

Ancient Lands: Israel & Jordan

Tel Aviv, Galilee, Nazareth, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerusalem, Bethlehem



Explore ancient civilizations, history, cultures and traditions – and the threads that bind them together. Explore Israel's ancient history and its tumultuous past going back thousands of years and discover hidden treasures in Jordan. Experience bustling, modern day Tel Aviv, sail the sea of Galilee and the city of Nazareth, swim or float in the Dead Sea, behold magnificent Petra in Jordan and be fascinated by the mix of cultures and religions in the Golden City of Jerusalem. You will find yourself on an unforgettable, authentic journey to Israel & Jordan.

Itinerary

Day 1 – 9th March 2019 - Arrival in Tel Aviv

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, our representative will meet you on the way out past customs.

You will be transferred to your hotel upon arrival.

(The transfer will be arranged for all flights arriving at approx 1430 hours. For any other time, an extra cost will be applicable)

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night at **Hotel Lighthouse** or similar.

Rest of the day at leisure to enjoy this bustling, modern city on your own

Tonight, dinner will be at the hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv.

Day 2 – 10th March 2019 - Tel Aviv to Galilee/ Nazareth

After a rich, Israeli breakfast, we will leave the hotel early and drive north along the famous highway, biblically known as the “Way of the Sea”.

We will arrive at **Caesarea**, where we will explore the ruins of the Roman and the Crusader City. We will see the reconstructed Roman city and Theatre, the walls from the times of the Crusaders and the prison where St. Paul was held in captivity before being sent to Rome. This was also the place where the first gentile was converted to Christianity. As we leave the beautiful walls and moat, we will pass the remains of the Roman horse racing theater, the **Hippodrome**. We will stop at the amazing remains of the **Roman Aqueduct** which has been beautifully preserved under the sand dunes for 2000 years.

From here, we will head to **Haifa**. Haifa is a home to the intriguing Baha’i religion. You will explore the Baha’i Gardens and the Golden Dome Shrine.

From Haifa the tour continues to the beautiful and ancient port city of **Akko (Acre)**, a World Heritage Site and well worth a visit on the northern coast of Israel. Here the tour will lead through Akko’s lively streets and alleyways. The tour route descends an amazing mix of Crusader ruins and underground Hospitaliers Knights halls, and Templar tunnel that has just recently been discovered.

You will then head to Nazareth.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Villa Nazareth** or similar for a stay of 2 nights.

Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 – 11th March 2019 - Galilee / Nazareth

This morning, after breakfast, you will visit the Church of the Annunciation, and the Synagogue where Jesus learnt to read the Bible.

From Nazareth, we will drive to the **Golan Heights**. Take in the scenic landscape of the high, mountainous plateau. Visit border hot springs and a Talmudic village. Take in views from the top of an extinct volcano above the Quneitra Valley, and get a birds-eye view over one of the Levant’s most contested regions.

On your return, from Golan Heights, you will head to Galilee. We will sail in a **wooden boat** across the **Sea of Galilee**. The Kinneret, or Sea of Galilee, is Israel’s largest fresh water reservoir, and is also the country’s largest and most important source of drinking water.

We will finish the day with a **baptismal site Yardenit**. (time permitting)

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 – 12th March 2019 - To the Dead Sea, Jordan

After breakfast, we will drive south to **Beit Shean**, the largest Archeological site in Israel. We will explore the ancient Roman City with the Amphitheater and reconstructed streets.

Continue to the **border with Jordan**. Cross into Jordan at the S. Hussein Border after security and passports control. Meet our guide in Jordan. Drive south to the Dead Sea.

You will be booked at **the Holiday Inn Dead Sea hotel or similar** for a stay of 1 night.

Our hotel is by the **Dead Sea** shores, where we will swim, or to be more exact, float, on the amazing waters, a non-swimmers paradise.

Dinner and overnight in the Dead Sea Hotel.

Day 5 – 13th March 2019 - Dead Sea to Petra

After breakfast, drive along the Kings Highway for a visit to **Madaba** – where you can see the oldest map of the world including Jerusalem, in a mosaic floor.

On to **Mt Nebo**, the traditional burial site of Moses. From this hill, Moses viewed the Promised Land before he died.

Continue to **Petra**, the Rose Red City.

Petra, the world wonder, is without a doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast, unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who settled here more than 2000 years ago.

You will be booked at the **Old Village Resort or similar** for a stay of 2 nights

Enjoy Dinner at the hotel, after which those who have opted for it can go see the **Petra Night Show**.(optional)

This event is a magical way to see part of the rock city by candlelight and explore the old city, which has become a world wonder, an incomparable experience starts by walking the entire Siq to the Treasury, lit with over 1,500 candles to bring the major attraction due to the spectacular view it has.

(Timings 20.30 to 22.30)

Overnight in Petra.

Day 6 – 14th March 2019 - Petra

After breakfast we will have a Full Day tour of Petra. (Approx 3-4 hours)

Enter the site of Petra and walk or ride on horseback to the "Siq" (Canyon). Walk through the "Siq" to the red rock city, the ancient capital of the Nabateans from 3rd Century BC to 2nd Century AD. Visit the most interesting carved monuments such as the Treasury (El Khazneh a tomb of a Nabatean king) then the field of tombs, obelisks and the altar (Al Madhbah) - from this point you can view the whole of the city.

Afternoon at leisure

Dinner and Overnight in Petra.

Day 7 – 15th March 2019 - Petra to Wadi Rum

This morning, after breakfast, we will drive south to **Wadi Rum**.

You will be booked in at the **Wadi Rum Space Village Luxury Camp** for a stay of 1 night.

