Abercrombie & Kent



CLASSIC ISRAEL

Brimming with world famous historic and biblical sites, Israel is a timeless yet refreshingly authentic destination.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

North Africa & Middle East, Israel

9 days from AU$18,090 pp

Private

Journey Overview

Brimming with world famous historic and biblical sites, Israel is a timeless yet refreshingly authentic destination. From fashionable Tel Aviv and its ancient port city Jaffa, to Bethlehem and Jerusalem, you'll explore the Holy Land's most famous sites and take in its diverse cultural appeal. Explore Caesarea, capital of the Roman province, the beautiful Golan Heights, the Western Wall and visit the war cemetery at Beersheba, sure to be a poignant encounter.

Journey Highlights

- Amble through the cobbled streets of the ancient port city of Jaffa
- Visit some of Christianity's holiest sites in Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee
- Explore the ancient and colourful city of Acre
- Take a dip in the remarkable Dead Sea and visit the Qumran Caves



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Tel Aviv

Shalom and welcome to Tel Aviv, a modern and laid-back city on the Mediterranean Sea. Receive a warm welcome by A&K and transfer to your boutique accommodation. After time to settle in, step outside and discover why Tel Aviv is such a fashionable city. Overflowing with restaurants, bars, galleries and a glittering seaside, there’s plenty to see and do.

The Jaffa

Day 2: Tel Aviv

Get a taste of everyday Tel Aviv beginning with a visit to ancient Jaffa, one of the world’s oldest port cities with a history that runs through Biblical, Egyptian, Roman and Ottoman eras. It was in the sand dunes just north of Jaffa where the modern city of Tel Aviv was founded a little over 100 years ago.

Continue to Neve Tzedek, the first Jewish neighbourhood to be built outside the walls of the ancient port of Jaffa, which was home to artists and intellectuals 20 years before Tel Aviv was founded in 1909. The area has been reinvented and today is one of the city’s most colourful artistic neighbourhoods teeming with boutiques, restaurants and specialty shops. Take in the eclectic displays at the Ilana Goor Museum, tucked inside an 18th century building overlooking the shoreline of Tel Aviv and the Old City. Named after one of Israel's leading artists, this museum boasts over 500 Israeli, international and authentic works of art alongside Goor's own creations and her personal collection of art and artefacts.

The Jaffa | Meals: B

Day 3: Tel Aviv – Tiberias

Head out of town travelling north along the coastal highway to the ancient Roman capital, Caesarea, where Herod laid out a classical city and constructed a revolutionary, artificial harbour. Close to the amphitheatre, view a partial inscription mentioning Pontius Pilate — the only secular reference to his existence. Then, visit the seaport cities of Haifa and Acre, the latter a UNESCO World Heritage Site that dates back to Phoenician and Crusader times. Whilst at Acre, tour the Knights' Halls, view the El Jazaar Mosque and explore the elaborate covered markets. Drive to your hotel in Tiberias overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Scots Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Tiberias

Discover several Biblical sites today starting with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Stop at Capernaum, where you will see the ancient synagogue where Jesus taught and St. Peter's house, which was later converted into a church. You will also view Tabgha with the Church of Peter's Primacy and the Mount of Beatitudes, the site where Christ gave his famous Sermon on the Mount.

In the afternoon drive up to the Golan Heights, a rocky plateau overlooking the Sea of Galilee and bordering Syria and Lebanon. The Golan Heights is the source of the Jordan River, the home of the Tribe of Dan and has remains dating to the Roman, Hellenistic and Persian periods. Mt Bental overlooks Syria and a landscape that has been the scene of numerous battles spanning many centuries**.**

Scots Hotel | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Tiberias – Jerusalem

This morning, journey to Nazareth, believed to be the town where Jesus grew up. Visit the Church of Annunciation and the Church of St Joseph, built over the site the Byzantines thought was the house of Joseph. Continue on to Sepphoris, once a great centre of trade, culture, Jewish learning and early Christianity, before driving through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. Make a stop at Beit Shean, the biblical Scythopolis, to visit Israel's best preserved Roman Amphitheatre.

