

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, March 3

Depart on our overnight flight for your trip of a lifetime!

We will depart LAX at 1:30 pm on our non-stop El AL Airlines flight to Tel Aviv, Israel!

Day 2: Wednesday, March 4

Arrive in Israel, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, overnight in Netanya



We arrive at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport at about 1:30 pm. Our first stop will be Tel Aviv where we will visit **Independence Hall** — the location of the signing of the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. We then drive to the quaint biblical town of Jaffa, located on the Mediterranean. Jaffa is one of the oldest cities in the world, as well as the port where the prophet Jonah set sail for Tarshish. Time-permitting, we will be treated to **Jaffa Tales**, a multi-sensory exhibit where visitors walk on a virtual, floating bridge and experience 5,000 years of history and archaeology, bringing past heroes to life. Then we drive up the Mediterranean to Netanya for our first night at the beautiful **Ramada Netanya**.

Day 3: Thursday, March 5

Northern Israel – from the Mediterranean to the Galilee, overnight in Galilee



This morning, we drive north to **Caesarea Maritima**, Judea's ancient capital where the apostle Paul was imprisoned for two years. On to **Mt. Carmel**, with its breathtaking view of the Jezreel Valley, known as **Armageddon**. This is where Elijah challenged the 450 false prophets of Baal. Next is **Megiddo** or "Armageddon," the site that faced more battles and bloodshed than any other place on earth. We'll see remnants of 25 layers of civilizations and walk through an underground water system believed to have been built by King Ahab 2,800 years ago. Last stop - **Nazareth Village**, a recreated farm and Galilean village in Nazareth, as it would have been in the time of Jesus. We will drive by **Cana**, where Jesus turned water into wine, before arriving at our hotel, **Ron Beach** located on the Sea of Galilee.

Day 4: Friday, March 6

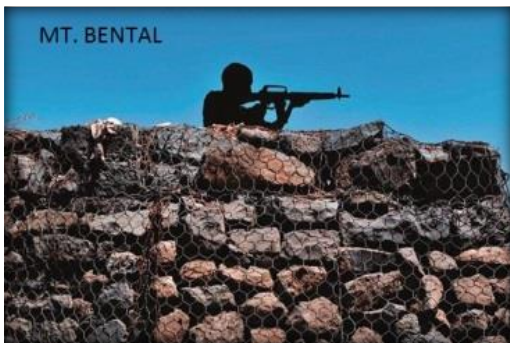
In and around the Sea of Galilee, overnight in Galilee



This day will be spent around the **Sea of Galilee** where Jesus performed His 'mighty works' and laid the foundation of His ministry. We will view the new **Magdala Excavations** revealing a synagogue dating back to the time of Jesus. Next, we arrive at the **Mount of Beatitudes**, the traditional site of the *Sermon on the Mount*. Close by is **Capernaum** both the center of tax collectors during the time of Jesus and the center of His ministry in the Galilee. We are then treated to a St. Peter's fish lunch. After lunch, we embark on what is a highlight for many: a **worship cruise across the Sea of Galilee** with a Messianic captain! You will enjoy some free time in the afternoon to explore the Galilee area and even do some shopping! Overnight at **Ron Beach**.

Day 5: Saturday, March 7

Golan Heights, overnight in Galilee



We drive up to **Mt. Bental**, just east of Syria with a panoramic view of the Golan and part of Syria. Here we can see a dark, winding underground network of trenches and deserted bunkers which once belonged to the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). We embark on a two-hour **jeep tour of the Golan Heights** to gain a better understanding of the relationship between Israel and Syria. Next is **Caesarea Philippi**, a city built on top of an enormous rock where numerous springs gush out of the rocks around a cavern. Here, Jesus asked His disciples, "*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*" Caesarea Philippi was also the "sacred" precinct of pagan worship in the 3rd century BC. Close by is **Tel Dan National Park**, the capital of the ancient northern kingdom and the significant archaeological finds: a gate probably built by King Ahab, an old inscription referring to King David, the *High Place of Jeroboam* where Jeroboam housed the golden calf and built an altar — challenging the temple in Jerusalem as Israel's religious center, and the *Middle Bronze Gate*, the world's oldest known gated archway — the gate through which Abraham and his 318 servants would have passed while pursuing the Kings of the North to rescue his nephew, Lot, who had been taken hostage. Overnight at **Ron Beach**.

Day 6: Sunday, March 8

From the Galilee to the Jordan River to the Dead Sea, overnight at the Dead Sea



We head south from the Galilee and visit EITHER the expansive, magnificent ruins of **Beit She'an National Park** where the bodies of Saul and his sons were impaled OR **Gideon's Cave and Spring** – the site where Gideon gathered his men before fighting the Midianites and gave the famous water test which reduced his army from 22,000 to 10,000 - to a mere 300 men! (Judges 7:1-7). Our next stop is **Qasr el Yahud** – the very site on the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John. Here, we will have our own baptism. Then we continue south to the **Dead Sea** region, the lowest spot on earth! Driving south along the Dead Sea, we reach Israel's most popular tourist site—**Masada**! We ascend the mountain by cable car to see the remains of a 23-acre fortress completed in 31 BC by Herod the Great. *"as a refuge for himself."* This remarkable fortress will be imprinted in your memory forever. This amazing day concludes at Ein Bokek, the Dead Sea resort district. We arrive at our lavish hotel, the **David Dead Sea** with its own private beach, indoor sulfur pools, and a spa center. We can relax and unwind—and plunge right into the Dead Sea for a one-of-a-kind floating experience, covering ourselves with its renowned, therapeutic mud.

