

Private Shore Excursions in Israel

From Port of Ashdod or Port of Haifa –

By Private Car and Guide for Individuals or Groups

Our suggested programs below may be modified according to your preferences.

From Port of Ashdod

TOUR A

ONE DAY: Jerusalem – Return to Ashdod (Jewish Highlights)

Depart Ashdod and drive to Jerusalem beginning with a magnificent view of the golden city from the Mt. of Olives. Enter the Old City to the restored Jewish Quarter. Walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. On to the Western Wall, the only remaining portion of the Second Temple. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We then proceed to Yad Vashem, memorial to the Holocaust; visit the Museum, Children's Pavilion and walk along the Avenue of the Righteous. Return to the port of Ashdod. (Modest clothing required)

TOUR B

ONE DAY: Jerusalem – Return to Ashdod (Christian Highlights)

Depart Ashdod and drive to Jerusalem beginning with a magnificent view of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane where the Bible states Christ prayed until His sweat turned to blood. Enter the Church of All Nations. Enter the Old City to the restored Jewish Quarter. Walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. On to the Western Wall, the only remaining portion of the Second Temple. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Afternoon trip to Bethlehem to see the Church of the Nativity. Return trip to Ashdod (Bethlehem excursion operated by local Palestinian authority subject to conditions permitting). Modest clothing and Passports required.

TOUR C

ONE DAY: Masada & the Dead Sea – Return to Ashdod

Travel along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, to Masada. Ascend by cable car to this last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. Visit the excavations, Herod the Great's palace, synagogue and bathhouse. Then, opportunity to enjoy an "unsinkable" swim in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea. Drive via the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, on your return to Ashdod.

TOUR D

ONE DAY: Tel Aviv & Surroundings – Return to Ashdod

Depart Ashdod to the pre-state underground Ammunitions Factory at Machon Ayalon to learn about the activities of the Haganah. Then, drive through the main streets of Tel Aviv, the "White City", proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site, viewing the splendid Bauhaus Architecture. Tel Aviv has the largest number of buildings in this unique style of any city in the world! Continue past the Mann Auditorium, home of the Israeli Philharmonic, Habimah Theatre, the impressive Opera House and Yitzhak Rabin Square, dedicated to the late Prime Minister. On to the old port city of Jaffa, magnificently restored. Explore the reconstructed Artists' Quarter with its galleries and boutiques. Visit the fantastic Israeli Museum at the Itzhak Rabin Center chronicling the life of the extraordinary leader as well as the development of the State of Israel. Time permitting, we'll stroll through Tel Aviv's Carmel Market (be sure to sample the delicious strawberries!) before returning to the Port of Ashdod.



Christian Quarter, Old City Jerusalem



"Floating" on the Dead Sea

From Port of Haifa

TOUR E

ONE DAY: Nazareth and the Galilee – Return to Haifa Port (Christian Highlights)

Depart Haifa to Nazareth where Mary learned from the angel Gabriel that she would miraculously conceive a son, named Jesus. Visit Mary's Well, the Basilica of the Annunciation and the Church of St. Joseph. Onward, via the town of Cana, visit the lovely resort town of Tiberias before reaching Capernaum to see the town of Jesus, the House of St. Peter and an ancient synagogue. Continue to Tabgha, site of the miracle of the multiplication of the fish and loaves at the foot of the Golan Heights. Proceed to Yardenit, the famous baptismal site where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee. On your return to Haifa Port, view the golden-domed Bahai Shrine and the colorful Persian Gardens atop Mt. Carmel. (*Modest Clothing*)

TOUR F

ONE DAY: Galilee and the Golan Heights – Return to Haifa Port (Jewish Highlights)

Depart Haifa driving to Tzipori (Sepphoris), the Talmudic town where the Mishna was signed; see the beautiful mosaics. Continue to Capernaum; see the ruins of the ancient synagogue dating back to the 4th century. Then, ascend the strategic Golan Heights for a greater understanding of the fierce battles that took place during the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Stop at a former Israeli army bunker used as an outpost. Continue to a Golan winery for some wine tasting (time & schedule permitting). On your return to Haifa Port, view the golden-domed Bahai Shrine and the colorful Persian Gardens atop Mt. Carmel.

TOUR G

ONE DAY: Jerusalem – Return to Haifa Port (Jewish Highlights)

Depart Haifa and drive to Jerusalem. Begin the day with a magnificent view of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Enter the Old City from the Jaffa Gate to the newly restored Jewish Quarter. Walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. On to the Western Wall, the only remaining portion of the Second Temple. Visit the Davidson Center; you'll see a fantastic computer imaging presentation of the Temple Mount some 2000 years ago. Return to the port in Haifa. (*Modest Clothing*)

TOUR H

ONE DAY: Jerusalem – Return to Haifa Port (Christian Highlights)

Depart Haifa and drive to Jerusalem. Begin the day with a magnificent view of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane where the Bible states Christ prayed until His sweat turned to blood. Enter the Church of All Nations. Then continue to the Old City to the newly restored Jewish Quarter. Walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. On to the Western Wall, the only remaining portion of the Second Temple. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and through the "souks" for a shopping spree. Return to the port of Haifa (*Modest Clothing*)

From Port of Haifa or Port of Ashdod

TOUR I

TWO DAYS – Jerusalem Old & New – Return to Haifa or Ashdod

Day 1 – Old City of Jerusalem

Enter the Old City from the Dung Gate; walk to the Western Wall, the only remaining portion of the Second Temple. Witness joyous Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah ceremonies! View the Dome of the Rock. Drive to Mt. Zion to visit the traditional Tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. Proceed to the restored Jewish Quarter; walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago, or, walk through the extraordinary Hasmonean Tunnel (tunnel schedule permitting.) Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; walk through the exotic bazaars with their wondrous aromas. End the day with an optional visit to Bethlehem (time permitting). Overnight at your hotel in Jerusalem. Evening: Optional "Night Spectacula" Sound & Light Show at the Citadel Museum (*operates nightly except for Tuesdays & Fridays weather permitting subject to appointment confirmation – guide and driver not included for this optional evening*).

Day 2 – New City of Jerusalem

Morning breakfast and check out. Drive to the Hadassah Medical Center to see the brilliant Chagall Windows. On to Yad Vashem, memorial to the Holocaust. Then, to Mount Herzl to pay respects to Israel's military heroes. Drive via the Supreme Court Building and the Knesset (Parliament) to the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Time to walk through the new Israel Museum and the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden; see the Scale Model of ancient Jerusalem. Proceed to the port to re-embarkation of your cruise. *Note-dependent on your embarkation time and departure port, not all sites mentioned above may be visited.*

Prices for all the above shore excursions available upon request.