

OHEL MOED ISRAEL TOUR 2024 ITINERARY

DAY 1: Saturday, 23 March 2024

- ✓ Aim to arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport around 12pm.
- ✓ You will be met by a representative around 1pm, who will escort you to your transfer vehicle.
- ✓ Check in at Metropolitan Hotel Tel Aviv and take the rest of the day to relax or explore your surroundings.
- ✓ Welcome Dinner in the hotel.

DAY 2: Sunday, 24 March 2024

- ✓ Check out of Metropolitan Hotel Tel Aviv
- ✓ **Visit Sites:**
 - **Old Port City of Jaffa (Yafo):** We'll stroll through the charming lanes of this city, with a history spanning 4000 years, and uncover tales steeped in legend and also connect the biblical dots, alongside delightful vistas of the sea and a vibrant artist quarter. Test your bargaining skills over the hidden gems within the flea market, and afterwards, unwind amidst the tranquil ambiance of the historic Jaffa port's waterfront.
 - **Caesarea:** We are set to explore the historic city of Caesarea, a magnificent creation of Herod the Great that once served as a stronghold of Roman power. During the visit, feast your eyes on the unearthed Roman theatre and the ancient aqueduct, previously utilized to transport water to the city.
 - **Carmel Mountain & Muhraka:** We'll visit the tree-covered slopes of the Carmel Mountains, once inhabited by Neanderthals and other ancient cave-dwellers thousands of years ago. Today, this region is dotted with various Jewish towns and villages, as well as two of the largest Druze towns in Israel. Our destination is the Muhraka, located on the mountain's southern slope. "Muhraka" translates to "The place of burning," believed to be the precise Biblical location where the prophet Elijah battled the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-45). As recounted in the Jewish Bible, Elijah is said to have approached and

departed from the mountain into the stunning Jezreel Valley, with the vista from this point being truly spectacular. The location also features a spring, aligning with the Biblical tale in which Elijah poured water on the sacrificial altar during a severe drought. Presently, a Carmelite monastery stands here, honouring the Biblical story and its conclusion where Elijah triumphed over and then slaughtered the prophets of Baal at this very site.

- **Mt of Precipice:** This is truly a stunning view! Here we'll reflect on Jesus' expulsion from nearby Nazareth, and the host of Biblical stories that took place in the valley below.
- ✓ Check in Daria Hotel Sea of Galilee

DAY 3: Monday, 25 March 2024

✓ **Visit sites:**

- **Mount of Beatitudes:** Often linked with the site of Jesus' renowned Sermon on the Mount, we'll ponder over his teachings while taking in the stunning views of the Sea of Galilee.
- **Tzfat:** Tzfat, one of Israel's four sacred Jewish cities, is renowned as the cradle of Jewish mysticism. We'll navigate its meandering lanes, visit its exquisite synagogues, and experience the ambience of its artistic quarter, immersing ourselves in the hidden facets of Judaism and the storied history of Tzfat through the ages.
- **Caesarea Philippi (Banias):** Caesarea Philippi (Banias) was an ancient city dedicated to the god Pan and underwent reconstruction by Philip, Herod's son. It is renowned as the location where Saint Peter professed his faith in Jesus. In response, Jesus pronounced Peter the foundational rock for his Church and entrusted him with the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- **Har Bental:** Delve deeply into Syria's situation, gaining insight into Israel's intricate relationship with its neighbour and the ongoing strategic challenges it faces.
- **Druze Hospitality:** By being invited into the homes of the intriguing Druze community, we'll gain deep insights into their lives. In the process, we will explore their customs, heritage, and the ties they have with Israel.

- **Golan Olive Oil Mill:** Not only do these entrepreneurs produce exceptional olive oil, but they've also innovated a method to harness the waste generated during production for crafting cleaning and beauty items. Sample their exquisite oils and experiment with the skin care products - you're sure to depart feeling revitalized in more ways than one!

DAY 4: Tuesday, 26 March 2024

✓ **Visit Sites:**

- **Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee:** Embark on a tranquil boat journey across the serene waters of the Sea of Galilee, gliding over the very waters navigated by Jesus and his disciples two millennia ago.
- **Migdal (Magdala):** Once a flourishing Jewish settlement and the believed residence of Mary Magdalene, this area has recently revealed, through dramatic archaeological excavation, an ancient synagogue where it's presumed Jesus likely imparted teachings. The ruins promise insights into life during this historical period.
- **Capernaum:** The Bible mentions Capernaum as Jesus' hometown, and its ruins offer a glimpse into the life during his time in the village. Visitors can view the house thought to belong to Peter, as well as admire the remnants of a magnificent ancient synagogue.
- **Tabgha:** This beautifully renovated church is renowned for its stunning ancient mosaics and is connected to the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand.
- **Kursi National Park:** Situated along the Sea of Galilee's shores, this ancient monastery is linked to the tale of Jesus casting out demons from an afflicted individual. It boasts exquisite mosaics and captivating views.
- **Yardenit:** Situated along the Jordan River, this picturesque location is Israel's prime destination for baptisms. Pack your swimwear and join in a timeless tradition where figures from the Bible would have undergone baptism.

