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Israel: Exploring the

HolyLand

7 Nights * 9 Days * 6 Touring Days **Tuesday Departure/Wednesday Arrival** 4 nights Jerusalem * 2 nights Galilee * 1 night Tel Aviv



Day 1, Tuesday: DEPARTURE

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

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Day 2, Wednesday: 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 Jerusalem.

Day 3, 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 before we continue to Mt. Zion. There, 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 newly 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 **Arab "shuk"** marketplace, bustling with vendors selling their wares.
- Our last stop takes us to the **Garden Tomb of Christ**.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.



Day 4, 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.** Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 5, 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, time and weather permitting, we enjoy the mud baths and an unsinkable swim in the salty waters.

Return to Jerusalem for dinner & overnight at our hotel.

Day 6, Sunday: BEIT SHEAN, YARDENIT AND NAZARETH

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

Dinner & Overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.



Day 7, Monday: TIBERIAS, CAPERNAUM AND BANIAS

- 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.
- Visit Yigal Alon museum where the "Jesus boat" is displayed
- 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**.
- 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".
- Next 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 8, Tuesday: AKKO, HAIFA, MEGIDDO AND CAESAREA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart the Galilee and drive to **Akko** to visit the ancient city and harbor.
- We continue to **Haifa**, where we take in panoramic views of the port city, and admire the beautiful **Bahai Temple and Persian Gardens**.
- Our next visit is to **Megiddo**, site of biblical Armageddon.
- We stop at **Caesarea**, where we view the amazing Roman ruins, including the Roman Theater and the aqueduct.
- We end the tour driving along the coastal plain to Tel Aviv.

Dinner & Overnight at our hotel in Tel Aviv.



Day 9 Wednesday: DEPARTURE

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

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.

