



Israel 2019

Dig & Tour Itinerary

Wednesday, Jun 12, 2019

Depart Toronto (Pearson Airport) 1pm.

Thursday, Jun 13, 2019

Day 1

Arrival to Ben-Gurion Airport– Pick Up Rental Cars 10:30am

Travel north to visit Caesarea – site of Herod’s magnificent and famous port city – lunch near Caesarea. A quick visit to Muhraka (the place where Elijah staged his dramatic contest with the prophets of Baal) with a lovely view of the Jezreel Valley. Drive north through the Galilee to our apartments in Tiberias.

Friday, Jun 14, 2019

Day 2

After breakfast, board the vans to drive north through the Hula Valley to Hazor to visit the famous Caananite and Israelite center which is the largest archaeological site from the biblical period. After viewing the Tel we are given a personal tour of the Yaguel Yadin Hazor Musuem at the Kibbutz near the Tel. We then proceed on to Tel Dan for a visit – the site of Jeroboam’s northern temple sanctuary. Visit site of Ceasarea Phillipi and the Baniyas waterfall one of the main sources of the Jordan River. We are hoping to go for a swim in the refreshing waters of Baniyas, unfortunately signs have been added with no swimming aloud. Drive back down to Tiberias down the east side of the Hula Valley cross through the edge of Golan Heights and stop for a swim in the Sea of Galilee. Prepare for the Sabbath and dinner. Bible Study in the evening. (Sunset in Tiberias – 7:46pm)

Saturday, Jun 15, 2019

Day 3

Sabbath – After brunch, drive to Tabga German Hotel for Church services at small amphitheater by the Sea of Galilee. In late afternoon stroll through Capernaum and see the location of famous synagogue where Christ preached. Also, see possible location of Peter’s house and location of early Sabbath keeping Church. Evening meal and free evening in Tiberias.

Sunday, Jun 16, 2019

Day 4

After breakfast, check out of our accommodation and drive to the 1st century Village of Magdala to view a 1st Century synagogue where Jesus likely preached. Back to Tiberias to board a 1st Century style boat for a short cruise on the Sea of Galilee. Drive from Tiberias down the west side of the Sea of Galilee toward the Lower Jordan River for short canoe trip on the Jordan. After the trip, drive south through Bethshan. From Bethshan Drive west along Mount Gilboa where Saul was defeated by the Philistines and to Ein Harod where Gideon chose 300 men to fight the Midianites. Drive past the Tel of Jezreel on to Megiddo archaeological park (This was one of Solomon’s chariot cities guarding one of the most important trade routes in the Ancient world). Then on down the Via Maris through the Aruna Pass (where Josiah fought Pharoah Necho). Finally, drive south on to the Elah Valley to our accommodation for the next five days at Kibbutz Nativ Halemd Hay. Check in and eat dinner.

Monday, Jun 17, 2019

Day 5

Eat breakfast then head to the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 6am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. Back to the Kibbutz for lunch. After Breakfast attend a Dig Tour to the Betshemesh excavation and the Sorek Valley (Samson's Territory).

Tuesday, Jun 18, 2019

Day 6

Eat breakfast then head to the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 6am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch, tour Tel Gezer (another one of Solomon's chariot cities) with Mr. Steve Ortiz, former dig director at Tel Gezer. After tour there is a little free time then dinner at 7pm.

Wednesday, Jun 19, 2019

Day 7

Eat breakfast then head to the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 6am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch and a little pottery washing, Mr. Chris Mchinney provides us with a tour of Azekah and the Valley of Elah (to discuss the David and Goliath battle).

Thursday, Jun 20, 2019

Day 8

Eat breakfast then head to the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 6am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch and a little pottery washing, drive to visit some of the Caves of Adullam (where David hid from Saul). After tour there is a little free time then dinner at 7pm. A few musical or adventurous students attend the opera *Nabucco* at the Sultan's pool in Jerusalem.

