

Tel Aviv & Jerusalem

4 days | Starts/Ends: Tel Aviv



Visit the holy city of Jerusalem, learning about the traditions and rituals held dear to one of the world's most important pilgrimage sites, before experiencing Tel Aviv – Israel's most vibrant, modern, and surprising, city.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Jerusalem (West Bank)- Old City, Wailing Wall, Dome on the Rock, Cardo (Roman Road), Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, views of Jerusalem from Mount of Olives, Mt. Zion, Last Supper Room and King David's Tomb
- Tel Aviv - dynamic city on the Mediterranean coast

What's Included

- 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights Superior (4 star) accommodation (Standard & Deluxe options available).
- Services of a qualified English speaking tour guide on day 2
- Jerusalem guided coach tour (in conjunction with other tourists - not solely On The Go)
- Airport arrival and departure transfers

- All transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles (excl. Jerusalem coach tour)

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



Upon arrival at Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv) International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. This evening enjoy your first taste of Tel Aviv's flourishing food scene, a blend of Mediterranean flavours and Middle East culinary traditions found in the

cosmopolitan cafe culture, the growing high-end restaurant scene and the humble yet delicious street food stalls. The city's iconic dishes include hummus, falafel, shakshuka, a spicy tomato stew topped with a poached egg, and baba ganoush, aubergine mixed with olive oil, garlic and tahini. **Overnight - Tel Aviv**

Day 2 : Jerusalem



Today we enjoy a full day coach tour to UNESCO Listed Jerusalem (West Bank), one of the world's oldest and most holy cities. First stop is the holy Mount of Olives where there are amazing panoramic views of the Old City. Continuing on, take a walking tour of the atmospheric Old City; wander through the Armenian and Jewish quarters to the Cardo (ancient Roman road). We continue on through the Old City and the Christian quarter, visiting the famous Wailing Wall. The Western Wall (better known as the Wailing Wall) attracts thousands of Jewish worshippers each day, who come to pray, write notes to

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 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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God and place them between the ancient stones of the Wall because they believe that the presence of God resides there.

Retrace the final labored steps of Jesus, burdened under the weight of the cross, along the Via Dolorosa to the hallowed Church of the Sepulcher. The Holy Sepulcher is considered one of the holiest places in Christian Religion as it believed to be the site of Jesus' Crucifixion and burial. Inside the church is a rocky outcropping which is the traditional place where the cross was placed. Inside the lavishly decorated church is the opulent marble tomb (Sepulcher) of Jesus, where you will find many pilgrims in prayer and paying homage.

In the afternoon visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial (closed on Saturdays and holidays) which is located at the foot of Mount Herzl on the Mount of Remembrance. The Yad Vashem Archive has the largest and most comprehensive Holocaust collection in the world. Explore the complex which includes the Holocaust History Museum, memorial sites, the Museum of Holocaust Art, sculptures and outdoor commemorative sites such as the Valley of the Communities. After visiting Yad Vashem, return to Tel Aviv and spend the evening at leisure. **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)**

Day 3 : Tel Aviv at leisure



Spend today exploring the 'city that never stops' at your own pace, discovering the country's centre for culture, entertainment, nightlife and food. Tel Aviv is being visited more and more by the discerning traveller, with its reputation as a modern metropolis with a fun loving, friendly atmosphere growing. Stretched along ten miles of Mediterranean coastline, its wonderful location means

visitors can stop to sunbathe and relax along the golden beaches, in-between their city explorations.

Enjoy Tel Aviv's famous cafe culture, where locals spend hours chatting with friends and colleagues over Espresso, sandwiches and quiche. The cafe choice is extensive whether you fancy eating homemade pastries whilst rubbing shoulders with journalists, artists and actors or listening to live music as you choose your coffee.

Visit the Design Museum Holon, which holds a diverse range of collections – a haven for fans of art and architecture. For those who like treasure hunting for unique and unusual pieces, explore the art scene of Jaffa and its antiques quarter. However, if your shopping tastes are more modern, there are plenty of shopping malls full of high-end stores to get lost in.

And if that has not exhausted you, wait for the sun to set and the lights of the bars and nightclubs to be turned on and take your pick from the champagne bars, rooftop parties, secret gardens and much more. **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)**

Day 4 : Tel Aviv



Enjoy your last leisurely Israeli breakfast before your last morning spent sunbathing on the city's golden beaches and swimming in the Mediterranean sea. Check out of the hotel at noon and for the onward departure 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.

Prima City Hotel

Renowned for its cozy atmosphere, warm hospitality, excellent restaurant and considerate service, the Prima City Hotel is one of Tel Aviv's best-kept secrets. Guest rooms are beautifully decorated with bright interiors and complementary Wi-fi throughout. The hotel is situated on a quiet street, a one-minute walk from the Tel Aviv beach, in the heart of Tel Aviv's leisure and business center.



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.

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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
- 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

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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 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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