

Israel Adventure, Israel

Itinerary

Saturday

You are met at Tel Aviv airport. Flights should arrive by 15:30.

En route to Moshav Sharona in the lower Galilee, you stop for dinner at an Arab restaurant, where there will be introductions and explanations for the time ahead. During dinner you will also have an informative talk about the history of Israel. Overnight at Moshav Sharona.

Please note: Local conditions may dictate that the itinerary needs to be changed, always with your best interests in mind.

Some of the historical sites that you would usually visit during the Israel Adventure:

Tabor Mountain- the mount of transfiguration.

Debra the Profit, Barak, Sisra, Yael.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yael>

Jordan River, Sea of Galilee.

Ein Dor http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch_of_Endor

Nazareth <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazareth>

Degania The first Kibbutz

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degania_Alef

Jerusalem

Judea Desert

Essenes <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essenes>

Masada <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masada>

Dead Sea

Sunday

Today you ride in the Galilee's beautiful natural landscape. After matching horses and tack with riders, you leave the stables in Shedmoat Devora to ride along the tributaries of the Tabor Stream, perhaps passing Kfar Keesh to visit Tel Rechesh where, according to some sources, part of King Solomon's legendary stables were located.



Afterwards, you return through almond orchards and fields to Shedmoat Devora. After a short break for lunch, you then go on to Mt. Tabor to visit the Church of Transfiguration. Continue on to Nazareth for a walking tour of the holy sites and markets if there is time. Dinner is at a Beduoin village before returning to Moshav Sharona for the night.

Monday

An early start today and the day begins with a ride in the remarkable Sirin Heights. Enjoy the stunning natural scenery along its streams and around its springs.



You ride to the lookout point of Mitzpe Ayloat for a breathtaking view of the Jordan Valley. Riding in the direction of Jordan, you pass through the Yaela Grove, the site where Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, killed Sisera. You then cross the fertile Jordan Valley heading towards the Jordan River.



After crossing the Jordan River, you ride to Kibbutz Degania (the world's first kibbutz) where you will have a late lunch. After lunch you have a tour of the kibbutz and learn about this unique way of life.

Tuesday

This day is dedicated to Jerusalem. You travel by car from Moshav Sharona to the city of Jerusalem. Your guide will drive to the Old City to follow the Via Dolorosa, the path that Jesus walked on his way to crucifixion. Along the way, you visit the holy sites of the three monotheistic religions.



After the tour and a typical Israeli lunch, possibly houmous, pita bread and the popular falafel, you drive to the Judean Desert. Spend the next two nights in a permanent desert camp overlooking the Dead Sea.

Wednesday

Today your desert adventure begins. Upon being reunited with your trusty steed from Shedmoat Devora, you ride in the desert expanses, experiencing the fresh air and open space that only the desert can provide.

You ride east along Daraga Stream before turning south towards the upper part of the Judea Desert. Cross the Tekoa Stream and climb to Mutrida ridge. Learn about the hardships the Bedouin nomads face in the desert; look for ancient water cisterns and follow an ancient camel route which will lead you back to camp.

After a late lunch at camp, your guide leads you on a non-riding activity in the desert.



Thursday

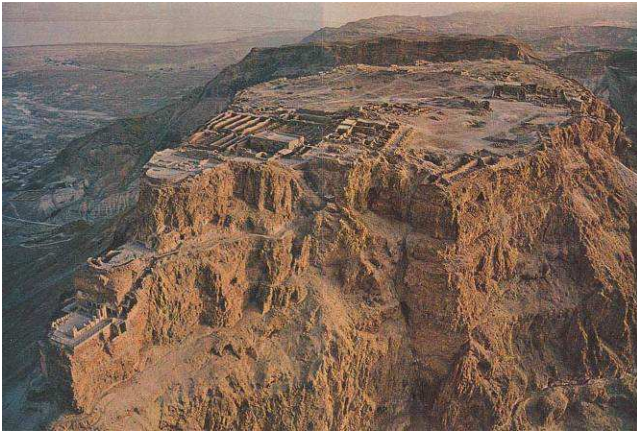
Another day of exhilarating desert riding is ahead of you.

Before sunrise, you ride through the expansive plains of the north Judea Desert heights until you reach cliffs overlooking the Dead Sea.



From here you ride west along the Tamar Stream until you finally reach the grazing fields of the upper desert, where King David used to walk with his sheep. Follow an old donkey trail back to camp for brunch.

After brunch you say farewell to your horses and trail guides and drive to the monumental site of Masada.



Later you drive to a spa on the banks of the Dead Sea. As a treat after many days of hard riding, cover yourself in the black mud of the Dead Sea and go for a dip in its healing waters. (Top Tip - Have your swimming costume and towel easily accessible.)

In the late afternoon, drive to Tel Aviv to spend the night in a comfortable hotel. Your guide leaves you with recommendations for dinner this evening (which is to your own account) and there will be many tales told over the dinner table of your adventures in Israel.

Friday

Tel Aviv is a modern, vivacious city with lots of fun things to do including a colourful market, great shopping and beautiful beaches. Today is free to do as little or as much as you like in the city before your transfer to the airport.

Check out from the hotel is at 10am. However, you can keep your room until 12 noon and after this your bags can be stored at reception if required.

Accommodation

Accommodation is in country lodges on a kibbutz or a moshav. There are also two nights in a permanent desert camp overlooking the Dead Sea, and the last night in a good quality four star equivalent hotel in Tel Aviv.

The lodges are comfortable but not luxurious; they have twin bedded rooms with en suite or private bathrooms.



The kibbutz cooperative farming lifestyle is one where all the members share in the work. The original philosophy of a kibbutz was to produce as much as you can, but only take what you need. Therefore all the members were comfortably taken care of. They are a close knit community with their own schools, dining halls and shops. Things have changed slightly over the years, but there is still a great sense of community amongst the members.

A moshav has a similar setup to a kibbutz, being a farming community. However, the farms tend to be individually owned so can operate as a private business.



At the permanent desert camp, mattresses are provided but you will need to bring your own sleeping bag. There are long drop toilets and showers are also available.