



12-Night Israel Land Tour

May 26—June 7, 2019



DETAILED ITINERARY

Israel—Old & New

12-Night Israel Land Tour

May 26—June 7, 2019

SUNDAY, MAY 26 - TEL AVIV

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv Ben Gurion airport you will be met by our representatives and transferred to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and enjoy the magnificent food and hot spots in the city of Tel Aviv. All rooms offer a work area, an LCD TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, a mini bar, and most rooms have a balcony. Hotel amenities include an outdoor swimming pool (seasonal), bar, terrace, restaurant, spa and fitness center, laundry services, business lounge and room service. In the evening, you will have a welcome dinner at one of Tel Aviv's best restaurants and meet your fellow attendees.

Meals: Dinner

MONDAY, MAY 27 - TEL AVIV

You will be met by your private guides in the lobby of the hotel at 9:00am and start the trip of a life time. Start the tour with an orientation of **Tel Aviv**, the largest and most vibrant city in Israel. See the Habima Theater, Dizengof Street and the campus of Tel Aviv University. Continue to **Independence Hall** where David Ben Gurion announced the establishment of the State of Israel. Drive through the **Rothschild Blvd.** and nearby streets to see some of the 4,000 Bauhaus buildings that make up the White City; a UNESCO World Heritage site. Then visit the **Diaspora Museum** where you will learn the "story" of the Jewish people. By noon, be at the new Palmach Museum to see, hear, and feel what it meant to be a youngster fighting for Israel's independence. Continue to Holon, 4 miles south of Tel Aviv, to visit the Children's Museum, where we will take part one of two extraordinary Israeli experiences: **The Dialogue in Silence** or **The Walk in the Dark**. End the day with a stop at the nearby, beautifully renovated Sarona with many upscale boutiques and cafes. Return to your hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast





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TUESDAY, MAY 28 - TEL AVIV

First CME Sessions: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

There are 2 options for companions to choose from this morning.

Option # 1: Drive to **Old Jaffo** where Jonah “found a ship” and visit Simon Tanner’s house. Then visit **St. Peter’s Church**. After, join rest of group to visit some markets in Tel Aviv: the famous and infamous Carmel Market and the open-air art and craft market on **Nachlat Binyamin Street**.

Option # 2: Enjoy a 2-hour walking tour of the first sites and houses in Tel Aviv with a local expert guide. Then, join the rest of the group and visit some markets in Tel Aviv: the famous and infamous **Carmel Market** and the open-air art and craft market on **Nachlat Binyamin Street**. At 1:00pm, we will begin our afternoon tour.

In the afternoon, the entire group will visit **Ariel Sharon Park**, one of the biggest environmental rehabilitation projects in the world. It is unique in that this plot of land, part of which was polluted and neglected for decades, has been turned into a flourishing metropolitan park. Ariel Sharon Park is the green lung of the country’s most densely populated urban region. Start with the visitors’ center and then a short lecture followed by a film detailing the change from the most famous garbage hill to a thriving modern green park. Then take a bike-ride around the **Ayalon River** and the park. Continue for a visit to the **Soreq Cave**, also known as **Avshalom Cave** or **Stalactite Cave**, discovered in 1968 while quarrying with explosives on the western side of **Mt. Ye’ela** in the Judean hills. The cave is 272ft long, 197ft wide and 49ft high and teeming with stalactites and natural sculptures. Return to your hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 – TIBERIAS

There are 2 options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Onto to the ruins of **Caesarea**, a large port city built by Herod the Great to honor Roman Caesar Augustus. Herod built a port in the bay and erected all the cultural institutions found in every great Greco-Roman city - a theater, a hippodrome, and a luxurious bathhouse. In order to supply water to the city’s ever-growing population, he built an aqueduct system stretching from the springs of Mt. Carmel to Caesarea. The Book of Acts refers repeatedly to Caesarea as the city Peter visited (Acts 10). Then to **Mt. Carmel** and the **Carmelite Monastery of Muhraka**, where God caused Elijah to defeat the priests of Ba’al. We continue our pilgrimage to **Megiddo**, the “Hill of Battles,” where archaeologists have uncovered 20 civilizations built one upon another. At this site, King Solomon built his vast stables and good King Josiah died in battle.