DAY 5: Wednesday, 27 March 2024

✓ Check out of Daria Hotel Sea of Galilee

✓ **Visit Sites:**

- **Ein Harod:** Set out on a spiritual expedition to Ein Harod, an area deeply embedded with biblical importance. Judges 7:1-8 in the Old Testament narrates Gideon's divine encounter with God at the Harod spring, highlighting acts of faith and heavenly interference. Nestled in the biblically significant Jezreel Valley, Ein Harod provides a singular chance for individuals to engage with the history laid out in the Bible. Come with us as we venture through this hallowed ground, with its ancient springs murmuring tales of steadfast faith, echoing the eternal truths encapsulated in the Scriptures.
- **Tel Rehov:** Situated within the historic landscapes of Israel, Tel Rehov acts as a living link to the diverse spiritual heritage chronicled in both the Old and New Testaments. We, as a Christian group, extend an invitation to you for a spiritual pilgrimage to this sacred site, where stories from the Bible are vividly brought to life and the divine presence can be felt reverberating through the ages. Tel Rehov is noted in the Old Testament, providing a gateway back in time that allows devotees to tread the same ground as ancient patriarchs and prophets. According to 1 Kings 4:12, the city of Rehob was reconstructed and strengthened under King Solomon's rule. Joshua 19:28 also lists Rehob as territory given to the tribe of Asher, underscoring its historic significance as home to the ancient Israelites.

The archaeological findings at Tel Rehov reveal a stratified record of historical periods and societies, lending credence to the biblical narratives' historical accuracy and authenticity. This exploration into a venerable land offers participants an opportunity to gain deeper insights into the individuals, locations, and events foundational to Christian faith. We welcome you to journey with us to Tel Rehov, a place where the Bible's pages transition from text to living history, and where the quiet whispers of scripture can be heard resounding through the enduring stones. Embark on this spiritual expedition to not only fortify your faith but also to enhance your comprehension of the Scriptures and rekindle a fervent commitment to embodying the teachings of Jesus Christ.

- **Masada:** We'll embark on a memorable journey to Masada to explore the ancient hilltop fortress, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Experience the historic conflict of the Jews, culminating in a dramatic conclusion that has evolved into a significant symbol in contemporary Israel.

- ✓ Check in at David Dead Sea Resort

DAY 6: Thursday, 28 March 2024

- ✓ Late morning check-out at David Dead Sea Resort
- ✓ **Visit Sites:**
 - **Timna Park:** Among the oldest copper mines in the world, Timna is home to spectacular desert scenery. We'll walk its trails and discover the secrets left behind by its ancient inhabitants. We will also visit the namesake of Ohel Moed, the Tabernacle of Moses.
- ✓ Check in at Dan Panorama Eilat Hotel

DAY 7: Friday, 29 March 2024

- ✓ **Visit Sites:**
 - **Mt. Yoash lookout.**
 - **Coral Beach / Hof Almogim Nature Reserve:** We'll go snorkelling! This beautiful nature reserve allows you to get up close and personal with the stunning coral reef in the Red Sea.
 - **Glass bottom boat ride**
 - **Eilat Stone factory**
- ✓ **Free time in Eilat**

DAY 8: Saturday, 30 March 2024

- ✓ Early Morning check out of Dan Panorama Eilat Hotel
- ✓ Leaving Eilat at 07:30.
- ✓ Drive Via Rd. 12.
- ✓ Stop for Lookout at Faran River.
- ✓ **Visit Sites:**

- **Mitzpeh Ramon Visitor Centre:** This centre is an excellent location for learning about the local geology and wildlife, and it also shares the story of Ilan Ramon, the first astronaut from Israel.
 - **Ben Gurion's Tomb - Sde Boker:** As we visit the grave of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, we'll discuss his legacy and enjoy the majestic desert view.
 - **Beer Sheva - Abraham's well.** Journey to Beer Sheva situated in the Negev Desert, a location named by Abraham 4000 years ago, holding significance in Israel's history since then. Presently, Beer Sheva stands as the lively southern desert city, hosting a modern, youthful university.
- ✓ Check in at Dan Boutique Jerusalem Hotel

DAY 9: Sunday, 31 March 2024

✓ Visit Sites:

