



## tour spotlight

### what you see

- Mount of Olives - panoramic views of Jerusalem
- Old City - Armenian, Jewish and Christian quarters
- Wailing wall
- Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Bethlehem - Shepherds' field, Rachel's tomb, Church of Nativity and Manger Square
- Nazareth - Church of Annunciation + Church of St Joseph's
- Miracle sites - Cana, Capernaum and Tabgha
- Sea of Galilee

### what you get

- Transfers to and from the border in private modern air-conditioned car
- 3 nights - 3 ★ hotel in Jerusalem based on twin share
- Breakfast daily
- 2 full days of guided sightseeing of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum and Tabgha with an English-speaking tour guide. Touring run in conjunction with other tourist groups.
- All sightseeing transportation in an air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees



## on location

### Your guide to on the ground...

#### visa requirements

UK, Australian, New Zealand USA and Canadian citizens do not require a visa for Israel. All other nationalities should consult the Israeli embassy website - <http://israel.embassyhomepage.com>  
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Many Arabic and some Islamic countries still will not let you enter the country if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport. Avoid this issue by asking the immigration official to stamp your visa onto the entry card rather than your passport when you

hand the passport over, just politely specify 'NO STAMP PLEASE'. Be aware that Syria and Lebanon in particular may also refuse you entry if they see a Jordan entry stamp from the King Hussein/Allenby bridge so also remember to ask the Jordanian officials to stamp on a separate piece of paper when you re enter Jordan. Please be aware that there is an Israeli departure tax (approx \$48 USD) but you will not need to purchase another Jordanian entry visa for Jordan, as your original tourist visa will still be valid.

#### climate

Israel has a Mediterranean climate so summer gets hot, and there can be quite a bit of humidity by the coast. Nov to Mar brings cooler temperatures, especially in Dec, along with rainfall, so pack some warm clothes and an umbrella.

#### time

Israel is 2 hours ahead of GMT.

#### money

1 GBP = 5.66ILS 1 USD = 3.78ILS 1 EUR = 5.11ILS 1 AUD = 3.42ILS (rates subject to fluctuation). US dollars are easiest to exchange, but most major currencies accepted. Exchange facilities available at various bureau de changes and ATMs widely available.

#### health requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies).

## how much?

- Entrance fees for all scheduled sightseeing are included in the cost of the bolt on.
- **TIPPING**  
We recommend that you budget approx USD \$10 per day for tipping, although this is an entirely personal gesture. USD\$30-\$40
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) USD \$3
- Chocolate candy bar (local brand) USD \$3
- Can of coke USD \$3
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) USD \$4
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant) USD \$40-\$80

## things to bring

- Comfortable shoes for walking.
- A copy of the bible for reference.
- If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella.
- If summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen & a hat.
- Women take things to cover your arms legs and head for visiting holy sites, and men take long trousers
- Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport

## top experiences

- Wandering around the bustling markets at Damascus Gate and Mahane Yehuda
- Marvelling at the Dead Sea Scrolls and wander through beautiful ancient synagogues at the Israel museum.
- Learning about the holocaust at Yad Vashem, a memorial and museum that holds over 55 million documents.
- Visiting the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens which has the theme of animals mentioned in the bible.





# jerusalem & beyond: itinerary

## day 1 - jerusalem

You will be picked up from your hotel in Madaba or Amman in the morning and taken to the Jordanian border - the King Hussein/Allenby bridge, once you have been through Jordanian border controls, you will then ride a public shuttle bus for approx 1 kilometre (cost approx \$3) to Israeli immigration, (see visa section for more info) and once you reach Israeli side of the border you will be picked up by a local driver who will take you to your hotel. The rest of your afternoon is free, there is time to explore this ancient city, or perhaps take a trip to the Israel Museum where you can admire fine art and view many rare artifacts including the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the evening why not pay a visit to one of the many great restaurants that Jerusalem has to offer? Overnight - Jerusalem

## day 2 - old city and bethlehem

After breakfast you will be picked up at 9.00am from your hotel and taken for a coach tour of this beautiful city and its surrounds. We stop at the holy Mount of Olives where you can get some amazing panoramic photos of the old city and view Church of All Nations and the unusual architecture of the Russian Orthodox Church of Maria Magdalene.

Disembarking the coach we continue on foot to really absorb the wonders of the Old City - a world heritage site since 1981 - which is brimming with culture and history. Our walk begins in the Armenian Quarter which is the smallest of the four in the city. Whilst the Armenians are also Christians this part is separate and distinct with the Armenian Church of St James being a visual and spiritual highlight. We continue through to the Jewish quarter which was rebuilt in 1948 after being besieged by Arabs who destroyed many synagogues. The quarter was recaptured in 1967 and rebuilt, but the archaeological remains are on display in a series of museums and outdoor parks and can be viewed by descending two or three stories beneath the level of the current city.

