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 - 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 we enjoy a...
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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 Heights we enjoy panoramic views of the Roman city, destroyed in an earthquake, before travelling on to Jerusalem. **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.

**Overnight - Tiberias (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

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

Touring Arrangements

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17th of May Departure
Please note for the 17th of May departure of Heritage and Holyland the tour will overnight in Nazareth instead of Tiberias for 2 nights.

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, Bahai 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.

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 Ingerleach - 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 Lafitte-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

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 required to take off their shoes before entry.

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.

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.

TRIP NOTES
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
Welcome to Israel
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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.

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.

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.

Time & Voltage
Israel is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (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.

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

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.