Day 7: Monday, March 9

From the Dead Sea to Jerusalem, overnight in Jerusalem



We will have a later morning departure northward to the lush **En Gedi Nature Reserve**, with its magnificent waterfalls and springs. En Gedi is best known for its rocks and caves that served as David's refuge from the pursuit of King Saul. Our next stop is **Qumran**—the ancient religious settlement where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We continue our drive—eventually ascending a hill to the epicenter of all human history—**JERUSALEM**! We will stop briefly at the **Mt. Scopus** viewpoint with its spectacular views of God's Holy City. From here, we continue to the **Israel Museum** to view a fascinating 50:1 scale **Model of the 2nd Temple period Jerusalem**. Here also is the awe-inspiring **Shrine of the Book** which houses the entire book of Isaiah. We drive by the **Knesset**, Israel's legislature. Our final stop of the day is the **Friends of Zion Museum** which presents the story of the Jewish peoples' dream of restoration to their historic homeland, alongside the story of the courageous non-Jews who assisted them in the realization of that dream. The story is told magnificently using ground-breaking technology. Finally, we check in to the beautiful **Dan Jerusalem** hotel.

Day 8: Tuesday, March 10

Jerusalem – in and around the Old City, overnight in Jerusalem



Our first site today is the **City of David** with some of the most exciting archeological finds of the ancient world, including what is believed to be have been King David's Palace. Here also is the **Pool of Siloam** where the blind man received his sight, as well as **Hezekiah's Tunnel**. Then we walk to the Southern Temple Mount to the **Southern Wall Excavations** which include what is known as the "**Southern Steps**" originally built by Herod the Great.

Then we reach Jerusalem and drive to the top of the **Mt. of Olives** with its amazing views of the Old City. This mountain was the beginning of Jesus' final path of suffering, the place where He ascended into heaven and where He will stand at His Second Coming. At the foot of the Mt. of Olives, where we will visit the beautiful, serene **Garden of Gethsemane**, with its ancient olive trees, one - two thousand years old. We begin our morning following Jesus' path of suffering at **Caiaphas' House**, believed to be the authentic site of the palace of Caiaphas the high priest. Here Jesus was incarcerated after His arrest. After dinner at the hotel, we have the opportunity to explore some of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City: we can stroll through the **Roman Cardo** (the main street in Ancient Roman times, running from north to south, lined by columns), pray at the **Western Wall** (better known as the "Wailing Wall" - where Jews would gather the 19th century to mourn their fallen state), and then take a fascinating tour through the **Western Wall Tunnels** that link the Western Wall plaza to the northwest side of the Temple Mount. Overnight at the **Dan Jerusalem**.

Day 9: Wednesday, March 11

Jerusalem – in and around the Old City, late night arrival at airport



Our last day begins with the **Temple Mount Sifting Project** where we will have a fascinating opportunity to "wet-sift" through 1st and 2nd Temple period debris removed from the Temple Mount; artifacts are retrieved on a regular basis. Next, we have time for meditation and communion at the **Garden Tomb**, which many believe to be the authentic site

of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Next, we walk over to join voices in worship at the **Church of St. Anne** renowned for its extraordinary acoustics. Adjoining the church is the excavated **Pool of Bethesda**, believed to be the pool described in John 5:2-9 where Jesus healed the 38-year invalid. From here, we walk a portion of the traditional **Via Dolorosa**, also known as

the *Way of the Cross*. The Via Dolorosa commemorates the path Jesus walked under the weight of the cross. A significant stop on the path is the **Lithostratos** or “Stone Pavement,” a large area made up of 2nd century Roman flagstones, as described in the Bible. Etchings in the pavement indicate a dice game known as the “King’s Game” with the objective of executing a mock king. At the end of the *Via Dolorosa*, we visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the most holy site in Orthodox and Catholic Christianity. You will now have some free time to stroll through the Old City or visit the **Old City “Souq,”** or **marketplace**. Most of the shops have passed through multiple generations of family members. Vendors from all four quarters of the Old City assertively sell their food, jewelry, clothes, and a myriad of souvenirs. Bargain to your heart’s content! We will have our final dinner in the Old City.

Day 10, Thursday, March 12

Depart Israel; arrive at LAX

This ends our life-changing tour with memories to last a lifetime! Our plane departs Ben Gurion Airport at 1:00 am and we arrive back at LAX in the early morning.