



PRIVATELY GUIDED CHRISTIAN TOUR ITINERARY



Saturday, Day 1

En route

Depart the USA on your international flight.

Sunday, Day 2

Tel Aviv



Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport a representative will meet you at the **plane** and escort you to Passport Control and assist you through baggage claim and customs after which you will meet your private driver for the transfer to your hotel in Jerusalem. The balance of the day is yours at leisure. Overnight in at your hotel in Tel Aviv. **Overnight at your hotel in Tel Aviv.**

Monday, Day 3

Tel Aviv



Today you will meet your guide/driver for the next seven days. Begin with a tour of Tel Aviv. Tour **Tel Aviv**, a vibrant and modern city where you'll be introduced to the contrasting cultures and architecture of this city. Despite a burgeoning of new architectural styles and skyscrapers, Tel Aviv has held on to the city's famous spirit of **Bauhaus** tradition. Drive past some of the classic and renovated buildings. Continue to the **Yitzhak Rabin Center at the Israeli Museum** a wonderful way to be introduced to the story of the development of the State of Israel as a young

democracy. Built in a downward spiral, the Museum presents two parallel stories: the history of the State and Israeli society, and the biography of Yitzhak Rabin. The Museum exhibits focus on historical turning points in the country's development, presenting the conflicts, social challenges and dilemmas the country faced at that time. Along the inner corridor and interwoven with the exhibits' narratives is the story of the life of Yitzhak Rabin, the connecting



thread in the country's history. Drive to **Machon Ayalon** the reconstructed underground munitions factory located under the kibbutz bakery. It was built and operated during the years 1946-1948. This

special clandestine factory was prepared secretly in less than a month. Its openings were covered by a 10 ton oven and a large washing machine that camouflaged the noise of manufacturing bullets. The Ayalon institute was the largest IMI factory to operate underground and produced over 2,500,000 9mm bullets mostly for Sten guns during its three years of operation. Visit the ancient port of **Joppa** (Jaffa) from where Jonah set sail and where Peter had his housetop experience at the home of **Simon the Tanner**. Visit the **Church of Saint Peter** which dates back to the 17th Century and the



Tomb of Tabitha whose righteous deeds enabled Peter to rise from the dead. While

in Jaffa you can also explore the reconstructed Artists' Quarter with its galleries and boutique. **Overnight at your hotel in Tel Aviv. (B)**

Tuesday, Day 4

Tel Aviv to Tiberias



Drive along the magnificent shores of the Mediterranean to the Roman port of **Caesarea**. King Herod the Great, a stalwart supporter of the Roman Empire, was an architect of massive proportions and Caesarea was one of the finest, most beautiful cities of the ancient world. See the huge theatre and ancient aqueduct which brought fresh water from the Carmel Mountains. St. Paul was imprisoned here before sailing to Rome for his trial and execution.

In later days, Caesarea became the capital of several Crusaders' stays in the Holy Land and there remains an almost fully intact moat and fortress. Continue **Megiddo (Armageddon)**, focal point of the Book of Revelations, and inspiration for Michener's The Source. Drive to the beautiful port city of **Haifa**. Stop at the Observation Point and view the newly constructed **Persian Gardens** at the **Bahai Temple**; a series of terraces extending above and below the gold domed Shrine of the Bab. Proceed to **Mount Carmel**. Visit **Muhraka** traditional site where Elijah manifested the Lord's supremacy against the false prophets of Baal. **Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Tiberias. (B.D)**



Wednesday, Day 5 Tiberias

Drive via **Magdala** to **Capernaum**, home to Peter and center of Jesus' preaching. Continue to **Tabgha**, site of the miracle of the multiplication of the fish and loaves. Continue to the **Mount of the Beatitudes** site of the Sermon on the Mount; enjoy the beautiful view of the entire Galilee. . Drive to **Safed** a picturesque city of spiritual people and artists, wrapped in mysticism and mystery, and steeped in sacred atmosphere. Visitors to Safed sense the city's warm embrace as they wander



through its alleyways past charming stone houses with their artists' studios and workshops. Safed is one of the four holy cities in Israel. It has been a spiritual center since the 1600s when it was the center of Kabbala. The Kabbalist mystics lived, studied, taught, and wrote in the city and many of the graves are objects of veneration. Proceed through the Hula Valley via **Hazor**, a Canaanite city rebuilt by King Solomon to command the **Golan Heights**. Ascend the **Golan Heights** and cross



the Hatzbani River to Dan and Banias (ancient Caesarea Philippi) at the foot of **Mount Hermon**. Ascend the **Golan on a JEEP RIDE** for a greater understanding of the fierce battles that took place during the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War and learn about the strategic importance of the area. Continue through the valleys and ranges where you will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the area. **Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Tiberias. (B.D)**



Thursday, Day 6 Jerusalem

Begin the day with a **Boat Ride** on the Sea of Galilee on a wooden replica boat from the time of Jesus. Proceed to **Yardenit**, the famous baptismal site. Yardenit is situated on the banks of the Jordan River, at the Southern tip of the Sea of Galilee. Visit and continue to the small village of **Cana**, where Jesus performed his first miracle. Each tourist and pilgrim who comes experiences the tranquility and spiritual beauty of the waters where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Continue to **Nazareth** the cradle of Christianity, the city where, according to tradition, the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the place where Jesus spent his childhood and youth. Nazareth, in the lower Galilee, is located in the heart of a valley surrounded by mountains that embrace several of the most important Christian sites in the world.





