

Archaeology: Uncovering the Hidden Past

Itinerary Subject to Change

DAY 1 | Wednesday **TAKE OFF for Israel**

You'll meet your group at one of our gateway airports 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 | Thursday **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 to Jerusalem, a focal point of some of the world's most historic archaeological digs.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 3 | Friday **Discovering Ancient JERUSALEM**

Start the day at Hebrew University for a program introduction and orientation. 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.

As the day comes to a close, 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 just before Shabbat begins. Explore, eat, shop. Take it all in!

Friday night marks the beginning of Shabbat, and we'll celebrate it together in Jerusalem, the historic center of Jewish life.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 4 | 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 Israel Museum, home of the world-famous Dead Sea Scrolls and other important archaeological artifacts. 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 5 | Sunday
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.

Get ready to cool down rafting the Jordan River and then spend the evening unwinding at the Hamat Gader hot springs.

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Guest House in the Galilee

DAY 6-10 | Monday - Friday
DIGGING for History

Now is your chance to take part in an actual archaeological dig at [Tel Abel Beth Maacah](#) with other volunteers from around the world and with various universities from the USA. So far archaeologists at this dig have discovered findings dating back to the Middle Bronze age. Now it's your turn to make the next great discovery.

OVERNIGHT: Kibbutz Guest House in the Galilee

DAY 11 | 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, then travel to Tel Aviv at night.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

DAY 12 | Sunday
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.

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

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

DAY 13 | Monday
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. After time of reflection, you'll descend from the heights of Jerusalem into the Judean Desert wilderness where you'll ride a camel, enjoy a traditional hafla dinner feast, and then spend the night in an open-air Bedouin tent.

OVERNIGHT: Bedouin Tent, Judean Desert

DAY 14 | Tuesday
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.

Sadly, tonight is also your farewell dinner and closing session, where you'll have a chance to process everything that you've experienced - and make plans to keep in touch with all the amazing people you've met during your time in Israel.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

DAY 15 | Wednesday
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.