

Biblical Lands

8 days | Jerusalem to Tel Aviv



COACH TOUR: Join us on a Biblical adventure through Israel's most holy sites - explore Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth before heading to the gorgeous region of Galilee. End with fun and sun in the lively city of Tel Aviv.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Haifa - Bahai Shrine, Persian Garden and Mount Carmel
- Jerusalem (West Bank) - Old City - Jewish Quarter, bazaars, Western Wall. Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mt. Zion, Last Supper Room and King David's Tomb. Israel Museum and the Dead Sea Scrolls and Yad Vashem - World Holocaust Centre
- Ein Karem - Birthplace of John the Baptist
- Bethlehem (West Bank) - Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Field
- Jericho - Oldest city in the world
- Beit Shean - Excavations of the old Roman city
- Safed - City of Kabala
- Nazareth - Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well
- Golan Heights - Former fortifications and Druze villages

- Picturesque Sea of Galilee and the Miracle Sites
- Caesarea - One of the great cities of antiquity! Roman theatre and Crusader fortress
- Tel Aviv - Dynamic city on the Mediterranean coast

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 6 dinners
- 7 nights 4 star hotels
- Touring - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Beit Shean, Nazareth, Galilee, Acre, Haifa and Caesarea
- Entrance fees for all included sightseeing
- Services of local guides for scheduled sightseeing
- Ben Gurion Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- All transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned vehicles
- This coach tour is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. You will join travellers from a number of different operators, some staying in different hotels for sightseeing each day

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD\$5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide and

USD\$2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Jerusalem

Monday. Welcome to Israel and the start of your Biblical adventure. We'll be there to meet you at Ben Gurion Airport and transfer you to our hotel in greater Jerusalem (West Bank). The remainder of today is at your leisure.

Overnight - Jerusalem

Day 2 : New Jerusalem



Jerusalem (West Bank). Begin the day with a trip to the Mount of Olives for splendid views of Jerusalem. See some of the world's oldest olive trees at the Garden of Gethsemane and discover the glistening mosaics of the nearby Church of Agony. Continue to the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book to see the famous Dead Sea Scrolls and the beautifully renovated Model of the Herodian City of

Biblical Lands - 8 days

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Biblical Lands

Jerusalem, dating back to the time of the Second Temple (515 BCE – 70 CE). Next we visit the picturesque village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. Scattered over 45 acres of the Mount of Remembrance is Yad Vashem, a vast, landscaped complex with a fascinating museum and a dozen memorials built to honour the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust. We pay our respects and learn more about how this tragedy shaped the modern State of Israel. Spend the rest of the afternoon in Bethlehem visiting the Church of the Nativity and enjoying the views of Shepherds' Fields. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 3 : Old Jerusalem & Bethlehem



Jerusalem - Bethlehem - Jerusalem (West Bank). After breakfast today we head to the spectacular Old City through one of the fabled gates. Within its mighty walls we explore the renewed Jewish Quarter, the 2,000 year old Western Wall, Via Dolorosa – the route that Jesus is believed to have taken as he carried his cross to Calvary, and the Stations of the Cross ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest Christian site in the Old City. We'll also have time to wander the colourful bazaars and pick up some souvenirs.

Later, we make our way to Mount Zion to visit the tomb of King David, the Room of the Last Supper and Dormition Abbey. This afternoon we visit Mahane Yehuda, this bustling market showcases incredible flavours, aromas and colours and is fantastically noisy and exciting place to explore. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 4 : Beit Shean, Nazareth & Safed



Jerusalem - Nazareth - Galilee. Leaving Jerusalem, we drive north via Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Continuing via the Jordan Valley we reach Beit Shean and explore the excavations of this beautiful Roman city. Afterwards we proceed to Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation that dominates the city's skyline. It's the largest church in the Middle East and one of the Christian world's most holy shrines. We'll also visit Mary's Well and then continue to Safed, the city of the Kabala in the northern district of Galilee, for a walk through the mystic alleys and the artists' colony. **Overnight - Galilee (B, D)**

Day 5 : Viticulture, Golan & Galilee



Galilee. This morning we drive to Golan Heights, where we see the former fortifications and the Druze villages. Afterwards, we visit an Israeli vineyard for wine tasting. Surrounded by beautiful countryside, we'll learn about wine production and sample a collection of fine wines.

