EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Holy Land (HL 2017)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI
8
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Full On

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: HL

Trip Highlights - Holy Land

- ✓ Tel Aviv - Discover the architectural artistry of Tel Aviv's White City
- ✓ Biblical Landscapes - See the world famous sites; the Sea of Galilee, Jericho and Qumran
- ✓ Dead Sea - Float in the famous saline sea at the lowest point on Earth
- ✓ Jerusalem - Follow the Stations of the Cross and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- ✓ Bethlehem - Visit to the Church of the Nativity

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	4 nights Standard Hotel 2 nights Simple Kibbutz 1 night Standard Kibbutz
Included Meals:	7 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 2 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Tel Aviv
End Point:	Trip ends: Jerusalem
Transport:	Bus, Boat
Countries:	Israel, Palestine

Holy Land

On this journey we explore some of the Holy Land's greatest cultural and religious sites. We roam through the narrow streets of the Old City of Jerusalem and visit the Church of the Nativity and the Wailing Wall. We also take a dip in the Dead Sea, enjoy local Bedouin hospitality and take a cable car to the impressive sky fortress of Masada.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Full On

These fast paced tours move on quickly from place to place and with lots of early starts and long busy days, they're packed with experiences.

Your trip itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join tour Tel Aviv

Join your tour in Tel Aviv and check into hotel. Tel Aviv, often called 'the city that never stops' was the first modern Jewish city built in Israel, and is the country's economic and cultural centre. It is a lively, active city with entertainment, culture and art, festivals, and a rich night life. Situated on a 14km long strip of the Mediterranean coast, Tel Aviv extends beyond the Yarkon River to the north and the Ayalon River to the east. Hundreds of thousands of workers, visitors, tourists, and partygoers move about the city each day.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Tel Aviv city tour, then drive to Nazareth via Old Jaffa, Caesarea, the Druze villages and Akko

Israel's second largest city, Tel Aviv was founded at the beginning of the 20th century on the outskirts of the old port city of Jaffa. Today the White City contains the world's largest concentration of Modernistic-style buildings on the planet, a factor that saw it achieve UNESCO World Heritage status in 2003. We'll get a chance to take a tour of this impressive 1930s architecture this morning (inspired by the Bauhaus school of art), before exploring something of nearby Jaffa en route to the ruins of Caesarea. Continuing along Israel's northern coast, we journey on to the historic city of Haifa, where we take in the panoramic views from the slopes of Mount Carmel and visit the Bahá'í Gardens. This is another UNESCO site which is also the spiritual and administrative centre of the Bahá'í faith. As we continue north we head through landscapes populated by minority Druze villages and gain an opportunity to discover something of a community which can trace its settlement in the area back to the Ottoman invasions of Syria in the 16th century. . The end of the day sees us stopping in Akko, before heading to Nazareth, our base for the evening. There is an option to have dinner with a local family tonight.

Overnight: **Simple Kibbutz**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Morning tour of Nazareth, visit Sea of Galilee and holy places of Capernahum

This morning we will make a tour of Nazareth to visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and St. Joseph's Church. Believed to have been the site where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, the Basilica is one of holiest sites in Christendom. Today we visit the important Christian sites of Tabgha and Capernaum. It was at Tabgha, where one of the most significant events of the New Testament saw the feeding of the 5,000. We will have an opportunity to visit the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves, the Church of the Primacy of St Peter and the Mount itself, before continuing on to Capernaum, the birthplace of St. Peter and the site where it is believed Jesus first started his ministry. Taking an afternoon boat trip out onto the waters of the Sea of Galilee, we then head for our kibbutz, close to the historic city of Tiberias. A kibbutz is a collective community of people in Israel based mainly on agriculture and shared living. They began in the 1920's and currently there are approximately 270 kibbutzim in Israel.

Overnight: **Simple Kibbutz**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Drive to Jericho and Optional Camel Trek in PM

This morning we take a tour of our kibbutz, to meet some of the residents and to understand their way of life. Heading off towards the Jordan Valley we travel to the ancient city of Jericho. Lying amidst the hotly contested settlements of the West Bank, Jericho was the first city to fly the flag of the newly formed Palestinian state and its history stretches back some ten millennia. Following our visit to Jericho, we will drive to our overnight stop, a kibbutz by the Dead Sea. At 418m below sea level, this salty expanse of mineral rich water is the lowest point on earth and has been revered for centuries for its beneficial properties. We have the afternoon to float and experience the incredible bouyancy, or take an optional camel ride.

