

## Itinerary Details

### **DAY 1, Monday - Depart for Israel**

Depart for Israel. All group flights leave from a New York area airport. We meet this group with a bus from Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.

If you are making your own travel arrangements we will send you instructions on how to take a taxi to the hotel.

If you would like to be picked up personally by one of our guides let us know and we will make a special trip to meet you at the airport and drive you to the hotel for an additional charge of \$100 per person.

### **DAY 2, Tuesday - Arrive in Tel Aviv**

Arrive in Tel Aviv; transfer to your hotel in this vibrant city, known as Israel's "playground on the sea." Time to rest, relax and acclimate to your new time zone.

For those who arrive at the hotel and meet us in the lobby no later than 5pm we will head to Jaffa for an optional Middle Eastern dinner. (Transportation to Jaffa and meal not included in cost of tour).

Enjoy a welcome drink and orientation meeting at approximately 7:30 PM with our tour guides. We recommend that you select flights which arrive in your destination no later than 5 PM on Day 2 of the itinerary or earlier, if possible

**Overnight:** Tel Aviv

### **DAY 3, Wednesday - Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Galilee Region**

This morning travel to the ancient port of Jaffa with its reconstructed Artists' Quarter. We will have a brief lesson about the connection between the biblical stories of Jonah and Peter while he stayed at Simon the Tanner's House in Jaffa (Acts 9-10).

Drive along the sparkling Mediterranean coast to ancient Caesarea; see the astounding Roman, Byzantine and Crusader ruins and the 2,000-year-old theater and hear a presentation on what we can learn from the story of the Household of Cornelius in Caesarea and what it means to be a Family on Mission.

Next we drive through the valley of Armeggedon and arrive at a hill overlooking the town of Nazareth to discuss the early life of Jesus to discuss the tensions Jesus encountered between his family and his mission.

Our day concludes at the Sea of Galilee where we settle in and debrief the lessons of the day with our group.

**Overnight:** Galilee Region

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 4, Thursday - The Sea of Galilee**

We begin our day with a prayer and worship experience on top of Mt. Arbel the most stunning panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee and likely one of the sites where Jesus would retreat from crowds to be alone with His Father.

We then drive to the age-old fishing village of Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, home to a celebrated Byzantine-era synagogue and frequently mentioned in the Bible as Jesus' base during his Galilean ministry. We see several ancient examples of worship in the home and spend time on the shores of the Sea to consider the calling of the first disciples that took place in that exact location.

We travel up the hill to the Mount of Beatitudes the most likely location where Jesus preached His famous "Sermon on the Mount" where we consider how the ancient Law and the teachings of Jesus can help shape a Family Team.

Then, ascend the Golan Heights to understand more about this strategic area; visit Har Bental, site of a former Israeli bunker.

After lunch and a visit to a kibbutz, taste special vintages at a winery in Katzrin before returning to the hotel. Tonight, dinner is at your hotel

**Overnight:** Galilee Region

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 5, Friday - The Jordan River and Jerusalem**

This morning we spend time at the Jordan River where we learn about the ministry of Jesus and John the Baptist and allow time for anyone wanting to be baptized in the Jordan River.

We travel south past Jericho and ascend to Jerusalem. On the way we discuss the biblical holiday and various ways modern families can enjoy these holidays to train in the Story.

We observe a panoramic view of Jerusalem from Mt Scopus.

The rest of the day is at leisure to discover the many facets of Jerusalem on your own. The *optional* afternoon tour to Bethlehem includes a visit to the Church of the Nativity, commemorating the birthplace of Christ. A stop for local olive wood handicrafts is included

For Shabbat dinner we will join an Orthodox Jewish family and participate in their Sabbath meal. We'll have time to meet and ask questions of the different members of the family.

**Optional:** Half Day Bethlehem (PM)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 6, Saturday - Full Day in Jerusalem**

Immerse yourself in this ancient city on this day at leisure; walk through the city's colorful neighborhoods that reveal a diverse blend of traditional and modern cultures.

Or, participate in the *optional* tour to Masada that begins with a drive along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, to Masada. Ascend by cable car to the top of these heroic heights; listen to the brave tale of the Zealots who chose to perish rather than live under Roman rule. Visit the archaeological sites including the remains of Herod's Palace, a synagogue, bath houses, and dwellings.

Pass through the Museum of Masada at the base, then stop at the Dead Sea for a swim in the salty and buoyant waters before returning to Jerusalem.

Later, the entertaining *optional* evening includes dinner at a popular restaurant followed by attendance at the spectacular Sound & Light Show at the Tower of David

**Optional:** Full Day Masada and Dead Sea (AM)

**Optional:** Restaurant Dinner, Sound & Light Show & Illuminated Jerusalem (PM)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **DAY 7, Sunday - Jerusalem Old City Tour**

Begin your exploration of Jerusalem at the walled Old City with its four distinct sections - the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Armenian Quarters.

Have a chance to see the famed Western Wall, then follow the steps along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the holiest sites in the Christian world.

Pass through the narrow alleys and souks to Mt. Zion; visit the Room of the Last Supper and the Tomb of King David.

The remainder of the day is on your own to stroll through the picturesque lanes of the Old City or visit the exotic bazaars.

The afternoon *optional* tour of the New City begins with a drive via the Supreme Court building and the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to the impressive Israel Museum. Here, view the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the scale model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. Then, pay respects at Yad Vashem, Memorial to the Holocaust on the Mount of Remembrance

**Optional:** New City of Jerusalem (PM)

**Overnight:** Jerusalem

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **DAY 8, Monday - Depart Israel**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

*Due to local events and holidays, the order of sightseeing may be changed. Details to be provided locally by Tour Manage*