



# Holy Land

2019 Itinerary | Israel & Jordan

## 5 Dec, Thur: Arrival in Israel **Ben Gurion Airport**

Arrival Ben Gurion Airport on LX 252 at 2:35pm. Check in hotel. Dinner follows by briefing. Overnight at Seasons on the Sea Hotel, Netanya.

## 6 Dec, Fri: **Jaffa, Caesarea, Mt Carmel, Cana, Tiberias**

After breakfast we start with an early morning walk along esplanade to Jaffa (Joppa) flea market. **Joppa** was where Jonah fled from the LORD, by taking a ship to Tarshish. This is one of the oldest seaport cities in Israel. Visit Simon the Tanner house where Saint Peter stayed during his missionary activities of the early Christian faith, In this house, St. Peter had a significant dream, which changed the course of history: including gentiles in the newly founded church. According to tradition, the resurrection of Tabitha also happened on the roof of the house. Drive to the north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, once capital of the Roman province. There you will see the Roman and Crusader remains and the harbor from which St. Paul was taken prisoner to Rome. Visit **Mt Carmel** to see Muhraka; the Monastery here commemorates Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal. Visit **Cana**, scene of the first miracle and visit the Church of the Wedding. Overnight Ron Beach Hotel, Tiberias.

## 7 Dec, Sat: **Boat ride, Mt Beatitude, Tabgha, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Korazim**

Boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee** sailing on a wooden boat. This sail provides a spiritual experience you will never forget. You will feel the power of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus miraculously walked on water. Visit **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Jesus is believed to have delivered the Sermon on the Mount. Also, by the shore you will visit Tabgha with the Church of Peter's Primacy and the ancient mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes. Stop at **Capernaum**, there you will see an ancient synagogue and St. Peter's house, which was later converted, into a church. Then to **Bethsaida**, just north of the Sea of Galilee, was home to Peter, Andrew and Philip and, according to tradition, Zebedee and his sons. It was also scene of the feeding of the 5,000 and of Jesus' healing of a blind man. Finds from Jesus' time include a fisherman's house and a cobbled street. This was also the capital of the biblical Geshur, whose massive burned gates were destroyed by the Assyrians in 732 BC. Proceed to **Korazim**, an archaeological site mentioned in the New Testament as a city condemned by Jesus (together with Bethsaida and Capernaum) for rejecting him. Korazim was a Jewish town renowned for its good wheat in Talmudic times. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish fishermen used to reside here. The town's ruins are spread over an area of 25 acres, subdivided into five separate quarters, with a synagogue in the centre. The ruins at the site include a large, impressive synagogue which was built with black basalt stones and decorated with Jewish motifs. Close by is a ritual bath, surrounded by public and residential buildings. A shaded prayer place with a fine view of the lake welcomes visitors. Overnight Ron Beach hotel, Tiberias.

## 8 Dec, Sun: **Nazareth, Ein Harod Mt Gilboa, Megiddo, Mt Tabor**

Leave Tiberias and drive to **Nain**, the site is most likely the village referred in the new testament since it is located close to Mount Tabor and **Nazareth**, was inhabited in the times of Jesus, and preserved the name. Visit **Shunem**, A town in the territory of Issachar named with Jezreel and Chesulloth. Before the battle of Gilboa the Philistines pitched their camp here. They and the army of Saul, stationed on Gilboa, were in full view of each other. It was the scene of the touching story recorded in 2 Ki 4:8-37, in which the prophet Elisha raises to life the son of his Shunammite benefactress. Visit **Ein Harod**, It is mentioned in the Book of Judges, chapter 7, where it is said that Gideon dismissed 22,000 potential warriors who were "fearful and afraid" and then chose 300 men to fight with him according to how they drank water from the Well of Harod. Travel to **Mount Gilboa**. From here, you can see Biblical events such as at Givat Hamoreh (Moreh) where the Philistines camped before going into battle with Saul, and the adjacent valley in which the Midianites were housed before they were routed by Gideon. The tip of Mount Tabor can be seen, famous for Barak and the prophetess Deborah, the Heights of Issachar (who fought with Barak). To the west can be seen Upper Jezreel Valley (known as the Valley of the Armageddon where the world will end). Travel to **Megiddo**, one of Solomon's Chariot Cities also known by its Greek name, Armageddon, it's believed that this will be the site of the final battle between Jesus Christ and the kings of the Earth who go to war against Israel, as outlined in the Book of Revelation. Lunch at Megiddo café. End the day with a visit **Mt Tabor**, site of the Transfiguration of Christ. Overnight Ramada Olivie Hotel, Nazareth.

