

Best of Israel & Jordan

Country(ies): Israel , Jordan

Tour type: Shoestring

Transport: A/C minibus/coach

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 45

Days: 11 days

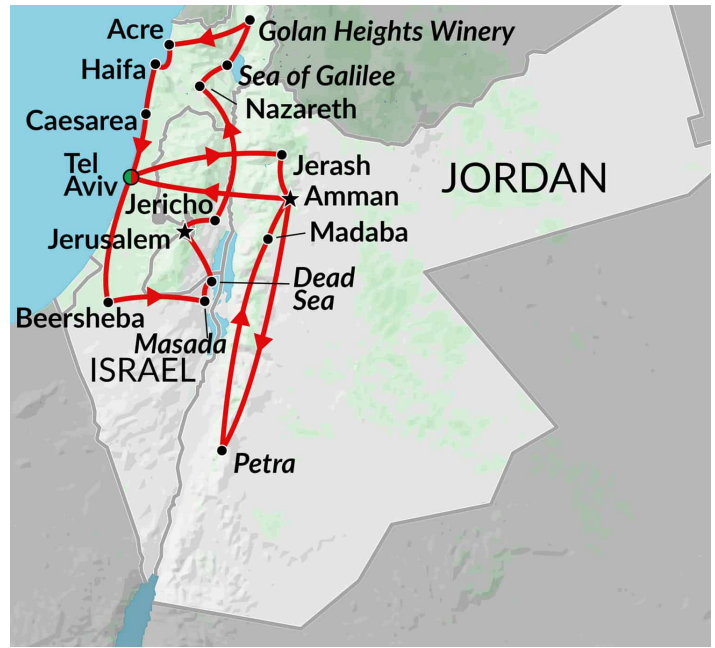
Start Location: Tel Aviv, Israel

End Location: Tel Aviv, Israel

Meals: Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

Highlights:

Tel Aviv, Masada fortress, Dead Sea, old & new Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Golan Heights, Nazareth, Acre, Caesarea, Haifa, Jerash Roman ruins, Petra tour, Madaba mosaics, Mount Nebo views



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive into Tel Aviv. Transfer to hotel

Upon arrival in Ben Gurion Airport, in Tel Aviv, after passing through immigration and customs you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Tel Aviv for the night. The rest of the day is free for you to settle in and look around Tel Aviv independently.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra night in Tel Aviv - pre-tour Extra night in Jerusalem - pre-tour Single room supplement (ISSHIE)

Day 2: Masada & Dead Sea

You'll meet your tour guide and fellow travellers this morning and set off south from Tel Aviv, passing the cities of Ashkelon, Ashdod and Beersheba, the capital of the Negev Desert region. You'll then continue to Masada, the foremost archaeological park in Israel. Here we'll ascend to the top of the fortress by cable-car and have a comprehensive visit of the site, learn about the rituals, culture and politics of the people who lived in this desert fortress. This was the final stronghold of the Jewish Zealots during their war against the Romans, and we will visit the excavations, the synagogue, bathhouse and cisterns, Herod's palaces and enjoy fantastic views of the Roman camps and the Dead Sea, far below us.

Leaving Masada, we head down to the lowest place on earth - the Dead Sea - at 430 metres below sea level! Here we'll enjoy a swim, or float, in the salty waters and those inclined can also enjoy the benefits of the mineral rich black mud. We'll then head north up the Dead Sea road, with the hills of Jordan clearly visible to the East, passing by the Oasis of Ein Gedi and through the Judean Desert to Jerusalem.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Israel Museum - Yad Vashem - Ein Karem - Bethlehem

We start our tours today in Jerusalem at the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book, home to the famous Dead Sea scrolls. Next we'll visit the beautifully renovated model of the Herodian city of Jerusalem, which dates back to the time of the Second Temple.

We then visit Yad Vashem which is the official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Established in 1953, the memorial is located at the foot of Mt. Herzl.

On our way out of Jerusalem, we'll visit the picturesque village of Ein Karem in the southwestern outskirts of the city. According to tradition, this is where John the Baptist was born. We continue out of Jerusalem to visit Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, and we will visit the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square before returning to Jerusalem.

