



Israel – our Holy Land

TWO DATE OPTIONS: June 11 – 23, 2024 OR October 29 – November 10, 2024

Enjoy an extended tour visiting the primary Biblical sites as well as venturing into the cultural, geo-political, and spiritual aspects of life in Israel. You will return home understanding Israel as an incredibly resilient and inspiring nation that birthed our Savior, Jesus Christ, and Christianity as our faith.

Itinerary: 11 days/10 nights of guided touring and transportation with breakfast & dinner included.

June 11/October 29 Depart US for Israel (if not coming from Jordan or already in Israel)

June 12/October 30 Welcome to Israel..or continue on. Overnight: Herod's Eilat [Herods Hotels in Eilat | Herods Hotels Israel \(herods-hotels.com\)](https://www.herodshotels.com/)

June 13/ October 31 Northern Israel

Caesarea Maritima – Herod's showcase port city, site of St. Peter & Cornelius' story (Acts 10:24), & Paul's imprisonment (Acts 25:13-26:32)

Mt. Carmel – site of Elijah's contest with prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)

Megiddo – New Testament Armageddon (1 Kings 9:15)

Mt. Tabor (drive by, not accessible by bus) – site of Jesus' transfiguration (Psalm 89:12)

Galilee to Nazareth – Jesus' hometown

Mt. Precipice – where the mob tried to throw Jesus off the cliff (Luke 4:16-30)

Church of the Annunciation – Angel Gabriel told Mary she would carry the son of God (Luke 1:5-42)

Church of Cana – Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11)

Overnight: <https://www.magdalahotel.com/>

ISRAEL continued

June 14/November 1 Sea of Galilee/Upper Galilee

Sea of Galilee – boat ride on the Sea, visit Nof Ginosaur to see the 2000-year-old “Jesus” boat

Mt. of Beatitudes – visit the beautiful site where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-8) and the Berlucci chapel

Tabgha & Church of Multiplication – site of feeding of the 5000 and the Primacy of Peter (Matt. 13, Mark 33-45, John 21)

Capernaum - Jesus’ home synagogue where He ministered to Peter’s mother & performed other miracles on the Sea of Galilee (Matt 4:13, 13:54, 17:24, Luke 7, Mark 1:2, John 4:46-54)

Yardenit – Be baptized in the Jordan River here.

Gergenes – site of the Miracle of the Swine (Matt 8:28-34)

Magdala Center – recent archaeological dig & synagogue with a gorgeous chapel, site where Christ cast out demons from Mary (Matt 9:20-26)

Overnight: <https://www.magdalahotel.com/>

June 15/November 2 Upper Galilee & Golan Heights

Jordan River Rafting– Enjoy this time on the Hatzbani stream at Hagoshrim that merges with the Banias stream to form the Jordan River.

Tel Dan – Walk through this beautiful nature preserve with water and archaeological experiences.

Caesarea Philippi – A pagan worship site where Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matt 16:13).

Tel Faher – Syrian outpost & site of an intense battle between the Israeli IDF and Syrians.

Mount Bental – Walk up to the top for a view of Syrian border and the “Road to Damascus”

Overnight: <https://www.magdalahotel.com/>

ISRAEL continued

June 16/November 3 Dead Sea area

Korazim – Participate in an archaeological dig (optional, \$40) at this old synagogue site.

Gideon's Spring – Walk to this beautiful site where Gideon chose his 300 warriors to battle the Midianites (Judges 7:1-8)

Beit She'an – Saul & his sons were hung on the walls of Beit She'an by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31). This is an amazing place to explore the ruins.

Gan Hashlosha – (time permitting) Swim in the natural warm springs!

Qasr el Yahud – Traditionally the site where Jesus was baptized (Matt 3), where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Joshua 3, 15-17) and Elijah ascended to Heaven (2 Kings 11).

Drive through the Jordanian Valley past Jericho (cannot stop) and arrive at Dead Sea.

Qumran – site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found and remains of an Essene community.

Free time to enjoy our Dead Sea resort, float in the famous salt water, and partake of the mud & mineral treatments at the spa (cost varies).

Overnight: <https://www.herods-hotels.com/herods-hotels/herods-dead-sea/>

June 17/November 4

Masada – Start the day early (breakfast cake & coffee provided) to reach Masada for a gondola ride or Snake Trail hike (50 minutes) to the top for sunrise, a magical experience. Explore this fortress where Jews took refuge while fleeing the Romans before their tragic end. Masada is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Return to hotel to shower, have breakfast, and check out.

If desired, stop to shop for Dead Sea products (like Ahava).

Ein Gedi – (time permitting) Visit the area where David hid from Saul and likely composed some of his Psalms (1 Samuel 23)

Mount of Temptation – Christ was tempted by Satan here (Matt 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)

Mount of Olives/Palm Sunday Road/ Pater Noster Church/Dominus Flevit/Garden of Gethsemane – Ascend to Jerusalem! Walk through these significant sites with views of the Kidron Valley to the Eastern Gate where Jesus will enter upon His return (Ezekiel 44).

Overnight: Herbert Samuel or Leonardo Boutique TBD (City Center)

ISRAEL continued

June 18/November 5 Jerusalem

Mt. Zion/Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu – site where Peter rejected Jesus three times (Mark 14:30)

Room of the Last Supper/Tomb of King David – At the edge of the Old City is the “Upper Room” where Jesus had his last meal with His disciples (Luke 22:14-20). Nearby is King David’s tomb.

