EGYPT UNCOVERED

Your passport to adventure

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

Meals: Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 2

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

Map Image

Day 1: Arrive in Tel Aviv and transfer to your hotel

Upon arrival at the airport, a representative will greet you and arrange your transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is yours to unwind or venture out and explore the city at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT:

Tel Aviv hotel

MEALS:

EXTRAS:

Day 2: Masada ??? The Palaces of Herod - Dead Sea

Today marks the official start of our tour. We'll set off from Tel Aviv and drive south, passing the cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Beersheba, the capital of the Negev Desert.

We continue on to Masada, Israel's premier archaeological park. After ascending by cable car, we'll begin a thorough visit to learn about the rituals, politics, and culture of the people who once inhabited this desert fortress. You'll explore the excavations, Herod's palaces, the synagogue, and bathhouse while enjoying incredible views of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea.

We later descend to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth, to experience its mineral-rich black mud and float in its incredibly salty waters.

The day ends with a drive through the Judean Desert to Jerusalem, passing the oasis of Ein Gedi on the way.

OVERNIGHT:

Jerusalem hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Journey Through History: Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, and Bethlehem

Today, we head towards Mount Scopus, passing by the British WWI cemetery, Hadassah Hospital, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, offering a stunning panoramic view of the Old City.

Our journey continues to the Israel Museum, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls displayed in the Shrine of the Book. We will also explore the large-scale, restored model of Herodian-era Jerusalem.

Next, we visit Yad Vashem, the international Holocaust memorial, before heading to the scenic village of Ein Karem for an afternoon drive.

In the later part of the day, we make our way to Bethlehem to see the birthplace of Jesus at the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square.

OVERNIGHT:

Jerusalem hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Old City of Jerusalem - Mahane Yehuda

We step back in time and explore the ancient Old City of Jerusalem, starting our journey by entering through one of its gates into the walled city. We will visit the revitalized Jewish Quarter and wander through the vibrant Souk.

Our walk continues along the Via Dolorosa, pausing at each of the Stations of the Cross, concluding at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will also visit Mount Zion, including King David’s tomb, the Room of the Last Supper, and Dormition Abbey.

In the afternoon, we head to Mahane Yehuda, where we immerse ourselves in the sights, sounds, and scents of the bustling market, interacting with the traders at Israel’s largest open-air marketplace.

OVERNIGHT:

Jerusalem hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Beit Shean, Golan Heights, and Tiberias

We depart from Jerusalem today, heading northward, passing Jericho and the world's oldest city. Our journey takes us through the Jordan Valley and new settlements toward Beit Shean, where we will explore the well-preserved Roman ruins.

Next, we ascend to the Golan Heights for an immersive experience in Israel's wine country, complete with a guided tour, wine tasting, and insight into the wine production process. Following this, we drive through the Golan, passing Druze villages, former Syrian military posts, and enjoy sweeping views of Mount Hermon as we approach Syria.

We then descend into the Hula Valley, continuing to Tiberias, located on the Sea of Galilee's shores. Tiberias is one of the four Holy cities in Judaism, where the Jewish Talmud—the central text of Jewish law—was compiled, and the city is home to the tombs of many revered Rabbis.

OVERNIGHT:

Tiberias hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Capernaum - Mount of Beatitudes - Sea of Galilee - Nazareth

Along the coast of the Sea of Galilee, head towards Capernaum to explore the remains of the ancient synagogue, the Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional location of the ‘Sermon on the Mount,’ and Tabgha, believed to be the site of the ‘miracle of the loaves and the fish.’

While here, we offer an optional boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, allowing you to experience its peacefulness and views that have remained largely unchanged over the last 2000 years (subject to conditions, additional fee if available).

Later, we proceed to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and other significant Christian sites. Our day concludes with a return to Tiberias for an overnight stay.

