

ISRAEL - THE HOLY LAND – 21 Days - 2017

February – March,

This tour is made up of the best of the past six trips to Israel and includes “Pilgrimage” sites as well as the best of everyday Israel locations.

Day 1 – Leave via the International Airport for Israel (People can leave from Perth, Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne and meet up in Bangkok and then travel together to Israel)

Day 2 – Go to hotel to unwind, shop, sleep or dip in the Mediterranean Sea.
Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 3 – Visit the pre-48 secret underground ammunition factory – the Ayalon Institute – in Rehovot followed by an orientation drive around Tel Aviv; visit Jaffa and walk around the Carmel market and Nahalat Binyamin St.
Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 4 – Depart Tel Aviv for Caesarea Maritime, Visit the Carmelite Monastery at the Muhraka– Drive through the Druze villages of Dalya and Usfiya. / Drive along Mt. Carmel to Haifa and the Bahai Gardens; walk through the gardens (book a time). Overnight Haifa.

Day 5 – Drive to Akko (Acre), see the prison where the British hanged members of the underground; visit the Knights of St. John Castle, walk through the shuk to the harbor and the medieval Genoese marketplace. Continue to Rosh HaNikra to walk through Israel’s “blue grotto”. Drive across the mountainous north to Safed, home to an artist colony and one-time center of Kabbalah. Overnight Kibbutz Ginosar on the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6 – Drive via Cana ([Possible renewal of wedding vows](#)) to Nazareth Village. We will also visit the Church of the Annunciation. Continue to Megiddo and end with a visit at Mt Tabor before returning to Kibbutz Ginosar.

Day 7 Experience an early morning sail across the Sea of Galilee. See the remains of a boat from the time of Jesus. Visit Magdala and Tabgha (Primacy of St. Peter) and feeding the 5000 church and enjoy a fish lunch at the Sea of Galilee. Visit Kursi (Monastery & healing man man with an evil spirit), Capernaum and the Mt. of Beatitudes. Return to Ginosar.

Day 8 Visit Biblical Dan and Caesarea- Phillippi. Walk the river bed via the man selling Pita Bread and Tea an return via Agrippa's palace. Return to Ginosar.

Day 9 Leave Ginosar to visit Beit Shean. At the foot of Mt. Gilboa visit the 6th century synagogue of Bet Alfa. Stop at the Jordan River opposite Jericho to Renew your Baptismal vows. Ascend to Bethany (Tomb of Lazarus). Stop for a welcome to Jerusalem on Mt. Scopus before settling in. Overnight:

Jerusalem

Day 10 – Start with a spectacular view of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives - Walk down the Palm Sunday Road, visit the Chapel of Dominus Flevit and the Church of all Nations at the Garden of Gethsemane – Stop at Haas Promenade before going to Bethlehem. Afternoon visit to Bethlehem commencing with Lunch there –Visit the Holy Sites including the Shepherds Field, Shepherds Church, Church of the Nativity with Birth cave. (Souvenir store [Johnnys] at end of visit)

Day 11 Drive down to Emmaus. Continue via Bet Shemesh where the ark of the Covenant returned and the Ela Valley, then via Azeka to Bet Guvrin to see the Columbarium and the 3rd century BC Sidonian Burial Cave and to explore the myriad bell-shaped caves. Visit the wonderfully preserved Roman Amphitheatre before our return to Jerusalem

Day 12 – Begin with a visit to David's City - see the movie of Jerusalem from its inception (some 4,000 years back) until the time of Solomon. Walk underground down the hill to the Gihon Spring. Continue via Hezekiah's Tunnel (in water just over your knees) or dry Canaanite Tunnel to the Pool of Siloam From here we return via Herod's drainage channel below his street. Visit the Davidson Center, the steps that led to the Temple, followed by a visit to the Western Wall. This day involves a lot of walking

Day 13 – Free to enjoy Jerusalem (Old and New City) Visit Garden Tomb if wish to, or ride the light rail through the city. Watch Barmitzvahs (till mid-day +) at the Western Wall (Wailing Wall)

Day 14 – Early morning visit (leave hotel at 7:00 - this to avoid a very long wait in line) to the Temple Mount; Enter via the Lions Gate and visit the Pools of Bethesda, the Sisters of Zion crypt and walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Visit the Jewish Quarter; walk the Cardo. And visit the Burnt House. On Mt Zion visit the Last Supper Room and the prison of Christ at St. Peter in Gallicantu

DAY 15 –Today we view the model of Second Temple period Jerusalem; the Dead Sea scrolls. Continue past the Israel Knesset and the Supreme Court to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Visit En Karem and the birthplace of John the Baptist. Finish our visit to Jerusalem with a walk through the outdoor market at Mahaneh Yehudah. Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 16 – Depart Jerusalem via the Inn of the Good Samaritan to visit the caves of Qumran, the Ahava Factory and En Gedi where David took refuge and came into contact with Saul. Our last visit is Masada (cable car both ways) Overnight Dead Sea

Day 17 Morning mostly free to enjoy the Dead

Sea. At 11:00 AM we head down the Arava Valley for Timna Park to see the rock formations and ancient mines and Temples. Visit a re-creation of the Tabernacle in the Sinai desert. Overnight Eilat

Day 18 Petra (Optional at extra cost to members. Approx cost \$US300) or Free day to explore Eilat – O/N Eilat

Day 19 Drive via Avdat and Sde Boqer to Beersheba and then Train ride back to Tel Aviv. Possibility (time permitting) to walk through the markets to chill out before the evening meal and return home..

Day 20/21 Return Home.

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