

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1 - EN ROUTE

Depart the USA. to Tel Aviv, Israel. Enjoy a hot dinner served aboard the airplane.

Day 2 - Arrive TEL AVIV

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, our representative will meet the group by the luggage carousel and assist us on the way out through customs. You will then be transferred to your Mediterranean Sea side hotel for Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 - To the GALILEE

We will wake up to the first day of the Holy Land. After a rich, Israeli breakfast, we will leave the hotel and drive north along the famous highway, biblically known as the 'way of the sea'. We will arrive at **Caesarea**, where we will explore the ruins of the Roman and the **Crusader City**. We will see the reconstructed Roman city, the walls from the times of the Crusaders and the prison where St. Paul was held in captivity before being sent to Rome. This was also the place where the first gentile was converted to Christianity. As we leave the beautiful walls and moat, we will pass the remains of the Roman horse racing theater the Hippodrome. We will stop at the amazing remains of the **Roman Aqueduct**, which has been beautifully preserved under the sand dunes for 2000 years. We will continue to **Mount Carmel** and visit the **Mukhraka** the site where the Prophet Elijah debated the 450 prophets of Baal. From here there is a breathtaking view over the whole **Valley of Jezreel**, better known as the **Valley of Armageddon**. After a complimentary Falafel lunch at a Druz village, we will drive through **Haifa** and view the magnificent **Bahai Hanging Gardens**. The largest hanging gardens in the world. On to **Acre (Akko)**, where we will visit the Crusaders City excavations. We will drive east through the upper Galilee to the **Sea of Galilee**. Arrival at our hotel on the shores of the beautiful Lake of Galilee. Dinner and overnight. Evening we stroll the streets of **Tiberias**.

Day 4 - GALILEE

Wake up to a beautiful morning in the area where Jesus spent 3 years of his ministry. Today we will dedicate our time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. After breakfast, we will drive north through the **Golan Heights** to **Caesarea Philippi** and the **Banias**, one of the water resources of the Jordan River. Continue back to the **Sea of Galilee** to visit **Capernaum**, 'the Town of Jesus', walk along the ruins of this Biblical Village, and see the Synagogue where Jesus preached and the house of Peter's mother-in-law. Drive up to the **Mount of the Beatitudes**, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. On to a visit of ancient **Khorazin** and continue for a visit of the beautiful mosaic floor at **Tabgha** - the site of the miracle of the multiplication. We will visit the **"Jesus Boat"** at Kibbutz Ginosar, which is a 2000 years old wooden fishing boat and **sail in a replica boat across the Sea of Galilee**. Then we have the famous **St. Peter's fish** for lunch in a restaurant on the lake shore. We finish the day with a **Baptismal service at Yardenit** for whoever chooses to do it. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5 - GALILEE

Today, after breakfast, we will drive to **Zippori** and visit the excavation and the beautiful mosaic floors of the city where Jesus grandmother lived. On to the **Biblical Village** (Nazareth Village) where we will learn about the daily life in a reconstructed village from Jesus time. We continue across the Valley and view **Mount Tabor** the traditional site of the 'Transfiguration'. We arrive in **Nazareth** where we visit the **Church of the Annunciation** and the Synagogue where Jesus learned to read the Bible. On the way we pass **Cana of Galilee**, the village where Jesus performed his first miracle - the miracle at the wedding. We will drive via **Afula** to the famous **"Tel Megiddo"**, the archaeological mound, which inspired James Michener's book, "The Source". Here we can see remains of King Solomon's Stables, an altar from the time of Abraham (4000 years old), and a magnificent water tunnel. On to **Gideon Springs** and **Beit Alpha**. We will visit the excavations of this ancient place and drive back to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - GALILEE TO DEAD SEA

Today, after breakfast, we will drive south to **Beit Sheaan**, the largest Archeological site in Israel. We will explore the ancient **Roman City** with the **Amphitheater** and reconstructed streets. Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** to **Jericho** (Should conditions allow it. Otherwise we will take the way by the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea). We will visit the excavations of ancient Jericho and view **Mt. of Temptations**. We will drive through the **Qumran Caves** area, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found and on to the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea. 1300 feet below sea level, the **Dead Sea** is the saltiest body of water in the world. Our hotel is by the Dead Sea shores, where we will swim, or to be more exact, float, on this amazing sea - a non-swimmers paradise. Dinner and Overnight at our hotel on the Dead Sea shores.

