



Mauro Travel & Tours

"Where Travel is with a Purpose"

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12 DAY TOUR OF ISRAEL

Day 1 - Depart USA

On the first day you'll depart from the US on an overnight flight to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Day 2 - Tel Aviv Area

On the second day you will arrive in the afternoon in Tel Aviv. Time permitting, you will visit Joppa, the port where Jonah set sail from and where Peter raised Dorcas/Tabitha from the dead. Upon arrival you will settle into accommodations in the Tel Aviv area.

Day 3 - Galilee

On the third day of your trip you will visit Caesarea, where Cornelius household was saved. Then on to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah met with the prophets of Baal. Next to Megiddo to discover the remarkable excavations and water tunnel at the chariot city of King Solomon. This includes a view of the gathering place of the nations at biblical Armageddon. The evening of the third day you will enjoy accommodations in Tiberius or the Galilee region. *Note: If time permits, there can be renewal of marriage vows at Cana depending on group preferences.*

Day 4 - Southern Galilee

On the fourth day of your tour you will see firsthand the remains of an ancient fishing boat dating back to the time of Jesus. Afterwards, you will sail on the Sea of Galilee, then visit the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached, "Blessed are the...". Then on to Capernaum, the adopted hometown of Jesus, passing by Peter's house where Jesus blessed his adult ministry and the remains of a synagogue where Jesus preached. You continue in the southern Galilee area, concentrating on Jesus ministry. Baptisms are held on the end of this day for those wishing to be baptized. On the evening of the fourth day you will enjoy accommodations in Tiberius or the Galilee region.

Day 5 - Northern Galilee

On the fifth day of the tour you will travel to Tel Dan, the northernmost city of ancient Israel, passing the place of Jeroboam's golden calf and a city gate from the days of Abraham. Then on to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter made his great confession of faith to Jesus stating "Thou art the Christ, the Messiah, the son of the living God." "Next on to the Golan Heights, to view the route of Paul's life-changing journey on the Damascus Road. Next contemplate modern Israel's struggle with Syria and Lebanon and come to learn and understand the strategic importance of this area. The evening of the fifth day you will enjoy accommodations in Tiberius or the Galilee region.

Day 6 - Dead Sea

On the sixth day you will travel to Beit Shean, one of the ten Roman Decapolis cities. You will explore the extensive Roman city which is seated in the shadow of the hill where the Philistines once displayed the slain bodies of King Saul and his sons. Afterwards you will go down to the Jordan valley where you will see prophecy fulfilled as the desert blooms "like a rose". On to the oasis of En Gedi, where King David hid from Saul and where David wrote many of the Psalms. Next check into your hotel at the Dead Sea and enjoy a float. The evening of the sixth day you will be enjoy accommodations at hotel located at the Dead Sea.

Day 7 - Up to Jerusalem

On the seventh day, you will take a cable car to the 1300 foot heights of Masada, King Herod's lavish fortress and palace, and where Jewish zealots made a final stand in their revolt against Rome (*Those hardy people can take the 30 to 40 minute walk up Masada's famous "snakepath"*). Afterwards, you will make a brief stop at Qumran, view a movie, and learn about the Essenes, who lived in this area. Then walk through Qumran, and view Cave #4 the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in clay jars by a Bedouin boy in 1946 and 1947. Then you will take a short camel ride and enjoy a biblical lunch, while learning about desert hospitality during the time of Abraham. Then it is up to Jerusalem as you learn the Psalms of ascent that the ancient pilgrims



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recited as they went up to Jerusalem. Time permitting, you will visit the Israel Museum, view the Dead Sea scrolls, and see a model of Herodian Jerusalem as it looked during the time of Jesus. The evening of the seventh day you will enjoy accommodations at your Jerusalem Hotel.

Day 8 - Jerusalem

On the eighth day you will visit the Mount of Olives and walk the Palm Sunday Road where Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. You will spend quiet time in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem and walk across the Kidron valley to the house of the high priest Caiaphas, otherwise known as the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (AKA - *Church of the Cock Crows*). It was there in the courtyard where Peter denies Jesus as Lord for the 3rd time. Under the church is a dungeon thought to be the cell where Jesus was imprisoned for the night following his arrest. Then on to Mount Zion and the area of the Upper Room, where Jesus had his Passover Seder with his disciples, and where Pentecost occurred. You will end your day at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, and contemplate one of the great tragedies of modern history at Israel's memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. After this incredible day, you will end your eighth night in your Jerusalem hotel.

Day 9 - Jerusalem

On your ninth day, you will visit the city of David, where Israeli's have uncovered what may have been King David's palace. Then you will take a 40 minute walk through Hezekiah's tunnel (*bring your water shoes and flashlight*) and end at the pool of Siloam. For those not wishing to walk thru the wet tunnel, you can walk through the dry tunnel which is a short 15-20 minute walk ending at the Pool of Siloam. In the afternoon you will visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, the traditional area of the birthplace of Jesus. Afterwards you will travel to the Shepherd's field, and overlook where Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz. You will have time to visit a small cave in a natural cave setting to worship there, maybe even sing a Christmas carol or two. Your day ends with a brief stop at some shops of olive wood, of which the town of Bethlehem is known.

Day 10 - Jerusalem

On your tenth day you depart to the Elah Valley and climb the heights of Tel Azeka for a first-hand view of the place where David slew Goliath. Then on to what is now a dry riverbed to pick up "five smooth stones." Afterwards you will travel to the traditional site of the Emmaus Road, where Jesus, after His resurrection meets the two companions next to the area of Ein Kerem, the hometown of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and ending at nearby Tsuba. It is there at Tsuba that archaeologist Shimon Gibson believes that a cave uncovered in 1999 bears evidence of Christian presence from John's time until the eleventh century. Among many fascinating finds at the cave, is a 2.5 foot high wall carving of a man with an upraised arm, holding a shepherd's crook and wearing a rough garment, possibly depicting John. All in all, this is the area of John the Baptist and his family which you will find fascinating. The day ends with your tenth night in Jerusalem.

Day 11 - Jerusalem

On your eleventh day you will begin at the Southern excavations of the Temple Mount and the Davidson Center where you will view a movie and learn about temple sacrifices. Then walk to the southern steps where Jesus taught as a child. Then on to the Western wall to pray at the most sacred site in Jerusalem, the enormous retaining wall of the Temple Mount. Afterwards you will walk through Western/Rabbi's tunnel, and learn the secrets that lie within. On to the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the sick man. The group may worship in the remnant of the crusader church of St. Anne. Next to the Antonia Fortress, see the place where Jesus was mocked by the soldiers, and a crown of thorns was placed on his head at the Way of the Cross, Calvary. End with communion as you celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at the Garden Tomb. In the evening you will transfer to the airport and begin the trip home on an evening flight.

Day 12 - Home Sweet Home

Return home full of wonderful memories of the land of Israel and it's peoples.