



Holy Land Itinerary 10 Days (8 days on the ground)

Day 1

Departure from USA - October 24, 2016

Day 2

Arrival in Israel. We will be met by an E.D.I. representative right after passport control and assisted thru luggage claim and custom control until we meet with our guide. Boarding the bus that will take us to Tel Aviv where we have dinner and a good night's sleep before our adventure begins. Dinner and overnight Tel Aviv.

Day 3

Our journey has started and today we will drive northwards along the coastal line and the first stop will be **Caesarea Maritima**, the Roman city on the Mediterranean coast.



Caesarea was given to King Herod as a present by Augustus Caesar and is named after him. Herod built a massive port there alongside entertainment facilities, bathhouses and temples. Caesarea was the home of Cornelius, whom the Lord used to begin the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles. We continue north to **Mount Carmel** with a stunning view over Jezreel valley. Here, **Prophet Elijah** defeated the prophets of Ba'al. From here we will travel to **Nazareth**, Jesus boyhood town. **Here we will visit Nazareth village and get to see what life looked like during the days of Jesus.** Dinner and overnight Sea of Galilee.

Day 4



What can be better than start the day with a **boat ride** on the Sea of Galilee? At the end of the tour we will see the **Jesus boat**, a 2000 year's old fishing boat that was discovered at the shore of Sea of Galilee. Well, this is the way we start the day and then we will travel around the Sea of Galilee, starting at **Capernaum** is the place where Jesus lived during much of his ministry in the Galilee and where he performed many miracles. The nearby **Tabgha** is the location for several episodes in Jesus' ministry. We will visit **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter**. The area of **Bethsaida** was referred in the New Testament in conjunction with two of Jesus miracles: healing the blind man and the feeding of the 5000. We continue to **Mount of Beatitudes** where the Sermon on the Mount took place. Here you have a stunning view over the Sea of Galilee. We will continue to **Chorazim**, one of the cities that Jesus cursed and **Kurzi**, on the eastern side of Sea of Galilee; here Jesus healed a demon possessed man. Last stop will be **Yardenit baptismal site with an opportunity to baptism**. Dinner and overnight Sea of Galilee.

Day 5

The day will be dedicated to the **Upper Galilee** and the **Golan Heights**. We drive to **Tel Dan** nature reserve with ruins of the Canaanite city of Laish, which was captured by the tribe of Dan during the period of the Judges. Among the special finds here is the High Place, from the time of King Jeroboam. The Israelite city gate has been restored, as has the Canaanite gate, with perhaps the earliest constructed arch ever discovered. Then our journey will take us to **Caesarea Philippi**. It was here that Jesus came to proclaim that He would build His Church. The site is also known as **Banias**, and it is a beautiful nature reserve, with waterfalls and streams that provide water to the Jordan River. Golan Heights have played an important role in Israel's history, and we will also get an explanation about its strategic importance to modern Israel. Dinner and overnight Sea of Galilee.



Day 6

We will leave Galilee behind us and start our journey southwards.



Continue to **Beit Shean**, which has played an important role throughout the history due to its geographical location. It was on the gates of this city that the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hanged after their death. Several impressive buildings have been uncovered, including a theatre, a public bath-house, two magnificent colonnaded streets, a Roman temple and much more. The city was destroyed in a large earthquake in 749.

We continue via the **Jordan valley** that will take us to **Jericho**, the oldest city in the world. Last stop before going to our hotel will be **Kasr el Yehud**, the baptismal site of Jesus by John. This is also the location that the Israelites crossed the Jordan River to the Promised Land. Dinner and overnight Dead Sea.

Day 7

We will spend our day in the Dead Sea area, starting at **Masada** is the desert fortress built by King Herod atop a natural plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. The well-known story of the Jewish Zealots who fled to Masada for refuge during the Revolt against the conquering Romans touches us all. After three long years of Roman siege on this desert outpost, the Romans finally breached the fortress walls, only to discover that its inhabitants had chosen freedom through death rather than submission to Romans slavery. **Ein Gedi** is an oasis in the desert and a green Garden of Eden in the wilderness, situated on the shore of the Dead Sea - the lowest place on earth. **Qumran** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. **Time for swimming in the Dead Sea.** Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.



Day 8

Start our day at the **Western Wall**, the most significant site in the world for the Jewish people. The **Southern Steps** were the main entrance to the Temple Mount during the days of Jesus. The story of the **City of David** began over 3,000 years ago, when King David left the city of Hebron and built his kingdom on a small hilltop city known as Jerusalem. Thus, he established the unified capital of the tribes of Israel. When the city was defending itself from the approaching Assyrian army in the 8th century bce, King Hezekiah decided to protect the water by diverting its flow deep into the city with an impressive tunnel system. Today we will walk thru **Hezekiah's tunnel**, a 1,750-foot long tunnel into the mountain. **Siloam pool** was a mikveh – a pool for ritual purification. Here, King Solomon was anointed and Jesus healed a blind man. In the afternoon driving to **Bethlehem**, the birthplace of Jesus. First stop will be **Shepherd's Fields**, the area to the east of the city is traditionally believed to be the area of the fields of the shepherds "keeping watch o'er their flocks by night" and the **Church of Nativity**, the **oldest** complete church in the Christian world. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.



Day 9

Starting the day at Mt of Olives with a stunning view over the Old City. We walk the **Palm Sunday Route** down to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, where you will see the oldest olive trees in the world. At the bottom of the Mount of Olives, close to the bed of the **Kidron Valley**, are a number of extremely impressive burial structures carved in the rock including the tomb of Absalom, the son of David. Continue to the **Church of St Anne** near the pool of **Bethesda** where Jesus cured a lame man. We will walk along the **Stations of the Cross** ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. We will continue to **Mount Zion** with **Caiaphas' house** and the **dungeon**. We will see Shindler's Grave while in this area. We will also see the Upper Room, the location of the Last Supper. End our day at the **Garden Tomb** with time for worshiping and communion. We will have farewell dinner before we drive to the airport and fly back home.



Day 10

Arrival in USA - November 2, 2016



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