



# 13-Day Israel Full Circle Itinerary

## DAY 1

*Depart for Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)*

## DAY 2

*Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV)*

### **WELCOME TO ISRAEL**

You will be greeted by our representative, meet your tour guide, and transfer to your hotel. Welcome greeting and reception upon your arrival at your hotel.

### **JAFFA**

Visit biblical Joppa, the ancient seaport from which the Prophet Jonah fled from God (*Jonah 1:17*) and the city where Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner and restored Tabitha to life (*Acts 9:36-43*).

### **TEL AVIV / NEVE TZEDEK**

See the original Tel Aviv neighborhood of Neve Tzedek, the first Jewish neighborhood built outside the old city of Jaffa.

### **INDEPENDENCE HALL MUSEUM**

Explore this historical and inspiring museum dedicated to the declaration of Israel's independence in 1948.

### **PROMENADE**

Explore the Mediterranean beaches and shops as you walk along the promenade.

*Overnight – Tel Aviv*



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## DAY 3

### NEGEV

Travel the footsteps of Moses and the children of Israel through the desert and semi-desert region of southern Israel.

### KADESH BARNEA

Discover the land of the Edomites.

### EIN AVDAT

See the sources of water in the desert at the oasis of Ein Avdat.

### MOUNT AVNON

View Ramon Crater which is the world's largest erosion crater – Israel's equivalent of the Grand Canyon.

### NOKDIM VILLAGE

Stop for an Abraham tent experience.

*Overnight – Ein Bokek*

## DAY 4

### MASADA

Ascend the mountain by cable car to explore King Herod's magnificent desert fortress and the place of the last heroic Jewish stand against the Romans in 73 AD.

### DEAD SEA BEACH

Float in the salty waters of the Dead Sea – the lowest place on Earth.

### EIN GEDI NATIONAL PARK

Explore the desert oasis where David hid from King Saul (*1 Samuel 24*).

### QUMRAN

Visit the home of the first-century sect known as the Essenes, the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

### JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

Gradually ascend through the Jordan River Valley from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee.

*Overnight – Tiberias*



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## DAY 5

### MAGDALA

Visit the hometown of Mary Magdalene and the site of a first-century synagogue, where Jesus most certainly would have taught (*Matthew 4:23*). Explore the excavated city of Magdala and worship in the beautiful Duc in Altum.

### NOF GINOSAR

Stop by the Yigal Allon Museum where a 2,000-year-old boat from Jesus' time is on display.

### SEA OF GALILEE

Sail across the Sea of Galilee in a replica of a first-century wooden boat. It is here Jesus walked on the waters and calmed the storm. This region around the Sea of Galilee is where Jesus lived most of His public life and performed His most glorious miracles.

### MOUNT OF BEATITUDES

Pray on the hillside where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:1-12*).

### TABGHA

Visit the Church of the Multiplication that commemorates the site where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes (*Luke 9:10-17*).

### MENSA CHRISTI

Worship in the chapel that commemorates the site where Jesus instructed Peter to "feed my sheep" (*John 21:15-17*).

### CAPERNAUM

Explore the town where Jesus lived during His Galilean ministry (*Matthew 4:13; Mark 3:1*). Hometown to Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew.

### MOUNT ARBEL

See the panoramic view of the Galilee region, where Jesus spent most of His ministry. Mount Arbel overlooks the biblical city of Magdala (Migdal).

Overnight – Tiberias

## DAY 6

### KORAZIN

Visit the ruins of this first-century city cursed by Jesus for its lack of faith (*Luke 10:13*).



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### **SAFED (ZVAT)**

Visit the area given to the biblical tribe of Naphtali and the highest city in Israel at almost 3,000 feet above sea level. It has been suggested that Jesus' assertion that "a city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" may have referred to Safed (*Matthew 5:14*). In the 16th century it became the birthplace of Kabbalah.

