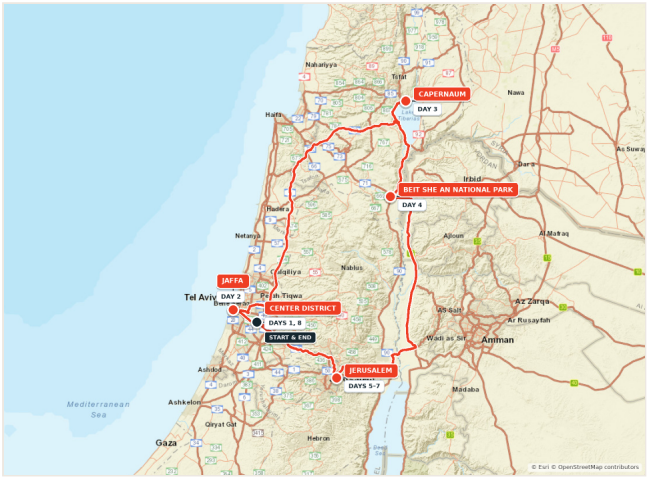
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Israel Uncovered

COUNTRY(IES)	Israel
TOUR TYPE	Private
TRANSPORT	A/C car/minibus
GROUP SIZE	Min: 1 | Max: 0
DURATION	8 days
STARTS	Tel Aviv, Israel
ENDS	Jerusalem, Israel
MEALS	Breakfasts - 7, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

TOUR ROUTE MAP **8 Days**



ROUTE: **Center District** (Start) → **Jaffa** → **Capernaum** → **Beit She An National Park** → **Jerusalem** → **Ben Gurion Airport** (End)

HIGHLIGHTS

Modern Tel Aviv, old streets of Jaffa, Roman ruins at Caesarea, port city of Haifa, Acre's crusader castle, Biblical sites at the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, float in the Dead Sea, old Jerusalem, Bethlehem birth place of Jesus

Itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive into Tel Aviv. Transfer to hotel

Meet the representative at the airport and transfer directly to the Tel Aviv hotel. After checking in, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure and use the time to rest or explore independently. The flexible arrival period provides an easy first introduction to Tel Aviv before the group activities and sightseeing begin the next day.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrive at Tel aviv Airport (Ben Gurion Airport)**
  Transfer from Ben Gurion Airport to your Tel Aviv hotel. A representative meets you after passport control. The rest of the day is free for rest or exploration.
- **Drive from Tel Aviv Airport to Tel Aviv City Hotel**
  Transfer from Ben Gurion Airport to your Tel Aviv hotel. A representative meets you after passport control. The rest of the day is free for rest or exploration.

- **Free Time in Tel Aviv**

  Enjoy free time in Tel Aviv to relax, explore beaches, or try local cafés. The city offers a lively yet laid-back atmosphere. Perfect for settling in after your flight.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Tel Aviv hotel	None	Extra night in Tel Aviv - pre-tour, Single room supplement (ISTMIU)

DAY 2 Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Haifa, Acre & Galilee

After breakfast we check out of our Hotel for a tour of the vibrant Tel Aviv City. We then proceed to Jaffa for a tour of the Old City and the Old Port. Continuing on we visit Caesarea's aqueduct, Roman Theatre, Hippodrome and the Crusader Fortress. We then explore Haifa and her surroundings before visiting the famous Crusader city of Acre. After a jam packed day of sightseeing we have a short drive to Galilee where we have dinner and spend the night.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Old Jaffa**

  Explore the ancient port city of Jaffa with its narrow alleyways and hilltop views. The area blends archaeology, culture, and seaside scenery.

- **Drive from Tel Aviv to Caesarea**

  Drive north along the Mediterranean coastline via the historic Via Maris route toward Caesarea.

- **Explore Caesarea National Park**

  Explore Herod the Great's grand port city featuring the Roman Theatre, palace ruins, and ancient harbor remains.

- **Explore Haifa**

  Stop at a viewpoint atop Mount Carmel to view Haifa Bay and the Baha'i Gardens below. Learn about Haifa's modern mixed-city character.

