



# Holy Land Tour

## Day to Day itinerary

### 12 Oct Thu - DAY 1

Welcome to Ben Gurion International airport; you will arrive at your hotel, where you will have dinner and a good night's sleep to start your holy land journey.

- Dinner

### 13 Oct Fri - DAY 2

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. Climbing into the Carmel Mountain Range, we arrive at the Muchraka, where Elijah challenged the prophets of Ba'al. Our next stop is Tel Megiddo, or Armageddon, where we will tour the antiquities and see the significance of this site for the end of days. Continuing into the Lower Galil, we will visit Nazareth, stopping at Mount Precipice before driving through Cana. We end the day at our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

### 14 Oct Sat - DAY 3

We start the day with a spectacular boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a visit to Ginosar, where we will see the remains of a fisherman's vessel discovered on the shores of the Sea of Galilee dating from the time of Jesus. We drive north to 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. We continue to Tel Dan to view the antiquities there from the biblical kingdom of Israel. We 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 of Jesus delivered his seminal sermon. After an optional lunch of St. Peter's Fish, the next stop is Tabgha, where Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000 and a visit to the chapel commemorating the primacy of Peter. We continue to Capernaum or Kfar Nahum, where Jesus spent much of his ministry. We will view the house of Peter and the numerous churches that were built on top of it, as well as the ancient synagogue believed by many to have been built atop the synagogue that Jesus would have preached in. We stop at the ongoing excavations at Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene with its Second Temple Period synagogue, before finishing the day at the

Yardenit Baptismal Site, where those who wish can emerge themselves in the waters of the Jordan River. We return to our hotel for dinner.

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **15 Oct Sun - DAY 4**

This morning we leave Galilee behind as we make our way along the Jordan Valley. The highway takes us to the Biblical site of Beit Shean, a well-preserved Decapolis Roman city. Here the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls after they were defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10-12). We continue our drive through the Wilderness of Judah to Jericho, where we view from outside the ancient city where the wall came tumbling down (Joshua 2-6; Mark 10:46; Luke 19:1). We then continue to Kaser-El Yehuda Baptismal site where tradition says Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. We make our way to our hotel at the Dead Sea, where we have an opportunity to swim/float (included) in the mineral-rich lake, or enjoy a spa treatment at the hotel (not included).

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **16 Oct Mon - DAY 5**

After breakfast, we depart the Dead Sea 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 have an optional walk down the snake path or descend by cable car. 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
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **17 Oct Tue - DAY 6**

We start the morning on top of the Mount of Olives, following the Palm Sunday route down the mountain walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Coming to the Garden of Gethsemane, we will have some private time in the Garden before entering the Old City of Jerusalem through St. Stephen's Gate, also known as the Lion's Gate. We will visit the Pools of Bethesda and follow some of the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa ending in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We continue to the area surrounding Mount Moriah, where we will visit the Western Wall and the Ophel Archaeological Park and museum, with remains of the city streets that Jesus would have walked on, as well as structures dating back to the times of King Solomon. We visit the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel ending at the Pool of Siloam before ascending Mount Zion to visit the Upper Room, the Room of the Last Supper. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **18 Oct Wed - DAY 7**

After breakfast, we will drive to the city of Bethlehem, where we will walk through Manger Square to visit the Church of Nativity, the oldest Church in the Holy Land; admire the ancient limestone columns and remains of mosaic floors; descend to the Grotto of Nativity, where a silver star in the floor marks the spot where Christ is believed to have been born. Proceed to the Church of the Milk Grotto, where the Virgin Mary nursed baby Jesus, and according to tradition, a drop of her milk spilled and turned the stones white. Next, visit the Shepherds' field. After lunch, we return to Jerusalem, where we will visit the Israel Museum, including the Dead Sea Scrolls housed in the iconic Shrine of the Book and the impressive model of Jerusalem from the

Second Temple Period. We will see the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and Supreme Court. 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. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **19 Oct Thu - DAY 8**

This morning we visit Yad Vashem, the national Holocaust Museum and memorial. 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.

Back to Jerusalem for Farewell dinner before our flight back home to the USA

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

## **20 Oct Fri - DAY 9**

Depends on flight time, we will head to Ben Gurion airport, say goodbye to our guide, and board our flight back home to the USA

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner



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[info@gordonbooking.com](mailto:info@gordonbooking.com)

Israel address - 24 Raul Wallenberg St. Tel Aviv, Israel