Day 7 - MASADA and DEAD SEA

Today, after breakfast, we will visit **Masada** - the site of the Zealots last stand against the Romans, which was originally built as a magnificent palace for Herod the Great. At this great fortress we will visit the bathhouse, the storage rooms, the mosaics and the **Byzantine Church**. After descending by walking along the Ramp built by the Romans, we will drive to a **Bedouin camp** and enjoy a special visit with Middle Eastern hospitality called "Hafila". Continue to Arad and on to **Beer Sheva**, the "Capital" of the Negev. This is the city where Abraham dug the seven water wells. We will observe **Tel Arad**, the Canaanite city conquered by Joshua. Continue via the **Negev Desert** to the **Ella Valley**, site of the famous battle between David and Goliath. We continue our ascent to Jerusalem, 2400 feet above sea level, via **Beit Shemes** and **Emmaus**. At the entrance to the **Holy City** we will celebrate with a traditional blessing, while overlooking the walls of the City of the Lord. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8 - JERUSALEM

Today will be one of spiritual uplifting. We will begin the morning after breakfast, with a magnificent view of the **Old City** from the **Mount of Olives**. We will drive down to the **Kidron Valley** and enter the **Garden of Gethsemane**, the **Church of All Nations** where we can view the Basilica of Agony. In this area are the oldest Olive trees in the Holy Land, dating back to ancient times - a living witness to Jesus' arrest by the Romans. We continue along the Kidron Valley, viewing the **Tomb of Zachariah** as well as the **Tomb of Absalom** - King David's son. We will enter the Old City via the Dung Gate, then proceed to the **Wailing Wall** - the remnant of Solomon's Temple, the holiest Jewish site - and touch its ancient stones. If time permits, we will visit the **Davidson Center** museum near the Southern Steps. We will ascend the **Temple Mount**, where we will view the Dome of the Rock. We will continue to the famous **Tunnels from the Hasmonai era** and out to the **Via Dolorosa** and the Arab Market - the Shuk, with it's hundreds of stores selling many types of artifacts. We will visit the **Holy Sepulchre** - the largest Church in Jerusalem. On to the **Jewish Quarter**, where we will see the renovated **Cardo** and its excavations. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. In the evening we will walk and shop in the famous pedestrian street - **Ben Yehuda Street**.

Day 9 - JERUSALEM and BETHLEHEM

We will start the morning, after breakfast, by visiting the **Temple Institute** and see replicas of utensils from second Temple era. We will also visit **Caiaphas' House**, where Jesus was kept and more. The afternoon will be dedicated to visiting the birth place of Jesus - **Bethlehem** (if it is open). We will cross the "border" and visit the **Church of Nativity** and the **Shepherds' Fields**. We will end the day with a special Communion Service at the **Garden Tomb**. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10 - JERUSALEM

Today we will start the morning, after breakfast, by visiting **Yad Vashem**, the **Holocaust Memorial**. Then we continue to the **Israel Museum** and the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls can be seen. In the evening we will celebrate with a **Banquet Farewell dinner** with presentation of Pilgrimage Certificates.

Late evening transfer to airport for flight back to USA.

Day 11 - RETURN TO USA

Arrive back home.

Optional Jordan Extension:

Day 10 - JERUSALEM

After the farewell dinner overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 11 - JORDAN

After breakfast, we drive to the border with Jordan and cross into Jordan. We will drive on the Kings Highway to **Madaba** and visit the church with the magnificent mosaic floor. On to **Mt. Nebo** - the traditional burial site of Moses, and view Israel from the top of the mountain. Continue to Petra for dinner and overnight.

Day 12 - PETRA

After breakfast, we will visit the Red Rose city of **Petra** that was carved in the canyon walls. We will drive back to the border and cross into Israel and on to the airport for our late night flight back to the USA.

Day 13 - Back home

Arrive back home.



All sites listed in the itinerary will be covered but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedules, etc. This tour is not recommended for those who have mobility limitations since it includes walking on uneven terrain.

