Israel Explorer
6 days | Jerusalem to Tel Aviv

Discover the highlights of Israel on this six day tour, taking in the holy sites of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the Bahai Shrine and Gardens at Haifa and bustling Tel Aviv. Ride a cable car to the ancient fortress of Masada and float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• Jerusalem (West Bank) – Explore the sacred sites of the Old City, including the Wailing Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Via Dolorosa
• Bethlehem (West Bank) – Visit the oldest church in the world and the birthplace of Christ
• Haifa – Stroll through the beautiful Bahai Gardens on the slopes of Mount Carmel
• Jaffa – Stroll around the ancient fortified city and enjoy scenic hill-top views of the surroundings
• Tel Aviv – Discover bustling Tel Aviv independently as you enjoy free time in this vibrant city
• Masada – Take a cable car up to the ancient fortification and enjoy unrivalled views over the Dead Sea
• The Dead Sea – Float in the famously buoyant, mineral-rich waters

What’s Included
• Breakfast daily and 2 dinners
• 5 nights 4 star hotels
• Touring – Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea and Jaffa
• Entrance fees for all included sightseeing
• Services of English-speaking tour guide on days 2, 3 and 5
• Ben Gurion Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 6
• All transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned vehicles
• Excursion to Masada and the Dead Sea (in conjunction with other tourists – not solely On The Go, with a bi-lingual guide)

What’s Not Included
• International flights and visa
• Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD$5–7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD$2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Jerusalem
Saturday. Welcome to Israel! On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, you’ll be transported to your hotel in Jerusalem where our representative will be there to assist you. Please note that today is the Sabbath and hotel check-in will not be until after sunset, when the hotel will become fully operational. Spend your first evening in Jerusalem at leisure.

Overnight – Jerusalem (D)

Day 2 : Jerusalem & Bethlehem
sightseeing
At 8am this morning, meet your guide for a Welcome Meeting before we head out and enjoy a full-day guided touring of Jerusalem (West Bank) and Bethlehem (West Bank), beginning with a walk to the top of the holy Mount of Olives.
Israel Explorer

Olives. Discover amazing panoramic views of the old city before we stroll through the Jewish Quarter to the Cardo (an ancient Roman road) and visit the famous Wailing Wall, one of the most revered Hebrew sites in the world. Walk in the footsteps of Christ to the hallowed Church of the Sepulchre – the site of the crucifixion, Jesus’ tomb, and the resurrection.

Enjoy a short drive to Bethlehem where we visit Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity – the oldest church in the world and the site where Jesus was born. Return to Jerusalem and spend this evening as you please. **Overnight – Jerusalem (B, D)**

**Day 3 : Jerusalem to Tel Aviv**

Jerusalem – Haifa – Caesarea – Jaffa – Tel Aviv. Say goodbye to Jerusalem today as we travel to the beautiful port city of Haifa. Discover the Bahai Shrine – a UNESCO world heritage site, and stroll through the beautiful tropical gardens on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Continuing down the coast we’ll visit the Roman and Crusader-era ruins at Caesarea before enjoying a walking tour of the picturesque town of Jaffa, for a chance to marvel at the scenic hilltop views. Finally, we’ll arrive of Jaffa, for a chance to marvel at the ruins at Caesarea before enjoying a walking tour of the picturesque town – the site of the crucifixion, Jesus’ tomb, and the resurrection.