- **Visit Acre Old City and Crusader Fortress**

  Explore the Crusader halls, tunnels and fortifications of Acre's Old City. Learn how this port played a key role in Crusader and Ottoman history.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Galilee Kibbutz	Breakfast

DAY 3 Sea of Galilee, Tiberias, Nazareth & Cana

This morning we head to Tiberias, and visit the sites around the Sea of Galilee including Capernaum, where Jesus and some of his apostles lived and preached. We will also take in other important Christian miraculous sites, including the Feeding of the 5000, the Sermon on the Mount and the Wedding at Cana. We continue onto Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, where we visit the Church of the Annunciation.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Capernaum**
  Explore the ancient fishing village known as “His Town,” where Jesus taught and performed miracles. The site includes a synagogue and remains of historic dwellings.
- **Explore Cana (Wedding Church)**
  Visit the site commemorating Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine. A popular pilgrimage location associated with marriage blessings.
- **Explore Nazareth**
  Visit the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, built on the traditional site of the Annunciation and other landmarks in Nazareth.
- **Explore Church of the Annunciation**
  Visit the Church of the Annunciation, one of Christianity's most important sites. Tradition holds it as the place where the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Galilee Kibbutz	Breakfast

DAY 4 River Jordan, Beith Shean, Jericho & Dead Sea

This morning we start at the River Jordan, where Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. We then travel to the ancient city of Beith Shean, where we can explore impressive Roman excavations. Then we pass into the West Bank and south to Jericho. We enjoy a dip in the Dead Sea before heading to Jerusalem.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Beit Shean**
  Explore Beit Shean's vast Roman ruins including theatres, bathhouses and colonnaded streets. Learn how this city thrived in the Decapolis.
- **Dead Sea swim and float**
  Experience the unique buoyancy of the Dead Sea's salty waters. Floating effortlessly is a highlight for many visitors.
- **Drive from Dead Sea to Jerusalem**
  Ascend from the lowest point on earth back into the Judean Mountains toward Jerusalem. The route showcases dramatic elevation changes and desert landscapes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Jerusalem hotel	Breakfast

DAY 5 Mt of Olives, Museums, Ein Karem & Bethlehem

We start our day visiting the Mount of Olives, an important site in Christianity, Judaism and Islam. We will also visit various important churches and the Garden of Gethsemane. The Holocaust Museum and Israeli Museum will pose a sobering, reflective time. We then head to Ein Karem to visit St John the Baptist Church and the Church of the Visitation. Finally we arrive in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, and our home for the night.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Mount of Olives**
  Visit the site where Jesus taught and prayed, overlooking the Old City. The mountain contains ancient tombs and important biblical landmarks.
- **Explore Garden of Gethsemane**
  See the garden where Jesus was betrayed by Judas. Ancient olive trees and the adjacent church mark this profoundly significant Christian site.
- **Explore Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial**
  Visit Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. The museum and memorial grounds offer a powerful and emotional historical experience.
- **Explore Israel Museum**
  Explore the large-scale model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. The display offers a detailed look at the ancient city's layout and landmarks.
- **Explore Ein Karem Village**
  Walk through the picturesque village believed to be the birthplace of John the Baptist. The area features charming stone alleys and historic churches.
- **Drive from Jerusalem to Bethlehem**
  Travel south from Jerusalem toward Bethlehem. The route passes through historic landscapes important to biblical tradition.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Jerusalem hotel	Breakfast

DAY 6 Jerusalem, the old city

This morning we start with a walking tour of the old city of Jerusalem, including the Church of St Anne, the pool of Bethesda, the Holy Sepulchre Church, and Mt Calvary. We will visit the empty Tomb of Jesus and then the Jewish Quarter and the Wailing Wall. We then can take in the stunning panoramic view from the Dome of the Rock, with a visit to the Aqsa Mosque.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Church of the Holy Sepulchre**
  Visit the site believed to contain both Golgotha (Calvary) and the Tomb of the Resurrection. It is one of

Christianity's most sacred locations.

