

Israel Highlights Tour

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Day	Location	Details	Meal
1	TEL AVIV	Your adventure begins when you arrive at Ben Gurion airport where you will be met by one of our representatives and transferred to your hotel.	
2	BE'ER SHEBA • MASADA • DEAD SEA	Today will take you from sea to desert to sea.... Departing Tel Aviv, we'll journey down the coast through the Mediterranean ports of Ashdod and Ashkelon to arrive in Beersheba, the "capital" of the Negev, where we'll take in the local history. Now we truly enter the desert and the drive will take us through unforgettable vistas, the truly ancient city of Arad and leave us at the base of Masada. You'll fully explore this most iconic of Israel's monuments – we'll ascend by cable car and set foot upon the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their war against Rome. You'll be expertly guided through the ongoing excavations, Herod's palaces, the synagogue and stunning views of the surrounding Roman camps and the distant Dead Sea. From this grand mount you'll descend and experience the salty waters of this sea — lowest place on earth. Past the oasis of Ein Gedi the caves of Qumran, we'll make our way to Jerusalem for an overnight in this holiest of cities.	Breakfast
3	JERUSALEM: SIGHTSEEING OF THE NEW CITY	Today we'll explore the "new" Jerusalem. Get a magnificent panoramic view of this golden city from Mt. Scopus. You'll travel to the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of all Nations and the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book, permanent home to the Dead Sea Scrolls. We'll take in a fascinating and intricate model of Jerusalem, as it appeared at the time of the Second Temple and continue a short distance to Yad Vashem, the nation's memorial to the millions killed in the Holocaust. From here you'll visit the lovely Ein Kerem district, birth place of John the Baptist, before returning to your hotel with a new sense of the city – sleep well, tomorrow brings a whole different side. In the heart of a neighborhood in downtown Jerusalem, visit Mahane Yehuda to experience the flavors, aromas, colors and the traders' interaction with the crowds, at the largest open market in Israel.	Breakfast
4	JERUSALEM: THE OLD CITY	Begin your journey through the Old City in the Jewish Quarter where you will stop at the famous Western Wall (or, "Wailing Wall"). Continuing along the Via Dolorosa passing the Stations of the Cross on your way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus took place. Travel to Bethlehem* to visit the Church of Nativity, Manger Square and Rachel's Tomb. *Site under Palestinian Authority jurisdiction	Breakfast
5	BEIT SHEAN • TIBERAIS • GALILEE	Today we'll head North. Our first destination, Jericho*, is the oldest inhabited city in the world. We'll wind our way through the fertile Jordan Valley toward Beit Shean. Our expert will guide you through the excavations and give a sense of what life was like in this beautifully preserved Roman city. A short drive will bring us to Nazareth and a visit to the Christian Holy Sites, the Church of the Annunciation, and the Workshop of Joseph. A drive through the Hula Valley will bring us to Safed, city of the Kabala, to visit a synagogue and the	Breakfast

Highlights

- Airport transfers
- Baggage assistance at hotels
- Deluxe air conditioned transportation
- English-speaking guide
- All entrance fees
- All hotel taxes and service charges

Meals

- Daily breakfast (Israeli buffet)
- (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

artist colony. Tonight's stay will leave you with a sense of Israel outside bustling cities. Overnight in Tiberias.

6	GOLAN HEIGHTS • AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE	Today you'll experience Israel's northern borders. Starting in the Golan Heights you'll take in breathtaking views of the landscape, visit Druze villages, and Banias, the beautiful source of the nation's lifeline, the Jordan River. Continuing along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, we'll next stop at Capernaum and visit the ruins of a lovely ancient synagogue, the house of Peter, and Tabgha, site of the miracle of the bread and fishes. We'll visit the Mount of Beatitudes and tour Tiberias, ancient centre of Jewish learning. Enjoy an Israeli wine country experience, with vineyards surrounded by breathtaking views. Get acquainted with the collection of fine and rare wines, and gain an understanding of wine making process with some wine tasting too. Optional sailing in a boat across the Sea of Galilee to experience the tranquility and scenery little changed during the past 2000 years (subject to conditions and fee). Overnight in Tiberias.	Breakfast
7	ACRE • HAIFA • CAESARIA • TEL AVIV	After a Kibbutz breakfast, we'll drive west to Acre for a fascinating visit to one of the best preserved crusader strongholds in the world. Later in Haifa, we'll enjoy a tour of the city including the Bahai Shrine and its famous Persian Gardens, Mount Carmel, and panoramic views of the city and sea. We'll take to the coastal road, take in Caesarea, Herod's "Dream of the Sea" and explore the spectacular Roman and crusader ruins- few sites can boast the views afforded here. ... We'll make our way to Tel Aviv/Jaffa, enjoy a short tour and arrive at our hotel for the night. A walk along the promenade will set you up for a great sleep...	Breakfast
8	TEL AVIV	This morning's breakfast is a time to compare photos, exchange contacts with new friends... we'll make sure you're at the airport in plenty time for your flight..	Breakfast