

Best of Israel & Egypt
Oct. 31 – Nov. 5, 2024: Egypt (Optional)
November 4 – 15, 2024: Israel

Egypt Schedule (Optional) October 31 – November 5, 2024

Thursday, October 31, 2024

Depart the US for Egypt

Friday, November 1, 2024

Arrive in the land of the Pharaohs, Jacob, Joseph, and Israel during the famine. Upon arrival in Cairo, we meet our guide and driver who will transport us to the hotel for dinner and rest for the remainder of the evening. We relax tonight as we prepare for the adventurous travel ahead.

Hotel- Holiday Inn Citystars, Cairo

(https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cairo/croeg/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-HI_-EG_-CROEG)

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Today we travel back to ancient Egypt with a full day of touring the wonders of the ancient world, some of which date back to 1000+ years before Abraham. We spend time at one of the seven wonders of the world- the pyramids. Cheops, with an original height of 496 feet, is the most colossal pyramid ever built. Today, we will also see the Sphinx and tour the Egyptian Museum, the location of Tutankhamen's treasures, and ancient remains.

Dinner at the Hotel.

Hotel- Holiday Inn Citystars, Cairo

(https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cairo/croeg/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-HI_-EG_-CROEG)

Sunday, November 3, 2024

We begin our day with a visit to the Hanging Church - the most famous Coptic church in Cairo. The Hanging Church was named because it was built by the Nile River over the Roman Gate of Babylon. During a walking tour, our guide will point out that this section of the old city was the route taken by Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and the family of Jesus. Next, we visit the beautiful Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali to better understand Muslim religious practices. Completed in 1848, the Ottoman-style Muhammad Ali Mosque is the most noticeable in all of Cairo and has dominated the skyline for the past 150 years. A stop will be made at the papyrus factory store, where we see the process of creating lovely Egyptian art pictures.

Dinner at the Hotel

Hotel- Holiday Inn Citystars, Cairo

(https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cairo/croeg/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-HI_-EG_-CROEG)

Monday, November 4, 2024

Today, we take a short ride to Memphis. Founded around 3,100 BC, Memphis is the legendary city of Menes, the King who united Upper and Lower Egypt. From a Biblical perspective, Memphis is most likely where Abraham lied to Pharaoh about his wife Sarah being his sister and where Joseph served as second in command. While in Memphis we will view a very large and well-preserved statue of Ramses II. Next is Sakkara, which is one of the most extensive archaeological sites in Egypt. Sakkara is dominated by the Step Pyramid of King Zoser, dating back to 2700 BC. It is one of the oldest stone structures in the world. Enjoy a stop to see how local Egyptian carpets are made.

Tonight we dine on board the floating dinner cruise boat, sailing on the Nile River for a couple of hours, and enjoy entertainment

Hotel- Holiday Inn Citystars, Cairo

(https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cairo/croeg/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-HI_-EG_-CROEG)

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Transfer from the hotel to the Airport for departure to Israel.

Israel Schedule November 4 – 15, 2024

Monday, November 4, 2024

For those doing ONLY the Israel portion of the tour, depart the US for Israel.

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. If arrival is early enough, we will stop at Jaffa (**Joppa**), where Jonah boarded the ship to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3) and Peter raised Tabitha from the dead in Acts 9:40. We will then check into our hotel on the Mediterian Sea for the next two nights.

Hotel- Daniel Herzliya Hotel, Herzliya (www.tamareshotels.co.il)

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

We start the day driving through the Valley of Jezreel where we'll visit **Megiddo**, the city of King Solomon and King Ahab. Here, 20 different layers of civilization were excavated. This area is known as the valley where the kings of the earth will gather for the battle commonly referred to as the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16). We continue to the top of **Mt. Carmel**, where the prophet Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal and proved to the people that the God of Israel is the one true God (1 Kings 18:17-40).