We'll also have the opportunity to enjoy Ein Karem; a picturesque village in the southwestern outskirts of Jerusalem. This small village has great significance in Christian traditions, since this is where according to

tradition John the Baptist was born.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Old City of Jerusalem

We'll enter the Old City of Jerusalem today for a day packed with visits to some of the most important religious sites in the world. We'll see the Western Wall, and the actual site of the Second Temple at Temple Mount. We'll also walk the Way of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, to Calvary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which houses both the traditional site of Crucifixion and the Tomb of the Resurrection.

Leaving the Old City we'll see Mt. Zion, with the traditional tomb of King David, and the Room of the Last Supper. The next stop will be at the Mount of Olives, the site where Jesus first gave the Lord's Prayer. Here we can enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of Jerusalem, the holy city for three of the World's great religions - Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Continuing the day we'll visit the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas betrayed Jesus, and in the heart of downtown Jerusalem we'll visit the largest open market in Israel, Mahane Yehuda and experience the smells, flavours and colours of this bustling area.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Beit Shean - Golan Heights - Tiberias

We leave Jerusalem this morning and head north past Jericho, considered by many as the oldest city in the world. As we travel through the Jordan Valley we'll pass new settlements to Beit Shean and visit the excavations of this well preserved Roman city.

Travel through the Jordan Valley and the new settlements to Beit Shean, to visit the excavations of this beautifully preserved Roman city.

Drive up to the Golan Heights to enjoy an Israeli wine country experience, enjoying a tour, wine tasting and understanding of the wine production process. Travel through the Golan, with its Druze villages, former Syrian fortifications and panoramic views of Mount Hermon and into Syria.

Later, we descend to the Hula Valley and drive to Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee - regarded as one of the four Holy cities in Judaism, where the Jewish Talmud - the primary source of Jewish religious law - was compiled, with tombs of Rabbis scattered across the city.

OVERNIGHT: Tiberias Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Capernaum - Mount of Beatitudes - Nazareth

This morning we'll descend back down to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the stage for many of the events in Jesus' life. We'll visit Capernaum, known as 'His Town', the centre of Jesus ministry, where he spent much time healing the sick and performing miracles. We'll visit the ruins of the ancient synagogue, the Mount of Beatitudes

where Jesus preached the 'Sermon on the Mount' and it is believed that he picked his 12 apostles, and Tabgha, the site of Christ's miracle of feeding the 5,000.

We will continue on to Tiberias, which was an ancient centre of Jewish learning, and there is the option of taking a boat trip across the Sea of Galilee here (subject to local conditions and an additional fee).

Later today, we head to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and Christian holy sites. Finally we return to our hotel in Tiberias.

OVERNIGHT: Tiberias Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Acre - Haifa - Caesarea - Jaffa

After breakfast we will drive through the hills of the Galilee, heading westwards to the Mediterranean coast and Acre, where we visit the old, famous Crusader stronghold and medieval fortifications.

Next we continue to Haifa where we will ascend to the top of Mount Carmel to enjoy a panoramic view of the city including the Baha'i Shrine, Haifa Bay and the Persiam Garden.

Our next stop, as we proceed along the Mediterranean coastline is at Caesarea where we visit the Roman Theater and the Crusader fortress at the site known as the 'masterpiece of Herod the Great'.

Finally we will finish our trip with a short city tour of the ancient port of Jaffa and the city of Tel Aviv.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Cross from Israel to Jordan, tour Jerash

This morning we head east from Jerusalem to the Sheikh Hussein border crossing where we proceed through the immigration formalities and enter Jordan where we are met by our Jordanian guide and vehicle. We'll continue on to Jerash, a city of the Decapolis situated about 45km north of Amman in the fertile heights of the Gilad. Jerash is one of the best preserved ancient Greco-Roman sites in the whole of the Middle East and our tour will include the colonnaded streets, the 2nd century Hadrian's Arch, the baths, amphitheatre and the columns of the Temple of Artemis. Our day will finish with a panoramic tour of Jordan's capital, Amman.

OVERNIGHT: Amman Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Petra

After another early breakfast, we will drive south down Jordan's Desert Highway to Petra. Here you have the option to ride on horseback, take an electric buggy, or walk through the towering cliffs of the 'Siq' (canyon) into the incredible site of Petra. Known as the red rock city, Petra was the ancient trading capital of the Nabatean kingdom from the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD. During our guided tour we will visit the most interesting monuments including the Treasury, El Khazneh (a tomb of a Nabatean king), the field of tombs, obelisks and the theatre. After a little free time to explore independently, we will return to Wadi Musa village for the night.

