



## Greek Orthodox Monastery at Capernaum

# CATHOLIC ISRAEL

Tel Aviv (1 NIGHT), TIBERIAS (2 NIGHTS), JERUSALEM (4 NIGHTS)

### 8 Days / 7 Nights Itinerary

#### DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE HOLYLAND

Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, where you will be met by our representative who will assist you through baggage claim & customs taking you to your driver, who will drive you to your hotel for check in. Dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv. **(D)**

#### DAY 2: JAFFA – CAESAREA – MT. CARMEL – HAIFA – TIBERIAS

Drive to the old city of Jaffa to see the House of Tabitha, the Artists' Quarter, the reconstructed Egyptian gate and enjoy a panoramic view of Tel Aviv and Jaffa Bay. Visit the archaeological park (from the times of Christ) & Saint Peter's Church.

Drive north to Caesarea (Acts 9 and 25), where Cornelius, the first Gentile converted, and where Paul testified before Agrippa (Acts 21:8). Proceed to the Muhraka on Mount Carmel (1Kgs.18). Drive via the Druze village of Usafiya and learn about this great community that lives in Israel

and serves in the Israeli Defense Forces. Then stop in Haifa for a visit and Mass at the Stella Maris Monastery. Pause for a panoramic view of Haifa Bay and the beautiful Bahai Gardens. Overnight in Tiberias. **(B)**

#### DAY 3: MOUNT OF BEATITUDES – TABGHA – CAPERNAUM – SEA OF GALILEE

Visit the Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5-7) where Jesus uttered the immortal words of the beatitudes, and participate in a Mass. After Mass, we'll head to Tabgha (Feeding of the 5000; Mark 6) to visit the Church of the Loaves and Fishes. Our day which is spent around the lake, which looks much the same as it did 2000 years ago, will take us to Capernaum (Matt. 4:13), the area believed to be the home of both Jesus and Peter. We'll drive up the Golan Heights to a panoramic viewpoint and learn about the importance of this land for Israel. The day will end with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Overnight in Tiberias.

#### DAY 4: ZIPPORI – CANA - NAZARETH – MOUNT TABOR - JERUSALEM

After breakfast you'll head to Zippori, the birthplace of Mary and see the famous mosaic of the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee". From there we'll continue to Nazareth via the village of Cana where Jesus turned water into wine; to visit the Church of the Annunciation, the Holy Grotto, the ancient village of Nazareth and Saint Joseph's workshop.

We'll celebrate Mass at the Church of Annunciation. After Mass you'll Drive to Mount Tabor to visit the Church of the Transfiguration. We'll be traveling through the Jordan Valley and then ascending the Judean Hills before arriving in Jerusalem for the night. Overnight Jerusalem. **(B)**

#### DAY 5: JERUSALEM

After breakfast we'll ascend the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking panoramic view





## Dome of the Rock, on Temple Mount in Jerusalem

of the Old City of Jerusalem. Walk along the Palm Sunday Walk to Pater Noster Church and to Dominus Fleuit, where Christ wept over the lost peace of the city (Luke 19:42). You'll enter the Garden of Gethsemane, with the ancient olive trees believed to date back to the times of Christ, see the Church of All Nations and the Gethsemane Grotto, where Christ condemned violence (Matt. 26:52). Mass will be held at the Garden of Gethsemane.

After mass, you'll enter the Old City of Jerusalem through St. Stephen's Gate to visit the Crusader Church of St. Anne. We'll walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This is in fact, a complex of various chapels built on what is called the Hill of Golgotha. Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B)**

### DAY 6: BETHLEHEM – JERUSALEM

After breakfast we depart for a visit to Bethlehem, the site of the birth of Jesus. Our visit here includes Shepherds' Field and the Church of the Nativity.

Today Mass will be held at the Church of the Nativity.

We'll return to Jerusalem and visit Mount

Zion to see King David's Tomb, the Upper Room – where according to tradition Christ met with the disciples before and after his death and resurrection (John 20:19-21).

Afterwards we'll walk through the Jewish Quarter including the Roman Cardo and the Hurva Synagogue. We will then proceed to holiest place in Judaism today, the Western Wall – "Kotel". The day will end with a walk through the colorful Arab Bazaar. Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B)**

### DAY 7: JERUSALEM – DEAD SEA – MASADA – QUMRAN

After breakfast we start our day with a tour of Yad Vashem, considered the foremost memorial and museum of the Holocaust. Take a tour of the Holocaust History Museum which occupies over 4,200 square meters and located mainly underground. Visit the moving exhibit of the Children's Pavilion, commemorating the death of over 1.5 million children in the Holocaust.

After a touching visit to Yad Vashem we'll depart for the Dead Sea area and descend to the lowest land point on earth at 1388 feet (423m) below sea level. Continue on

and view Jericho and stop at Kaser-El-Yahud, the site of the place of Baptism of Christ (Luke 3) and the Ascension of Elijah the Prophet (II Kings 2:11).

There will also be time for floating on the Dead Sea before proceeding to Masada (the desert fortress of King Herod the Great). You'll ascend Masada, by cable car, to visit the Western palace, the ancient synagogue and Roman bathhouses. You'll learn about the heroic and tragic events that took place as the Romans attempted to take control of Masada.

(TIME PERMITTING) Stop at Qumran, where in 1947 a young Bedouin shepherd discovered what would become known as the renowned Dead Sea Scrolls. Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B)**

### DAY 8: JERUSALEM – ABU GOSH – DEPARTURE FOR HOME

After breakfast we will visit the Israel Museum to see the Shrine of the Book (where the Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited) and the scale model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Christ.

Drive to Abu Gosh, a large Arab village on





## Masada and the Dead Sea

the outskirts of Jerusalem, for an authentic Middle Eastern meal. The village is known for having good relations with its Jewish neighbors and some of the best hummus in Israel, some say the world. Transfer to Ben Gurion International airport for return flight home. **(B, L)**

SHALOM (Good-bye/Peace) and have a safe and comfortable flight back home.

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Round trip transfers from Ben Gurion Airport to your Hotel in Tel Aviv upon arrival and from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport upon departure

- Meeting & assistance at Ben Gurion Airport
- Porterage at Hotels, as of second touring day
- 7 Overnights at your confirmed hotels
- 7 full days of sightseeing as per the itinerary with English speaking licensed tour guide via a luxury air-conditioned touring vehicle
- Full Israeli Breakfast. (Optional dinner plan available).
- All entrance fees are included per the program

### **TOUR EXCLUSIONS:**

- Any tests that will be required due to Covid-19 regulations
- Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff
- International airline tickets
- Meals that are not mentioned above

### Legend

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch

