



Israel 2020

Dig & Tour Itinerary *(Dates and Itinerary subject to change)*

Sunday, Jun 21, 2019

Depart USA airport TBD.

Monday, Jun 22, 2019

Day 1

Arrival to Ben-Gurion Airport– Pick Up Rental Cars

Travel east to Jerusalem. Check into apartments then drive to the top of Mt of Olives. See Garden of Gethsemane and visit to the Garden Tomb. Dinner in Jerusalem.

Tuesday, Jun 23, 2019

Day 2

Early Breakfast then to the Old City of Jerusalem for a tour (Start at the Tower of David with a walking tour of Old City Wall (from Jaffa to Dung Gate), Temple Mount, Western Wall, Jewish Quarter (Hezekiah's broad wall), after lunch and instruction in Middle Eastern bargaining, 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, late Light Show at the City of David.

Wednesday, Jun 24, 2019

Day 3

Early Breakfast then tour of the archaeological park in the City of David including Warren's Shaft, Kidron Valley, Coronation Pool, Monumental Canaanite tower, Gihon Spring, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Pool of Siloam. Tour the Shiloh dig sites and Eilat Mazar dig site in the City of David. Packed Lunch in the City of David. In the afternoon 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.

Thursday, Jun 25, 2019

Day 4

Early Breakfast before setting out on a day trip to Masada with a stop at En Gedi (possible short hike in the En Gedi nature preserve – bath in David's waterfall). On to Masada – historic site of famous Jewish last stand against the Romans in 73AD. Stop at the Dead Sea (En Bokek Beach). After Dead Sea visit Arad (Early Bronze city) with Judahite Yahwistic High Place. If time permits stop at Beersheba – one of Abraham's settlements. Eat dinner on the road. Arrive back in Jerusalem in the evening.

Friday, Jun 26, 2019

Day 5

After Breakfast drive to the Shrine of the Book Museum to view Dead Sea Scrolls, The Israel Museum to view the archaeology from the Land of Israel and the visit model of first century Jerusalem. We will drive by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). Optional trip to the Herodium and to overlook Bethlehem. The remainder of the day will be free time to investigate Jerusalem or do a little shopping in the Old City. Sabbath evening meal at the apartment.

Saturday, Jun 27, 2019

Day 6

Sabbath Brunch. Church Services (in one of the apartments). After Sabbath and evening dinner visit Ben Yehuda shopping district.

Sunday, Jun 28, 2019

Day 7

After Breakfast, pack bags ready for checkout, visit the Temple Mount in the morning. Return to apartments to load up bags drive down the ridge route past Bethlehem into the Shephlah region using the same route that David used from Bethlehem to the Valley of Elah. Visit Tel Lachish famous City of Judah sacked by Sennacherib and the Assyrians during the time of Hezekiah. Eat packed lunch. Visit Tel Merashah where King Asa defeated the Ethiopians. Drive to the Dig Kibbutz accommodation (Kibbutz Nativ Halem Hay) in the Valley of Elah. Check in, meet staff and eat dinner.

Monday, Jun 29, 2019

Day 8

Eat breakfast then onto the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 5:30am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. Back to the Kibbutz for lunch. After Lunch attend a Dig Tour to the Betshemesh excavation and the Sorek Valley (Samson's Territory). Return for dinner at 7pm.

Tuesday, Jun 30, 2019

Day 9

Eat breakfast then onto the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 5:30am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch, tour Tel Gezer (another one of Solomon's chariot cities). After which there will be a little free time then dinner at 7pm.

Wednesday, Jul 1, 2019

Day 10

Eat breakfast then onto the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 5:30am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch and a little pottery washing, Tour of Azekah and the Valley of Elah (to discuss the David and Goliath battle).

Thursday, Jul 2, 2019

Day 11

Eat breakfast then onto the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 5:30am. Dig day finishes by 1:00pm. After lunch and a little pottery washing, drive to the Caves of Adullam (where David hid from Saul) and possibly Khirbet Qeiyafa an Elah Valley fortress built by King David. After which there will be a little free time then dinner at 7pm.

Friday, Jul 3, 2019

Day 12

Eat breakfast then onto the Tel Burna (Libnah) dig-site by 5:30am for our final day of digging. Dig day finishes by 10:00am. 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 Tiberius. Prepare for the Sabbath. Evening Bible Study. (Sunset)

Saturday, Jul 4, 2019

Day 13

Sabbath – After brunch, depending on the weather, drive to Tabga German Hotel for Church services at small amphitheater by the Sea of Galilee. In late afternoon optional 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, Jul 5, 2019

Day 14

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. We will then proceed on to Tel Dan for a visit – the site of Jeroboam's northern temple sanctuary. Visit site of the Banias waterfall one of the main sources of the Jordan River. Drive back down to Tiberias down the east side of the Hula Valley cross through the edge of Golan Heights. A quick canoe trip on the upper Jordan River. Stop for a swim in the Sea of Galilee near Gennesaret. Dinner in Tiberius apartments

Monday, Jul 6, 2019

Day 15

After breakfast, drive to the 1st century Village of Magdala to view a 1st Century synagogue where Jesus likely preached. Back to Tiberius to board a 1st Century style boat for a short cruise on the Sea of Galilee. Drive from Tiberius down the west side of the Sea of Galilee toward the Lower Jordan River (picture stop and maybe lunch). Drive south to Bethshan and visit significant Roman and Egyptian ruins. From Bethshan Drive west along Mount Gilboa where Saul was defeated by the Philistines to Ein Harod where Gideon chose 300 men to fight the Midianites. Drive past the Tel of Jezreel (quick visit) then 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 drive past Mt Tabor (where Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera) back up to our apartment in Tiberius. Dinner in Tiberius

Tuesday, Jul 7, 2019

Day 16

Pack up and check out of apartment then depart for airport and return to USA time (TBD).