

Archaeology: Uncovering the Hidden Past

Itinerary Subject to Change

DAY 1 | Sunday

TAKE OFF for Israel

You'll meet your group at the gateway airport and spend the night above the clouds -- and headed to Israel. It won't be easy, but try to get some rest for the journey ahead!

DAY 2 | Monday

Welcoming along the MEDITERRANEAN COAST

Shalom! And welcome to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport! Meet your Israeli staff team and begin traveling north along the coast.

Start with a welcome ceremony in Jaffa and enjoy a walking tour of the historic Jaffa seaport, a model for co-existence in Israel. Then travel north, where you will find a plethora of amazing archaeological discoveries!

OVERNIGHT: Galilee Hotel

DAY 3 | Tuesday

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES as your Classroom

Program introduction with Hebrew University professors and academic director to learn about what's in store for the coming days. Then travel north to the ancient city, Tel Megiddo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the inspiration for the term "Armageddon." Dive into the Bronze and Iron Ages, and learn how to read the history of a site from its archaeological remains.

OVERNIGHT: Galilee Hotel

DAY 4 | Wednesday

PERSPECTIVES from the Golan Heights

Ascend the beautiful Golan Heights for a spectacular view of the region from Mt. Bental. Then the views get even more breathtaking as you hike down the water-filled Zavitan Canyon. Follow that with a fantastic tour (and tasting!) at the Golan Heights Winery and then spend the evening unwinding at the Hamat Gader hot springs

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Guest House in the Galilee

DAY 5 | Thursday
Bringing the BRONZE AGE to Life

Today we visit two important sites in the Rift Valley in the Galilee – Hazor and Beit Shean. Hazor was the most important city in Canaan in the period before the emergence of Ancient Israel, while the glory days of Beth Shean are from much later - the time of the Romans.

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Guest House in the Galilee

DAY 6 | Friday
HISTORY High in the Galilee

Start the day off right with a hike on Mt. Meiron, the highest point in the Galilee and a mountain rich with history. Then wander through the mystical city of Tzfat where you will meet with a local Kabbalistic artist and enjoy free time walking the cobblestone streets and exploring the colorful artists colony. Finally, cool down rafting the Jordan River.

Celebrate your first Shabbat in Israel!

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Guest House in the Galilee

DAY 7 | Saturday
A RESTFUL Shabbat

You've had a long and successful week of uncovering the Middle East's ancient history...you deserve a rest! Enjoy a relaxed and restful Shabbat at the kibbutz, and then travel to Jerusalem at night.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 8 | Sunday
Discovering Ancient JERUSALEM

Start the day at Hebrew University and visit the Institute of Archaeology's laboratories and museum, and get acquainted to Jerusalem with a panoramic view from Mt. Scopus. Then, see it up close as you scale the Rampart Walls surrounding the Old City. You'll tour the legendary Jewish Quarter and have time for personal reflection at the Western Wall, also known as the Kotel. Visit the City of David complex and discover the joy of splashing through Hezekiah's water tunnel. Also explore the Davidson Center and the Southern Wall excavations, with artifacts dating back to the First Temple in 70 C.E.

End the day with a series of lectures and activities with the academic staff of the Hebrew University that will place all that you will see and learn in an academic historical and cultural framework.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 9 | Monday
Bring ARTIFACTS to LIFE

Spend the morning at Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology. Explore the Institute's collections and storage facilities, and visit with experts at work on study and conservation of the objects excavated during previous seasons of digging.

In the afternoon, there's no better place to get a feel for Jerusalem than the hustle and bustle of the Machane Yehuda open-air market. Local Jerusalemites fill the market to stock up on food for the week. Explore, eat, shop. Take it all in!

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 10 | Tuesday
REMEMBRANCE and RENEWAL

Today begins with a somber visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum, then continue on to Mt. Herzl – Israel's National Cemetery.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 11 | Wednesday
DIGGING the Past

Today we take a field trip to the south to Shfela and Mediterranean Coast to visit three important archaeological sites. Qeiyafa, Lachish, Ashqelon. Along the way we'll learn about the Philistines, King David, the beginnings of the Hebrew alphabet, and much much more.

OVERNIGHT: Bedouin Tent, Judean Desert

DAY 12 | Thursday
ADVENTURE in the Judean Desert

Wake up long before the sun comes up for your pre-sunrise ascent to Masada via the Roman Ramp (it's worth the early hours). Explore the desert mountaintop fortress, and then cool off swimming under the desert waterfalls at the Ein Gedi oasis reserve.

Still have some energy left? Time for a night out in Tel Aviv, the city that never sleeps.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

DAY 13 | Friday
The PULSE of Tel Aviv

Now make a new discovery...of the dynamic metropolis of Tel Aviv – Israel’s cultural and financial capital. Celebrate the spirit of Tel Aviv at the vibrant outdoor Carmel Market. Learn about what it meant to establish the modern State of Israel at Independence Hall. And then reflect on Israel's democratic ideals and future at the Rabin Square Memorial. Unwind with some well-deserved beach time in Tel Aviv . Our day concludes looking to the future with a visit to one of Tel Aviv's innovative start-ups.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 14 | Saturday
Feeling SHABBAT in Jerusalem

It's Shabbat in Jerusalem! If you choose, you can partake in a Shabbat service at a Jerusalem synagogue or celebrate the Day of Rest sleeping in. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon taking a walking tour of Jerusalem’s colorful neighborhoods and having some fun at a local park. Visit the Bible Lands Museum and view an archive of 200+ tablets from a Jewish exilic town, one of the first generations of the Babylonian exile. End Shabbat with a Havdallah ceremony to mark the start of the new week.

The stars are out now, and it's time for a group night out to the famous Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall as Jerusalem comes alive.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 15 | Sunday
CLOSING

Our academic program concludes with a symposium at Hebrew University. We will hear from a panel of experts about archaeology in the modern State of Israel, and its place in contemporary Israeli society.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 16 | Monday
SHALOM! Returning HOME

You're flying over the sea now and back home after this incredible experience with Israel Outdoors and your new friends. During your time in Israel, you've been challenged by new ideas, discovered an extraordinary culture, and are returning home with a renewed understanding of your history.