Option # 2: Drive along the Mediterranean to **Mt. Carmel**. Continue to **Atlit** and visit the remains of the former British detention center where they detained Jewish Immigrants after World War II trying to enter Israel. Continue to **Beth Shearim** and see the Tombs of the Sanhedrin, a perfect 1st-century complex of caves with some astonishing sarcophagi. Continue to **Acko** (ancient Acre), the maritime capital of the Crusader Kingdom. Visit the Knights’ Halls, one of the most beautiful and impressive remains from this period. Walk through the recent excavations to experience a real trip in a time machine. Continue to **Beth Lehem Haglilit**. Visit the **Spice Farm in Beit Lechem Haglilit** and participate in a workshop, which includes making za’atar.

Both groups: cross the **Galilee** to **Tiberias** for dinner and overnight in **Rimonim Galei Kinnereth Hotel**, a 5-star hotel located in downtown Tiberias, with a private beach, a perfect place for a quiet moment of meditation. The hotel was David Ben Gurion’s favorite relaxing place in the 1950’s. Today, after an extensive renovation, the hotel provides a comfortable atmosphere. All 123 rooms have a/c, hairdryer & a mini bar. Hotel facilities include spa, swimming pool, private beach, children’s club, conference room and fitness room.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



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THURSDAY, MAY 30 – TIBERIAS

There are 2 options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: At 8:30am take a **private boat-ride** on the **Sea of Galilee** to see the 2,000-year-old **Genosar Boat** discovered in 1986. Continue to **Capernaum**, where Jesus preached and his disciples, Peter and Andrew, made their homes. The contemporary church at **Tabga** celebrates the Miracle of the Multiplication. Note the Byzantine-era mosaic floor depicting two fish and a basket filled with loaves of bread. Visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). Continue north to Banias (**Caesarea Philippi**) in the Upper Galilee to see the source of the Jordan River and the site of Peter's confession, "you are the Christ" (Matthew 16:18). Join rest of group.

Option # 2: Drive to one of the four holiest Jewish cities, **Zafed**, steeped in the mystical tradition of **Kabbalah**. Meet artist and kabbalist, **David Friedman**, for a fascinating talk on Kabbalah and Kabbalistic art or browse the many galleries, shops and cafes that Zafed has to offer. Continue to **Neibi Yesha** and an old British police station from which Arabs attacked Jewish villages until 1948. Heroic battles took place here. Visit the memorial, rarely seen by foreign tourists. Continue to **Sha'ar Yishuv** east of Kiryat Shomena on the old border of the Golan Heights, a moshav which took much fire from Syria before the Six Day War. In 1997 this was the site of a national disaster when two IDF helicopters collided above the moshav, killing 73 soldiers. Join rest of group.

Both groups continue off the beaten track of the **Golan Heights** by 4X4 jeep and stop to gaze down over the Galilee as the Syrians once did. In the Valley of the Tears, hear the moving story of the brave Kahalani's battle to secure the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War. Continue to **Mt. Bental** for an outstanding view of the Upper Galilee and the Golan Heights. Drive to **Katzrin**, the only city in the Golan Heights. Visit the famous **Golan Winery**. Then, visit the **Golan Visitors Center** and watch the **Kesem Hagolan** show about life and the history of the Golan Heights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

FRIDAY, MAY 31 – TIBERIAS

There are 2 options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Start the day at the **Jordan River**. Drive to **Kursi** and see the remains of the **Byzantine** church and floor mosaic remembering the miracle of the swine running into the **Sea of Galilee**. Continue to the **Magdala Archeological Center** and visit the recent excavations. Drive north. Join rest of group for a BBQ lunch in the woods! Then drive to the southern tip of the Golan Heights and visit **Gamla**, the "unknown Masada," where more than 5,000 Jews (some say even more) chose to commit suicide rather than become Roman slaves during the Great Rebellion around 68 AD.