OVERNIGHT:

Tiberias hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Exploring Israel's Coastal Gems: Acre, Haifa, and Tel Aviv

After breakfast, we begin the final day of our tour with a scenic drive through the hills of Galilee, heading west toward Acre (Akko) to explore the historic Crusader stronghold and its medieval fortifications.

Next, we proceed to Haifa for a panoramic sightseeing tour, which includes visits to the Baha'i Shrine, Persian Garden, Mount Carmel, and Haifa Bay. We then travel along the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea to explore the Roman Theater and the Crusader fortress, renowned as the 'masterpiece of Herod the Great.'

The day concludes with a brief city tour of Tel Aviv and the ancient port of Jaffa.

OVERNIGHT:

Tel Aviv hotel

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Farewell to the Holy Land: Your Classic Israel Tour Concludes

The tour concludes today, and you'll be escorted to the airport for your flight home. Feel free to reach out if you'd like to extend your journey.

OVERNIGHT:

N/A

MEALS:

Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Included:

- Stay in 3 to 4-star accommodations
- All transport and transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- 24-hour airport pick-up and drop-off service
- English-speaking guide on tour days
- All site entry fees included
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (7 breakfasts)

Excluded:

- International flights (available upon request)
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages, snacks, gratuities, and other personal expenses (e.g., laundry)
- Tips for driver and tour guide
- Any additional items not listed above

Options

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.

Extra night in Tel Aviv - pre-tour

Extra night in Tel Aviv - pre-tour

From $110.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This option allows you to begin your tour a day early with an extra night in Tel Aviv, staying at the same hotel as your main tour (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport arrival transfer is included. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Please note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Single room supplement (ISSGCI)

Single room supplement (ISSGCI)

From $935.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

This tour is based on twin-share accommodation, where solo travellers are paired with another same-sex member of the

group. Should the final group composition preclude a room share, you will not be required to pay the single supplement. However, if you wish to guarantee a single room for the duration of the tour, please add this option to your booking.

Please note: Single supplement prices are subject to seasonal variations.

Comfort hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

Comfort hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

From $320.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels, typically at the local 3 and 4-star level (comparable to 3-star international standards). This option upgrades your accommodation to our popular 'Comfort' level, featuring superior 4-star hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, while retaining the same Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee.

While the hotels listed below are usually used, please note that these may be substituted with similar alternatives on certain dates, subject to availability at the time of booking.

- **Tel Aviv:** Metropolitan or Grand Beach Hotel
- **Jerusalem:** Grand Court or Leonardo Hotel
- **Galilee:** (Same Kibbutz Hotel as standard tour)

Solo travellers will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour, as well as an additional supplement to cover the extra cost of a single room in the upgraded hotels. Please consult the tour reservation form for

prices or contact us for further details.

Superior hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

Superior hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

From $835.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels, typically at the local 3 and 4-star level (comparable to 3-star international standards). This option upgrades your accommodation to our 'Superior' level, featuring 5-star hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, along with a superior room at the Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee.

While the hotels listed below are usually used, please note that these may be substituted with similar alternatives on certain dates, subject to availability at the time of booking.

- **Tel Aviv:** Crowne Plaza/Dan Panorama Hotel
- **Jerusalem:** Crowne Plaza Deluxe/Dan Panorama Hotel
- **Galilee:** Superior Room in Kibbutz Hotel

Solo travellers will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour, as well as an additional supplement to cover the extra cost of a single room in the upgraded hotels. Please consult the tour reservation form for prices or contact us for further details.

Deluxe hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

Deluxe hotel upgrade (ISSGCI)

From $1535.00

Min numbers:

*Based on person/s

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels, typically at the local 3 and 4-star level (comparable to 3-star international standards). This option elevates your experience with a 'Deluxe' upgrade, featuring some of the finest 5-star hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, along with a superior room at the Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee.

While we typically use the hotels listed below, please note that these may be substituted with similar alternatives on certain dates, subject to availability at the time of booking.