## 9 Dec, Mon: **Mt Precipice, Allenby, Mt Nebo, Petra**

Early morning visit to **Mt. Precipice**, Mount of the Leap of the Lord, It is believed by some to be the site of the Rejection of Jesus described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 4:29-30). According to the account, the people of Nazareth, not accepting Jesus as Messiah, tried to push him from the mountain, but "*he passed through the midst of them went his way*". Drive down the Jordan Valley to Allenby bridge and cross into **Jordan**, the baptismal site of Jesus. Visit **Mt Nebo**, from where Moses viewed the promised land. Drive down the desert highway to Petra. Overnight Old Village, Petra.

## 10 Dec, Tue: **Petra, Aqaba**

Enjoy a full day to explore "the rose - red city" of **Petra** which, from 300 BC was inhabited by Nabateans. Walk through the dramatic "ciq" or canyon. See the Treasury, carved out of the pink stone, and continue past the Roman theatre, the Corinthian Tomb and Palace Tomb to the Roman road. Drive to Aqaba for dinner and overnight Hilton Hotel, Aqaba.

## 11 Dec, Wed: **Eilat, Timna Park, Dead Sea**

Cross the border into Israel. Visit **Timna Park** which has a replica Tabernacle, and we learn of the Jews journey from Egypt. Drive up to our hotel beside the **Dead Sea** (swim!!) and overnight David Hotel, Dead Sea.

## 12 Dec, Thur: **Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Jericho, Jerusalem**

Leave Dead Sea at 7:30am. Visit **Masada**, a sunrise climb for 40pax! Continue by cable-car up to the last stronghold of the

Zealots. Some 2000 years ago, Roman legions stormed one of the two paths to the top of this sandstone mountain to reach the Jewish Zealots headquartered there. The brave Israelite soldiers held out for three years against the invading Roman army before taking their own lives to avoid capture and enslavement. Many of their fortifications, originally built by King Herod, still stand. Drive to **Ein Gedi National Park**, where a steady stream of water runs through this national reserve year-round giving life to a narrow band of desert. A large number of Ibex and other desert mammals call Ein Gedi home and can nearly always be found along the water's edge. visit **Qumran**, where the "Dead Sea Scrolls" were discovered and where the Essene community lived - Continue to **Jericho**, the world's oldest city, to see the ruins of the ancient civilization. Here we view the **Mount of Temptation**, where Jesus was tempted by Satan (Matt 4:1-11), and we view a Sycamore Tree. Dinner and Overnight Jerusalem Dan Hotel.

13 Dec, Fri: **Mt Olives, Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Shepherds' Fields, Garden Tomb**

Start the day with a drive to the **Mount of Olives** for a wonderful view of Jerusalem. See the **Place of Ascension**, the earthly spot where Jesus ascended into Heaven after his resurrection. Visit Pater Noster Church, located at the site of the ruins of the Byzantine Eleona Basilica, which was built over a cave where according to tradition was the place where Jesus hid with his disciples and taught the "Our Father" (Pater Noster) prayer. View the Palm Sunday road, the biblical road that Jesus followed when he entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. At the foot of the hill see the **Garden of Gethsemane** with its ancient olive trees, the place where Jesus prayed and his disciples slept the night before his crucifixion and the Church of All Nations, the Basilica of the Agony. It enshrines a section of bedrock where Jesus is said to have prayed before his arrest. We will have Lord's Supper Service at the **Garden Tomb** the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. Continue to visit to **Bethlehem** to see the **Church of the Nativity**, the birthplace of Jesus and on to the **Shepherd's Fields**, the place where the angels first announced the birth of Christ.

14 Dec, Sat: **Sebastia (Samaria - Shechem), Shiloh, Bethel, Jerusalem**

An early start to head north into **Samaria** to visit **Shiloh**, where the Ark of Covenant was kept and through the beautiful Levonah valley, referred to in Judges as the Valley of the Dancers and **Bethel**, which was an ancient Israelite town, located about ten miles north of Jerusalem, famous for its shrine. According to the biblical account, altars were established at Bethel by both Abraham and Jacob, and the latter described it as a place of awesome spiritual power (Gen 28:17). Bethel also housed the Ark of the Covenant during the period of the judges, when it was also a sacred place to offer sacrifices to God and receive oracles from God. Visit Sebastia - Shechem, it served as the capital of Israel during the period of the First Temple, and Sebastia, an outstanding Roman bastion, was built upon its ruins in 30 BC. at Herod's orders. Then drive through the valley between the twin peaks of **Mt Gerizim** and **Mt Ebal**, known in the Old Testament as Mt. Blessing and Mt Cursing. Continue south through Samaria, a land rich in Old Testament history. Drive to Jerusalem.