Option # 2: Today, we'll have a whole day of fun, fun and more fun... Drive to **Kibbutz Gadot** for 3 hours of **rafting on the picturesque Jordan River**. Join rest of group for a BBQ lunch in the woods! Then drive to the southern tip of the Golan Heights and visit Gamla, the "unknown Masada," where more than 5,000 Jews (some say even more) chose to commit suicide rather than become Roman slaves during the Great Rebellion around 68 AD. Both buses: return to **Tiberias** for **Shabbat** dinner and overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



12-Night Israel Land Tour

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SATURDAY, JUNE 01 – JERUSALEM

There are 2 options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Drive to **Mt. Tabor** and take a taxi to the top for a visit to the Church of the Transfiguration. Enjoy an outstanding view of the Jezreel Valley, where the battle of Deborah and the Midianites took place (Judges 5). Continue and stop in **Cana**, the site of Jesus' first miracle, converting water into wine at the wedding. Visit the Church of the Wedding. Then, visit **Mt. Precipice**, where Christ was taken "...in order to throw Him down the cliff." Find out how it ends in Luke 4:29. Take in the view of the Jezreel Valley (Armageddon), Mt. Tabor (The Mount of Transfiguration) and Mt. Gilboa (where Gideon chose his 300 brave men). Continue to **Tzipori** and see one of the most spectacular ruins of a Galilean Village from the days of Jesus. Tzipori was considered the "Jewel of Galilee" during the time of King Herod the Great's son, Herod Antipas. As sunset approaches, catch a glimpse of Jerusalem as we make our way through the hills to the "Golden City" for overnight.

Option # 2: Drive south to **Belvoir** (Kohav HaYarden), one of the best-preserved crusader fortresses in Israel. Walk across the moat and visit the fortress with its spectacular views of the Jordan Valley. Continue to **Beth Shean**, one of Israel's most ancient cities. In its 7,000-year history, the Egyptian, Roman and Byzantine empires laid claim to the site, attracted by abundant water, fertile soil and the situation at an important east-west crossroads. Visit the ruins of the largest Roman city being excavated today. On to **Beth Alpha** to view the magnificent mosaics on the floor of a 6th century synagogue. Continue to **Tzipori** and see one of the most spectacular ruins of a Galilean Village from the days of Jesus. Tzipori was considered the "Jewel of Galilee" during the time of King Herod the Great's son, Herod Antipas. As sunset approaches, catch a glimpse of Jerusalem as we make our way through the hills to the "Golden City" for overnight.

Our hotel, WALDORF ASTORIA, is located just minutes from the Jaffa Gate of Jerusalem's Old City. The Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem is a Conde Nast 2015 Best Hotel in the Middle East and a 2015 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Award recipient. Elegant guest rooms are equipped with adjustable air-conditioning, complimentary WiFi, 46-inch TV, wet bar and espresso machine. Hotel facilities and services include a personal tablet to use during stay, a courtyard, 2 restaurants, a lobby bar, a fitness center and spa. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast





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SUNDAY, JUNE 02 – JERUSALEM

CME Sessions: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

There are 2 morning options for companions to choose from today.

Option # 1: On to the top of **Mount of Olives** for an awe inspiring, panoramic view of the city. Walk to one of the newest churches in Jerusalem, **Dominus Flevit**. During construction in 1955, archaeologists uncovered artifacts dating back to the Canaanite period as well as tombs from both the Second Temple and Byzantine eras. Walk down to the **Garden of Gethsemane** at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Today it appears much as it did 20 centuries ago and contains some of the world's oldest olive trees. It was here that, on His last night, Jesus spent the most sorrowful hour of His passion. Originally built in 379, the **Church of Gethsemane** was rebuilt in 1919 – 1924. Long considered one of the most beautiful in Jerusalem, it is called the Church of All Nations because 16 nations contributed to its construction.

