



Modern treasures of the Levant.

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ISRAEL | 8DAYS / 7NIGHTS

Route: from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv

Type of tour: Culture

TOUR OVERVIEW

This tour will reveal the precious ancient jewels of Israel, such as the vanguard art museums, world-class concerts, gourmet restaurants, unique art and high-fashion shops. The tour visits windswept crusader castles, ports where seamen, pilgrims and famous travellers passed through, desert landscapes that were home to travelling tribes, half-forgotten armies and merchants in camel caravans, sheikhs' tombs with whitened domes, silent monasteries and ancient synagogues. This Israeli programme has it all!

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | ARRIVAL JERUSALEM

Meet and assistance on arrival and transfer to hotel.

- **Overnight in hotel in Jerusalem. Dinner included.**

DAY 2 | JERUSALEM

Today the journey begins! After breakfast there is a visit to the Mt. of Olives for a panoramic view of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Next, a short drive to the Old City, then a walk through the Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo to the last remains of the Wailing Wall, the holiest place for Judaism. The tour continues with a walk along the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Then there is an opportunity for some free time to enjoy the Arab Bazaar and Mamilla Avenue before a drive back to the hotel. In the evening, there is an opportunity to learn about the traditions and modern life of Israel with a dinner with a Jewish family.

- **Overnight in hotel in Jerusalem on a half-board basis.**

DAY 3 | JERUSALEM - MASADA - JERUSALEM

The tour begins with a drive to the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. Then a drive along the Judean wilderness to the Fortress of Masada where the magnificent remains of the palaces and traces of the era's daily life can be seen. The guide will teach about the tragic circumstances of the last days of the revolt for the Jewish people against the Romans after the destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. A drive to the shores of the Dead Sea for an opportunity to float in the waters is next on the itinerary. There will be free time to enjoy the mineral-rich waters before a drive to a Bedouin camp where there will be the traditional "coffee ritual" and dinner for a real ethnic culinary feast.

- **Overnight in hotel in Jerusalem on a half-board basis.**

DAY 4 | JERUSALEM - TIBERIAS

Departure from the hotel to begin the day's itinerary starting at the Government quarter, stopping at the Knesset and the famous Menorah and Supreme Court. The tour continues with a visit to the Israel Museum, the biggest in Israel with one of the biggest art collections in the Middle East. Here at the museum is an opportunity to learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book and view a model of Jerusalem in times of the Second Temple. In the afternoon is a drive north through the Jordan Valley en route to Tiberias.

- **Overnight in hotel in Tiberias on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

DAY 5 | TIBERIAS

After breakfast, the tour starts with a drive to the Mt. of Beatitudes, the site of the Sermon in the Mount. Then the tour continues to Capernaum, the home town of Jesus. In Capernaum, the tour will explore the synagogue and the house of Peter, next will be a memorable boat ride across the lake to arrive to the next destination, Kibbutz for a tour learning about this unique Israeli communal settlement. After which is a visit to Golan Heights, where a visit to a famous winery is prepared. Then after a short explanatory tour tasting fruits, a few well-seasoned olives and the best goat cheeses, the tour will proceed to Mt Bental for an overview of the Syrian fortifications whilst a the story of the Six Day War is told. In the evening, return to Tiberias.

- **Overnight in hotel in Tiberias on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

DAY 6 | ARRABA - NAZARETH - TEL AVIV

Morning transfer from Tiberias to the Arab Village of Arraba, where a visit to the Afnan al-Galil Association, a NGO founded by local women for women empowerment is organised. There will be an opportunity to meet locals, participate in panels, and learn about their costumes. After, transfer to Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent his childhood and place of his first miracle. Here there will be a visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation and Joseph's workshop. Then on to

the Jezreel Valley to Haifa, Israel's third city. Here is an amazing view of the bay and the Baha'i Gardens. The Baha'i Faith claims that God has set in motion historical forces that are breaking down common barriers of different nations, race, class and creed, and in time there will be the birth of a universal civilisation. The garden is part of the Faith's World Centre. The drive along the Sharon Plains en route to the cosmopolitan Tel Aviv to the hotel.

- **Overnight in hotel in Tel Aviv on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

DAY 7 | TEL AVIV

After breakfast the tour starts with a visit to the Rostchild Boulevard and the "White City". Located in the centre of Tel Aviv, this area has the largest exponents of Bauhaus architectural style buildings in the world and was declared UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003. The tour will then continue on to the old port city of Jaffa, where a stroll through the narrow alleys and exploration of the flea market is possible. Then onto the recently restored "Soho" of Tel Aviv, Neve Zedek. After will be a culinary tour in one of Tel Aviv's most traditional sites, the Lewinsky Market. The market celebrates the authentic mosaic of Israeli cultures. Then back to the hotel for an optional farewell dinner to share memories of the trip.

- **Overnight in hotel in Tel Aviv on a half-board basis.**

DAY 8 | DEPARTURE TEL AVIV

Transfer from the hotel and escort to the airport.

END OF SERVICES

INCLUDED

TOUR GUIDE:

- Local guide - Licensed tour guide throughout

ACCOMMODATION:

- 7 nights' accommodation

ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- As mentioned in programme

NOT INCLUDED

- Tips
- Visa fees - If required
- Personal expenses
- Meals and drinks - optional or meals and drinks not listed
- Flights - Arrival and departure