- **Tel Aviv:** Carlton or Sheraton Hotel
- **Jerusalem:** David Citadel or Mamilla Hotel
- **Galilee:** Superior Room in Kibbutz Hotel

Solo travellers will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour, as well as an additional supplement to cover the extra cost of a single room in these upgraded hotels. Please consult the tour reservation form for prices or contact us for further details.

Please note: This Deluxe hotel level is not available during peak season dates (Passover, after Yom Kippur, and over Christmas).

1. Accommodation

On this tour, we offer high-quality hotels rated at the Israeli 3-star level. Should you prefer accommodations of a higher standard, you have the option to upgrade. Please reach out to us for pricing based on your travel dates. Below are the typical hotels we use for these upgrades, though they may change to similar alternatives on certain dates:

- **Comfort (4-star)**:
    - Tel Aviv - Metropolitan / Grand Beach
    - Jerusalem - Grand Court / Ramada
    - Tiberias* - Lake House / Royal Plaza
- **Superior (4/5-star)**:
    - Tel Aviv - Dan Panorama / Crowne Plaza Beach
    - Jerusalem - Dan Panorama / King Solomon
    - Tiberias* - Caesar / Gai Beach
- **Deluxe (5-star)**:
    - Tel Aviv - Carlton
    - Jerusalem - David Citadel / Mamilla
    - Tiberias* - U-Boutique / Magdala

*On some dates, the tour may stay in Nazareth or Haifa instead of Tiberias.

Since various hotel categories are available, if some guests choose upgrades, there may be multiple hotel pick-ups and drop-offs each day. We aim to organize these transfers to minimize extra travel time.

Accommodation is provided in twin or double en-suite rooms, all featuring air conditioning. Private double rooms will be assigned to all couples.

For solo travellers, please refer to the Single Room Supplement option for details on room-sharing choices and associated charges.

---

2. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

Typically, group departures for this tour have a minimum of approximately 10 passengers, with an average of 14-18 participants. However, we only require 2 passengers to confirm a departure. The tour's maximum capacity is 45, which is why we categorize it as a Shoestring-level tour, even though the accommodations are rated 3 to 4 stars. To keep costs manageable in a country known for high travel expenses, we collaborate with a small group of other tour operators, so you might be traveling with individuals who have booked through different companies.

At Egypt Uncovered, our goal is to exclusively employ local Israeli guides and representatives. We believe this provides the most authentic experience of both the country and the sights you're visiting. For visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, a separate guide may be provided for those specific areas, distinct from the rest of the tour.

---

3. Entrance Fees

The cost of the tour covers entrance fees to all the attractions listed in the itinerary. Any additional sites you choose to visit will require you to pay their respective entrance fees.

---

4. Dates & Prices

We offer regular departures for this tour every Sunday throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed with at least 2 participants. Additionally, we can arrange private tours on alternate dates. For more information and pricing based on your group size and preferred dates, please get in touch with us.

---

5. Voltage - Israel

Sockets in the area have two round prongs and operate at 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors can usually be found in airport shops if you don't already have one. Standard European adapters will work, though they might occasionally fit a bit loosely in the sockets. Every hotel room is equipped with electrical sockets, so you can easily recharge devices such as phones and cameras. If a hair dryer isn’t already in your room, you can request one from the hotel reception.

If you're bringing US appliances (110 volts), you'll need both a voltage converter and a plug adapter.

---

6. Transport

Our tours combine various transport options to ensure you fully immerse yourself in the country you're exploring. At the same time, we aim for you to arrive at each destination feeling rested and ready for the next part of your journey. In Israel, the short distances between locations allow us to use private vehicles for the entire tour.

---

7. Transfers

Your airport transfers are included only on the first and last day of the scheduled tour itinerary, as well as on any extra days if you book your accommodation with us. If you choose to organise your own accommodation at the start or end of the tour, you will be responsible for arranging your own airport transfers on those days.

