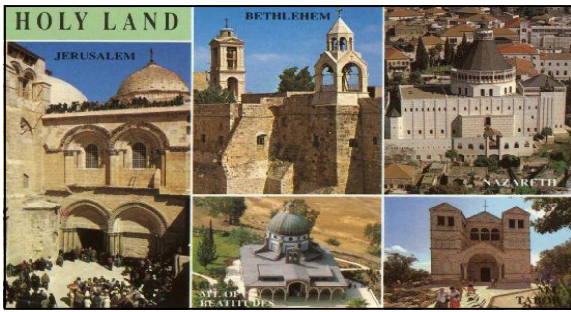


# The Best of the Holy Land



**Day 1 – Depart U.S. on overnight flight to Tel Aviv**

**Day 2 (either Saturday AM or Sunday AM arrival)**

Early morning arrival in Israel; meet and assist at Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer to escorted tour bus for drive to Haifa along the coastal plains. Stop in Caesarea, capital of Judea under the Romans. See the excavations of the Crusader city and the



Roman port, the aqueduct and the restored amphitheatre. Continue via the Druze villages to Haifa. Dinner and overnight in Haifa (*Dan Panorama Haifa or similar*)

**Day 3 - Mount Carmel/Acre/Nazareth/Tiberias**

Visit to Mount Carmel, where humankind history is documented from the Neanderthal human remains found here to the story of Elijah and the slaughter of Baal worshipers. Travel to Acre, a city excellently preserved with history going back



influenced by Egyptians, Crusaders, Greeks and many other cultures. A self-guided tour with earphones can be arranged in advance. Depart for Nazareth, visit the Church of the Annunciation where the Archangel announced Jesus' birth to Mary. Visit a replica of a Nazarene town and see how the people lived in those times. Travel to Tiberias, dinner and overnight in Tiberias. (*Morea Hotel or similar*)

**Day 4- Archeological Dig/Kinneret/Capernaum/Mt of Beatitudes/**

Short drive to the latest archaeological excavations in Tiberias and possible hands-on digging experience. This site showcases the original Roman gate into Tiberias and the



influence of Roman, Christian and Muslim communities. Visit to historic scenic Mount Arbel from which you can

see the Golan Heights, the Sea of Galilee and Tiberias. Travel to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. The synagogue's ruins were built by the Roman centurion whose servant Jesus healed and are located over the remains of an even earlier synagogue. Capernaum is also home to a site known as the house of Peter based on some carvings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD. Visit Mt of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. The hill faces Capernaum and Tabgha, and is shaped with a hollow that serves as a natural amphitheatre, amplifying the speaker's voice. Visit to Yigal Allon Museum which houses a 2,000 year old fishing boat representative of the time of Jesus. End the day with a peaceful sailing on Yam Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

**Day 5 - Beit Shean/Jericho/Jerusalem**

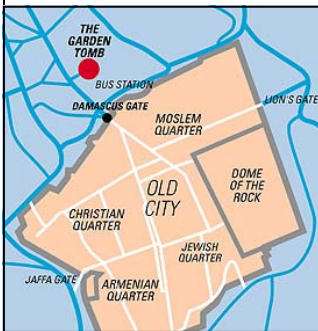
Depart for Beit Shean and visit the impressive ruins of the Scythopolis, its history dating back to Egyptian times. Take Jericho Road to visit impressive Jericho, the lowest permanently inhabited site on earth.



Described in the Hebrew Bible as the "City of Palm Trees", copious springs in and around Jericho have made it an attractive site for human habitation for thousands of years. Jericho was the destination of the Israelites' return from bondage in Egypt, led by Joshua, the successor to Moses. Jesus passed through Jericho where he healed two blind men and converted a local tax collector named Zacharias. Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of over 20 successive settlements in Jericho, the first of which dates back to 11,000 years ago (9000 BC). Arrive in Jerusalem and overnight. (*Dan Panorama Hotel or similar*)

### Day 6 - Old Jerusalem

Nowhere else in the world are the major religions represented as they are within the walls of Old Jerusalem. The old city is divided into four sections named after the ethnic cultures inhabiting them. The Jewish Quarter, the Muslim Quarter, the Armenian Quarter and the Christian Quarter. The Western Wall, left over from the second temple destroyed by the



Romans is impressive; take a tour of a tunnel beneath though, where you will see the original wall in pristine condition exactly as constructed by Herod. In this confined space, you are walking on the original pavement from the Second Temple period and following in the footsteps of the pilgrims who walked here 2,000 years ago on their way to participate in the rituals on the Temple Mount. Visit the 14 stations of the cross, which begins in the Muslim Quarter, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. At the southern end of the Temple Mount is the gray-domed al-Aksa mosque where Mohammed experienced the "night journey," which is why it is considered the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. Visit Zedekiah's Cave, a quarry

carved by slaves and laborers over a period of several thousand years and used by Herod the Great to renovate the Temple and its walls. Visit to Caiaphas' House. Overnight in Jerusalem.

### Day 7 - Qumran / Masada / Dead Sea

Drive through the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, almost 1300 feet (400 meters) below sea level. Stop at Qumran to visit the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were



found. Drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to Masada. Ascend by cable car and tour the ancient fortress where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans before committing mass

suicide in 73 AD. Descend by cable car, time and weather permitting, an opportunity will be provided to float on the Dead Sea. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**Day 8 - Day at leisure.** Evening transfer to Tel Aviv airport for flight home.

### Trip Includes:

- Round trip international flight from U.S. gateway to Tel Aviv
- Ground transfers and entrance fees to sites listed on itinerary
- 6 nights hotel accommodations, 3-star or better
- Six breakfasts and six dinners

### Trip does not include:

- Tips to driver/guide
- Lunches

For additional information and pricing:

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