### **TEL HAZOR**

Explore the biblical city burned by Joshua, later rebuilt as a village, then fortified by Solomon because of its strategic importance (*Joshua 11; Judges 4; 1 Kings 9*) – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **BANIAS / CAESAREA PHILLIPPI**

See the remains of this ancient city where Peter made his great confession of faith to Jesus stating, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (*Matthew 16:16*). The spring located here is one of the main sources of the Jordan River.

### **GOLAN HEIGHTS - PEACE VISTA**

Stop at the Peace Vista for a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee from the Golan Heights.

### **YARMOUK RIVER VALLEY**

Descend from the Peace Vista by way of the Yarmouk River Valley.

### **YARDENIT**

Visit the Jordan River baptismal site. We will have a baptismal service for anyone who wants to be baptized or re-baptized in the Jordan River.

*Overnight – Tiberias*

## **DAY 7**

### **BEIT SHE'AN**

Be awed by one of the largest and most spectacular excavations in all of Israel. It was here that the bodies of King Saul and his sons were put on public display by the Philistines. This Roman city was known as Scythopolis during Jesus' time (*Judges 7:4-8; 1 Samuel 31:10*).

### **MEGIDDO**

Discover a fascinating *tel* (hill), comprising 26 ancient civilizations superimposed on one another, overlooking the Valley of Jezreel also known as the Valley of Armageddon – the place where the last battle of mankind is due to take place (*Revelation 16:16*). Megiddo was also one of Solomon's fortified chariot cities (*1 Kings 9:15*).



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### **NAZARETH - MOUNT PRECIPICE**

Visit the mountain from which the people of Nazareth wanted to throw Jesus to His death (*Luke 4:28-30*).

### **NAZARETH VILLAGE**

Explore Nazareth Village, a re-creation of Nazareth during the times of Jesus.

### **NAZARETH CHURCHES (OPTIONAL)**

Visit the Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, the traditional site of Mary's home and/or the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, the traditional site of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel at Nazareth's ancient water source.

### **CANA (OPTIONAL)**

Depart for Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast, where He turned water into wine (*John 2:1-11; John 4:46-54*). Couples will have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows.

### **ROSH HANIKRA**

Explore these white chalk cliffs at the Lebanon border which are filled with spectacular natural grottos.

*Overnight – Akko*

## **DAY 8**

### **ACRE / AKKO**

Visit one of the oldest cities in Israel – known as the Gateway to the Holy Land. The apostle Paul visited this city for a day when it was called Ptolemais (*Acts 21:7*). It is the former capital of the Crusader kingdom – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **HAIFA**

See Israel's port city with Baha'i Gardens.

### **MUKHRAKA**

Travel through the Druze villages of Daliyat el Carmel and Usifiya to Mukhraka, the place on Mt. Carmel, where Elijah battled the prophets of Baal (*1 Kings 18:25*) for a view of the Jezreel Valley.

### **CAESAREA MARITIMA**

Explore the great Roman port city and one of the largest archaeological digs in Israel. This



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is where Peter baptized the Roman centurion, Cornelius, who became the first gentile convert to Christianity (*Acts 10*), and where Paul was tried by Festus (*Acts 25:6-12*). See the Roman Theater, Herod's Palace, the Palace of the Roman Procurator (*Acts 23:23; Acts 26:23 - Paul; Acts 10:20-48 - Peter & Cornelius*), and the Amphitheater.

*Overnight – Jerusalem*

## DAY 9

### **MOUNT SCOPUS**

Stop for a view of the Judean wilderness and Dead Sea area from Jerusalem – then cross the street and enjoy your first view of the city of Jerusalem.

### **MOUNT OF OLIVES**

View the entire city of Jerusalem from this significant biblical site where Jesus has promised to return.

### **HOSANNA ROAD**

Descend the mountain by foot on the same road that Jesus walked on Palm Sunday.

### **DOMINUS FLAVIT**

Visit the church that commemorates the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (*Luke 19:41*). Enjoy a breathtaking view of the city.

### **GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

Visit the Church of All Nations and meet in the Garden where Jesus and His disciples would often come to pray and rest.

### **BEN YEHUDA STREET**

Enjoy lunch and shopping on this street that is now a busy pedestrian mall.

