

Tour Israel

Saturday

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

On arrival at Moshav Sharona in the lower Galilee, 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.

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.



Upon reaching the Jordan River, where you may have the chance to swim in the river (without the horses), you ride to Kibbutz Degania for a late lunch. After lunch you have a tour of the kibbutz (the first kibbutz in the world) and learn about this unique way of life.

Return to Moshav Sharona for the night.

Tuesday

For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997, Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: rides@inthesaddle.com, Internet: www.inthesaddle.com

This morning you ride a new set of horses at HaZorea. Upon arrival at the stables you will be matched to your new horse and then ride west towards the forest of Mt Horshan. Exploring the trails you head south towards Tzabarin spring, which was the water source for Caesarea during Roman times.

You cross the village of Amikam and follow the Taninim (crocodile) stream east back to the stables.



In the afternoon you visit Tel Megiddo, the supposed site of Armageddon – the epic battle associated with the end of time. Once an important city on an ancient trade route, today only ruins remain as testimony to the peoples that inhabited this site for centuries. You will investigate the archaeological ruins, learning about life in biblical Israel. Spend this night at the lodge on Kibbutz Dalia.

Wednesday

This morning you ride through the rolling hills and groves of the Ramot Menashe National Park, stopping to explore a cave used for training in 1947 by the Palmach, the elite fighting unit of the underground Hagannah army. Continue riding south east towards the highland of the south Carmel region and visit the Kibbutz Memorial monument before riding back to the stables at Ramot Menashe.

Leaving the stables you visit Mt. Carmel and El-Maharrakah, the site where the Prophet Elijah supposedly slaughtered the prophets of Baal. The views are as amazing as the biblical stories and your guide will take you on a tour of the Carmelite Monastery located there. Later you have a traditional

lunch in the nearby Druze village of Osafia before returning to Kibbutz Dalia.



Thursday

This day is dedicated to Jerusalem. You travel by car from Kibbutz Dalia 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 of 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.

Friday

Today your desert adventure begins. Upon being reunited with your trusty steed from Shedmoat Devora, you leave camp before sunrise and ride

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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 drive to the monumental site of Masada and explore the site with your guide. Later in the afternoon you return to camp and your guide leads you on a non-riding activity in the desert.



Saturday

Another day of exhilarating desert riding is ahead of you.

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; explore the Nabatean water cistern of Bir

el Makushita and follow an ancient camel route which will lead you back to camp.



After saying farewell to your horses 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.

Sunday

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 10:00. 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. Please ask us for details if you would like to upgrade to a beach front hotel for this last night.

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



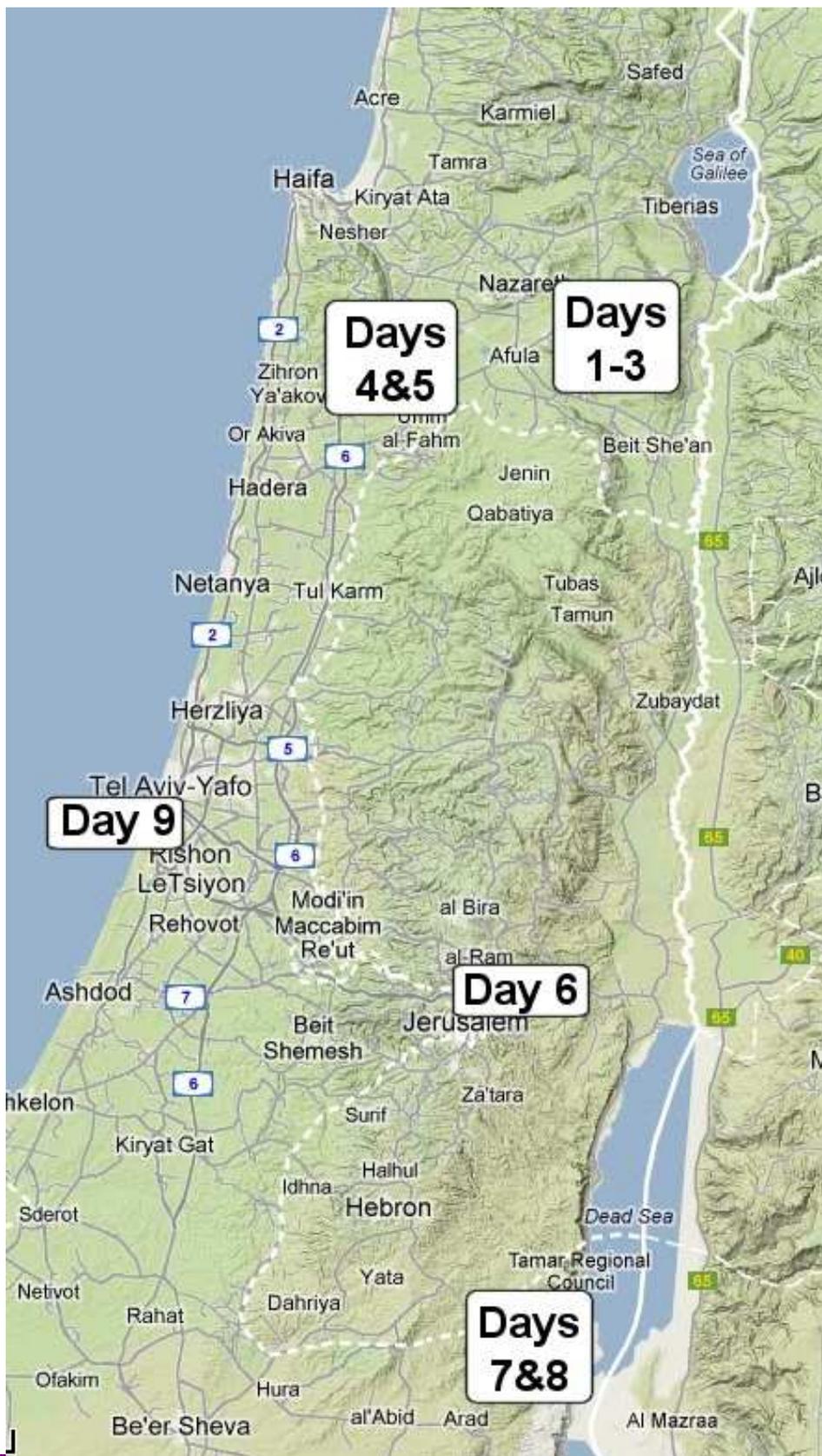
The kibbutz cooperative farming lifestyle is one where all the members share in the work. The original philosophy of a kibbutz was to produce as much as you can, but only take what you need. Therefore all the members were comfortably taken care of. They are a close knit community with their own schools, 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.

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