

# Heritage & Holy Land

## 8 days | Tel Aviv to Jerusalem



*COACH TOUR - From vibrant Tel Aviv we trace Israel's holy heritage through the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth and Jerusalem with time to float in the Dead Sea and explore ancient Roman archaeological sites and impressive cliff-top fortresses.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Tel Aviv - dynamic city on the Mediterranean coast
- Jaffa - ancient port city and the house of Simon the Tanner
- Caesarea - one of the great cities of antiquity and Megiddo - ancient Biblical city & battleground.
- Sea of Galilee & the Miracle sites - Tiberias, Tabgha, Capernaum, Mount Beatitudes & Cana
- Nazareth - Church of the Annunciation, Mary's Well & Joseph's Church
- Beit Shean - excavations of the old Roman city
- The Dead Sea - Masada, UNESCO-listed fortress & Qumran Caves
- Mount Scopus & Mount of Olives - spectacular views
- Jerusalem (West Bank) - Garden of Gethsemane, Israel Museum and the

- Dead Sea Scrolls, Yad Vashem - World Holocaust Centre. Old City - Temple Mount & the Wailing Wall, Dome on the Rock, Cardo (Roman Road), Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mt. Zion, Last Supper Room & King David's Tomb & Dormition Abbey
- Bethlehem (West Bank) - Shepherd's Field, Church of the Nativity and Ein Karem - birthplace of John the Baptist

#### What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- 7 nights 4 star hotels
- Ben Gurion Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- Touring of - Jaffa, Caesarea, Megiddo, Galilee Miracle Sites, Nazareth, Beit Shean, Masada, Qumran Caves, Jerusalem, Ein Karem & Bethlehem
- Cable car ride in Masada, for views of the Dead Sea
- Services of local guides for scheduled sightseeing
- All transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees to all included sightseeing
- This tour is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. You will join travellers from a number of different operators, some staying in different hotels for sightseeing each day and spend your evenings at leisure. The

sightseeing group may vary in size from 10 - 38 persons.

#### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping/gratuities for your guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. for your guide and USD\$2 for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Tel Aviv

Thursday. Airport transfer to your hotel included. Rest of the day free for you to enjoy the dynamic city of Tel Aviv on the Mediterranean. **Overnight - Tel Aviv**

#### Day 2 : Jaffa & Tiberias



Tel Aviv - Jaffa - Tiberias. A short drive brings us to Jaffa, an ancient port where

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updated on 24-05-2019

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we enjoy a walking tour of the picturesque fortified town, see the House of Simon the Tanner and marvel at the hilltop views. Continuing north along the coast we visit Caesarea, one of the great cities of antiquity and Megiddo, the location of many ancient battles and the city referred to in the book of Revelation as 'Armageddon'. Here we explore the archaeological ruins before continuing to the Sea of Galilee and historic Tiberias, where Jesus lived and preached. Before arriving to Tiberias a stop will be made at a Diamond Emporium, where a short explanation is given on the importance of the nations diamond trade.

**Overnight - Tiberias (B, D)**

### Day 3 : Sea of Galilee & miracle sites



Tiberias. Today we visit Capernaum, an ancient fishing village and the centre of Jesus' ministry. In Tabgha, the site where Christ miraculously fed the 5,000, we see the wonderful mosaic floor of the Church of Multiplication before continuing to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the 'Sermon on the Mount'. Ascending to the rocky plateau of the Golan Heights we enjoy panoramic views of the rugged peaks of Mount Hermon with the green pastoral Huleh valley stretching out below. **Overnight - Tiberias (B, D)**

### Day 4 : Cana & Nazareth



Tiberias - Jerusalem. First stop today is Cana to visit the Wedding Church where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine. We continue on to Nazareth, the city where Jesus spent his childhood, where we visit the Church of Annunciation, Mary's Well and Joseph's Church. Passing through the Jordan Valley we reach Beit Shean and explore the excavations of this beautifully preserved Roman city, destroyed in an earthquake, before travelling on to Jerusalem. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

### Day 5 : The Dead Sea



Jerusalem - Dead Sea - Jerusalem. An excursion today takes us to the remarkable scenery of the Dead Sea and Masada, a UNESCO-listed fortress situated on an isolated cliff in the Judean Desert. We ascend by cable car to the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their war against the Romans. Here we visit the excavations of King Herod's palace, the synagogue and bathhouse. The site also offers spectacular views of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea. We'll also see the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered and enjoy floating on the salty, mineral-rich waters (weather permitting) before heading back to Jerusalem. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

### Days 6-7 : Jerusalem & Bethlehem (West Bank)



Start the day with the spectacular panoramic views from Mt. Scopus before a stop at the Mount of Olives, the site where Jesus first gave the Lord's Prayer. We visit the Garden of Gethsemane before heading to the Old City where we see the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Just outside of the Old City is Mount Zion with the traditional tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper.