---

8. International Flights

We aim to provide you with as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. In order to accommodate various travel plans, we do not include international flights in the main tour price. However, we are more than happy to recommend flights that suit your tour. Simply let us know your preferred dates and departure airport, and we’ll provide you with a range of airlines, timings, and fares to choose from.

Transfers to and from the airport are included on the first and last days of your tour. All our group tours in Israel start and end at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv (TLV), while private and tailor-made tours may start at either Tel Aviv or Eilat.

Occasionally, we offer flight-inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these packages appear on our website, the prices are accurate at the time of quoting but may be subject to availability. Prices will be reconfirmed when you make your booking, and we will provide you with flight details, including timings and the airline, before your tickets are issued.

Flight-inclusive prices are based on the cheapest available Economy ticket, which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable, unless the flight is cancelled due to reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines tend to offer more flexibility. More flexible ticket options, along with Premium Economy and Business Class tickets, are available upon request for an additional fee. Any changes to flight-inclusive bookings will be governed by the rules of the airline’s ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Flying is a fantastic way to explore the world, but it also contributes to carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions that affect the environment. When you choose your flight, we encourage you to consider the airline's CO_2 emissions to help reduce your environmental impact.

When selecting your international flights, we recommend taking the flight's CO_2 emissions into account. Some airlines and flight search platforms (such as Google Flights or Skyscanner) provide this information, allowing you to compare your options and make a more informed decision. Many airlines are working towards more sustainable practices, so by opting for a greener choice, you can make a positive impact while still enjoying your remarkable journey.

---

9. Tipping

Tipping is a common practice in Israel, serving as a way to show gratitude for services received. As such, you may want to tip your guide and driver at the conclusion of your tour. There's no obligation to give a specific amount; it should align with your personal budget. However, we are frequently asked for guidance on this, and would recommend approximately GBP 5 / USD 8 per person per day as a reasonable amount.

---

10. Health and Vaccinations

Make sure you have comprehensive insurance that covers medical emergencies, including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

For the latest health advice and vaccination requirements for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, it's best to consult your GP, medical practitioner, or a travel clinic. You can also find useful information here:

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/middle-east/israel.aspx

Common vaccinations recommended for Israel are Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio, and Hepatitis A.

---

11. Passports & Visas - Israel & OPT

Passports must remain valid for at least six months beyond your scheduled departure from the country. Avoid carrying passports that are nearly full or about to expire. It is the traveller's responsibility to handle visa arrangements, and requirements may change based on local regulations.

Starting from 1st January 2025, all travellers to Israel must have a pre-approved visa or ETA-IL. Many nationals, including those from the UK, EU, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, do not need a visa for stays of less than three months. However, an ETA-IL approval is mandatory even for those exempt from requiring a visa. Travellers from other countries should consult their local consulate.

From 1st January 2025 onwards, all travellers to Israel must apply for ETA-IL approval online at https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il/visa-option/. A fee of 25 shekels (approximately GBP 5 or USD 7) will be charged during the application process. If you are travelling before January 2025, ETA-IL approval is not required.

Many of our tours to Israel also visit the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). No special visas are necessary, but please be aware that checkpoints and border posts are managed by Israeli authorities, and access may occasionally be restricted or limited.

---

12. Time

The time zones for Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon are GMT plus 2 hours, while the UAE operates on GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving time has been used intermittently over the years, though the situation can change. As of now, it seems there will be no daylight saving time adjustments in Egypt after 2016, but this could change unexpectedly, affecting flight schedules and timings. In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving is typically observed

from late March to late October, shifting the time to GMT plus 3 hours. However, the specific dates for these changes can vary annually, and occasionally, the adjustments might be cancelled altogether.

