesday - Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee

On your day at leisure in Tiberias, mix the serene quiet of the pristine Sea of Galilee, the largest freshwater lake in Israel, with nature, history and religion or enjoy the active water sports along the city's many beaches. Don't miss the *optional* tour full day tour to the Galilee that begins in Safed, one of Judaism's holiest cities and mystical center of Kabbalah; walk through the colorful artists' colony and visit an ancient synagogue. Then, ascend the Golan Heights to understand more about this strategic area; visit Har Bental, site of a former Israeli bunker. After lunch at a kibbutz, taste special vintages at a winery in Katzrin before returning to the hotel

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

Overnight: Tiberias

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Wednesday - Nazareth, Haifa and Caesarea to Lively Tel Aviv

Drive through the rolling Galilean hills to the sacred town of Nazareth where, according to tradition, Jesus spent his childhood and youth; visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. Continue to the seaport city of Haifa perched high atop Mt. Carmel. View the golden-domed Baha'i Shrine and the stunning Baha'i Gardens, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Follow the crystal-blue waters of the Mediterranean coast to ancient Caesarea; see the astounding Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins and the 2000-year-old theater. At the Visitor's Center, view the informative multi-media presentation. Then to cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, Israel's "playground-on-the-sea". Get acquainted with the city on the *optional* panoramic tour that begins on bustling Ibn Gvirol Street and travels to Yitzhak Rabin Square with its memorial to the late Israeli Prime Minister. Continue past the Mann Auditorium and Habima, Israel's national theatre to tree-lined Rothschild Avenue known for its distinctive Bauhaus architecture dating back to the 1930s. To top off the evening, stop for dinner at a popular seaside restaurant

Optional: Panoramic Night Tour of Tel Aviv with Dinner (PM)

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9, Thursday - Depart Israel

Bon Voyage! 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 Tours

Day #3 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 #4 Full Day Masada & Dead Sea

The full day tour to Masada and the Dead Sea begins with a drive through the Judean Desert and along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, to Masada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ascend the towering desert mesa via cable car to visit the excavations of the fortress of King Herod and last stronghold of the Zealots against the Romans. Here you'll see many of the original structures such as the synagogue and storehouses that have been painstakingly restored by archaeologists. At the base, visit the Museum of Masada that combines archaeological artifacts with a narrated guided tour of the Story of Masada. Then, journey via Ein Gedi to the Dead Sea for an "unsinkable" swim in the buoyant, salty waters.

Pick-up and drop-off at the hotel. Approximate tour duration is 9 hours.

Day #4 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 #5 Half Day Jerusalem Old City Jewish Quarter

The tour of the Old City begins at the Zion Gate, where provisions for the Jewish Quarter were smuggled during the War of Independence. Walk to the Cardo, the ancient Roman Street that was the main shopping area during the Roman and Byzantine Periods. Visit the Jewish Quarter and view the

four Sephardic Synagogues, each one built separately to fit the needs of the Sephardic community at the time of its construction. Next, tour the excavated site of the Burnt House, believed to be set ablaze by the Romans during the siege of Jerusalem. Lastly, tour the Southern Wall excavations and visit the state-of-the-art Davidson Center in the archaeological Park with its exhibits and interactive multimedia, including a virtual reality reconstruction of the Herodian Temple Mount in the year 70 CE.

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #5 Half Day Jerusalem New City

View the Supreme Court building and the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, as you drive to visit the stunning Israel Museum. Here, view the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed and the miniature model of Jerusalem during Second Temple period. Then, to Yad Vashem, Memorial to the Holocaust, on the Mount of Remembrance. Return to your hotel.

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #7 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.

Day #8 Panoramic Night Tour of Tel Aviv with dinner

Get acquainted with this vibrant and cosmopolitan city on this panoramic tour that begins on bustling Ibn Gvirol Street and travels to Yitzhak Rabin Square with its memorial to the late Israeli Prime Minister. Continue past the Mann Auditorium and Habima, Israel's national theatre to tree-lined Rothschild Avenue known for its distinctive Bauhaus architecture dating back to the 1930s. To top off the evening, stop for dinner at a popular seaside restaurant. Enjoy the views and just people-watch!

Approximate tour duration is 2 hours