This is a city of religion and faith, of spirituality and holiness, but also a city with a rich history, fascinating archaeology, modern culture and Middle Eastern charm. While in Nazareth visit **Mary's Well**, the **Basilica of the Annunciation** and the **Church of St. Joseph**. Drive to **Bet Shean**, an ancient city from the time of King Saul; see the excavated remains of a Roman city. Continue to Jerusalem **Overnight at your hotel in Jerusalem. (B)**

Friday, Day 7

Jerusalem

Enter the **Old City** and begin your exploration of the **Old City** and walk along the **Ramparts Promenade**. The walkway on top of the Old City walls offers a unique panoramic view of the Old City and its surroundings View the **Dome of the Rock**, mosque of Islam; continue to the **Western Wall**. Walk through centuries of history in the **Hasmonean Tunnel** (pending reservation). On to the **Crusader Church of St. Anne** and the **Pool of Bethesda**; see **Pilate's Judgment Hall**, the **Chapel of Flagellation** and the **Arch of Ecce Homo**. Follow the steps of the **Via Dolorosa** through narrow alleys and souks to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Enter the **Jewish Quarter**; walk along the excavated **Cardo**, once a main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Tour the **Herodian Mansions**, a complex of villas from 2000 years ago. Ascend **Mount Zion**; visit **Dormition Abbey**, the traditional **Upper Room** and the **Tomb of King David**. **Overnight at your hotel in Jerusalem. (B)**



Saturday, Day 8

Jerusalem

This morning travel south to **Masada** as you drive to the **Dead Sea region**, the lowest place on earth. Ascend by cable car to this last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. (Masada was declared a "World Heritage site"). Tour Herod's Palace, synagogue and bathhouse. Descend by cable car and continue to one of the hotels on the shores of the Dead Sea for **lunch**, and use the rest of the day to relax and enjoy **unsinkable swim** in the buoyant, mineral-rich, salty waters of the Dead Sea. If time permits, drive to **Ein Gedi National Park** where a steady stream of water runs through this national reserve year round giving life to a narrow band of desert. A large number of Ibex and other desert mammals call Ein Gedi home and nearly always can be found along the water's edge. This short hike contains plenty of opportunities to swim and is especially relaxing and refreshing. This evening, enjoy a **Sound & Light Show at the David Citadel Museum**, in this 45-minute state-of-the-art sound and light show, called "The Night Spectacular", the walls of the museum come to life with a spectacular laser technology presentation about the History of the city. The museum is walking distance from your hotel. Otherwise, you can hire a taxi cab nearby. **Overnight at your hotel in Jerusalem. (B.L)**



Sunday, Day 9 Jerusalem

Travel this morning to the top of the **Mount of Olives** to enjoy a breathtaking view of the Golden City. On the Mount itself, visit the **Church of Pater Noster, Dominus Flevit**, the

Chapel of the Ascension and the **Garden of Gethsemane** with its ancient olive trees. Continue to the **Israel Museum** complex to visit the **Shrine of the Book** which houses the original manuscripts of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** which were found

in the 1940's by Bedouin shepherds. These scrolls give testimony to the activities of the Essenes, the most noted of whom was St. John the Baptist.

View the **Model City** of Jerusalem which explains the "look" of Jerusalem during the time of Christ. Continue along the rolling Judean Hills to charming **Ein Karem**, birthplace of John the Baptist; see the **Church of the Visitation**.

Continue with a visit to **Bethlehem** to see **Shepherds' Field**, the **Church of Nativity** and **Manger's Square**. Your Guide will escort you to the entry points for each visit. Upon entry you will be met by a Local Guide who will provide a tour of the area. **Overnight at your hotel in Jerusalem. (B)**



Monday, Day 10 En route

Transfer from your Jerusalem Hotel to Terminal 3 in Ben Gurion Airport, where you will be greeted at the entrance to the terminal and assisted with your departure procedures and brought to the departure gate for your flight. **(B)**

All accommodations, tours and attractions are subject to confirmation and price may be affected based on specific hotels and/or room categories available at the time of booking. Prices based on total number of passengers. Changes in total passengers and availability at time of confirmation will require pricing revision.