We then walk to the old Roman road *Cardo Maximus*, (meaning "the main line") which was once the main royal road in Jerusalem, and is estimated to have been built in the 6th Century AD. Here we can enjoy the wide and grand design of the road and original columns that flank the open air section. There are also some interesting curio, art and jewellery shops to peruse on the way.

We proceed to the Western Wall or 'Kotel', a very holy sight that attracts thousands of Jewish worshippers each day. Here we can witness people immersed

in prayer or seeking spiritual guidance, as the Jewish people believe that the presence of God resides here. This wall was part of the great temple of Herod over 2000 years ago. This famous sight is better known as the Wailing Wall due to the Jewish tradition of people coming to the site to mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple.

We continue to the Christian quarter, which is built around the beautiful church of the Holy Sepulchre - one of the holiest places for Christian religion, as it is at Golgotha, the site of Jesus' Crucifixion and burial. We reach the Holy Sepulchre by walking down the emotive *Via Dolorosa*, (Way of Suffering or Way of Grief) a pilgrimage route that bears the Stations of the Cross. Once inside the church we can view the rich decorations, from elegant paintings and wall mosaics to stone floor engravings, and we can also visit the opulent marble tomb of Jesus.

Continuing our tour we jump back on the coach and drive towards Bethlehem, visiting the Shepherds' field on the way. At this holy sight we remember the words of the Bible where the three shepherds were visited by the angel of the lord, who told them of the coming of the baby Jesus. We then visit an ancient tomb, believed to be that of Rachel, wife of Jacob. Pilgrims have been stopping at this site for many centuries. Rachel is considered the 'eternal mother', who cared for her people when they were ill, and provided protection for pregnant women. An ancient tradition, still practiced today, involves a sacred thread that is tied round the neck or wrist as a protection against all forms of danger. This thread must first be wound around the tomb, from which it imbibes the protective powers, turning the thread into a special 'segulah' or charm.

We then visit the birthplace of Jesus, the revered Church of the Nativity and Manger Square (which is the main town square in Bethlehem). The church is built over a grotto where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus. Here we view the Altar of the Nativity, the site where Jesus came into the world. A silver star embedded in white marble marks the exact spot and is surrounded by the Latin inscription: *HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS EST . 1717 .* (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary)

The leafy Manger Square serves as a meeting place for the local residents, and a feeling of peace, calmness, fresh air and dignity pervades the air. We can take a moment to sit in the shade of the trees with low broad crowns, and admire the calming water fountains.

After a full day of sightseeing we return to Jerusalem where you can spend the evening at leisure. Overnight - Jerusalem

## day 3 - nazareth

After breakfast you will be picked up at 9.00am from your hotel to embark upon another full day of sightseeing. First port of call is Nazareth, once an isolated village and the childhood home of Jesus, it's now a centre of Christian Pilgrimage and also the capital and largest city in the North District of Israel. One of the highlights is the Church of the Annunciation, the largest Christian church in the Middle East and the site where the Archangel Gabriel announced the future birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary. We also visit the Church of St. Joseph, which is said to be the site of the home of Joseph and Mary.

Continuing our journey north we reach the banks of the legendary Sea of Galilee, which is the largest freshwater lake in Israel and where much of the ministry of Jesus occurred. En route to Tiberias, we stop at Cana, where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding feast. The ancient spa town Tiberias is built around 17 natural mineral hot springs and sits on the shoreline of the impressive Sea of Galilee. We proceed to more miracle sights, taking in Capernaum, the lakeside town where Jesus preached, and his disciples, Peter and Andrew lived. This is where Jesus told his followers, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." He is said to have spent three years here and performed many miracles.

Our final stop of the day is at Tabgha, where the famous miracle of the feeding of the five thousand occurred. We travel back to Jerusalem where you can spend your final evening relaxing or exploring. Overnight - Jerusalem

## day 4 - amman

After breakfast you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the border. Once again you'll need to take the public shuttle bus for the short journey over the border (cost approx \$3) and you'll be met on the Jordanian side and transferred to Amman airport or hotel if you have booked post tour accommodation in Amman or Madaba.

NOTE: If you are flying from Amman today we recommend that you book a late afternoon, early evening flight, in case of unforeseen delays at the border. If you have time to spare in Jordan, you can always use the facilities at the Madaba hotel to freshen up and take some time to wander around the town before we transfer you to the airport for your onward flight home.

\*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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