

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.

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

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

Mount Carmel.

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.



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You ride to the lookout point of Mitzpe Ayloot 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. Later, return to Sharona for the night.

Tuesday

This morning pack your bags as you set off west to ride a new set of horses and stay on a different kibbutz. Upon arrival at the stables you will be matched to your new horse and ride through the rolling hills and groves of the Ramot Menashe National Park.



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

The majestic Carmel region is the location of this day full of adventure. A ride up Mt. Carmel will bring you to El-Maharrakah, the site where the Prophet Elijah supposedly slaughtered the prophets of Baal. The views are as amazing as the biblical stories.

After lunch tour the Carmelite Monastery located there, then back onto the horses to ride down into the Jezreel Valley to the Kishone Stream and then back to the stables at HaZorea. Overnight again at 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.



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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.

Friday

Today your desert adventure begins. The first horses you rode have been transported to the desert to meet you. Upon being reunited with your trusty steed you ride in the desert expanses, experiencing the fresh air and open space that only the desert can provide.

After an early breakfast you ride east along Daraga Stream before heading south to the upper part of the Judean Desert. The trail takes you across Tekoe Stream then following camel trails you climb to Mutrida ridge. Learn about the hardships the Bedouin nomads face in the desert; look for ancient water cisterns and how to follow the desert trails.

After a late lunch at camp, your guide leads you on a desert walk to the Tzfira Pool and the dry Tze'elim Falls. Time to sit and admire the stunning desert canyon views as the sun goes down. [Please note, on some trails an alternative activity may be arranged.]

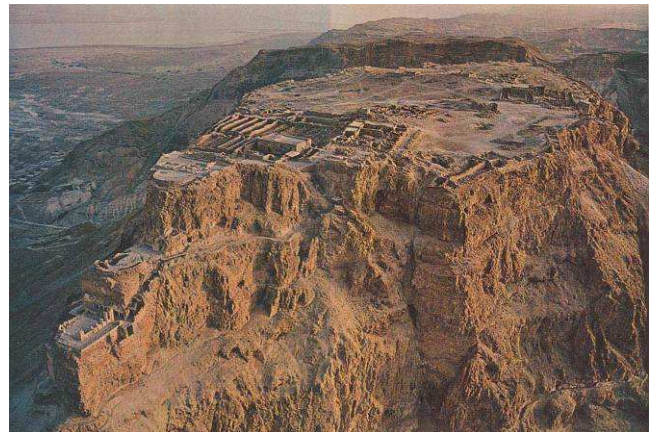


Saturday

Another day of exhilarating desert riding is ahead of you. Before sunrise you ride through the expansive plains of the north Judean Desert heights until you reach cliffs overlooking the Dead Sea. From here you head west, following the Tamar Stream to the grazing fields of the upper desert, where King David used to walk with his sheep. Following an old donkeys' trail, you return to camp for brunch.



Leaving your horses and trail guides at camp, you travel to Masada. As Masada stands majestically before you, it is a short drive to the track that leads you to the top of this monumental site.



Later you drive to a spa on the banks of the Dead Sea for a late lunch. 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 minibus.)

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

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

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

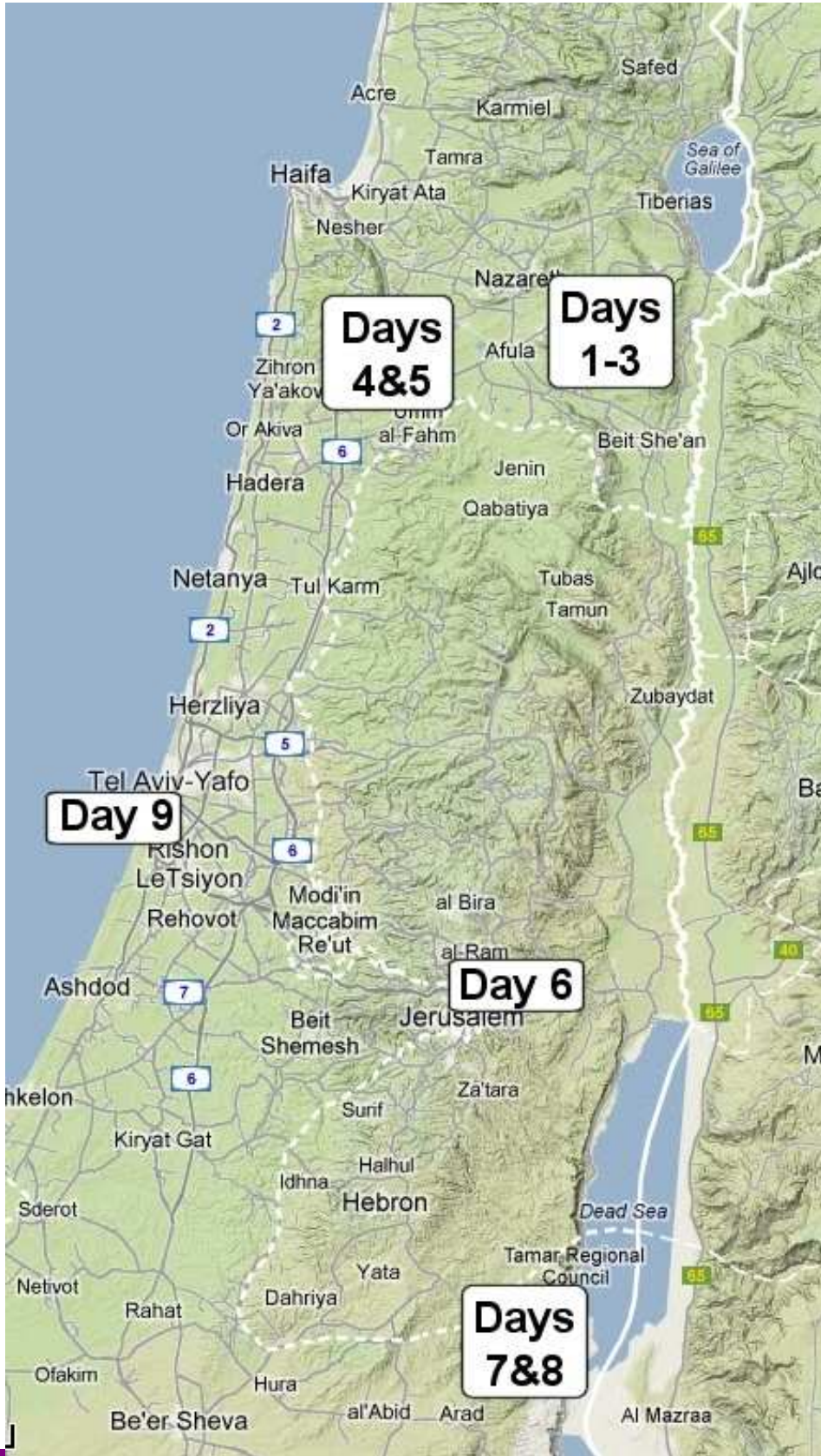
you can, but only take what you need. Therefore all the members were comfortably taken care of. They are a close knit community with their own schools, dining halls and shops. Things have changed slightly over the years, but there is still a great sense of community amongst the members.

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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