

## JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS YOU TOUR ISRAEL



### DAY ONE HONG KONG – TEL AVIV – JERUSALEM

Enjoy your meet and greet prior to being escorted to your hotel to relax and unwind, followed by a morning meal.

In the afternoon, the tour begins with a scenic drive to **Mt. Scopus**. At an elevation of over 800 meters, this spot offers a panoramic view of the entire city.

Afterwards, visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**, located at the foot of the Mount of Olives. According to the Bible, Jesus and his disciples are said to have prayed there the night before the crucifixion.



Continue towards the **Church of All Nations**, a beautiful Roman Catholic building located on the Mount of Olives. We recommend seeing the enshrined section of bedrock where some believe Jesus prayed before his arrest.

Then head over to the **Israel Museum**, situated on a hill in the Givat Ram district. Among the unique objects on display is the **Venus of Berekhat Ram**, the oldest piece of prehistoric art ever discovered. The **Shrine of the Book** and the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are all housed here.

We recommend visiting **Yad Vashem**, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, established in 1953. A moving and humbling experience, it is tucked away on the western slope of Mount Herzl and includes the Holocaust History Museum, memorial sites and the Hall of Remembrance.



End your day with drive to the picturesque village of **Ein Kerem**. Reputedly the birthplace of **John the Baptist**, before being escorted back to your hotel.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES  
**2522 4228**  
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#### DAY TWO OLD JERUSALEM – BETHLEHEM - JERUSALEM

After breakfast you will journey to the **Old City**, surrounded by 16<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman walls and divided culturally and historically into four quarters: Muslim, Jewish, Armenian and Christian.

Head over to the distinct **Jewish Quarter**. Razed by the Jordanians after they expelled all the Jewish residents in 1948, many structures have since been rebuilt.



**The Western Wall**, a surviving remnant of The Temple Mount, dates back over 2,000 years. Built by Herod the Great during the expansion of the temple, the wall became the chief place of pilgrimage in Judaism during the Ottoman Period.

Walk the **Via Dolorosa** (the *way of sorrows*) and trace what some believe were the last steps of Jesus, from his trial at the Calvary to his crucifixion. Head over to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** to discover the tomb where he was said to have been buried. You can also peruse the colorful bazaars and shop for souvenirs.



You will then be escorted to **Zion Gate** on the southern side of the city, providing direct access to the Armenian quarter from Mount Zion. Head over to **King David's Tomb** where you can inspect the sarcophagus. We also recommend visiting the room of the Last Supper.

Once ready, you will then be taken to **Bethlehem** where you will spend the rest of the day. Pay a visit to the **Church of the Nativity**, one of the oldest in the world, and the focus of Christian veneration within this city. Transfer back to Jerusalem for your overnight stay.

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### DAY THREE JERUSALEM – MASADA – QUMRAN – JERUSALEM

You will be taken on a drive where you will see **The Dead Sea** and then reach **Masada**, a massive fortress in the stark **Judean Desert**. It was the last Jewish holdout to fall to Rome in 73 CE. Enjoy a cable car ride to the top of Masada for a breathtaking view.

After visiting Masada head to the **Qumran Caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Then you will be driven back to Jerusalem for your overnight stay.

### DAY FOUR JERUSALEM – BEIT SHEAN – NAZARETH – TIBERIAS



Start with a drive to **Jordan Valley**, which forms part of the larger Jordan Rift Valley and spans over 120km from Lake Tiberias to the northern Dead Sea.

Head to **Nazareth**, the largest Arab city in Israel, with a mixed Christian and Muslim population and where Jesus spent most of his life. Visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation**, built above the sunken grotto which (according to the Roman Catholic faith) was the home of the Virgin Mary.

Next head to **Mary's Well** and the **Ancient Bath House** where you can hear the story of a souvenir shop named, belonging to Elias and Martina Shama. When they bought the shop they discovered a network of ancient stone arches that once supported a giant bath house.



Walk over to **St. Gabriel's Church** located at the nearby square. According to Greek Orthodox belief this was where Mary received the Annunciation from the Angel Gabriel. Another point of interest nearby is **St. Joseph's Church**, which was built over a cave identified in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as the workshop of Joseph.

