



Holy Land Tour

Day to Day itinerary

22 May Mon - DAY 1

We will meet at JFK airport, and we will depart on our non-stop flight to Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. Dinner is served on board.

- Dinner

23 May Tue - DAY 2

Welcome to Ben Gurion International airport, where you will be met by your guide and driver. Following the Mediterranean Coast, we arrive first at Caesarea Maritima, built by King Herod. Here Cornelius was converted, and Peter was imprisoned. We will see the Roman Theater, aqueduct, and palace of King Herod, as well as a byzantine church. Continuing into the Lower Galil, we will visit Nazareth, stopping at Mount Precipice, before driving through the town of Cana.

- Dinner

24 May Wed - DAY 3

Heading all the way to the very north of the country, our first stop will be Caesarea Philippi, known in the ancient world also as Paneas, and today as Banias, where Peter declared Jesus to be the Messiah, "And Jesus said thou art, Peter, upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt.16-17-18). You will see the remains of the pagan site that existed here, against the backdrop of which these events occurred, and we can explore the first-century city established by Phillip the Tetrarch, son of Herod the Great. Visiting the Tel Dan National Park, we step back in time to the period of the divided kingdom, where we can see the Israelite Gate in the tribe of Dan, as well as the altar likely dating to the time of King Jeroboam II. Continuing through the lush nature reserve we will come to the Abraham Gate, the oldest arched gate to be discovered in the world, and likely in existence when Abraham came to Dan to fight the four kings in Genesis 14.

Returning to the Sea of Galilee, we will finish the day at the Yardenit Baptismal site, where everyone will have the opportunity to enter the living waters of the Jordan River for baptism.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

25 May Thu - DAY 4

Today we will explore the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus spent most of his ministry. We will visit the Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount, where we can appreciate the beautiful surroundings and views unchanged since the time Jesus delivered his seminal sermon. We will continue to Tabgha, where Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000. Here we can walk on the lake's shores and visit the chapel commemorating the primacy of Peter. We will visit Capernaum or Kfar Nahum, where Jesus spent much of his ministry. We will view the archaeological remains, including the house of Peter, as well as the ancient synagogue believed by many to have been built atop the synagogue that Jesus would have preached. Next, we will visit the new and ongoing excavations of the town of Magdala. The probable home of Mary Magdalene, we will explore the ancient fishing town with its synagogues that Jesus undoubtedly would have taught in. We will finish the day with a visit to Kibbutz Ginosar, where we can see the Galilee Boat, a sailing vessel dated to the time of Jesus that was preserved for two millennia in the mud of the Sea of Galilee. Finally, we will take our own boat, a replica of an ancient vessel, to sail on the Sea of Galilee.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

26 May Fri - DAY 5

We will explore the extensive remains of Beit Shean, a city of the Decapolis, and where the book of Samuel tells us the bodies of Saul and his three sons were displayed following their defeat in the Battle of Gilboa. Continuing to the area of the Gilboa, we will visit the Harod Spring; here, Gideon chose his soldiers to fight against the Midianites in the book of Judges. Follow the Jordan River Valley to the northern edges of the Dead Sea, passing the traditional crossing point of the Israelites into Israel, the likely site of John the Baptist's ministry and the place of Jesus's baptism. We will enter the modern city of Jericho. Here we will see the Mount of Temptation, tel Jericho, and Zacchaeus's Sycamore tree. As we ascend to Jerusalem, following the route that inspired the parable of the Good Samaritan, we will stop at a vantage point to appreciate the rugged beauty and spirituality of the Judean Desert. Entering Jerusalem from the east, we will mark our entry at the Mount Scopus observation platform for a breathtaking view of the city.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

27 May Sat - DAY 6

We begin our sightseeing with a visit to the Mt. of Olives, beholding a breathtaking panorama of the Holy City. We visit Pater Noster and then walk down the "Palm Sunday" route to the Garden of Gethsemane. We pass through the Kidron Valley to Mt. Zion, where we will visit the House of Caiaphas. We return to the Old City of Jerusalem where we visit the Western Wall, and tour through the Western Wall Tunnels. We will continue our tour through the old city of Jerusalem and We end the day at the Garden Tomb, also known as Gordon's Calvary, believed by Protestants to be the true place of The Crucifixion, burial, and The Resurrection of Jesus; here we will see Calvary and Jesus' burial tomb and take communion.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

28 May Sun - DAY 7

After breakfast, we depart Jerusalem and make our way to Masada. Here we ascend high above the wilderness by way of the cable car, to the mountain-top fortress built by King Herod. We survey the ruins of the fortifications, waterworks, synagogues, bathhouses, and palaces. We then continue our drive to Ein Gedi, where David hid from King Saul. We enjoy a walk to the waterfalls, hopefully seeing ibex and coney (hyrax), along the way. This afternoon, we drive to the northern Dead Sea shore, to Qumran and the settlement there dating from the first century when it was inhabited by a Jewish sect who hid the Dead Sea Scrolls, possibly the Essenes. We then begin our ascent of 4,000 feet in 13 miles to the majestic city of Jerusalem. Upon entering Jerusalem, we make a stop at Mount Scopus for a panoramic view of the city before proceeding to our hotel.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

29 May Mon - DAY 8

We will have an early start to visit the Temple Mount, the platform on which the Jewish Temple stood prior to its destruction in 70ad, and today is home to the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque which can be viewed from the outside (subject to change) We continue to the Pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed the lame man in John 5 and the church of St. Anne. Our morning continues at the City of David where we will walk through the 2,700-year-old Hezekiah's Tunnel, ending up at the Pool of Siloam (John 9). The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to peruse the Old City souk, or maybe one of the areas of modern Jerusalem.

- Breakfast
- Dinner

30 May Tue - DAY 9

We leave Jerusalem and head to the Valley of Elah where David slew Goliath. Then we travel to Beer Sheva in the Negev Desert, named by Abraham 4000 years ago. Here, we visit Tel Beer Sheva where archaeologists have uncovered a city dating from the early Israelite period (10th century BCE.) This city is located on the edge of the wilderness near the confluence of the Beer Sheva and Hebron streams. The meticulously planned water system of this city demonstrates impressive engineering expertise. Tonight, we will have a farewell in a local Israeli restaurant. . Also, each tour member will receive a Certificate of Pilgrimage signed by the mayor of Jerusalem. We will head to Ben Gurion airport, say goodbye to our guide, and board our flight back home

- Breakfast
- Dinner



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