On day 7 we discover new Jerusalem, starting with the official memorial site of Yad Vashem, a sprawling complex dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. After paying our respects we head to Ein Karem, a picturesque village where John the Baptist was born. Spend some time in the Israel Museum visiting the Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, and a detailed model of Jerusalem from the time of the Second Temple. Passing the Knesset (House of Parliament) and the campus of the Hebrew University we make our way to Bethlehem, in the West Bank, where we visit Rachel's Tomb and the Church of the Nativity. Then we return to Jerusalem for the night. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B:2, D:2)**

### Day 8 : Jerusalem to Tel Aviv



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Thursday, Jerusalem - breakfast. Today marks the end of our tour. After hotel check out, transfer to the airport.

(B)

### HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

#### Hotel Grand Beach

Located just a few minutes walk from Tel Aviv's golden beaches, the Hotel Grand Beach offers a comfortable and luxurious atmosphere. Guest rooms are modernly furnished and include free Wi-Fi. With a number of excellent eating options including a lavish buffet in the 'Jerusalem' dining room. The roof top pool is another highlight affording stunning views of the seafront and the city and is a great place to cool off! Perfectly located close to the sea front and the bustling city centre with lots of restaurants and cafes nearby.



#### Golan Hotel Tiberias

The Golan Hotel Tiberias is family run property located in the historic centre of Tiberias on the hillside overlooking the old city and the Sea of Galilee. The hotel benefits from an outdoor seasonal swimming pool with a spacious sun terrace. You can unwind with a drink at either the poolside bar or at the Kinnereth lobby bar. The hotel's restaurant Panorama offers Local and International kosher dishes. All rooms offer views of the Sea of Galilee and the distant mountains and are equipped with modern amenities, ensuring a comfortable stay.



#### Hotel Grand Court

Centrally located, the Hotel Grand Court is a very modern hotel and an excellent base for exploring the holy city. Guest rooms are bright and well furnished with free Wi-Fi throughout. The Garden Court is the perfect spot to enjoy breakfast al-fresco. There is also a refreshing outdoor pool to relax in or by (open April - September). Perfectly located just a short walk from the Old City.



#### Touring Arrangements

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### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

#### Welcome to Israel

Israel and the Palestinian Territories are both fascinating and beautiful, rich in culture, steeped in history and home to some of the world's most holy sights, at the cornerstone of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths. The revered Holy Lands, once walked upon by Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, the apostles, Baha'i saints, and the Prophet Muhammad (in a miraculous Night Journey), have been a sought-after destination for pilgrims across the world, from ancient times until today. Whilst cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, offers all things modern, the ancient port city of Jaffa which is medieval in appearance, has a laid back Mediterranean seaside resort appeal and the Dead Sea provides the unique

opportunity to float in its famously buoyant waters.

#### Tipping

Tipping is customary within the tourism and service industry in Israel. We would recommend for a job well done you budget USD\$5 - 7 per person, per day for your tour guide and USD\$2-3 if you have a separate driver, however the decision to tip or how much is entirely up to you.

#### Time & Voltage

Israel is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). Daylight Saving time starts on the Friday before the 02 April. The move back to standard time occurs late September/early October according to the Jewish calendar falling on a Saturday night between Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur. During this period, Israel is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, 50Hz AC. Primary sockets require the Continental or European, 2 small round pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

#### Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Israel, with two blank pages. British, South African, Australian, New Zealand, USA and Canadian passport holders do not require a visa to enter Israel. For all other nationalities please visit the Israeli embassy website: <http://israel.embassyhomepage.com>

**ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES:** On both arrival into Israel from Jordan, you must take the official border shuttle bus or chartered coach at a cost of JD 6 (about \$8), payable in USD or JD.

#### Essential Packing

- Bring your own beach towel to make the most of the perfect Tel Aviv Mediterranean beaches

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- If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- If visiting in summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- 3 pin 'type H' Israel electrical adaptor
- Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance
- Two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Proper walking shoes (joggers/trainers) for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

## Climate

Temperatures vary widely, especially from December – early March. The more mountainous regions can be windy, cold and sometimes snowy; Mount Hermon's peak is covered with snow most of the year and Jerusalem usually receives at least one snowfall each year. Temperatures at this time of year average 10-15°C in most places, but approx 5°C in Jerusalem and the Galilee hills - where it can be very cold at night. In January and February there is often heavy rain.