You will be taken on a jeep tour to **Wadi Rum** (2 hours)

Wadi Rum is a uniquely-shaped massive mountain that rose among the rosy red sand of the desert with towering cliffs of various brownish, reddish and golden colours. Virtually all of the people who live in Wadi rum are originally Bedouin, and you can explore the desert in a local Bedouin Jeep visiting the holographic pictures carved before Christ.

Wadi Rum is also called the Valley of the Moon due to the similarity of its terrain with the topography of the moon; it is almost 66 miles (106 kilometers) from Petra, Wadi Rum was the location where the movie Lawrence of Arabia and the Martian were filmed.

Dinner and overnight in Wadi Rum.

Day 8 – 16th March 2019 - Wadi Rum to Jerusalem

Today, early after breakfast, we will drive south to the **Arava Border** and cross back into Israel.

After security and passports control, we will meet our Israeli guide.

Drive north through the **Arava Valley**. Visit **Massada**, the site of the Zealots last stand against the Romans, that was originally built as a magnificent palace for Herods the Great. We will ascend by cable car to observe impressive construction, the beautiful mosaics, the synagogue, a **bathhouse** and a Byzantine Church. **If time permits** we will visit **Qumran Caves** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found on one of the lowest places on earth - (1300 feet below sea level and the saltiest body of water in the world).

We continue our ascent to **Jerusalem**, 2400 feet above sea level. At the entrance to the **Holy City** we will celebrate with a traditional blessing while overlooking the walls of the city of the Lord.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Dan Boutique Jerusalem or similar** for a stay of 3 nights.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9 – 17th March 2019 - Jerusalem

We will begin the day after breakfast with a spectacular panoramic overlook of the **Old City** from the **Mount of Olives**. Drive downhill to the Kidron Valley and pass by the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of All Nations, also called the Basilica of Agony.

From here, we will head to the Old City. Head to **Mount Zion** and visit the Hall of the Last Supper, a chamber believed to stand where Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples. Then, head downstairs to visit the **Tomb of King David** before continuing into the walled Old City. Enter through the Zion Gate and walk to the **Byzantine Cardo**, the main thoroughfare during Byzantine times.

Next, delve into the **Jewish Quarter** to see the **Western Wall (Wailing Wall)**, a pilgrimage site for thousands of Jewish worshippers. Visit the **western Wall tunnels**.

Work your way into the **Christian Quarter** and walk part of the Via Dolorosa, the route taken by Jesus to his crucifixion, to see some of the Stations of the Cross (no. 5-14). Pass through souks and courtyards, and visit the hallowed Church of the Holy Sepulcher, believed to stand where Jesus died. See the stone where his body was prepared for burial and where he was laid in a tomb.

We will then return to the hotel.

Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10 – 18th March 2019 - Jerusalem

This morning, we will visit the birth place of Jesus – **Bethlehem (if it is open)**. We will visit the **Church of Nativity** and the **Shepherd's Fields**.

We will continue to the **Israel Museum** and the shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls can be seen, visit the **Model** of Jerusalem showing the city as it was.

The rest of the **afternoon will be at leisure** in Jerusalem. You can head back to the old city or if you prefer, visit the Mahane Yehuda market.

Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 11 – 19th March 2019 - Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. Fly back

This morning, the transfer back to Ben Gurion International airport will be made for you for your flight back to India.

(The transfer will be arranged for all flights departing at approx 1500 hours from TLV airport. For any other time, an extra cost will be applicable)

*** Return home with wonderful memories ***

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 2,05,500

Single supplement: INR 59,500

Price includes

- Meet & Assist at the airport on arrival & departure
- 10 nights' accommodation in the 4 star hotels mentioned or similar on a twin-sharing basis
- Transportation in a private vehicle for the entire duration of the trip
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Local English speaking guide
- Wooden boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Entrance fees where applicable
- Porterage at the hotels
- Israel Border Taxes
- Jordan Border Taxes
- VIP Pass for the Border Crossing at S.Hussein Border
- Wadi Rum entrances & Jeep tour
- Services of an Odyssey Tour escort

Price excludes

- Air ticket for travel to and from Tel Aviv
- Visa for Israel & Jordan
- Overseas Medical Insurance policy
- Meals and sightseeing not mentioned
- Tips (recommended at USD 9 pp per day)
- Items of a personal nature
- **GST at 5%**
- Anything not specifically mentioned under "Price includes"

Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 1400 hours onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
 - Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
 - Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
 - Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour or post-tour accommodation in Tel Aviv
 - ROE calculated at 1 USD = Rs. 69. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
 - **Price based on a minimum of 14 people travelling together**
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Recommended airfare

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
Turkish Airlines	721	09MAR	Sat	Mumbai - India	Istanbul - Turkey	0655	1130	09MAR
Turkish Airlines	786	09MAR	Sat	Istanbul - Turkey	Tel Aviv - Israel	1315	1425	09MAR
Turkish Airlines	787	19MAR	Tue	Tel Aviv - Israel	Istanbul - Turkey	1520	1850	19MAR
Turkish Airlines	720	19MAR	Tue	Istanbul - Turkey	Mumbai - India	2030	0515	20MAR

Approx Fare: INR 42,500 per person including taxes (subject to change)

Map of Jordan & Israel



Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 20,000 per person will be payable by 15th November 2019. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 15th December 2019.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.
5. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you wish to cancel any part or all of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
3. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Cancellations effected before 31st December 2019 will attract a service fee of Rs 10000 pp.
 - b. Cancellation from 31st December 2019 to 15th January 2019 will attract a fee of 50% of the total cost
 - c. Cancellation after 15th January 2019 will be charged 100% of the total cost.
 - d. No refund will be due after commencement of travel
4. Refunds due can take up to 5 weeks to process.