Discover the highlights of Israel on this six day tour, taking in the holy sites of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the Bahia 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 – explore the sacred sites of the Old City, including the Wailing Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Via Dolorosa
- Bethlehem – 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**

- 5 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- 5 nights 4 star hotels
- Ben Gurion Airport arrival and departure transfers on days 1 and 6
- Entrance fees
- Services of English-speaking tour guide days 2, 3 and 5.
- Touring of - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea and Jaffa
- Excursion to the 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
- Tipping/gratuities for your guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD$5 - 7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD$2 per day 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 : 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. You're welcome to wait at the hotel until sundown, or feel free to explore the city while it is quiet. Spend your first evening in Jerusalem at leisure.

Overnight - Jerusalem (D)

**Day 2 : Jerusalem & Bethlehem**
At 8am this morning meet your guide for a welcome meeting before we enjoy a full-day guided tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, beginning with a walk to the top of the holy Mount of Olives. Discover amazing panoramic views of the old city before we stroll through the Jewish Quarter to the Cardo (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.
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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. (Please note that touring in Bethlehem may be in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go Tours). 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 in the modern “city that never sleeps” – Tel Aviv. Spend your evening at leisure in Tel Aviv. Enjoy a full-day guided excursion today, beginning with a tour to the ancient mountain-top fortification of Masada. It was here in around the year 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 of 66-73AD. Reach the ancient settlement by cable car and enjoy scenic views over the Dead Sea. Our tour will continue past Qumran, where the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, to the Dead Sea itself – the lowest point on land in the world. Take a dip in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea, where the high salt content will keep you afloat. The tour will then return to Tel Aviv where you’ll enjoy your final night at leisure.

Please Note: today’s excursion is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. This is a bi-lingual tour and 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 and Masada

Enjoy a full-day guided excursion today, beginning with a tour to the ancient mountain-top fortification of Masada. It was here in around the year 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 of 66-73AD. Reach the ancient settlement by cable car and enjoy scenic views over the Dead Sea. Our tour will continue past Qumran, where the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, to the Dead Sea itself – the lowest point on land in the world. Take a dip in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea, where the high salt content will keep you afloat. The tour will then return to Tel Aviv where you’ll enjoy your final night at leisure.

Please Note: today’s excursion is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. This is a bi-lingual tour and the group size may vary from 10 - 40 persons. Towels are not provided at the Dead Sea so please bring your own.

Day 6 : Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv. Thursday. Our Israel adventure comes to an end today – you’ll be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.(B)

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 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.

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

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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 F’ Israeli 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 can reach 35°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 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 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 Teliglach - 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 shaped into small sticks. The Mohn Kihel is also served in pita bread. 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. Traveler’s Cheques are not recommended as they are 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

TRIP NOTES

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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.