OVERNIGHT: Petra Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Tel Aviv

After breakfast, we drive back up north to see the remains of a Byzantine church with a famous ancient mosaic floor map in Madaba. This is the oldest surviving original cartographic depiction in a mosaic of the whole of the Holy Land region and Jerusalem. We'll then continue to nearby Mt. Nebo from where Moses viewed the Promised Land. If the weather is clear, there are spectacular views from here, across the Dead Sea, Jordan Valley, to Jericho and beyond.

We will then head back down into the Jordan Valley, cross the border back into Israel and drive to Tel Aviv to finish the tour.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 11: Free time in Tel Aviv. Departure airport transfer

After breakfast, your time is free until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. Extra nights are available in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv if you would like to extend the tour.

**The sequence of the tour, border crossing points used, hotels used and sites visited may be amended due to local circumstances at the time of travel or the guide's discretion.*

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra night in Tel Aviv - post-tour Extra night in Jerusalem - post-tour

Included:

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival and departure transfer service
- English speaking guide during touring days
- All site entry fees
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Border tax & crossing fees (payable locally at approx. \$107 per person)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour leaders and drivers
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra night in Tel Aviv - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra night to the start of your tour in Israel, staying in the same hotel in Tel Aviv as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra night in Jerusalem - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra night to the end of your tour in Israel, staying in the same hotel in Jerusalem as the main tour itself (subject to availability at the time of booking). Your airport arrival transfer is still

included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast basis.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

Min numbers: 1

This option adds on a fun sunset or sunrise camel ride through the Wadi Rum desert.

Single room supplement (ISSHIE)

Min numbers: 1

The tour price is based on 2 people sharing twin/double rooms. This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour. If you are a single traveller and would be happy to share a room, let us know and we will see if we can pair you up with another single traveller of the same sex. If a room share is not available when you book then we will add the single room supplement to your booking and it will be payable with your balance payment unless we have arranged a room share for you by then. If a room share is arranged after you have paid the supplement then we will refund it to you. Room shares are arranged in order of booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Comfort hotel upgrade (ISSGBO)

Min numbers: 1

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels at the local 3 and 4 star level (they can be considered 3-star international standard). This option upgrades the accommodation to our most popular 'Comfort' level, featuring better 4-star hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the same Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee. In Jordan this upgrade includes 4-star hotels.

The normal hotels used are given below, though these may be exchanged for others on some dates subject to availability at the time of booking.

- Tel Aviv - Metropolitan or Grand Beach
- Jerusalem - Grand Court or Leonardo
- Galilee - same Kibbutz Hotel
- Amman - Grand Palace Hotel
- Petra - Nabatean Castle Hotel

If you are a solo traveller then you will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour. An additional supplement will also need to be added to cover the extra cost of a single room in the upgraded hotels. Please check the tour reservation form for prices or contact us for more details.

Superior hotel upgrade (ISSGBO)

Min numbers: 1

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels at the local 3 and 4 star level (they can be considered 3-star international standard). This option upgrades the accommodation to a 'Superior' level, featuring 5-star hotels in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem Amman and Petra and a superior room in the Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee.

The normal hotels used are given below, though these may be exchanged for others on some dates subject to availability at the time of booking.

- Tel Aviv - Crowne Plaza/Dan Panorama
- Jerusalem - Crowne Plaza Deluxe/Dan Panorama
- Galilee - Superior room in the Kibbutz Hotel
- Amman - Regency Palace Hotel
- Petra - Old Village Resort

If you are a solo traveller then you will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour. An additional supplement will also need to be added to cover the extra cost of a single room in the upgraded hotels. Please check the tour reservation form for prices or contact us for more details.

Deluxe hotel upgrade (ISSGBO)

Min numbers: 1

The standard tour price is based on comfortable mid-range hotels at the local 3 and 4 star level (they can be considered 3-star international standard). This option upgrades the accommodation to a 'Deluxe' level, featuring some of the best 5-star hotels in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Amman, Petra and a superior room in the Kibbutz Hotel in the Galilee.