Mamilla Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 6: Jerusalem

A day in the remarkable Old City begins with a dramatic view of this city sacred to so many. Enter the walled old city to experience the Four Quarters of the city - Christian, Muslim, Armenian and Jewish. Start at the Cardo located in the centre of the Jewish Quarter where you see the ancient Roman road and view the unearthed main thoroughfare and ancient marketplace lined with columns. Proceed past the Burnt House, destroyed by the Romans during the sack of Jerusalem in 70AD, to the Western Wall with the Dome of the Rock in the background. After visiting the wall walk towards the Southern Wall excavations to see the Davidson Centre for an overview of the Temple Mount complex.

This afternoon, admire the beautifully simple St Anne's Church with the Pool of Bethesda nearby. Walk along the Stations of the Way of the Cross, a route walked by pilgrims for hundreds of years, to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where you can see the devotion and prayer, by many different denominations, at the site of the crucifixion and the Tomb of Christ.

Mamilla Hotel | Meals: B

Day 7: Jerusalem

Start the day with a visit to Yad Vashem - the Jewish people's memorial to the six million lives lost in the Holocaust. Spend time in the museum and walk along the Avenue of the Righteous, dedicated to the people who risked their lives rescuing the Jews during the Holocaust.

From here, it's on to Bethlehem, located in the Palestinian territory, where lunch showcases local delicacies. Visit the Church of the Nativity, which sits over the cave where Jesus was born, and is one of the holiest sites in Christianity. It was originally built by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century and spared destruction by the Persians out of respect for a mosaic of the Magi shown wearing Persian attire.

Mamilla Hotel | Meals: B

Day 8: Jerusalem

After breakfast, cross the moonscape of the Judean Desert to Masada where you'll marvel at the ancient fortress built by King Herod. Afterwards, spend some time at the Dead Sea, the lowest land-based point on Earth, where you can take a dip in the ultra-saline waters like thousands of travellers have done in times gone by. Continue to the Qumran Caves, the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in 1947, before returning to Jerusalem.

Mamilla Hotel | Meals: B

Day 9: Depart Tel Aviv

Transfer to the airport in Tel Aviv to depart.

Meals: B

Map


MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Golan Heights
Acre
Haifa
Tiberas
Nazareth
Caesarea
Tel Aviv
JORDAN
Jerusalem
DEAD SEA
Bethlehem
Masada
ISRAEL
ARRIVE/DEPART
ROAD

Accommodation

Scots Hotel, Tiberias



The luxurious Scots hotel was established by the Scottish Church in 1999 in the historical compound of the Scottish Hospital, and uniquely combines the 19th century basalt buildings with a modern and up-to-date hotel with 68 rooms located in the heart of Tiberias.

The hotel comes with layers of history and character that no other hotel in the area can match. The public areas and gardens have a colonial atmosphere and the hotel has a Ceilidh Bar with 80 types of whisky on offer and a spa boasting a range of treatments.

Unique rooms are of uniform modern standard. Antique rooms located in the Doctor's House are steeped in history and boast exposed basalt stone walls and high ceilings. The Antique rooms with Lake View are well worth the extra.

Extending down to the Sea of Galilee and across to the hotel's swimming pool, the beach garden is a great place to relax.

Enjoy an archaeological visit on your doorstep. The path starts at the restaurant's balcony and ends at the Visitors' Centre via the Gazebo Terraces. The path includes relics from the Roman and Byzantine periods; these relics have been kept in their natural surroundings for over 2,000 years.

The hotel's restaurant Torance is situated in the David building which was originally the maternity hospital. You can eat on the restaurant's balcony surrounded by lush gardens, almost all year round. The combination of Israeli cuisine with Galilean cooking tradition and influences from Scotland contributes to a flavour-rich culinary experience, turning every meal into an unforgettable gourmet journey. The various dishes use local produce, herbs grown in the hotel's garden, cheeses, fruit and vegetables, homemade jams and a selection of wines all from the farms of the North.

Why we like it

- Set in beautiful gardens with an unrivalled view of the Sea of Galilee
- Steeped in history and charm
- Half sized Olympic pool and located in the beach garden with magnificent views
- Israeli cuisine with Galilean cooking tradition and influences from Scotland
- We recommend the Antique rooms as they are more luxurious

Abercrombie & Kent

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