- **Explore Western Wall**
  Visit Judaism's holiest active prayer site. The wall is a remnant of the ancient Temple complex and holds deep religious meaning.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Jerusalem hotel	Breakfast

DAY 7 Jerusalem, free day

Enjoy a free day in Jerusalem and decide how you would like to use the time. Return to places that interested you earlier, browse the shops, walk through familiar neighbourhoods or simply relax between sightseeing days. There is no organised programme to follow, so the hours are yours for independent exploration and a slower look at this historic city at your own pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Time at Leisure in Jerusalem**
  The day is yours to explore Jerusalem at your own pace. Return to a corner of the Old City you want longer in, visit a museum, or spend the day browsing the shops and markets.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
Jerusalem hotel	Breakfast	Jerusalem by night, Sound & Light show at Jerusalem's Citadel

DAY 8 Departure airport transfer

After breakfast, spend the remaining hours at leisure until the arranged hotel pickup. Use the free time to relax or make independent plans before meeting the transfer. At the appropriate time, travel from the hotel to the airport for departure and complete the final organised journey to the terminal.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Jerusalem City Hotel to Tel Aviv Airport**
  Transfer from your Jerusalem hotel to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport for departure. This marks the end of your Biblical Israel Tour and your return journey home.
- **Depart from Tel Aviv International Airport**
  Your tour concludes at Ben Gurion Airport as you check in for your flight home. The airport's efficient facilities make the departure process comfortable and straightforward. This marks the end of your Biblical Israel journey.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	Extra night in Jerusalem - post-tour

INCLUDED

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

EXCLUDED

- International Flights
- Visa Fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour leader
- Any other items not mentioned above

Tour 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.

No additional options available for this tour.

Important Notes

1 **Accommodation**

We use good quality 4-star hotels on this tour. Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

2 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As we don't offer guaranteed group departures on this tour we can run the itinerary for however many people you happen to be travelling with, starting from 1 upwards. The prices given for this tour are based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling, so if you have a different number of passengers in your group please contact us for a customised quotation.

In Israel we provide fully trained, local English-speaking guides to act as your tour guides for any sightseeing tours included in your itinerary. At Encounters Travel we only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. Please check our website for more details and profiles of some of our most famous guides.

3 Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. If you visit any sites not mentioned in the itinerary then you will need to cover the entrance fee costs.

4 Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you.

5 Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you’re really experiencing the country you’re travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. Our routes in Israel and the small distances involved mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour.

6 Transfers

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

7 What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Israel. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

Luggage limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

Clothing: The climate in Israel varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. At night, especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required. When visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

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8 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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9 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

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10 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

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11 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

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12 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

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13 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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14 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.
- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you’ll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

15 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

16 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don’t include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we’ll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. All our group tours in Israel start and finish at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv (TLV). Private and tailor-made tours may arrive into Tel Aviv or Eilat.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision.

Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

17 Tipping

Tipping is common practice in Israel, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. GBP 5 / USD 8 per person per day would be appropriate.

18 Passports & Visas - Israel & OPT

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

From 1st January 2025, all passengers travelling to Israel must arrive with a pre-arranged visa or ETA-IL approval. Many nationalities (including UK, European, USA, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South African) do not need to obtain a visa to enter Israel as a period as long as your stay is for less than 3 months, though an ETA-IL approval is required, even for passenges who are visa exempt. Other nationalities should check with their local consulate.

All passengers entering Israel from 1st January 2025 onwards should apply for an ETA-IL approval online at - Israel Population & Immigration Authority a fee of 25 shekels (around GBP 5, USD 7) will be required during the application process. If you are travelling to Israel prior to January 2025, the ETA-IL is not required.

Most of our tours visiting Israel also enter the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). No special visas are required but check points and border posts are operated by the Israeli authorities and access is sometimes limited or restricted.

19 Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.
If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

20 Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon is GMT plus 2 hours and in UAE GMT plus 3 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.

21 Money - Israel

The local currency in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is the Israeli Shekel (ILS). You do not need to arrange to bring any Shekels with you as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Israel and the OPT you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in local currency, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 25-35 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

22 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.
In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A
Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A
Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis
Lebanon: Dipheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.