After lunch, we'll visit **Caesarea**, the port city built by King Herod the Great 2,000 years ago, and the place where Simon Peter shared the gospel with Cornelius, the Roman centurion who became the first Gentile convert (Acts 10). We'll see a Roman Amphitheatre, hippodrome, and other remains of this famous port city.

Hotel- Daniel Herzliya Hotel, Herzliya (www.tamareshotels.co.il)

Thursday, November 7, 2024

We depart after breakfast for **Tel Beer-Sheva**, first mentioned as the site where Abraham made a covenant with the Philistine king (Genesis 21). Isaac and Jacob, the other patriarchs, also lived there (Genesis 26, 28, 46). Our next stop takes us to the mountain-top fortress of **Masada**. We will ride a cable car to the top and our guide will treat us to the history of the famous Jewish zealot stand against the Roman Empire. We check into our hotel at the **Dead Sea** and have time to relax at the lowest place on earth, and experience "floating" on the waters.

Hotel- Enjoy Dead Sea Hotel, Dead Sea (www.ichotels.co.il/enjoy-dead-sea-hotel)

Friday, November 8, 2024

Departing after breakfast we have a short drive to **En Gedi**. This desert oasis with waterfalls and lush vegetation is where David hid from King Saul (1 Samuel 23:29 & 24:1-2) in caves. We then head north to **Qumran** to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 by shepherds. After driving north through the Jordan Rift Valley we come to **Gideon's Spring**, also known as Herod Spring. Gideon was one of the deliverers that God raised up to deliver the Israelites out of the hand of the Midianites who were oppressing Israel at that time (Judges 7). We head to our hotel in **Tiberias** for the next two nights.

Hotel- Magdala Hotel, Tiberias (www.magdalahotel.co.il)

Saturday, November 9, 2024

We start the day with a **Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee**, the same waters where Jesus walked (Mark 6:48-50). Then we head to the **Mt. of Beatitudes**, the area where Jesus preached to the multitudes the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Next, we visit **Capernaum**, the chosen home city of Jesus after He was driven from Nazareth by the religious officials (Luke 4:16, 28-30). Capernaum was also the home of Peter and Andrew and where Jesus called them to follow Him (Matt. 4:18-20). Jesus also found Matthew in Capernaum and called him to follow (Matthew 9:9). Driving to the east side of the lake, we come to **Kursi**, which has been identified as the site where Jesus healed the man possessed by demons by driving them into a herd of pigs (Mark 5:1-20). Ending the day we go to the **Yardenit Baptismal Site** on the **Jordan River**. You will have the opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River like Jesus!

Hotel- Magdala Hotel, Tiberias (www.magdalahotel.co.il)

Sunday, November 10, 2024

After departing the hotel, we have a short drive to **Mt. Arbel** for an incredible view of the **Sea of Galilee**. This could likely be the location where Jesus would get away from the crowds to take time in prayer with His heavenly Father. After leaving Tiberias, we stop at **Beit She'an**. The Bible alludes to Beit She'an being controlled by the Philistines, and that on the walls of Beit She'an, they hanged the bodies of Saul and his sons after the Israelites were defeated in battle (I Sam. 31:10). Beit She'an is not mentioned by name in the New Testament, but it was a member of the 'Decapolis', a league of ten pagan cities which Jesus visited. Next, a great experience awaits at **Genesis Land**. You will enjoy a trip back into the time of the Patriarchs, complete with costumes, dramatic presentation, camel ride, and authentic food. We then head to **Jerusalem** for the next five nights.