We continue past Banias, the source of the Jordan River, to the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Here, we'll see Peter's House and the ruins of the ancient synagogue in Capernaum, Mount Beatitudes, and Tabgha where the

miracle of the Fish & Bread took place. After learning a little about the importance of Israel's diamond industry at a famed emporium, our day continues with a short tour of Tiberias, an ancient centre of Jewish learning. This afternoon an optional sailing trip across the Sea of Galilee is offered (book & pay locally).

Overnight - Galilee (B, D)

Day 6 : Acre & Haifa



Galilee - Tel Aviv. Driving west, we explore the medieval fortifications of Acre, a famous Crusader stronghold. In Haifa we'll enjoy a tour of the Bahai Shrine, Persian Gardens and Mount Carmel for panoramic views of the city. Heading southwards to Caesarea we visit the Roman Theatre and Crusader Fortress before arriving in Tel Aviv, Israel's dynamic party centre on the Mediterranean Coast. **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B, D)**

Day 7 : Tel Aviv - your way



Tel Aviv. Today offers free time for you to enjoy Tel Aviv your way. Alternatively, you could opt to take a day trip to the Dead Sea to swim in the buoyant waters (book and pay locally). **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B, D)**

Day 8 : Tel Aviv

Monday. Our tour concludes today after breakfast. Included departure transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.

Biblical Lands - 8 days

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Biblical Lands

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Leonardo Jerusalem

The modern Leonardo Hotel is in an ideal base for exploring the sites of Jerusalem. Centrally located within a short walk of famous sites such as the Via Dolorosa, Western Wall and the Old City. Rooms are spacious and tastefully decorated, with all modern amenities. The two restaurants serve delicious local and international cuisine and breakfast is plentiful. After a long day of sightseeing, the large outdoor pool is the perfect place to relax and enjoy a refreshing swim, while those who can't resist a holiday workout can head to the fitness centre.



Hotel Grand Court

Centrally located, the Hotel Grand Court is a very modern hotel and an excellent base for exploring the holy city. Guest rooms are bright and well furnished with free Wi-Fi throughout. The Garden Court is the perfect spot to enjoy breakfast al-fresco. There is also a refreshing outdoor pool to relax in or by (open April - September). Perfectly located just a short walk from the Old City.



Hagoshrim Hotel & Nature

A unique hotel in the northern Galilee region of Israel, Hagoshrim Hotel & Nature was built

on the ruins of the splendid winter palace of Ottoman ruler Amir Fahur. Surrounded by picturesque water springs and greenery, the hotel offers spacious guestrooms with balconies overlooking the Koren river. Guests can indulge in treatments at the Fiorina Spa or enjoy the facilities of the health and fitness centre, which include a gym, two swimming pools and a sauna. An Israeli breakfast buffet is also available daily, with dinner served in the onsite restaurant.



Hotel Grand Beach

Located just a few minutes walk from Tel Aviv's golden beaches, the Hotel Grand Beach offers a comfortable and luxurious atmosphere. Guest rooms are modernly furnished and include free Wi-Fi. With a number of excellent eating options including a lavish buffet in the 'Jerusalem' dining room. The roof top pool is another highlight affording stunning views of the seafront and the city and is a great place to cool off! Perfectly located close to the sea front and the bustling city centre with lots of restaurants and cafes nearby.



Hotel Metropolitan

Within easy walking distance from major city attractions, Hotel Metropolitan is a modern hotel with excellent amenities. Guest rooms are designed in a contemporary style with soft furnishings and stylish en suite bathrooms. The hotel also has an onsite bar and cafe serving food throughout the day. In the summer head to the outdoor pool with sunbeds - the perfect way to start the day! Perfectly located in the centre and very heart of Tel Aviv.



