

RETURN TO ISRAEL

A trip for those who would like to visit Israel a second time

Most people who have been to Israel dream of returning, but unfortunately the travel options are often for previously visited locations because they are designed for a first trip. What if you could return to Israel and enjoy an entirely new set of experiences? Well now you can. I have designed a new trip called "Return to Israel" that will fulfill your dream of going back to this incredible land!

Here is the preliminary plan for the trip:

Days 1-2 Travel, arrive in Tel Aviv overnight

Day 3. Jaffa Tel-Aviv

Explore the Haaretz Museum, comprised of exhibition pavilions, each with a different focus like coins, ceramics, folklore, and more. Most interesting is the excavated Philistine temple where you will be able to visualize Samson pushing down the pillars! Stand in Independence Hall, where on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel. Wander through the Carmel Market where traders sell everything from clothing to spices in a bustling atmosphere of lively color. Conclude with an evening dinner in Joppa under the lights of the city where Jonah ran from God, and where Peter had the vision of the sheet from heaven. Overnight in Tel Aviv.

Day 4. Northern Israel

Overlook the Mediterranean from the modern port of Haifa. Next, visit the ancient port city of Dor, named after the son of Poseidon. At the Maritime Museum discover the world of underwater archaeology as you see hundreds of artifacts recovered from sunken ships. Conclude the day with a visit to Rosh Hanikra, where you will ride the world's steepest cable car down to the grottos and view the Mediterranean from within the beautiful caves. Overnight in Golan.

Day 5. Jezreel Valley

Previously you probably encountered the Jezreel from Mount Carmel, Megiddo and Nazareth, This "second look" will be from all new angles. Visit the ruins of Hazor, a city that guards access to Israel from the north, destroyed by Joshua and refortified by Solomon. Walk the incredible ruins of Sepphoris, the capital of Galilee during the time of Jesus and a place some believe Jesus and Joseph may have worked together. Look out over the Jezreel from the top of Mount Tabor, believed by some to be the mount of transfiguration, and Deborah & Barak's vantage point for their battle with Jabin. Overnight in Golan.

Day 6. Golan

Experience Katzrin Village where daily routines in the time of Jesus are brought to life. Travel to Hippos, one of the cities of the Decapolis and from where you can look over the Sea of Galilee from the east. End your day relaxing at the Hamat Gader Resort along the Yarmuk River that feeds the Jordan from the east, where you can exfoliate your skin with mud and relax in the hot springs before retiring there for the evening.

Day 7. Judean Wilderness

Travel down the Jordan Valley from Galilee to Jericho where you will visit an alternative baptism site and the one more likely to be where Jesus was baptized. Ascend the road to Jerusalem, stopping at Genesis Land to experience bedouin life and some of the daily practices of first century living like baking bread and making pottery. Enjoy a fantastic Bedouin lunch of date honey chicken. Then wander off the main highway to see the Ascent of Adummim and

the Wadi Quilt where we will descend to walk the Valley of the Shadow, visit St George's Monastery, and get a feel for the wilderness where Jesus was tempted. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8. Jerusalem

From the square at the Western Wall, embark on several new experiences. First, visit the Temple Institute and see priestly garments and reconstructed tools used in Temple worship that are being prepared in anticipation of the temple one day being rebuilt. Make your way down to and walk the subterranean Western Wall Tunnel, heading north along the wall of Herod's Temple platform. Lunch at the Cardo, an integration of modern and first century shopping experiences. Make your way to the Tower of David Citadel Museum near the Jaffa gate and its exhibitions covering 4000 years of Jerusalem history. Conclude at the Burnt House, an upper-class Jewish home demolished during Titus' destruction of the city in AD 70 just as Jesus predicted. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9. Coastal Plain

Travel to the coastal plain from Jerusalem. Explore the caves of Bet Guvrim, a series of incredible caves quarried for their chalk used to make roads, plaster and mortar. Make your way to the Valley of Elah where David and the Israelites faced off with Goliath and the Philistines. Follow the path of Emmaus where Jesus walked with disciples after his resurrection. Then explore the 625 acre *Neot Kedumim*, the only Biblical Landscape Reserve in the world, where your guided tour sheds light on the biblical uses and symbolism of Israel's vegetation. Head back to Jerusalem along the route followed by the Ark of The Covenant returned by the Philistines to Beth Shemesh. Along the way stop at the Museum of Biblical History. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 10. Jerusalem

Conclude your experience walking the recently excavated Pilgrim Path from the Pool of Siloam "up to the Temple of God." Under the ancient olive trees of the private Gethsemane Garden, reflect on and celebrate your experience with a communion service before you return with your memories to the United States. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 11. Return to the United States