Overnight: **Standard Kibbutz**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 Drive to Jerusalem via the sky fortress of Massada and the Dead Sea

Along the western shores of the Dead Sea lies the isolated hilltop fortress city of Masada, the last stronghold of the Zealots against the Romans during the First Revolt in AD 70. From the top of the citadel there are some stunning views of the surrounding desert, including the mountains of Moab and the Dead Sea. After exploring the ruins we continue our journey for a visit to the biblical oasis of Ein Gedi before driving on to Qumran, home of the Essenes, a strict and devout Jewish sect who lived in the area until early in the 1st century AD. They are believed to have been the authors of the 2,000 year old manuscripts found amongst the hillside caves in 1947. We then move on to Jerusalem, our base for the next few nights.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Exploring Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new part of Jerusalem, taking in the Hebrew University, the Parliament building and the Supreme Court, before continuing to the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls parchments and the largest museum to all things Israeli anywhere on the planet. We'll also visit Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, a 45 acre complex of memorials, sculptures and commemorative sites that sits at the foot of Mount Herzl. Passing by Ein Karem we then visit the Church of St John the Baptist, before making our final visit of the day to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity. The original building was believed to have been built by the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine, the emperor who legalised Christianity in 313AD. From here we return to Jerusalem. This evening there is the option to experience Shaabat of a life time, spending the evening with an Israeli family as they say friday night night prayers before the Sabbath.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Walking the biblical trail in Jerusalem

Certainly one of the world's most intriguing cities, Jerusalem can boast a history stretching back some three millennia, and during its long history it has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times and recaptured 44 times. This morning we drive by bus up to the Mount of Olives for a superb view over the Old City, before descending into the Josaphat Valley to visit the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Entering the Old City we then visit the Pool of Bathsheba, before taking a walking tour of this most hallowed of settings. Passing through narrow winding streets overflowing with street vendors and shops, we head to the Via Dolorosa, traditionally believed to be the route taken by Christ on the day of his execution. We will follow the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest site in Christendom and the reputed place of the crucifixion, burial and eventual resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jerusalem is unique in that it is held sacred by the three great monotheistic religions of the world, Christianity, Islam and Judaism. We then move on to the Wailing Wall, believed by Jews to be the last remnant of the second Temple and, as such, considered the most revered of all sites for the Jews. Finally we head up onto the slopes of Mount Zion, where we visit the tomb of King David, the beautiful Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition and the Cenacle, which since the 4th century has been identified as the site of the Last Supper. After our visit here we return to our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Tour ends Jerusalem

Tour ends after breakfast in Jerusalem.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 0 lunches,2 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Israel

Lunch £: 10.00 - 12.00

Dinner £: 10.00 - 14.00

Palestine

Lunch £: 20.00

Dinner £: 25.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Israel

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00 - 4.00

Water £: 1.00 - 2.00

Palestine

Water £: 0.60

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Jerusalem - City tour by night £20
Ein Bokek - Bedouin Camel trek and Lunch £30
Kibbutz Tour - £7-£15 depending on numbers
Dinner with family in Nazareth £30
Light and sound show in the Tower of David £40
Shabbat of a lifetime £43

Tipping - Local Crew

You should allow approx £25 for gratuitites for local staff.

It is customary to tip the tour leader in Israel, however this is at your discretion. We would recommend allowing approxiamately $3-$4 a day should you feel you wish to do this.

Foreign Exchange

Israel

ATM Availability: ATM’s are widely available.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are also generally accepted.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques are not easily exchanged and should be avoided.

Local Currency: Shekel (NIS).

Recommended Currency for Exchange: It is easy to exchange major currencies - euros, pounds stirling and US dollars

Where to Exchange: Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

Palestine

ATM Availability: ATM’s are widely available.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are also generally accepted.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques are easily exchanged at banks and exchange offices.

Local Currency: Shekel (NIS).

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars are the easiest to exchange, but most major currencies are accepted.

Where to Exchange: Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

Joining your Trip

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

Israel & Palestinian Territories: Visas are not required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US & Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Note: You will now be given a visa card at immigration with your details on it. This replaces a stamp in your passport and must be kept safe as it will be required when exiting the country.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Israel

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, rabies, hepatitis A and B. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.

Palestine

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, rabies, hepatitis A and B. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Israel

Israel has a Mediterranean climate. Summer is hot with fairly high humidity in coastal regions. Rainfall is mostly from November to March: during this period temperatures can drop quite sharply, particularly in December, so pack accordingly.

Palestine

Palestinian Territories has a Mediterranean climate. Summer is hot with fairly high humidity in coastal regions. Rainfall is mostly from November to March: during this period temperatures can drop quite sharply, particularly in December, so pack accordingly.

Clothing

Clothes should be casual and practical: convention demands that long trousers are worn in some Jewish and Christian holy places, and women must cover their arms, legs and head. During winter medium weight clothing and rainwear is advisable. A fleece will be useful during this time for early mornings (Masada visit) when it can be chilly.

Equipment

No special equipment required.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes or boots, trainers and sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

One suitcase, and a daypack is useful.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Israel

Population: 6,200,000

Size of Country: 21,000 sq km

Major Language: Hebrew, Arabic, English.

Religion: Jewish, Muslim, Christian.

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Palestine

Population: 6,200,000

Size of Country: 21,000 sq km

Major Language: Hebrew, Arabic, English.

Religion: Jewish, Muslim, Christian.

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Israel

2 Pin Round

Palestine

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association

of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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