Touring arrangements

This tour is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. You will join travellers from a number of different operators, some staying in different hotels for sightseeing each day and spend your evenings at leisure. The sightseeing group may vary in size from 10 - 45 persons.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Israel Country Guide

Welcome to Israel - Arrival airport transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative, carrying an On The Go Tours signboard, will be waiting to meet you just after passport control before you collect your luggage. Please hand your Tour Voucher to them.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight to Israel is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Welcome to Israel - Arrival via the Jordan border crossing

For travellers arriving into Israel via the border crossing from Jordan - To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation in Israel. Please use the following hotel name/address:

**Eyal Hotel, 21 Shamai Street, Jerusalem.
Phone: +972 2-622-1111**

In the unlikely event that our accommodation is not the Eyal Hotel, the Eyal Hotel will be able

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Biblical Lands

to inform the authorities (if required) of your new accommodation arrangements.

If you need assistance whilst in Israel, please contact our Operations Manager: Ms Yettie Kalifa - Mobile: 00972 546 664 261 or Heike Kluss-Oiknine - Mobile 00972 54 620 8798

ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES: On arrival into Israel from Jordan, you must take the official border shuttle bus or chartered coach at a cost of JD 6 (about \$8), payable in USD or JD. After completing immigration, please meet our driver or representative at the 'Help Counter' which is located between the custom desk and the exit door.

If for any reason you have not made contact with your driver, please Do NOT leave the border, contact our Operations Manager, on the number detailed above.

After meeting our driver, we transfer to the hotel. As today is the Sabbath (Friday), hotel check time may vary and may or may not be until after sunset. The afternoon/evening offers free time - head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as normal) or the Jerusalem Museum which is a 30 min walk from the hotel.

Israeli Passport Stamps

Israeli Immigration do not stamp passports but instead provide a ticket (similar to a bus ticket) confirming you have legally entered the country. You must keep this ticket with your passport until your departure from the country.

The following countries, and only these countries (Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) take issue with passports containing evidence of travel to Israel. Should you be planning to travel to any of the countries and wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you will need to have your Jordanian exit stamp (given at the King Hussein/Allenby Bridge Border crossing), stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do when requested.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Israel, with two blank pages.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Visas

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we suggest you budget for your tour guide USD\$5-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing. For your driver and/or On The Go Representatives we'd recommend USD \$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

The tap water in Israel is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Bring your own beach towel to make the most of the perfect Tel Aviv Mediterranean beaches
- If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- If visiting in summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- Universal travel adaptor

- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Good walking shoes for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

Optional activities

Night Spectacular

If you have a free evening in Jerusalem you may wish to consider attending the city's famed 'Night Spectacular'. Each evening the walls of the Old Jerusalem Citadel serve as the stage for a sound and light show. Amidst the archaeological remains in the Citadel's courtyard and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem is told through stunning visual and lighting displays. An adult ticket costs approximately \$16. Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the gate (subject to availability). Show times vary, but normally from 8pm in the summer and 7pm in the winter. Check the show website for exact timings.

Sea of Galilee boat trip

On some of our trips we offer a 2 hour boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. Often, boarding a wooden boat resembling those from ancient times you'll see gulls overhead and have time to take in the tranquil surrounds. It is here, upon the lake that Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26) and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6). The boat trip is offered, dependent on time and number of persons. Should you be interested, please speak with your tour guide.

Kosher meals

If your tour includes dinner in Jerusalem, you are best to re-confirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. Meals (breakfast and dinners) in the hotel are Kosher - meaning, that you will never find dairy products served with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though, there is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal. Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget \$25-\$30 per traveller, per day for an average meal.

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Shopping in Israel

For those that enjoy shopping, when purchasing your souvenirs and bartering for goods set your budget, don't be swayed and remember the caveat – 'let the buyer beware.'

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been selected based upon positive feedback from travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Culture & dress requirements

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Israel. Israel is generally a very relaxed country with a western-oriented outlook. Respect for religion is important to Israeli's and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, dress requirements, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

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