



Your passport to adventure

## Classic Israel

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**Country(ies):** Israel

**Tour type:** Small Group

**Transport:** A/C car/minibus/coach

**Group size:** Min: 2 | Max: 45

**Days:** 8 Days

**Start location:** Tel Aviv, Israel

**End location:** Jerusalem, Israel

**Departs On:** Saturday

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 1

**Highlights:** Tel Aviv, Roman ruins at Caesarea, Druze villages, Golan Heights wine tasting, Haifa, Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Nazareth, Masada fortress by cable car, Bethlehem, Dead Sea swim, old & new Jerusalem

**Places Visited:** Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, Golan Heights, Acre, Haifa & Caesarea



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to hotel

After arrival at Ben Gurion airport, we meet & greet you, then transfer you to your hotel in Tel Aviv. The rest of the day is free to relax and recover from your flight or head out to explore the local area.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tel Aviv hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Extra day in Tel Aviv - pre-tour || Single room supplement (ISSGCI)

## Day 2: Masada, Herod's Palace & Dead Sea tour

Today we drive south out of Tel Aviv passing by the cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon and Beersheba, the capital of the Negev Desert. We then head east, via Arad, to Masada. This hilltop fortress was the last stronghold of the Jews after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. We make our way up to Masada by cable car, where we visit Herod's Palace and the food storeroom, and water irrigation channels. If time and weather allow, we'll have a chance to float on the incredibly salty waters of the Dead Sea and maybe cover yourself with the mineral rich mud that many believe has therapeutic effects. We end the day in the holy city of Jerusalem.

**OVERNIGHT:** Jerusalem hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 3: Jerusalem, new city tour

Today we take a tour to the new city of Jerusalem. We start with a drive to the Israel museum, where we can see the Shrine of the book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, along with wonderful scale model of ancient Jerusalem. We then make a stop at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, before taking an afternoon drive to the picturesque village of Ein Karem. Returning to downtown Jerusalem, we explore Mahane Yehuda one of the largest open market in Israel. Here we'll experience the flavours, aromas, colours as traders interact with the crowds.

**OVERNIGHT:** Jerusalem hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 4: Jerusalem, old city tour

Today we enjoy a full day tour of the Old City of Jerusalem. We start with a climb up to the Mount of Olive for a stunning panoramic view back over the old city walls and ancient Jewish cemetery. Our next stop is the Church of All Nations and we then continue to Mount Zion to visit the tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. We now enter the Old City to experience some of the wonders of Jerusalem. We'll take a walk through the newly restored Jewish quarter, make our way along the Cardo, the main street of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago and through the Herodian quarter. We'll also stop to see the Temple Mount and the people praying at the Western Wall, and stroll along the Via Dolorosa, where Jesus carried his own cross. We then stop at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is considered to be the place where Jesus's tomb is located. Finally, we cross over to the Occupied Palestinian Territories to visit Bethlehem (subject to border restrictions), and see Rachel's tomb, the Church of Nativity and Manger's Square.

**OVERNIGHT:** Jerusalem hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast  
**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 5: Jerusalem to Nazareth

We leave Jerusalem today and drive north passing by Jericho and the oldest city in the world. We continue to Beit Shean to see the remains of the mosaic floor of an ancient synagogue depicting the zodiac. We next drive to Nazareth, where we visit the Church of the Annunciation, which stands over the cave that tradition holds to be the home of the Virgin Mary. Finally we visit Safed, the centre of Jewish mysticism, where you have time to explore the ancient synagogues and artists' colony.

**OVERNIGHT:** Kibbutz hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast  
**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 6: Sea of Galilee & Golan Heights

We then climb up to the Golan Heights to explore the area, with visit to the former Syrian bunkers, Kuneitra and the new Israeli town of Katzrin. We'll also take time to visit the Golan winery for a wine tasting session and a tour of the winery. We finally visit "Kessem Hagolan" tourist centre, which includes an excellent introduction to the Golan with a half-hour virtual journey around the region, projected on a 180-degree panoramic screen.

Later, we descend to the shore of the Sea of Galilee, for an optional boat ride, and proceed to Capernaum, to visit the ruins of the ancient synagogue, the Mount of Beatitudes, traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount and Tabgha. We then head onwards to Tiberias, the old center of Jewish learning.

**OVERNIGHT:** Kibbutz hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast  
**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 7: Acre, Haifa & Caesarea

After breakfast, we start the last day of our tour with a drive through the hills of the Galilee, westwards to Acre (Akko) for a visit of the old, famous Crusader stronghold and medieval fortifications.

We then drive to the picturesque port city of Haifa, situated on the Mediterranean Sea, and stop for a wonderful panoramic view of the beautiful Bahai gardens and Haifa Bay.