Friday, Jun 21, 2019

Day 9

Eat breakfast then head to the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 6am for our final day of digging. Dig day finishes by 12:00pm. Back to the Kibbutz for check out. Drive on to Jerusalem for check-in to our new accommodation. Prepare for the Sabbath. Evening Bible Study. (Sunset 7:47PM)

Saturday, Jun 22, 2019

Day 10

Sabbath Brunch. Church Services held in one of the apartments. Group takes an afternoon stroll to the promenade south of Jerusalem overlooking the City of David. After Sabbath and dinner, walk-about in newer Jerusalem on Ben Yehuda Street.

Sunday, Jun 23, 2019

Day 11

Early Breakfast then to the Old City of Jerusalem for a tour which begins at the Tower of David Museum of History of Jerusalem. Next, the group takes a walking tour of Old City Wall (from Jaffa to Dung Gate), the Jewish Quarter with Hezekiah's broad wall, and a visit to the Western Wall. After lunch and instruction in Middle Eastern bargaining, group does some shopping in the old city (visit the Cardo with free time). Eat lunch and Dinner in the Old City then tour "Behind the Scenes" of the Western Wall and the Western Wall Tunnels. Finally, view an evening light show at the City of David.

Monday, Jun 24, 2019

Day 12

Early Breakfast then tour the archaeological park in the City of David including Warren's Shaft, Kidron Valley, Coronation Pool, Monumental Canaanite tower, Gihon Spring, Hezekiah's Tunnel, and the Pool of Siloam. Tour the Shiloh dig sites and Eilat Mazar dig site in the City of David. Enjoy a pack lunch in the City of David. With hired guide, tour part of the street tunnel from Pool of Siloam to the Temple Mount, and tour the Davidson Archaeological Park just south of the Temple Mount. Back to apartment for dinner.

Tuesday, Jun 25, 2019

Day 13

Early Breakfast before setting out on a day trip to Masada with a stop at En Gedi. Group takes a short hike in the En Gedi nature preserve to take some photos at David's waterfall. On to Masada – historic site of famous Jewish last stand against the Romans in 73AD. After lunch at Masada, stop at the Dead Sea (En Bokek Beach) for a short swim. After Dead Sea, visit Arad (Early Bronze age city) with Judahite Yahwistic High Place. After dinner near Arad, watch an impressive light show on the cliffs of Masada. Arrive back in Jerusalem in the late evening.

Wednesday, Jun 26, 2019

Day 15

After breakfast, drive to Tel Lachish—site of important city of Judah which was conquered by the Assyrian Empire and is famously depicted in the British Museum Assyrian Palace Wall Reliefs. Stop in Britannia Park for packed lunch. Then return to Jerusalem for some free time and shopping.

Thursday, Jun 27, 2019

Day 14

After Breakfast set out to visit the Shrine of the Book to view Dead Sea Scrolls in the Israel Museum. Take time in museum to view the archaeology from the Land of Israel and visit the model of first century Jerusalem. We will drive by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and a few take an optional trip to Ramat Rahel to overlook Bethlehem and the Herodium. The remainder of the day is free time to investigate Jerusalem or do a little shopping.

Friday, Jun 28, 2019

Day 16

After Breakfast set out to visit Mount of Olives for an overlook of the Old City. Next, visit the supposed location of the Garden of Gethsemane. Walk through Jerusalem to visit the Garden Tomb (one of the possible sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ). Free time or optional additional trip through Hezekiah's Tunnel. (Sunset 7:48PM)

Saturday, Jun 29, 2019

Day 17

Sabbath Brunch. Church Services in one of the apartments. After Sabbath and final evening dinner in the Old City, watch King David Light Show at the Tower of David. Pack and prepare for the trip home.

Sunday, Jun 30, 2019

Day 18

11:45 return to Toronto. Arriving in Toronto at 4:20pm.