The normal hotels used are given below, though these may be exchanged for others on some dates subject to availability at the time of booking.

- Tel Aviv - Carlton or Sheraton

- Jerusalem - David Citadel or Mamilla
- Galilee - Superior room in the Kibbutz Hotel
- Amman - Kempinski Hotel
- Petra - Marriott Hotel

If you are a solo traveller then you will need to add the single room supplement for the main tour. An additional supplement will also need to be added to cover the extra cost of a single room in the upgraded hotels. Please check the tour reservation form for prices or contact us for more details.

Note: This hotel level is not available during peak season dates (Passover, after Yom Kippur and over Christmas)

Petra by night (local payment)

Min numbers: 1

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

Pricing includes your entrance ticket and any transfers required to and from your hotel. Please bring a flashlight/torch with you for this trip as the path through the Siq is rough underfoot in places and while there are candles all the way, a torch provides extra assurance against mis-stepping.

Please Note: This is a local payment option, payment will be collected by your tour guide whilst in Jordan.

Petra Kitchen - Cooking Class

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Petra experience with a delightful evening immersed in Jordanian culture and cuisine at the renowned Petra Kitchen. This popular optional activity offers a fantastic opportunity to participate in a hands-on cookery class, working alongside local chefs and women to prepare a range of traditional Jordanian dishes. You'll learn about local ingredients, master authentic techniques, and discover the secrets behind delicious regional specialities, typically culminating in enjoying the multi-course feast you've helped create together. It's a fun, interactive, and social way to spend an evening after exploring the wonders of Petra.

Please note that spaces for the Petra Kitchen Cookery Class are limited and it is exceptionally popular. Therefore, pre-booking is essential to guarantee your participation, and we strongly recommend securing your spot well in advance to avoid disappointment due to high demand.

Wadi Rum Astronomy Experience

Min numbers: 1

Venture into the heart of Wadi Rum's captivating desert landscape after nightfall and witness a celestial display like no other. Far from city lights, the vast, clear skies above this ancient valley reveal a breathtaking panorama of stars.

Join our optional astronomy tour and embark on a journey through the cosmos. Our expert guides will illuminate the constellations, planets, and deep-sky objects visible to the naked eye, sharing fascinating insights into their mythology and scientific significance.

Experience the profound silence and tranquillity of the desert night as you gaze upon the Milky Way's shimmering expanse. With the aid of powerful telescopes, you'll delve deeper into the universe, observing distant galaxies and nebulae with remarkable clarity. This is an unforgettable opportunity to connect with the cosmos and appreciate the sheer scale and beauty of the night sky in one of the world's most spectacular natural settings.

Wadi Rum Hot Air Balloon Flight

Min numbers: 1

Enhance your Wadi Rum visit with an optional hot air balloon flight. Experience a sunrise view of the 'Valley of the Moon' from above. Observe the desert landscape as the sun rises, providing unique photographic opportunities. Flights are early morning, conducted by professional pilots, and subject to weather conditions. Bookings are confirmed the evening before. A full refund is provided if the flight is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Wadi Rum Quad Bikes

Min numbers: 1

Unleash your adventurous spirit and explore the magnificent desert landscapes of Wadi Rum on an exhilarating quad biking excursion. This optional activity puts you in control of your own All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), allowing you to navigate the sandy plains and weave between the iconic towering rock formations under the guidance of local experts. 1 Feel the thrill as you power through the stunning scenery of the 'Valley of the Moon', accessing unique viewpoints and experiencing the vastness of the desert in a truly dynamic way. It's a perfect add-on for those seeking an adrenaline rush and a different perspective on Wadi Rum's breathtaking beauty.

