

GILEAD HOLY LAND TOURS TO ISRAEL

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ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND

- Day 1 DEPARTURE
Depart the United States to Tel Aviv.
- Day 2 WELCOME TO ISRAEL
Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where you are met and assisted by your guide. Drive to bustling, cosmopolitan Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is Israel's center of culture and commerce, with beautiful Mediterranean beaches and outdoor cafes. UNESCO declared the "White City" a World Heritage sight. Drive to the biblical seaport of Old Jaffa. Stop at the colorful Carmel fruit and vegetable market for a "taste" of Israel. In the evening walk to the Old Tel Aviv Port.
Overnight at the Dan Hotel
- Day 3 TOUR OF CAESAREA, MEGGIDO, AKKO, HAIFA
Drive along the Mediterranean seashore to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of the country. See King Herod's ancient port, the Roman amphitheater, the aqueduct and the fortifications of the Crusaders. Continue to the Valley of Jezreel and stop at the ancient city of Megiddo (Armageddon) to explore the ruins of twenty civilizations and walk through the ancient underground water tunnel. Drive to the picturesque Bay of Akko with its medieval port and visit the Citadel and the underground Crusader City. Continue to Haifa, on Mount Carmel, with its breathtaking views of the harbor.
Overnight at the Dan Carmel Hotel
- Day 4 TOUR OF HAIFA, NAZARETH, TIBERIA
Visit the golden-domed Bahai Shrine and the beautiful Persian Gardens surrounding it. Drive to Nazareth, birthplace of Jesus, to visit the Church of Annunciation, the Church of St. Joseph and Mary's Well. Drive to Tiberias and enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit Tabgha, where the miracle of the loaves and fishes took place. Stop at the Mount of Beatitudes, where the Sermon on the Mount was delivered. See the 2000-year-old boat at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar.
Dinner and overnight at Nof Ginosar Guest House
- Day 5 TOUR OF THE SEA OF GALILEE AND THE JORDAN RIVER
Visit the ancient synagogue of Capernaum where Jesus taught, and see Peter's House. Drive to Yardenit, the traditional baptismal site on the Jordan River. Drive along the Jordan Valley and through the Judean desert to the Inn of the Good Samaritan to see the Mosaic Museum. Arrive in Jerusalem and stop at the Mount of Olives for a spectacular view of the city. Visit the garden of Gethsemane at the foothill of the Mount of Olives, and view the chapel of the Ascension. Arrive at the historic King David Hotel.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Day 6 TOUR OF JERUSALEM
Drive to Mt. Zion to visit King David's Tomb and the room of the Last Supper. Visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, commemorating Peter's denial to his Master. Enter the walled city and in the Jewish quarter visit the Cardo, once an ancient Byzantine bazaar. View the Temple Mount area with the Dome of the Rock and the El Aqsa Mosque. Arrive at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and walk through the Western Wall Tunnels. Walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Explore the narrow alleyways and the colorful shuk (Arab Market). If interested, visit the Garden Tomb.
Overnight at the King David Hotel

Day 7

TOUR OF JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM

Enter the Old City at Jaffa Gate and visit the Tower of David Citadel and Museum, which traces the history of Jerusalem. Walk the ramparts of the Old City Wall from Jaffa Gate to Damascus Gate. Drive past Rachel's Tomb to Bethlehem, birthplace of King David and Jesus. See the fourth century Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, the Crusaders' Cloister and the Grotto of St. Jerome. Return to Jerusalem and stop at the Sherover Promenade for a spectacular view of Jerusalem and the Judean Desert. At night, (weather permitting) return to the Tower of David Museum to see The Night Spectacular light show.

Overnight at the King David Hotel

Day 8

TOUR OF MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

Drive through the Judean Desert to the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea, and past the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Arrive at Masada, the mountain fortress where the Jewish Zealots fought against mighty Rome. Ascend by cable car to the plateau and tour Herod's palace, the Zealots' synagogue, and the Roman bathhouses. Hike through the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve to the waterfall, and observe the wildlife and lush foliage in this oasis. Stop at the Dead Sea for an unforgettable "float." Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight at the King David Hotel

Day 9

TOUR OF JERUSALEM

Drive to Yad Vashem, memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, and visit the Museum and Children's Memorial. Drive to the picturesque village Ein Karem, where John the Baptist was born. Continue to the Israel Museum and visit the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. Stroll through the outdoor Billy Rose Sculpture Garden and see the scale model of Jerusalem as it looked in Herod's time. Stop at the colorful Machne Yehudah open air Market, abounding with fruit, vegetables and tasty delights. Evening transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.

Day 10

DEPARTURE

Flight back home.

Optional: Extend your trip to visit Petra in Jordan.

The itinerary can be modified to suit your interests and length of stay.