### **ISRAEL MUSEUM**

See the scale model of ancient Jerusalem.

### **YAD VASHEM**

Travel to the National Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, which includes: Valley of the Communities, Hall of Names, Children's Memorial, and the new Museum complex.

*Overnight – Jerusalem*



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## DAY 10

### SAINT PETER IN GALLICANTU

Drive to the ancient house of the High Priest Caiaphas and the church commemorating Peter's denial of Jesus three times.

### THE UPPER ROOM

Stand in the same area where some believe the disciples gathered after the ascension of Jesus (*Mark 14:12-26; Acts 1:13*).

### JEWISH QUARTER

Explore the rebuilt Jewish section of the city.

### CARDO

Discover the Cardo, one of two main streets from the Roman-Byzantine times.

### WESTERN WALL (KOTEL)

Pray at the Kotel, Judaism's most sacred site.

### SOUTHERN WALL EXCAVATION - DAVIDSON CENTER

Enjoy the computerized virtual model of the Second Temple.

### TEMPLE STEPS

Walk on the actual steps Jesus and the people of His time ascended in order to enter the Temple as they chanted *The Psalms of Ascent*.

### CITY OF DAVID

Tour the ongoing excavation in the ancient core of Jerusalem ruled by King David, including David's palace and a sophisticated ancient underground water system.

### POOL OF SILOAM

Pause where Jesus cured a blind man with a mud mixture and told him to wash it from his eyes (*John 9*).

*Overnight – Jerusalem*



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## DAY 11

### **EIN KAREM**

Visit the traditional hometown of Zacharias and Elizabeth, and the birthplace of John the Baptist (*Luke 1*).

### **VALLEY OF AYALON**

See where Joshua called on the Lord to make the moon stand still (*Joshua 10:12-13*).

### **EMMAUS**

See the area where Jesus appeared to two of His disciples when they left Jerusalem after His crucifixion (*Luke 24:13-35*).

### **VALLEY OF ELAH**

Explore where David fought Goliath (*1 Samuel 17*).

### **TEL AZEKAH**

Enjoy the fine overview of the famous battleground.

### **BEIT GUVRIN NATIONAL PARK AND TEL MARESHA**

Visit the Israelite/Idumean town of Maresha, believed to be the birthplace of King Herod. Visit the underground network of man-made bell caves and see the Roman amphitheater.

### **NEOT KEDUMIM BIBLICAL LANDSCAPE RESERVE**

Discover where the flora of the Scripture comes alive, along with biblical tools and industrial implements: oil presses, wine presses, cisterns, and more.

### **MINI ISRAEL**

Visit the theme park, with over 400 precise scale models of sites and monuments throughout the country, making a fun and interesting way to end your day.

*Overnight – Jerusalem*

## DAY 12

### **WESTERN WALL TUNNELS**

Enter the Rabbinic Tunnels revealing the base of the Temple Mount and the street level during the time of Jesus.



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### **POOLS OF BETHESDA**

See where Jesus healed the lame man (*John 5:1-24*).

### **ST. ANNE'S CHURCH**

Sing together and enjoy the amazing acoustics in this Crusade-era church.

### **VIA DOLOROSA**

Discover the Stations of the Cross leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

### **LITHOSTROTOS**

View the pavement where Pilate condemned Jesus to death (*John 19:13*).

### **CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER**

Explore the place considered by Catholics to be the location of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

### **OLD CITY MARKETPLACE**

Peruse the many quaint shops of the Old City. Be prepared to negotiate.

### **DAVID'S CITADEL MUSEUM (OPTIONAL)**

Visit the exhibits that depict 4,000 years of Jerusalem's history.

### **GARDEN TOMB AND GORDON'S CALVARY**

Visit the Garden Tomb, considered by Protestants to be the site of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Enjoy a memorable communion service to conclude the journey.

### **FAREWELL DINNER**

Enjoy a farewell dinner in Jerusalem.

*Overnight – Jerusalem*

## **DAY 13**

*Depart Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) to return home.*



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