15 Dec, Sun: **Western Wall, Temple Mount Area, Bethany**

Visit the **Wailing (or Western) Wall**, the most sacred religious site in the world for the Jewish people and view the **Temple Mount** Area with the Al-Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Visit the Davidson Centre, is home to some of the most intriguing and important archaeological finds from the Second Temple period. Then walk to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City passing by the **Cardo**, the ancient Synagogue. We will visit the Church of St. Anne (traditional birthplace of Mary), and the **Pools of Bethesda**, where Jesus healed the lame man. Walk the Via Dolorosa. After lunch, Visit **Bethany**, the home of Lazarus, before return to hotel. This evening, enjoy the **Sound & Light Show** at the **David Citadel Museum**, in this 45 minute state-of-the-art sound and light show, called "The Night Spectacular", the walls of the museum come to life with a spectacular laser technological presentation about the History of the city.

16 Dec, Mon: **Tunnels, City of David, Mt Zion, Israel Museum**

You will also visit the incredible excavation of the **Tunnels of the Western Wall**. We then explore the **City of David**, with remains going back to the days of the biblical king who made Jerusalem the capital of the Tribes of Israel. See the new visitors' center; walk through Warren's Shaft, the Water Fortress where King Solomon was crowned. Some may wish to walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel**. Drive to the **Israel Museum** to see the Model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus and the Shrine of the book with the Dead Sea scrolls. End the day at Zion Square. This evening, enjoy the **Light and Sound show at City of David**.

17 Dec, Tue: **Hebron, Lachish, Beit Guvrin, Bet Shemesh**

Start the day early at 7:00am to **Hebron** and visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs, burial place of three biblical couples — Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Leah. Visit **Lachish**, it was the second most important fortified city in the kingdom of Judea, after Jerusalem. It guarded a main road from Egypt to Jerusalem. Lachish is referred in many Biblical accounts, including the Assyrian and Babylonian campaigns when Lachish was a key city for the conquest of the Judean Kingdom. The highlights of the visit to the ruins of the city include the Assyrian siege ramp, the base of the Judean palace-fort, and the gate complex. Then visit **Beit Guvrin**, then **Bet Shemesh**, the home of Samson & Delilah before return to Jerusalem.

18 Dec, Wed: **Nebi Samuel National Park, Tel Gezer, Departure from Ben Gurion Airport**

Early check out. Drive to visit **Nebi Samuel National Park**, the site traditionally recognized as Samuel's grave, Samuel was one of the more striking personalities of the Bible, ruling the Jewish people as a prophet during the time of the Judges and serving as the kingmaker of both King Saul and Saul's successor, King David. According to a Biblical story, Samuel's mother, Hannah, was bereft of children for many years. She gave birth to her only son only after she pledged to enlist him in the service of God at the Tabernacle in Shiloh. The site contains an 18<sup>th</sup> century mosque, built on the remains of a Crusader-era fortress; the tomb and a small synagogue are located in an underground chamber underneath the mosque. Visit **Tel Gezer**, major Canaanite and Israelite fortified city. It was one of the famous Biblical cities, conquered by Joshua and fortified by King Solomon. Remains of the city walls and gates were thoroughly excavated and new excavation continue to reveal more of its glorious history. This was one of the first places to be positively identified by inscriptions of the name of the city on rocks around the site. After lunch, drive to Ben Gurion airport for departure flight on LX 253 at 4.00pm.

Flight Schedule						Other Information
Depart	Arrive	Date	Flt no.	Dep time	Arr time	
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Zurich</b>	5 Dec	LX 177	0005	0615	Climate: Average 10-15° C with occasional rain Conducted by: Rev Quek Suan Yew & Dn Chia Chung Seng Cost: S\$4,980 with deposit of S\$500 to confirm Full payment by: 25 August 2019 Contact Dn Chia at <a href="mailto:andrewchiacs@hotmail.com">andrewchiacs@hotmail.com</a> for enquiry.
<b>Zurich</b>	<b>Tel Aviv</b>	5 Dec	LX 252	0945	1435	
<b>Tel Aviv</b>	<b>Zurich</b>	18 Dec	LX 253	1600	1920	
<b>Zurich</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	18 Dec	LX 176	2245	1800 <sup>+1</sup>	