Option # 2: Enter the Jewish quarter of the **Old City** through the **Zion Gate**, used by the Israel Defense Forces in 1967 to enter and capture the Old City. The stones surrounding the gate are still pockmarked by weapons fire. Walk through the **Kardo**, a Roman street converted to a pedestrian mall. Start a walking tour in the **Jewish quarter** visiting the **Burnt House** and the **Herodian Quarter**, and enjoy time for shopping in the narrow streets and markets. Visit the newly opened **Hurva Synagogue**, it was the largest synagogue in Jerusalem for a long time destroyed by the Jordanians in 1948 and reopened for its glorious use in 2010. At 1:00pm, we will begin our afternoon tour.

There are 2 afternoon options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Drive 6 miles south to **Bethlehem**. Enjoy a typical traditional Arab lunch. Visit the **Church of the Nativity**, the oldest church in the holy land still in use. Construction began in the year 326, based on the local tradition that Jesus was born in a cave at the edge of the village. Continue through Boaz's Fields and see the **Shepherds' Field**. Return to Jerusalem for overnight. Dinner will be on your own.

Option # 2: Continue to the **Machne Yehuda Market**, a landmark institution and one of the most prosperous markets in Israel. We'll have an in-depth tour with emphasis on the history of the market, the types of foods sold and their uses and origins. As you stroll around the colorful stalls, you will experience how many Jerusalemites and visitors experience this thriving market as a vital symbol of Israeli resilience. Have lunch at one of the nicest traditional restaurants in the market. Continue for an in-depth visit to the **Israel Museum**. Meet a local curator that will take you around some of the newest and most exciting exhibits. Then, see the Sea Scrolls exhibition at the **Shrine of the Book**. Then see the model of the city as it was in the 1st century BCE. Return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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MONDAY, JUNE 03 – JERUSALEM

Depart Jerusalem and stop at **Latrun** and stop at the **IDF Tank Corp Museum and Memorial** to learn about the history of Israel's most important military land forces. Then, drive south to Hatzirim, the **Israeli Air Force Museum**. This open-air museum displays over 90 aircraft, from Israel's first Messerschmitt and the Supermarine Spitfire flown by Ezer Weizmann to the Boeing 707 used in the Entebbe rescue mission. Continue to **Beth Guvrin** to participate in an on-going archaeological dig. Get your hands dirty and perhaps find some ancient coins and pottery shards that have not been touched for two thousand years! Those who are adventurous can crawl into narrow caves that lead to ancient underground chambers. Return to Jerusalem for overnight. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast

TUESDAY, JUNE 04 – JERUSALEM

CME Sessions: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

There are 2 morning options for companions to choose from today.

Option # 1: Visit **Caiaphas Palace** (Church of Peter Gallicantu) and see the cistern where Jesus was held before he was taken to Pilate and the Roman Period steps he walked from the Kidron Valley. Continue to the original Jerusalem, the **City of David**, and see excavations that reveal the earliest days of Jerusalem dating back to King David. Weather permitting, walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel**. Walk the newly opened **Pilgrims Tunnel** direct to the **Old City**. Visit the **Davidson Center** and see a multi-media presentation about Jerusalem in the days of the Second Temple.

Option # 2: Have a special morning: Meet an expert on the early days of modern Jerusalem and take a walking tour on the first first Jewish neighborhoods that were built in the 19th century outside of the City Walls that was Jerusalem for 400 years. At 1:00pm, we will begin out afternoon tour.