---

13. Money - Israel

The currency used in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is the Israeli Shekel (ILS). There's no need to bring Shekels with you, as currency exchange services are available at international airports, most hotels, banks, and exchange offices in major cities. It's a good idea to carry small denominations of notes or coins during your trip, as these will come in handy for items such as toilets, tips, and minor purchases. ATMs are widespread in larger towns, and many local stores accept VISA, Mastercard, or American Express, although they may apply fees of up to 10%, so it's wise to check beforehand. Traveller's cheques are no longer widely accepted and can incur high fees.

While visiting Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, you will need enough funds for meals not included in your itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs, and other personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally be paid in local currency, though tips for guides and drivers may be given in foreign currencies (GBP, USD, EUR).

It's hard to suggest an exact amount of spending money as it varies depending on individual preferences, but as a general guide, we recommend budgeting around USD 25-35 per person per day. You may need more if you plan on shopping extensively or purchasing a lot of alcoholic drinks.

---

14. What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks, or fabric holdalls are all acceptable to bring with you to Israel and Jordan. Additionally, it's a good idea to bring a small daypack or bag for daily use. Your main luggage will typically be stored in the hotel during sightseeing trips, so you won't need to carry it around much. Hotels generally provide porters to assist with luggage when needed.

Luggage Limits: There is no specific luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines typically allow between 20kg and 25kg for checked luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. It's best to check your airline's luggage policy before heading to the airport.

Clothing: The climate in Israel and Jordan can vary greatly, ranging from hot summer days to cooler and sometimes wet winter months. Nights, especially in the deserts, can be quite chilly. Therefore, you should pack for cooler conditions. Formal attire (such as suits and ties) is not necessary. Modesty is highly valued in Jordan and some parts of Israel, especially for women, so please wear loose-fitting, non-revealing clothing to respect local customs. While shorts (not hot pants) and T-shirts are acceptable at tourist sites, avoid showing too much bare skin (it's best to keep your shoulders covered). When visiting mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other Items: Bedding is provided at the Bedouin camp, but we suggest bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for added comfort throughout the year (sand tends to get everywhere). In winter or if you prefer to sleep under the stars instead of in your tent, consider bringing a sleeping bag as it can get very cold at night. Other recommended items include a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, a money belt, a small torch, a camera, and a charger.

---

15. Airport Transfers

This tour includes a meet-and-greet service and airport transfer on the first day. Our representative will be waiting with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed for easy identification. If you are unable to locate our representative, emergency contact numbers will be provided on your tour confirmation voucher.

A transfer to the airport is also included at the end of the tour. Please review the tour itinerary and your flight times carefully. Most international flights departing from Khartoum are scheduled in the early hours of the morning. If you have upgraded to a 4 or 5-star hotel in Khartoum, only a day-use room is typically included for

your final day. A full night's stay is provided at the standard 3-star hotel. If you require a full night’s accommodation in an upgraded hotel, an additional charge may apply.

Refunds are not available for missed transfers or parts of your trip due to incorrect flight details or delayed arrivals. Any additional expenses incurred to join the group will be your responsibility.

If your flights are scheduled to arrive before the tour starts or depart after the tour ends, we can arrange extra accommodation and airport transfers. We will strive to book these at the same hotel as the main tour, subject to availability (upgraded hotels can also be arranged upon request). Please note that if you do not book additional accommodation through us, arrival and departure transfer services will not be included, and you will need to organise your own transport.

Arrival Procedure

Be prepared for potential delays at immigration, especially if you are obtaining a “visa on arrival” (refer to the Passports and Visas section). After passport control, proceed to baggage reclaim, where further waiting times are common. Once you collect your luggage, you will need to show your baggage receipts (typically attached to your boarding pass), and your bags may be manually inspected by airport staff. This is standard procedure to ensure no prohibited items, such as alcohol or inappropriate materials, are brought into Sudan. Be aware that some magazines with certain images might also be considered inappropriate and could be confiscated without return.

After completing these formalities, you will find our representative waiting just outside the glass doors with an Egypt Uncovered signboard or your name clearly displayed.

original

jarred

correct