Hotel- Mamilla Jerusalem Hotel, Jerusalem (www.mamillahotel.com)

Monday, November 11, 2024

We start the day visiting the **Western Wall Tunnels** which take us underground to see the entire length of the Western Wall under the Arab Quarter. Next, after the tunnel tours, experience **Glance in the Past**. This virtual reality experience will take you back in history to see the western wall as it would have been during the time of Jesus. You will then visit the **Western Wall**, the holiest place for Jews. If you'd like, you can put a note in the wall while there. Then we will ascend to the **Temple Mount**, which has an ancient biblical history, going back as far as 1800 B.C. when Abraham came to Mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2, 12). The site came to be known as the "Mount of the LORD" (verse 14). 400 years later Moses referred to this site after leading the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 15:17). Four centuries after that, King David purchased this site for the location of a future temple (1 Chronicles 21:18-24; 2 Chronicles 3:1). After a short drive, we get a panoramic view of Jerusalem on the **Mt. of Olives**. The New Testament tells how Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives according to Acts 1:9-12. At the foot of the Mount of Olives is the **Garden of Gethsemane**. We walk down to the garden where Jesus prayed on the night of His betrayal and arrest (Mark 14:32-41). According to the record in Luke, Jesus' despair in Gethsemane was so deep that He sweated drops of blood (Luke 22:40-46).

Hotel- Mamilla Jerusalem Hotel, Jerusalem (www.mamillahotel.com)

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

The day starts at the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park**. You will find displays from the First and Second Temple periods: the ancient city wall, the Temple's staircase, a preserved ancient street, ritual immersion baths, and stores. We'll stop to sit on the original **Southern Steps**, where Jesus taught at the age of 12, and where Peter likely preached his first sermon in Acts 2. We then view the **Old City** on the **Ramparts Walk**. This historical trek provides spectacular panoramic and a bird's eye view while on top of the Old City walls, discovering new perspectives of the Old City. Next, we explore the **City of David**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel. It bears the oldest remains of Jerusalem, including significant remains from the time of David's kingdom when his capital was here. We then get to go through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** (wet or dry) for an incredible experience. It is a 1750 feet-long tunnel that was dug by King Hezekiah, so that he could fortify the city against the invading Assyrian armies without compromising its main water source, the **Gihon Spring**, which lay outside the walls, 2 Kings 20. After exiting the tunnel, we come to the **Pool of Siloam**. In the Gospel of John, it was beside the Pool of Siloam that Jesus restored the eyesight of a blind man by making clay and spreading it on the man's eyes and telling him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam" (John 9:7). This afternoon after lunch, we will visit **Ein Karem**, best known as the birthplace of John the Baptist, which is on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Hotel- Mamilla Jerusalem Hotel, Jerusalem (www.mamillahotel.com)

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

We start the day at the **House of Caiaphas**. According to Luke 22:63, Jesus is mocked and beaten. This is also the place where Peter denied knowing Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-74). Next, we travel to the **Pools of Bethesda** and the **Church of St. Anne**, this location is where Jesus healed the man paralyzed for 38 years in John 5:1-18. After lunch, we head to **Bethlehem** to see the **Shepherds Field**. This is where angels appeared to herald the birth of Christ (Luke 2:8-20). When in Bethlehem, we'll stop at an olive wood shop for those who

want to purchase hand-carved olive wood nativities. After dinner, a short walk takes us to the **Tower of David** for the **Night-Time Spectacular**. This incredible sound and light show projects the history of Jerusalem on the ancient walls of the Old City.

Hotel- Mamilla Jerusalem Hotel, Jerusalem (www.mamillahotel.com)

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Our day starts at the **Garden Tomb** (the site of **Golgotha/Calvary**). Many believe Jesus was crucified, died on the cross, was buried, and raised from the dead here (Matthew 27:33-61). At the site, we'll have a special devotional time and a **communion service**. Afterward, we'll continue to the **Israel Museum**, where we'll see a **Scale Model of Jerusalem** during the Second Temple period and we'll learn about the topography of the city in the time of Jesus. We'll also visit the **Shrine of the Book** where we can see the **Dead Sea Scrolls**. The rest of the day will be free to explore, shop, and experience the **Old City** on your own. We conclude the day with a special **Farewell Dinner**.

Hotel- Mamilla Jerusalem Hotel, Jerusalem (www.mamillahotel.com)

Friday, November 15, 2024

We depart today for the flight home, knowing that we will never be the same!