Enjoy a full-day guided excursion today, beginning with the ancient mountain-top fortification of Masada (traveling via the West Bank). It was here in around 31 BC that King Herod built himself a palace overlooking the Dead Sea that served as the last stronghold of Jewish zealots during the First Jewish Roman War in 66–73AD. Reach the ancient settlement by cable car and enjoy scenic views over the Dead Sea. Our tour will continue past Qumran (West Bank), where the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Then, to the Dead Sea itself – the lowest point on land in the world, take a dip in the therapeutic waters, where the high salt content will keep you afloat. The tour will then return to Tel Aviv where your final night is at leisure. **Overnight – Tel Aviv (B)**

**Day 4 : Free time in Tel Aviv**

Spend today exploring Tel Aviv at leisure – relax on the beach or browse the vibrant Carmel Market, enjoying the smells of fresh fruit and spices in the air. This evening, why not check out the bars around the Rothschild Boulevard area and enjoy Tel Aviv’s vibrant nightlife? **Overnight – Tel Aviv (B)**

**Day 5 : The Dead Sea & Masada**

Enjoy a full-day guided excursion today, beginning with the ancient mountain-top fortification of Masada (traveling via the West Bank). It was here in around 31 BC that King Herod built himself a palace overlooking the Dead Sea that served as the last stronghold of Jewish zealots during the First Jewish Roman War in 66–73AD. Reach the ancient settlement by cable car and enjoy scenic views over the Dead Sea. Our tour will continue past Qumran (West Bank), where the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Then, to the Dead Sea itself – the lowest point on land in the world, take a dip in the therapeutic waters, where the high salt content will keep you afloat. The tour will then return to Tel Aviv where your final night is at leisure. **Overnight – Tel Aviv (B)**

**Day 6 : Tel Aviv**

Thursday. Our Israel adventure comes to an end today. You’ll be transferred to the Ben Gurion Airport to meet your onward flight.

If you would like to stay on and further explore, we offer a variety of properties for you to choose from. Browse our best places to visit and [[best time to travel|121888]] pages for suggestions on what to see on your holiday. If you can’t find what you’re looking for, please let us know so we can accommodate your request.

For information about visas, top travel tips and much more, take a look through our [[travel guide|126598]].

**ACCOMMODATION**

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to others of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.

**Eyal Hotel**

Opened in 2014, the Eyal Hotel offers a modern stay in the ancient city of Jerusalem. It boasts an excellent location within walking distance of many points of interest, such as the Great Synagogue, the Damascus Gate and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, to name just a few. Each guestroom is fully equipped with essential amenities, with WiFi available free of charge, and the hotel also features an onsite buffet restaurant and not that of On The Go. Tour groups, not solely On The Go, could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of setting. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Israel Explorer

restaurant. However, its real highlight is the rooftop terrace, from which you can enjoy fantastic views over the city center and ancient city walls.

BY 14 Hotel
Well-located on one of Tel Aviv’s central streets, this boutique hotel is just minutes from the Carmel Market, Dizengoff Square and the lively cafes and restaurants of Sheinkin Street. Its guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, featuring modern décor and free high-speed WiFi. An extensive sweet and savoury breakfast is served daily in the hotel’s café, and guests can also take advantage of the free gym and bike rental. Although as the beach is just footsteps away, you’ll most likely be spending your time soaking up the sun on the sands.

BEFORE YOU GO

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements
As of 01 November 2021 it is a condition of travel, as detailed in our Terms & Conditions that all travellers over 18 years provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

We recognise any vaccine that has been authorised for use in the country where the vaccine was administered. This includes vaccines such as AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer–Biotech, Sinopharm, SinoVac and Sputnik.

In all instances, you must be fully immunised. This means you must receive the full dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine and allow a minimum of 14 days before travelling in order for immunity to take effect. Each COVID-19 vaccine has different dosages and timeframes for immunisation, so please check the related medical advice associated with your vaccine. Children under 18 years are not required to provide evidence of vaccination to travel at this time.

If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, you may apply for an exemption. Exemptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To apply, you must provide supporting documentation from a medical professional.

Proof of COVID-19 immunisation must be provided to us no less than 4 weeks prior to travel. We accept COVID-19 digital certificates, NHS Covid Pass or Vaccination Record Cards e-mailed to info@onthegotours.com or you can upload your vaccination history yourself via our traveller login. https://www.onthegotours.com/Login

The information you will need to upload includes: Administering national authority or government, document No, name of Vaccine, date/s of vaccination.