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#### **DAY FIVE** TIBERIAS – GALILEE – GOLAN HEIGHTS

Begin the morning with a relaxing boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee**, the largest freshwater lake in Israel. It is best known for its gospel association with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and is a destination for Christian pilgrims. Stop off at **Capernaum**, the house of Peter and an ancient Roman synagogue.

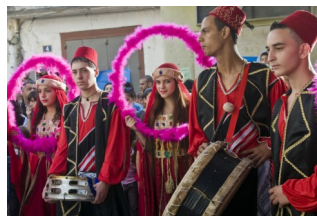
Visit the **Church of the Primacy of St. Peter**, a Franciscan church located on the northwest shore, considered by some to be where Jesus reinstated Peter as chief among the apostles.



Further along the shore you will discover the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the hill where Jesus, according to the Bible, delivered the Sermon of the Mount.

In the afternoon you will be driven to **Golan Heights**, where you will experience an incredible view.

Next you will be escorted to **The Naham Hermon Reserve** to witness its natural vistas. We recommend visiting **The Bania Springs**, which begin at the foot of Mount Hermon. Water rushes out with incredible force through a canyon-like channel, forming a breathtaking waterfall.



Your journey continues to the **Druze Villages**. Witness Druze culture in the colorful market where you can taste traditional food, peruse handicrafts and enjoy the local warmth of the people. Once you are ready, you will be transferred to Galilee for your overnight stay.

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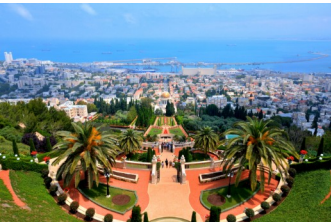
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#### **DAY SIX** GALILEE – SAFED – HAIFA – CAESAREA – TEL AVIV

Begin your day with breakfast then be escorted to the **Jezreel Valley** on your way to the city of **Safed**. You can appreciate this extensive inland valley. This is the only place where the Holy Land could be crossed without climbing the mountains and was home to important trade routes.

Experience **Safed**, one of the oldest centers for Jewish learning and spirituality and home to the Kabbalah movement. Peruse a number of old synagogues, explore galleries and savor some local falafel.



Visit **The Ancient Cemetery**, the burial place of many famous rabbis, and a site of pilgrimage. The Arizal, Rabbi Joseph Karo and Rabbi Moshe Cordevero are among some of the notable persons that were put to rest here.

Next venture to the city of **Haifa**, first mentioned historically around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE. Begin with the **Baha'i Gardens** and **World Center**. The gardens on Mount Carmel's northern slope are a wonderful sight to behold. The World Center is considered the holiest site of pilgrimage for the members of the Baha'i faith.



On your way to **Tel Aviv** you can stop by **Caesarea**, a small town that is next to an extensive archaeological site on the Mediterranean coast. Ancient remains aside, this town is clearly devoted to tourists and to a luxurious standard of living. Some of the country's finest homes are located here. Spend the night at Tel Aviv.

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#### DAY SEVEN TEL AVIV

Enjoy your final breakfast of the journey prior to beginning your tour of Tel Aviv, starting with **Independence Hall**. Originally known as “Dizengoff House”, it is best known for the signing of Israel’s Declaration of Independence. Located on the historic **Rothschild Boulevard**, this museum exhibits many notable pieces.



The beaches are worth a visit; listen to the beating of Brazilian drums, smell the delicious BBQs and breathe in the fresh air from the sea. Peruse the numerous markets scattered throughout the vibrant city. We especially recommend **Levinsky Market**, the best place to purchase spices, dried fruits and a variety of legumes.

Then spend the afternoon visiting **Jaffa**, one of the world’s oldest ports; it was here that some believe the prophet Jonah started the journey that left him in the belly of a whale

#### DAY EIGHT TEL AVIV – HONG KONG

Explore Tel Aviv at your leisure with our expert tour guide and coach before returning to the airport for your flight to Hong Kong