Continuing south along the Mediterranean coast we visit the excavations at Caesarea capital of Judea under Roman rule. We take time to visit the excavations of the ancient city, including the Roman theatre and aqueduct, before finally arriving back in Tel Aviv.

**OVERNIGHT:** Tel Aviv hotel  
**MEALS:** Breakfast  
**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 8: Tour ends, transfer to airport for departure

Our tour ends after breakfast, when the rest of your time is free to do some more sightseeing or a little last minute shopping, before we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** A Taste of Israel day tour || Extra day in Jerusalem - post-tour

## Included

- All accommodation in 4-star hotels (upgrades available)
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- English speaking guide during touring days.
- All site entry fees.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (7 breakfast, 0 lunch, 0 dinners)

## Excluded

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (if applied)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for driver & tour leader
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

Note: This tour runs with an average of 15-20 people but has a potential maximum full-coach size of 45.

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting.

However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single room supplement (ISSGCI)

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$675.00

This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

**Note:** The price shown is a low season price. Slightly higher prices may apply during high and peak seasons - the exact price for your dates will be shown on the online booking form and is always available on request.

## Extra day in Tel Aviv - pre-tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$129.00

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour in Israel, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport arrival transfer is NOT included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

## Extra day in Jerusalem - post-tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$129.00

This option adds an day to the end of your tour in Israel, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport departure transfer is NOT included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

**Note:** Single room and peak season supplements apply.

# Tour Notes

## 1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the Israeli 4-star level on this tour, together with a night in a Kibbutz hotel. Options are available to upgrade the accommodation to a better 4-star, standard 5-star, or 5-star deluxe level. Please contact us for prices to match your dates. The normal hotels we use for these upgrades are shown below, though these may change to alternate hotels of a similar standard on some dates:

Superior (4/5-star) : Tel Aviv - Dan Panorama | Jerusalem - Dan Panorama | Kibbutz Lavi - Superior room

Deluxe (5-star): Tel Aviv - Carlton | Jerusalem - Inbal | Kibbutz Lavi - Premium room

Luxury (superior 5-star): Tel Aviv - Dan Hotel | Jerusalem - King David | Kibbutz Lavi - Premium room

As different hotel levels are available, this does mean that if some people take up the upgrades there will be more than one hotel pick-up and drop-off each day, though we do aim to plan these to minimise any extra travelling time.

Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room. Single travellers will need to pay a single room supplement to guarantee themselves a single room throughout the tour. We aim to keep this cost as low as possible. As we may share this tour with other operators, we do not offer a room-share option for solo travellers.

## 2. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to provide suggestions for flights to go with your tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. All our group tours in Israel start and finish at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv (TLV).

## 3. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

On average the group departures on this tour tend to have a minimum of around 10 passengers and an average of 14-18, though we only need 2 passengers to book for a departure to be guaranteed. The maximum capacity of this tour is 45 which is a lot more than our normal 'small-group tours'. We allow this higher number to ensure affordability in what is a very expensive country to arrange tours like this. We also share this tour with a small number of other operators and offer upgrades to higher hotel levels so you may join with travellers booking with different companies and staying in different hotels.

At Egypt Uncovered we aim to only ever use local Israeli guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. A different guide may be used for the Occupied Palestinian Territory sites to the rest of the tour.

## 4. Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. If you visit any sites not mentioned in the itinerary then you will need to cover the entrance fee costs.

## 5. Tipping

Tipping is common practice in Israel, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. GBP 5 / USD 8 per person per day would be appropriate.

## 6. Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

## 7. Passports & Visas - Israel & OPT

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

Many nationalities (including UK, European, USA, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South African) do not need to obtain a visa to enter Israel as a period as long as your stay is for less than 3 months. Other nationalities should check with their local consulate.

Most of our tours visiting Israel also enter the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). No special visas are required but check points and border posts are operated by the Israeli authorities and access is sometimes limited or restricted.

## 8. Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan and Israel is GMT plus 2 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of



October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

## 9. Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

## 10. Money - Israel

The local currency in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is the Israeli Shekel (ILS). You do not need to arrange to bring any Shekels with you as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Israel and the OPT you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in local currency, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 25-35 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 11. Dates & Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Saturdays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 people. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

## 12. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You can pay your deposit or full balance online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer. We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

## 13. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses

and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

If you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally, or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

## 14. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and an ABTA Member (Y4447) and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected. Financial failure insurance is provided through Affirma to protect all customers for the land portion of their tour.

Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

## 15. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudice: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from

newly acquired items before leaving home.

- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Egypt Uncovered shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 16. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered](https://www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered)

[www.twitter.com/encounterstravl](https://www.twitter.com/encounterstravl) (yes, without the 'e')

## 17. Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

['Travel Aware' campaign](#)

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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