There are 2 afternoon options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Walk to the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in Judaism and the only visible remains of **Herod's splendid Second Temple**. Spend private time with your family and friends at the Western Wall. Walk through the excavated **Western Wall Tunnel**, huge arched spaces which link to a water tunnel cut through the rock to the north, apparently dug in the Hasmonean period (163 to 37 BCE). Drive to **Mt. Zion** and visit **King David's Tomb**. Return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Option # 2: Drive to **Mt. Herzl** for a visit to the Military Cemetery and the tombs of Theodor Herzl, Golda Meir, Shimon Peres and Itzhak Rabin. Visit the **Theodor Herzl Museum** dedicated to the life of the visionary of the Zionist movement and the early days of the Zionist movement. Continue to the **Menachem Begin Heritage Center**, an experiential, multimedia exhibit telling the story of one of the most important chapters in the history of the State of Israel through the life of Menachem Begin. Visitors are invited to experience firsthand and to take part in the different chapters of Begin's life – his childhood in Poland, his years as the commander of the Irgun, the leader of the Opposition and finally, as Prime Minister of the State of Israel. Return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05 – JERUSALEM

CME Sessions: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

There are 2 morning options for companions to choose from today.

Option # 1: Enter the **Christian Quarter of the Old City** through the **Lion Gate** and see the **Pool of Bethesda**, where Jesus healed the blind man, and **St. Anne's Church**, with extraordinary acoustics. Walk the **Way of the Cross**, the **Via Dolorosa**. Visit the **Monastery of the Sisters of Zion** and see the **Floor of the Lithostrothos of the Ecce Homo Arch** (Behold the Man). Walk to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. In 325, Helen, Constantine's mother, first requisitioned the area for a church. This 4th -century church was largely destroyed by the Turks in 1009, and partially restored in 1048. The impressive stone decorations adorning the facade date from Crusader times. In its current form, the church preserves the Crusader structure and is shared by two major Christian denominations, the Greek Orthodox and the Roman Catholic.

Option # 2: Have a **cooking class** by one of Israel's top foodies. Then, drive for a visit to the **Ammunition Hill** for a visit to the bunkers that the Israeli Army conquered to liberate the city in 1967. See the new Memorial that was inaugurated in 2017. Continue to the **Tower of David**, including the **Jerusalem Museum** and the model of **Solomon's Temple**. At 1:00pm, we will begin our afternoon tour.

There are 2 afternoon options for you to choose from today.

Option # 1: Continue to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial**. "As the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust, **Yad Vashem** safeguards the memory of the past and imparts its meaning for future generations. For over half a century, Yad Vashem has been committed to four pillars of remembrance: Commemoration, Documentation, Research, and Education." Meet a local cantor for a service in the memory of the 6,000,000 Jews murdered by the Nazis. Drive to the **Israel Museum** and to the **Shrine of the Book** to see the exhibition of the **Dead Sea Scrolls**. Also see the wonderful model of Jerusalem for the days of Second Temple. Return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Option # 2: Visit to the **Museum of Underground Prisoners**, commemorating the activity of the Jewish underground - Haganah, Irgun and Lehi - during the period leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel. Continue to the **Museum for Islamic Art**, with its fascinating collection of clocks and watches. Then to one of the most unique museums in Jerusalem, **Friends of Zion Museum**, a new museum showing how the gentiles helped the Zionist movement and the Jews. Return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own.

Meals: Breakfast



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THURSDAY, JUNE 06 – JERUSALEM

Drive east from Jerusalem to the lowest place on earth, the **Dead Sea**. See **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. Continue to **Masada**, a natural fortress with majestic ruins overlooking the **Dead Sea**. Take a **cable car** to the top of the plateau for a tour. Jewish zealots held the rock against the unrelenting 10th Roman legion until 72AD, when a monumental siege, using an astounding attack ramp, conquered the fortress. The camps and other fortifications that encircle the mesa constitute the most complete Roman siege works to have survived to the present day. Descend by foot on the ramp, meet your bus and continue to **Kfar Hanokdim**. At 12:30pm, glimpse the way of life of the Patriarchs with a **Bedouin lunch** and **camel ride** in the **Negev Desert**. Then, drive to the **Dead Sea** for a float in the water, bring a swimming suit, towel and flip flops. Return to **Jerusalem** for a farewell dinner and overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

FRIDAY, JUNE 07—TEL AVIV

Transfer to the Ben Gurion Airport for your flight back home.

Meals: Breakfast