Israel Country Guide

Welcome to Israel – Arrival airport transfer
A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival at 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 your Tour Voucher to them.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight to Israel is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Welcome to Israel – Arrival via the Jordan border crossing
For travellers arriving into Israel via the border crossing from Jordan - To complete your Israeli immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation in Israel. Please use the following hotel name/address:

Eyal Hotel, 21 Shamai Street, Jerusalem. Phone: +972 2–622–1111

In the unlikely event that our accommodation is not the Eyal Hotel, the Eyal Hotel will be able to inform the authorities (if required) of your new accommodation arrangements.

If you need assistance whilst in Israel, please contact our Operations Manager: Ms Andrea Busani – Mobile: 00972–52–3334773, or Heike Kluss-Oiknine – Mobile 00972 54 620 8798

ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES: On 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. After completing immigration, please meet our driver or representative at the ‘Help Counter’ which is located between the custom desk and the exit door.

If for any reason you have not made contact with your driver, please Do NOT leave the border, contact our Operations Manager, on the number detailed above.

After meeting our driver, we transfer to the hotel. As today is the Sabbath (Friday), hotel check time may vary and may or may not be until after sunset. The afternoon/evening offers free time – head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as 2011) before returning to the hotel for dinner.

The following day is a free day to relax or explore. You are free to explore the city at your leisure, or may wish to take advantage of the free bike rental included in the tour. Alternatively, we can organise a jeep or coach tour to the Dead Sea for you (for an additional cost).

Sun on the sands.

If you’re looking for a break from the beach, why not try a coastal bike ride or a relaxing catamaran trip? Alternatively, you could take a stroll along the boardwalk and enjoy a drink at one of the many cafes and restaurants.

The afternoon/evening offers free time to explore the city, or you could take advantage of the free bike rental included in the tour. Alternatively, we can organise a jeep or coach tour to the Dead Sea for you (for an additional cost).

You may also wish to visit the nearby city of Tel Aviv, which is just a short drive away. Tel Aviv is famous for its vibrant nightlife, restaurants and beaches.

If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, you may apply for an exemption. Exemptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To apply, you must provide supporting documentation from a medical professional.

Proof of COVID-19 immunisation must be provided to us no less than 4 weeks prior to travel. We accept COVID-19 digital certificates, NHS Covid Pass or Vaccination Record Cards e-mailed to info@onthegotours.com or you can upload your vaccination history yourself via our traveller login. https://www.onthegotours.com/Login

The information you will need to upload includes: Administering national authority or government, document No, name of Vaccine, date/s of vaccination.

Israel Country Guide
Israel Explorer

as normal) or the Jerusalem Museum which is a 30 min walk from the hotel.

**Israeli Passport Stamps**

Israeli immigration do not stamp passports but instead provide a ticket (similar to a bus ticket) confirming you have legally entered the country. You must keep this ticket with your passport until your departure from the country.

The following countries, and only these countries (Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) take issue with passports containing evidence of travel to Israel. Should you be planning to travel to any of the countries and wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you will need to have your Jordanian exit stamp (given at the King Hussein/Allenby Bridge Border crossing), stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do when requested.

**Visas & passports**

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Israel, with two blank pages.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Visas)

**Tipping**

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we suggest you budget for your tour guide USD $5–7 per traveller, for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

**Health requirements & water**

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

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.

**Essential packing**

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- 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
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Good walking shoes for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

**Optional activities**

**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 archaeological 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 tour guide.

**Kosher meals**

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 with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though, there is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal. Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget $25–$30 per traveller, per day for an average meal.

**Shopping in Israel**

For those that enjoy shopping, when purchasing your souvenirs and bartering for goods set your budget, don’t be swayed and remember the caveat – ‘let the buyer beware.’

In the tourism industry it’s common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to

---

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Israel Explorer

avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been selected based upon positive feedback from travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Culture & dress requirements

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 Israelis and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, dress requirements, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.