

Ten Day Program

ISRAEL ITINERARY

One Night Tel Aviv, Two Nights Tiberias, Four nights Jerusalem

Day 1 - Nov. 7th, 2016 - Depart USA

Today tour members will meet at the Airport for check-in formalities and a get-acquainted time before beginning this exciting journey to Israel. Dinner and breakfast are served during the flight and we have time to rest before arriving in Israel.

Day 2 - Nov. 8th, 2016 - Arrive Israel – Tel Aviv

We arrive in Israel at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv. After brief airport formalities and baggage claim, we meet our guide and are escorted to our waiting deluxe motor coach. Due to an afternoon arrival we will have time this day to visit the ancient town of Jaffa located just north of Tel Aviv. We will then proceed to check-in, dinner and overnight at the 5 star deluxe Dan Panorama Hotel located on the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 3 - Nov. 9th, 2016 - Tel Aviv / Caesarea / Mount Carmel / Megiddo / Cana / Tiberias

We begin the first full day of our spiritual journey in the Holy Land by traveling north along the Mediterranean Sea to visit Caesarea, the ancient seaport built by Herod the Great. Paul was imprisoned here and this was the site of Peter's first Gentile convert. Then we ascend to Mount Carmel, the site of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. From here we have an astounding view of the Jezreel Valley/Valley of Armageddon. We then visit Megiddo with its 24 layers of civilizations. This was Ahab's chariot city and one of the most strategic crossroads of the world in Old Testament times. We proceed to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, and tour Nazareth Village, a re-creation of the ancient town when Jesus grew up there. We drive to Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed His first miracle, then on to Tiberias where we have our first view of the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight at our deluxe hotel located by the sea shore.

Day 4 - Nov. 10th, 2016 - Galilee Boat Ride / Jesus Boat / Mt of Beatitudes / Tabgha / Capernaum / Jordan River

View the sunrise over the tranquil Sea of Galilee. After breakfast we take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, stopping on the Sea for a brief service. We visit Nof Ginossar to see the recently discovered ancient boat from the time of Jesus, and then proceed to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus spoke the Sermon on the Mount. There we will have a service overlooking the Sea of Galilee. We drive a short distance and visit Tabgha, site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. A very short drive brings us to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry where we view the House of St. Peter and visit the ruins of a 2nd century synagogue. A delicious St. Peter's fish lunch awaits us at a famous Kibbutz beside the sea, and then we drive up to the lower Golan Heights to an overlook with spectacular vistas of the entire Sea of Galilee region. Our day ends at the Jordan River with an opportunity for baptism. This evening we will enjoy a lovely dinner at our hotel and overnight there once again.

Day 5 - Nov. 11th, 2016 - Bet Shean / Qumran / Masada / Dead Sea / Jerusalem

This morning we travel south through the Jordan Valley to Bet Shean, one of the ancient cities of the Decapolis, dating from the 5th Century B.C. Today it is the site of the largest archaeological excavations in Israel. We will drive near Jericho, viewing the Mount of Temptation and see Mount Nebo, the place where Moses viewed the Promised Land. This is in Jordan and in full view from Israel. We visit Qumran, the discovery site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. After lunch, we travel along the Dead Sea to Masada and ascend by state-of-the-art cable cars to visit the mountaintop palace of Herod the Great and the famous fortress, where from A.D. 70-73, the Jewish defenders made their last stand Rome. We will view the fascinating remains of Herod's palace, storehouses, cisterns, and an ancient synagogue. We visit the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth, where we may enjoy the therapeutic properties of the water without the possibility of sinking. We then begin our ascent of nearly 4000 feet to Jerusalem. Our first view of the Holy City will be from Mt. Scopus where we will have time to reflect on our entry. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in the center of Jerusalem

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Day 6 - Nov. 12th, 2016 - Jerusalem / Bethlehem

We begin our first day in Jerusalem at the Mount of Olives, with an outstanding view of the Old City walls and the Eastern Gate/Golden Gate). From there we descend by foot on the "Palm Sunday Road" to the Garden of Gethsemane for a service in the Garden with time to reflect in this lovely setting . . . olive trees, perhaps 2000 years old, still stand today. We travel around the Old City walls, viewing the tombs of Absalom and Zachariah and continue to the House of Caiaphas, where Jesus was held the night before his crucifixion... there we will view the same stone steps Jesus would have walked up Mount Zion. We then go to visit The Upper Room (Last Supper Room) and have a brief service. After lunch, we travel the short distance to Bethlehem. There we will view the Shepherd's Fields and tour the Shepherd's Caves and the 1600 year-old Church of the Nativity. Dinner, and overnight at our hotel.

Day 7 - Nov. 13th, 2016 - Jerusalem

We will motor through modern Jerusalem, viewing the Knesset, seat of the Israeli Parliament, then go to the Israeli Museum and Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed and visit the amazing scale model of Jerusalem at the time of Christ. We proceed to Yad Vashem, the memorial to the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. After lunch, we visit the Western (Wailing) Wall where we may write prayers on paper and place them in the niches of the wall. We proceed to the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of St. Anne, where we can sing in a church with a 10-second echo! We leave the Old City through the Lion's Gate. Dinner and overnight.

Day 8 - Nov. 14th, 2016 - Jerusalem

We enter the Old City of Jerusalem viewing of the Southern Steps to the Temple Mount. We go to the Lithostratos, where we view the actual streets of Jerusalem Jesus would have walked, the remains of Pilate's Judgment Hall and the Ecce Homo Arch. We then walk the Via Dolorosa, passing through intriguing markets and bazaars. This afternoon we visit the City of David and finish our tour with a moving visit to the Garden Tomb, which is considered the highlight of our tour! There we will worship and celebrate communion beside the empty tomb. "He is risen; He is not here!" What a wonderfully meaningful conclusion to this truly memorable day!

Day 9 - Nov. 15th, 2016 - Jerusalem – Free Day

This morning we will not have a wake up call and we are on our own to shop and explore the city. We will depart our Jerusalem hotel and make our way to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv in the early evening. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. We will say good-bye to Israel and board our flight to the USA..

Day 10 - Nov. 16th, 2016 - Arrive USA

Note: This is a basic itinerary. Additional sites and / or nights in cities may be added and certain sites may be deleted by the tour host and / or the guide to enhance your tour. Although every effort is made to include all sites, the sightseeing sequence and daily routing may change due to actual arrival time, a specific itinerary designed with your tour host, local conditions and pre-set appointments at several sites for the group.