- **Temple Mount:** Recognized as the holiest site in Israel, Temple Mount holds reverence among Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Dive deep into its historical roots, acknowledge the ongoing tensions, and stand in awe of the majestic Dome of the Rock.
- **City of David (Including New Tunnel):** Take a stroll through Jerusalem's ancient ruins, with history tracing back to 4000 years. Unearth the archaeological discoveries that are shedding light, providing context, and, in some instances, corroborating biblical tales.
- **Davidson Centre in The Old City:** Step back in time to the era of the Second Temple with a visit to the striking excavations at the Davidson Centre. Grasp the pilgrimage experience during Roman times and observe the devastation left by the Temple's fall.
- **Southern Wall**
- **Western Wall Tunnels:** Delve into the subterranean archaeological wonders near the Western Wall. This exploration allows for a true appreciation of the magnificence of Herod's temple and the painstaking construction efforts behind it. [Subject to availability]
- **Muslim Quarter:** As the largest and most updated quarter in Jerusalem, the Muslim Quarter is a treasure trove of charming shops, labyrinthine lanes, and concealed sacred sites.

- **Christian Quarter:** Journey through the Via Dolorosa, concluding with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher—the most sacred Christian site in Jerusalem—known for marking the crucifixion and burial locations of Jesus.
- **Armenian Quarter:** Nestled within the Old City of Jerusalem, the Armenian Quarter offers a glimpse into one of the city's oldest communities. The visit presents a chance to explore and appreciate this unique enclave.
- **Jewish Quarter:** Traverse the Jewish Quarter to witness the extensive archaeological endeavours and construction work initiated post the Six-Day War when Israel took control. The exploration unveils some of the most captivating discoveries and monuments in the area.

DAY 10, Monday, 1 April 2024

✓ Visit Sites:

- **Mount of Olives:** The breathtaking view from the Mount of Olives is unforgettable, offering one of the most renowned panoramas of the Old City. During our visit, we'll explore the world's oldest continuously used cemetery, delving into its significance related to burial traditions.
- **Garden of Gethsemane & Church of All Nations:** Nestled in this historic garden are some of Israel's ancient olive trees, where it's believed Jesus spent his last moments as a free man. Adjacent to the olive grove, the Church of All Nations stands as a beautiful monument commemorating this pivotal event.
- **Saint-Peter-in-Gallicantu Church:** Constructed in 1931 on the slopes of Mount Zion, the exquisite Saint-Peter-in-Gallicantu Church marks what tradition holds as the site of high priest Caiaphas's palace. Here, Jesus was allegedly jailed post-arrest. The church's name, 'Gallicantu', referring to the cock's crow, is inspired by the tale of Peter denying Christ thrice before the cock crowed twice.
- **Mount Zion & King David's Tomb:** Atop the site believed to house King David's Tomb, you'll find the Cenacle or Last Supper Room. We'll take time to explore these sacred sites and delve into the traditions linked to them.
- **The Room of the Last Supper:** As the purported location of a significant event in Jesus's life, the Room of the Last Supper offers a

chance for reflection on the symbolism and importance of the Last Supper.

- **Garden Tomb:** The Garden Tomb, regarded by some as Jesus's likely burial site, invites visitors into the Biblical narrative. Our visit will include viewing a hill shaped like a skull, speculated to be the crucifixion site, and the remnants of a confirmed ancient Jewish tomb.
- ✓ Free late afternoon and Evening for shopping In Jerusalem.
- ✓ Tower of David and Sound and Light Show optional: This spectacular show, beamed onto the ancient walls of the Tower of David, takes us on a journey through the history of Jerusalem. Make your own way to the Tower of David and enjoy this inspiring event!

DAY 11, Tuesday 2 April 2024

- ✓ Check out Dan Boutique Jerusalem Hotel
- ✓ **Visit Sites:**
 - **Tomb of Samuel:** This traditional location for the tomb of the prophet Samuel offers stunning panoramic views around the area of Jerusalem and a great insight into the challenges faced when the city was divided.
 - **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum:** A visit to Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, tends to be a moving experience. It is Israel's official memorial to the 6,000,000 Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust.
 - **Ein Kerem:** This beautifully picturesque neighbourhood in the outskirts of Jerusalem has a famed church that is believed to be the birthplace of John the Baptist.
- ✓ Farewell Dinner at 6pm: tour concludes.
- ✓ Bus takes travellers to Airport for Night Flights out.

NOTE: If you are unable to book your flights out in the evening of 2 April, please let me know if you need an extra night in the Dan Boutique Jerusalem Hotel. This extra night will not be covered in the tour fees. I will be able to give you the extra night's cost once I hear that you need a stay over on the 2nd.