

TRAVEX

— ISRAEL TRAVEL EXPERTS —

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PRIVATE TOUR OF

ISRAEL

HIGHLIGHTS

8 days / 7 nights

The Israel Highlights tour is an opportunity to sample the sites and sounds of the country. Explore ancient sites and learn about the rich history of the country. Discover the modern State of Israel, with its museums, markets and fascinating narrative.

Program for Independent Travelers.

Day 1

Welcome to Israel!

Arrival at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, VIP assistance through airport formalities and transfer to Tel Aviv.

Overnight in **Tel Aviv**

Day 2

Breakfast at hotel

City tour of **Tel Aviv** and **Jaffa**.

Visit **Independence Hall *****, where the State of Israel was declared in 1948.

Drive through various neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, such as **Neveh Tzedek**, the historic **train station** complex, the open-air **Carmel Market**, **Rabin Plaza**, and the Bauhaus area – a World Heritage Site.

Continue along Tel Aviv's seaside promenade to the ancient Biblical port city of **Jaffa**, with cobbled streets and artists' galleries. Visit

Overnight in **Tel Aviv**

Day 3

Breakfast at hotel.

Travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea** to view excavations from Roman, Byzantine and Crusader periods and see the multimedia show.

Continue to Haifa for a panoramic view of the city from atop Mt. Carmel, including the bay, and the **Bahai Shrine and Persian Gardens** (a World Heritage Site).

Visit the city of **Akko**. Explore the Crusader ruins and re-live the story of the famous prison break, recounted in Leon Uris' *Exodus*. Akko is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overnight in **Galilee**

Day 4

Breakfast at hotel.

Explore the sites around the **Sea of Galilee**. Visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We then proceed to visit **Tabgha** where 5,000 were fed by Jesus who performed the miracle of the multiplication of fish and loaves. Drive to **Capernaum** with its ancient synagogue, site of Jesus' Ministry.

Contribute to the greening of Israel by **planting a tree *****.

Continue to **Nazareth** where Jesus spent his boyhood. Visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well.

End the day in Jerusalem.

It is said that of the ten measures of beauty given to the world, nine were bestowed upon Jerusalem.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 5

Breakfast at hotel.

Enjoy a panoramic overview of Jerusalem from the **Mount of Olives**. Share in a brief "shehecheyanu" ceremony celebrating your arrival to Jerusalem.

Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** in the Kidron Valley.

Explore the Old City of Jerusalem. Visit the renovated **Jewish Quarter**. Stroll through the **Cardo** - the reconstructed main street of Byzantine Jerusalem.

View of the Temple Mount with the Dome of the Rock and El Aqsa Mosques. Continue to the **Western Wall** -- Judaism's holiest site. Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels *****.

Walk the final Stations of the Cross and visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 6

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive through the **New City of Jerusalem**, past the Jerusalem Theater, the President's Residence and the Knesset (Israel parliament). View the **Giant Menorah** depicting Israel's history through the ages.

Drive to the **Yad VaShem Holocaust Memorial & Museum** *** for a visit including the Children's Memorial and the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles.

Proceed to **Mount Herzl**, where Israel's founders and leaders are buried.

Continue with a visit to the **Israel Museum**, including the Model of Jerusalem from Second Temple Period and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibited in the Shrine of the Book.

Explore the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden.

OPTIONAL: Afternoon visit to **Bethlehem**, birthplace of Jesus, including the **Church of the Nativity, Manger Square** and **Shepherd's Field**. Conclude the tour with a visit to the **Haas Promenade** with its panoramic view of the city and the Kidron Valley.

**Bethlehem is under Palestinian Authority-- passports are required. Change of vehicle will be required at the border post. The tour will be guided by a Palestinian guide*

This evening we invite you to be our guests at the **Night Spectacular** at the Tower of David, a multi-media show displayed on the ancient walls of the Citadel.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 7

Breakfast at hotel.

Depart Jerusalem and drive down to the **Dead Sea** -- lowest point on earth, and south along its shores, via the caves at **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered.

Continue to **Masada** - a World Heritage Site, ascend & descend by cable car to view excavations of this famous fortress. Visit the museum where the story of Masada comes to life, "see and feel" the story behind the archaeological finds.

Afternoon by the **Dead Sea**, an opportunity to experience its therapeutic qualities.

Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 8

Breakfast at hotel.

Departure transfer from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport.

VIP assistance through departure procedures at the airport.

*** these sites are not open on Saturdays or Jewish Holidays.

Program sites and sequence subject to change due to scheduling and availability.