

Israel: Exploring the **HolyLand**

10 Nights * 12 Days * 9 Touring Days
Saturday Departure/Sunday Arrival
1 night Tel Aviv * 2 nights Galilee * 4 nights
Jerusalem *
2 nights Eilat * 1 night Tel Aviv
OPTION: Day Tour to PETRA



Day 1, Saturday: DEPARTURE

- Depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2, Sunday: WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, we are met and assisted by our Ayelet Tours representative.
- Transfer to our hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Tel Aviv.

Day 3, Monday: CAESAREA, MEGIDDO, HAIFA & AKKO

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we check out of our hotel and drive north along Israel's scenic coastal plain to **Caesarea**, where we view the amazing Roman ruins, including the Roman Theater and the aqueduct.
- We continue to **Megiddo**, site of biblical Armageddon whose 20 layers of civilization were featured in James Michener's *The Source*.
- We proceed via Mt. Carmel to **Haifa**, where we take in panoramic views of the port city, and admire the beautiful **Bahai Temple and Persian Gardens**.
- Next we travel to **Akko** where we explore the ancient city and harbor.

Dinner & Overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee



Day 4, Tuesday: TIBERIAS AND CAPERNAUM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Tiberias**, one of four holy cities in Judaism.
- We enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- We continue to **Capernaum** where Jesus began his ministry and site of numerous miracles. We see the ruins of several synagogues and the octagonal **Church of St. Peter**.
- Visit Yigal Alon museum where the “Jesus boat” is displayed.
- Our next stop is **Tabgha**, site of the Church of Multiplication, where the mosaic floor depicts a basket with loaves and two fishes, symbolic reference to the miracle where Jesus was able to feed the multitudes.
- Then drive to the **Mount of Beatitudes** where Jesus delivered the “Sermon on the Mount”.
- We continue to the **Banias Springs and Waterfalls** for a short walk.
- We tour the **Golan Heights** passing former Syrian bunkers and stop atop **Har Bental** for panoramic views stretching far into neighboring Syria.

Dinner & Overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee

Day 5, Wednesday: NAZARETH AND BEIT SHEAN

- Breakfast at our hotel and check out.
- We travel to Nazareth via Cana for a visit to the **Church of the Annunciation**,** which many believe marks the site of Mary’s childhood home and the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel, St. Joseph’s workshop and Mary’s well.
- We continue to **Yardenit**, the baptismal site on the Jordan River.
- Next we drive to **Beit Shean**, where we stop to see the ancient Roman ruins.
- We continue our journey with a drive south through the Jordan River Valley to Jerusalem.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 6, Thursday: JERUSALEM’S OLD CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with an ascent up the **Mount of Olives** for a magnificent panoramic view of the City of Gold.
- We visit the **Church of All Nations**.
- We continue **Mt. Zion**, where we visit the **tomb of King David** and then proceed to the **Upper Room**, believed to be the site of the **Last Supper**.
- We enter the walled **Old City** and walk through the restored Jewish quarter, including the **Roman Cardo** marketplace.
- We continue to the **Western Wall** for a moment of reflection.
- Next, we walk the **Stations of the Cross** along the **Via Dolorosa**, ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**.



- We visit the **colorful markets and bazaars of the Arab “shuk”**.
- Our last stop takes us to the **Garden Tomb of Christ**.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 7, Friday: NEW JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin today at **Ein Karem** to see the **Church of Visitation**.
- We continue to **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
- Next we visit the newly renovated **Israel Museum** to see the **Shrine of the Book** which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls** and the miniature model of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period, among other fascinating exhibits.
- We continue to **Bethlehem**** (security permitting) to visit the **Church of the Nativity** and Manger Square.

Dinner & Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8, Saturday: MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we depart Jerusalem and drive south through the Judean desert.
- Our first stop is the **Qumran Caves**, where we learn about this site, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.
- We drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to **Masada**, where we ascend the desert plateau by cable car to view the remains of King Herod’s palace and fortifications, and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots’ last stand against the approaching Roman armies. Descend by cable car.
- We continue to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth, where we have time to enjoy the mud baths and an unsinkable swim in the salty waters (weather permitting).

Return to Jerusalem for dinner & our overnight stay.

Day 9, Sunday: THE SOUTH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we check out of our hotel and travel south through the **Negev desert**.
- We stop at **Timna** to see the ancient copper mine and King Solomon’s pillars and marvel at the huge multi-colored natural rock formations.
- We continue to **Eilat**, where we visit the Underwater Observatory and Marine Park, one of the largest sea aquariums in the world, which is built directly into a Red Sea coral reef.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Eilat.



Day 10, Monday: EILAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy a day of leisure relaxing or enjoying some of the many water sports on the shores of the Red Sea or opt for an exciting *day tour to Petra in Jordan.

***Day tour to Petra (OPTIONAL – Additional cost applies)**

- A mini-bus will provide early morning pick-up at hotels and transfer to Jordanian border for crossing formalities.
- After assistance with visa processing, we continue across the border into **Jordan**, and board our bus to begin our touring experience.
- Drive through desert highways to our ultimate destination, the astonishing rose-red city of **Petra**. Petra is renowned for its massive architecture, pools, dams and water channels. Petra is the legacy of the Nabateans (an early Arab tribe), who settled in the South of Jordan more than two thousand years ago.
- The visit begins with the possibility of a short horseback-ride for about 700 meters (a little less than ½ mile) to the entrance of the Siq, which is about 1.2 km (about ¾ mile) long (walking distance).
- There is a possibility to rent a cart (extra) to get inside **Petra** and back to the gate outside.
- Petra is famous for its huge monuments such as The Treasury, Royal Tombs, The Court, Roman Theatre, Roman Street, Qassier El- Bint (Palace of Pharaoh's daughter) and many other smaller monuments which fascinate visitors. The city itself is almost 45 square km and is considered to be the eighth wonder of the world.
- Late **lunch** is included.
- Arrive at **Jordan/Israel border** around 6:00 PM to conclude crossing formalities.
- Cross the border back into Israel & return to Eilat for a free evening.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Eilat.

Day 11, Tuesday: THE MAGNIFICANT RAMON CRATER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we check out of our hotel and drive to **Mitzpe Ramon**. We stop to gaze into the magnificent natural crater, the largest of its type in the world and a true geological wonder.
- We travel to **Sde Boker**, where we visit the gravesite and original hut of David Ben Gurion, and hear about his dream to make the desert bloom.
- We continue to a **Bedouin camp** to see an authentic tent, ride a camel, and enjoy Bedouin hospitality with a light lunch.
- We next visit **Hatzerim**, Israel's Air Force museum. We see the planes and equipment and hear the story of this brave fighting force.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Tel Aviv.



Day 12, Wednesday: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, arriving home the same day.

***Day Tour to Petra--**If booking this optional day tour, additional charges will apply. ALSO plan to bring \$65.00 per person in U.S. currency (and valid passport) when you travel to Jordan to cover visa fees and border taxes (for both Jordan and return into Israel). Credit cards or travelers checks are not accepted.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

****Visit subject to availability**

This is a land-only package & air is additional.
Please contact Ayelet Tours to receive a competitive air quote.

The above program can be customized and tailor-made for private groups & families.
Please contact Ayelet Tours for details.