Meanwhile, coastal cities, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers (May to early September) when temperatures range from 27°C – 32°C and rainfall is minimal.

## Arrival Transfer

Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative, carrying an On The Go Tours signboard, will be waiting to meet you just after passport control before you collect your luggage. Please hand this tour voucher to him/her. If for any reason you are unable to commence your tour as scheduled, or on arrival are unable to make contact with our rep (within 20 minutes) please do not exit the airport, call our emergency contact number as detailed above.

## Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Israel from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus and Hepatitis A are strongly recommended. The tap water in Israel is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may

want to drink bottled water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

## Food, Wine & Kosher meals

Food in Israel is extremely diverse and generally very good. A well known favourite is falafel – small fried balls of mashed chickpeas, usually served inside unleavened pita bread with houmous (a cream of chickpeas, tehina, onion, lemon and olive oil). Another popular dish is Shawarma, sliced turkey meat which is also served in pita bread. Also try Me'orav Yerushalmi (Jerusalemite mix) which contain several types of meat, or Schnitzel. Fresh fruit and salads are very popular in Israeli cuisine. Israeli sweets are delightful, try Teiglach - tiny marble sized dough balls drenched in a honey syrup or Ingberlach - ginger candies shaped into small sticks. The Mohn Kihel is a circular or rectangular wafer sprinkled with poppy seed. Pirushkes, or turnovers are little cakes fried in honey or dipped in molasses after they are baked. Strudel is served for dessert.

Alcohol is available at many hotels and restaurant (excluding the Palestinian territories) Maccabee and Gold star, both palatable pale lagers and certified kosher. Israeli wine is produced by hundreds of wineries. The nation's modern Israeli wine industry was founded by Baron Edmond James de Rothschild, owner of the Bordeaux estate Château Laffite-Rothschild. Much of the country is suited for viticulture, prices are fair and top drop can be enjoyed with every meal. If your tour includes dinner in Jerusalem, you are best to re-confirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. Meals (breakfast and dinners) in the hotel are Kosher. Meaning that you will never find dairy products served served with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though their is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal.

Lunches: Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget \$25 - \$30 per day for an average meal

## Currency

The currency of Israel is Israeli New Shekel. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other

major currencies can be exchanged in Israel. ATMs and exchange facilities are available everywhere. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

## Culture & Dress

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Israel. Israel is generally a very relaxed country with a western-oriented outlook. Respect for religion is important to most Israeli's and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Visitors to some synagogues, most churches and all mosques should be aware that entry will normally not be permitted to those with exposed legs or women with exposed upper arms. Women may be asked to cover bare arms and legs in both mosques and synagogues. Carry a wrap or bring along long sleeve shirts for these occasions. Further, men should cover their heads when entering a synagogue with a hemispherical shaped skullcap called a kippah or yarmulke (often provided by the synagogue) though a normal sunhat is also acceptable and in mosques both men and women will be required to take off their shoes before entry.

Israeli people are generally quite direct in what they have to say. Openness and honesty are often valued over politeness and projection of niceness. Direct personal questions are common and should not be taken as offensive. Israelis are also very kind and hospitable. When you make a friend here, they will do their best to take care of you while you're in their country. Foreign visitors are deeply appreciated and are generally shown the utmost respect by locals.

## Optional Activities

### The Night Spectacular

If you have a free evening in Jerusalem you may wish to consider attending the city's famed 'Night Spectacular'. Each evening the walls of the Old Jerusalem Citadel serve as the stage for a sound and light show. Amidst the archeological remains in the Citadel's

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courtyard, and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem is told through stunning visual and lighting displays. An adult ticket costs approximately \$16. Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the gate (subject to availability). Show times vary, but normally from 8pm in the summer and 7pm in the winter. Check the show website for exact timings.

### **Sea of Galilee Boat trip**

On some of our trips we offer a 2 hour Boat Trip on the Sea of Galilee. Often boarding a wooden boat, resembling those from ancient times you'll see gulls overhead and have time to take in the tranquil surrounds. It is here upon the lake that Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26), and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6). The boat trip is offered, dependent on time and number of persons. Should you be interested, please speak with your tours guide.

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