

CLASSIC ISRAEL

HIGHLIGHTS

- FLOAT IN THE WATERS OF THE DEAD SEA
- ANCIENT RELIGIOUS SIGHTS OF JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY
- UNSURPASSED VIEWS FROM THE SHORES OF GALILEE

With its unsurpassed historical and religious backdrops, Israel is a country like no other. From the Old City of Jerusalem and ancient towns of the mountainous north to the world famous Dead Sea, this eight day journey is steeped in history and rich heritage, and encompasses the vibrant and bustling Tel Aviv on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Accompanied by your expert guide, you will leave Israel with a deep understanding and appreciation of this unique country.

At Abercrombie & Kent, all our journeys are individually tailored to suit your



requirements. Days may be added or removed to this example itinerary according to your interests and timetable, or you may like to add on a few extra days to explore more of Tel Aviv.

DAY 1

London/Tel Aviv/Jerusalem

Begin your journey to the Holy Land with a flight from Heathrow to the city of Tel Aviv on the Mediterranean Coast. A short drive takes you to the American

Colony Hotel in nearby Jerusalem for a four night stay. This luxury boutique hotel is an oasis in the centre of Jerusalem, with its Arabian architecture and elegant furnishings and only minutes away from the sights of the Old City.

DAY 2

Jerusalem

This morning explore the new city of Jerusalem, driving past Israel's Parliament, the 'Knesset', to the Israel



Museum, where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves in Qumran are kept in the Shrine of The Book wing. A highlight is the spectacular scale model of Jerusalem as it was in the days of the late Second Temple period. (Please note that, with much of the Israel Museum currently closed to the public for renovations, viewing is restricted to the above exhibits.) Visit 'Yad Vashem', the Museum of the Holocaust, before

continuing after lunch to Bethlehem to see the Church of Nativity, built inside a cave and one of the oldest churches in the world, and the Shepherd's Fields in the nearby town of Beit Sahour.

DAY 3

Jerusalem

Set off this morning with a drive to the Mount of Olives for a wonderful view of Jerusalem, stopping at the foot of the hill to see the Garden of Gethsemane with

its ancient olive trees. Enter the Jewish Quarter of the Old City through the Dung Gate to visit the Western Wall, also known as the 'Wailing Wall' from the Jewish tradition of mourning the destruction of the Temple, to experience the rich history represented in its many renovated synagogues. Behind the Wall lies the Temple Mount, religious centre of the Old City with the Al-Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock, and from here walk through the Cardo to Burnt House, the remnant of a house dating from the Second Temple which survived ►



THE A&K DIFFERENCE With our leading reputation and rigorous selection policy, we employ the very best guides who ensure you acquire real insight into their culture and country. Our experienced team of experts, both in the UK and locally, are on hand to provide comprehensive support and ensure complete peace of mind. They anticipate individual needs and provide those extra little touches that make the difference between a good and an exceptional holiday, such as meeting you at the airport, private transfers in air-conditioned vehicles and a ready supply of chilled bottled water. With their unique contacts they can arrange special access to individuals, places and experiences not ordinarily available.

Abercrombie & Kent



the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70. Later pass the 14 Stations of the Cross, depictions of the final hours of Jesus' life along the Via Dolorosa, to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter and the Convent of the Sisters of Zion with its Roman flagstones of the Lithostrotos. Leave the Old City through the bazaars surrounding Jaffa Gate and drive to Mount Zion to see St. Peter in Gallicantu built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. End your historical day at the Tomb of King David and the room of the last supper.

DAY 4 *Jerusalem*

Drive past the Good Samaritan Inn and along the expansive Dead Sea, which forms the border of Israel and Jordan to Massada, taking the cable-car up to the last stronghold of the Zealots to see Herod's palaces. Ein Gedi National Park lies on the coast of the Dead Sea with spectacular caves, springs and flowing waterfalls. Take some time to float in the Dead Sea before visiting the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the caves of Qumran.

DAY 5 *Jerusalem /Tiberias*

This morning drive north of the Jordan River Valley to the biblical town of Scythopolis (now Beit Shean) to visit the Roman theatre and spectacular archaeological excavations, before heading to nearby Beit Alpha, home to the Byzantine-era Synagogue and mosaic with its ancient inscriptions. This afternoon continue to the Church of Annunciation, Mary's well and the Church of St. Joseph in Nazareth, the boyhood town of Jesus. Finish your day at Cana, the town where the first miracle of turning water into wine took place, before driving on to your hotel in Tiberias. The Scots Hotel is full of old world charm, refurbished to keep its distinct original character and with magnificent views onto the Sea of Galilee.

DAY 6 *Tiberias*

Spend today discovering the treasures on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Visit the ancient synagogue and the converted church of St. Peter's house in Capernaum and continue to Tabgha, traditional site of the multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, to see the mosaic depicting the miracle and the Church

of Peter's Primacy. Follow in the steps of the disciples to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus delivered his famous Sermon on the Mount, before taking a short boat ride on the picturesque Sea of Galilee. After lunch drive up to the mountainous region of Golan Heights on the Syrian border where you will see the scenic area of the Banias springs. The mystical city of Safed is your last stop of the day, where the ancient synagogues and Artists' Quarter are waiting to be discovered before you return to your hotel in Tiberias.

DAY 7 *Tiberias/Tel Aviv*

Travel to Haifa this morning, the city on the Carmel mountain range with a lovely view of the Bay, visiting the Bahai Shrine and Gardens. Take a scenic drive down the coast to Caesarea, the capital of the Roman province to see Roman and Crusader remains and the harbour from which St. Paul was taken prisoner to Rome. This afternoon, you will be driven to Tel Aviv to enjoy a final night in this vibrant city. Stretched along the beautiful beach strip of the Mediterranean, Tel-Aviv is Israel's largest city and biggest commercial centre; a busy metropolis that inspires

its visitors with a unique and energetic atmosphere. Visit the cultural sites of the city: the Habima National Theatre; the Frederic Mann Auditorium, home to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; Dizengoff Street, named after the first Mayor and known as the 'Champs-Élysées of Tel Aviv'; and the historic Rothschild Boulevard and Carmel market. Visit the ancient port of Jaffa and its artists' quarter before checking into the InterContinental David Hotel. Located on the beachfront promenade with excellent Mediterranean views, it is only a short walk from the Museum of Art, the cultural Suzanne Dellal Centre and the famous Nahalat Binyamin Market.

With A&K all journeys are individually tailored to suit your interests and timescale. As a guideline, this 8 day Classic Israel journey will cost from £3,095 per person based on two adults sharing with flights from the UK, subject to availability. *Please bear in mind this is not a prescriptive itinerary but a suggestion to give you a taste of what is possible with the very highest level of comfort, service and convenience. Accordingly, we aim to quote to a standard as opposed to a price.*

Please call **0845 0700 614** to speak to an expert or visit www.abercrombiekent.co.uk

DAY 8 *Tel Aviv/London*

Your journey ends today as you transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your flight home.