1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the Israel & Jordan 3-4-star level on this tour, Options are available to upgrade the accommodation if you would like a higher level of hotel. Please contact us for prices to match your dates. The normal hotels we use for these upgrades are shown below, though these may change to alternate hotels of a similar standard on some dates:

Comfort (4-star): Tel Aviv - Metropolitan / Grand Beach | Jerusalem - Grand Court / Ramada | Tiberias* - Lake House / Royal Plaza | Amman - Grand Palace | Petra - Petra Moon / Petra Canyon
Superior (4/5-star) : Tel Aviv - Dan Panorama / Crowne Plaza Beach | Jerusalem - Dan Panorama / King Solomon | Tiberias* - Caesar / Gai Beach | Amman - Regency Palace | Petra - Old Village Resort
Deluxe (5-star): Tel Aviv - Carlton | Jerusalem - David Citadel / Mamilla | Tiberias* - U-Boutique / Magdala | Amman - Movenpick Amman | Petra - Movenpick Resort Petra (on request)

* On some dates the tour may stay in Nazareth or Haifa instead of Tiberias

As different hotel levels are available, this does mean that if some people take up the upgrades there will be more than one hotel pick-up and drop-off each day, though we do aim to plan these to minimise any extra travelling time.

Accommodation is based on twin or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

2. Transfers

This tour includes an arrival airport transfer from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv to your hotel at anytime on Day 1 of the tour, and a transfer back from your hotel to the airport on Day 11. If you would like to add extra time in Israel and arrive before Day 1 of the tour or leave after Day 11, we can provide you with a quotation for your extra nights and airport transfer.

For legal reasons when crossing from Israel into Jordan, it's not possible for us to use the same vehicle so you'll be escorted to the immigration point on the Israel side of the border before taking a shuttle bus to the Jordanian side where our Jordanian team will greet you. Once in Jordan you'll have a Jordanian guide and driver who will continue with you for this part of the tour. You should budget approximately \$107.00 for border fees which are not included in the tour price. These fees will be paid locally, in cash, when crossing the border. We have many passengers each year crossing this border and our local team are very experienced - full assistance will be given at each side.

3. Border Crossings

This tour includes two crossings of the Israel/Jordan border. We ask for your patience when crossing borders, as this process can sometimes take more than an hour. Please be assured that our local team is working daily with the authorities and is doing whatever they can at all times to expedite this. We also suggest that you try to travel as light as possible, as the Israeli security is tight and it can take a while for them to search through and check large cases.

Crossing at Beit Shean (Sheikh Hussein) from Israel to Jordan.

Our border assistant will explain the procedure to you at the entrance to the terminal. First, you enter the terminal and visit the exit tax kiosk and pay your exit tax (100 ILS plus 5 ILS surcharge in USD, EUR or Israeli Shekels). Take your exit tax to the immigration counter and hand it over with your passport. After processing your passport you walk through the duty free and outside across the road there is a waiting area. Here you can wait till called to

board your shuttle bus to the Jordan Terminal. Note: Our staff cannot accompany you during this process, so you should follow the instructions of the assistant and border staff to ensure your crossing is smooth. You pay the shuttle bus fee of JOD 1.6 (approx. \$2.3 US or 10 NIS) on arrival at the Jordan terminal and then head to Jordanian immigration to arrange your Jordan visa and enter the country. Once on the Jordanian guide, your guide/assistant (sometimes the same person), will handle the taxes and if appropriate, visa payments.

IMPORTANT:

Jewish religious items/souvenirs are not allowed into Jordan through the border and are confiscated by Jordanian authorities.

This causes delays to the tour and may impact the amount of time spent at a site, or even cause the site to be missed from the program.

Please ensure that you do not take any of these items with you to Jordan, in order not to delay the tour.

Returning to Israel from Jordan.

Our assistant team on both sides can take you right up to the border fence and will explain to you the procedure throughout.

4. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

On average the group departures on this tour tend to have a minimum of around 10 passengers and an average of 14-18, though we only need 2 passengers to book for a departure to be guaranteed. The maximum capacity of this tour is 45 which is why we class it as a Shoestring level tour. To ensure affordability in what is a very expensive country to arrange tours like this, we share this tour with a small number of other operators so you may join with travellers booking with different companies.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only ever use local Israeli and Jordanian guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. A different guide may be used for the Occupied Palestinian Territory sites to the rest of the tour in Israel.

When crossing to Jordan you will be dropped by your guide at the entry to the Israel/Jordan border crossing and met on the Jordanian side by a guide who will accompany you for the Jordanian section of the tour. On your return to Israel you will again pass through the border independently before being met on the Israeli side. Please check the Border Crossings note for information on border crossing fees.

Printed on: Saturday 4th of October 2025

Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