Rachel’s Tomb – Rachel was buried on the way to Bethlehem near Hebron. Jews believe that Jacob buried her there so travelers would find solace (Genesis 35:19-20).

Bethlehem/Manger Square/Shepherd’s & Boaz’ Fields – Visit the manger at the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7) and the area where the shepherds kept watch (Luke 2:8-20).

Evening: You may wish to visit the Machane Yehuda Market (aka The Shuk) to experience the lively atmosphere, amazing food, and gift shopping just a 15-minute walk from the hotel.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel or Leonardo Boutique TBD (City Center)

June 19/November 6 Jerusalem

Temple Mount – Visit the historic Temple Mount (IF allowed, not assured).

City of David – Explore the City of David, including the **Royal Acropolis**, the **Citadel & Gihon Spring** (2 Samuel 5:6-7), walk through **Hezekiah’s Tunnels** under ground (in water), and the Pool of Siloam. (John 9:1-11).

Southern Steps – Sit on the steps where Jesus entered the Temple throughout His life.

Western Wall – Pray at the Western Wall, the most religious site in the world for Jewish people, then descend underground to the **Western Wall Tunnels** to marvel at the feat Herod endured when creating the biggest of his building projects.

Old City – Walk to the **Eastern Gate** (aka Golden or Mercy Gate) where Jesus will return through and the **Lion’s Gate** marking the beginning of the last walk of Jesus from prison to the crucifixion, continuing on the **Via Delarosa & Stations of the Cross** to visit **St. Anne’s Church** (we sing here), the **Pool of Bethesda**, the **Judgment Hall of Pilate**, and the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** (aka Golgotha) (Matt 27:33-57, 28:10).

Free time for lunch and shopping in the Old City market.

Friends of Zion Museum (time permitting).

Overnight: Herbert Samuel or Leonardo Boutique TBD (City Center)

ISRAEL continued

June 20/ November 7 Gush Etzion, Be'er Sheva, & Sderot/Gaza border

Gush Etzion – Experience **Caliber 3** (optional cost), a exceptional training center for civilian military, where you will learn how to combat potential threats and terrorist actions OR visit **Herodium**, the resting place of King Herod (no extra cost, many stairs!).

Be'er Sheva & Sderot/Gaza border – Visit **Abraham's Well** then drive to **Sderot, the border with Gaza**, to learn about life in a military zone while praying for peace with the Palestinians at the **Path to Peace**.

You may choose to spend the day on your own in Jerusalem if you prefer but we feel these are important places to visit to truly understand life in Israel.

Evening: Tonight, we visit the Tower of David for an incredible light show. The walls of the Citadel are the stage for an incredible production depicting the story of Jerusalem. Wander through the Old City or have a coffee at the Mamilla Mall before or after this amazing event.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel or Leonardo Boutique TBD (City Center)

June 21/ November 8 Samaria & Jerusalem

Yad Vashem – Spend some time with your guide at this incredible memorial to the Holocaust and those who were victimized. You will leave there forever changed.

Ancient Shiloh – Tour this sacred religious capital of Israel during the time of the Judges that has been continuously settled for 4000 years. It is the place of Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10) where God answered her plea for a son.

Beit El – Visit this small Biblical settlement and the site of Jacob's dream (Genesis 18:12-20) which can be verified geographically and Biblically.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel or Leonardo Boutique TBD (City Center)

This is your last night in Jerusalem.



ISRAEL continued

June 22/ November 9 Jerusalem area & Tel Aviv

Check out of hotel.

Israel Museum/Shrine of the Book – Start the day at the incredible outdoor Israel museum with the model of the Second Temple and a small size replica of the Old City layout. Enter the Shrine of the Book to view remnants of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

American Embassy in Jerusalem – Time and guards permitting, we will stop briefly at the American Embassy for outside photos (no entry allowed).

9/11 Museum – Leave Jerusalem to visit Israel's Memorial to the United States' 9/11 tragedy. Here we will hold our farewell talk and share experiences about our journey to Israel.

Elah Valley – Sometime today we will visit the Elah Valley where David slew Goliath and gather stones from the riverbed as we contemplate the giants God has conquered for us. (1 Samuel 17: 1-4, 50).

Old Jaffa – We end our day with a tour of Jaffa & see sites linked to Simon the Tanner where St. Peter had a vision (Acts 10:32) and raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:35). King Solomon built his port here and Jonah set sail to Tarshish from here (Jonah 1:3).

Farewell dinner in Jaffa or Abu Gosh.

Travelers returning to the US in the early morning will taken to Ben Gurion airport or, if you have a later flight, to the Sadot Hotel to rest (additional night charge) and then transferred to the airport by the hotel. Those going to Greece will be taken to the hotel and transferred the next day for your flight to Athens.

THIS ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON SCHEDULING NEEDS AND IN-COUNTRY CONDITIONS. We must be flexible.

This is an active tour with 10-11 hour touring days on & off the bus, walking on sand, gravel, dirt, concrete, asphalt, etc. in warm weather. We need everyone to be with the group each day unless ill. Travelers should be prepared to be busy each day and rest after your amazing tour of Israel!

ISRAEL SITES

