

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

# THE HOLY LAND

## A Confluence of Culture



December 2 - 11, 2024



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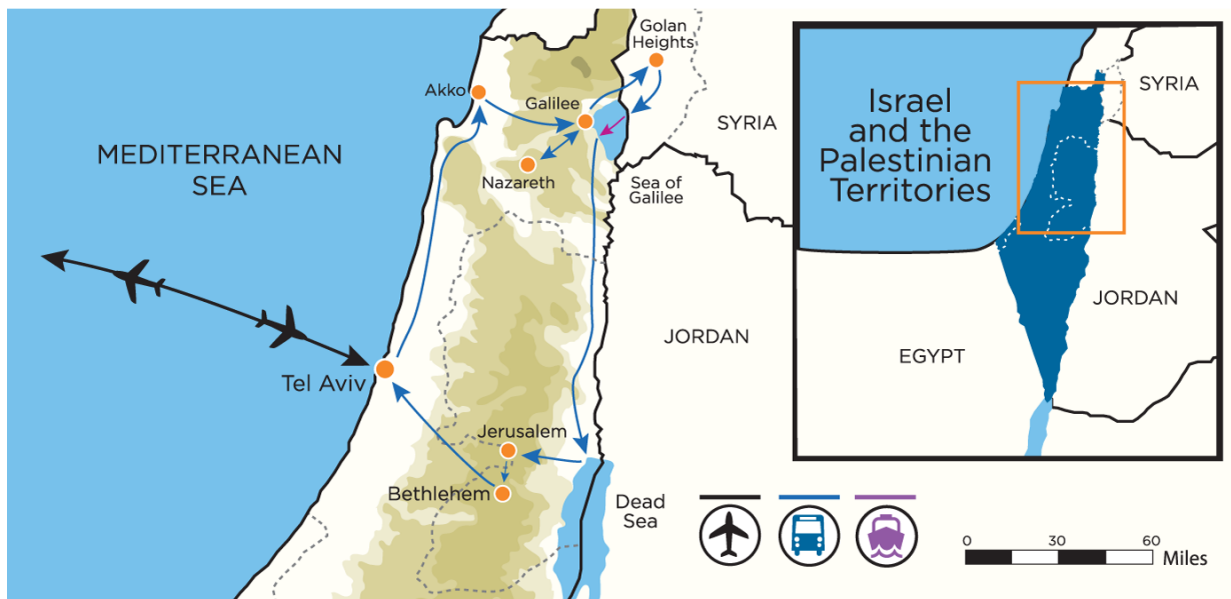
# THE HOLY LAND

## A Confluence of Culture

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Learn about daily life and culture from discussions with both Israeli and Palestinian women
- ▶ Visit an authentic kibbutz, take a dip in the Dead Sea, and explore Jerusalem's Old City
- ▶ Enjoy a private boat ride across the still waters of the Sea of Galilee
- ▶ Sip local wines and sample delicious dishes from both Israeli and Palestinian tradition

### TRIP ROUTE



# THE HOLY LAND

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### QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in the Holy Land, welcome dinner
- Day 2 explore Jaffa's Old Town, see the sights on a bike or a boat
- Day 3 discover ancient excavations, visit a kibbutz, walk Templar's Tunnel
- Day 4 visit the Church of Annunciation, indulge in a local wine tasting
- Day 5 learn about cheese and honey production from local women, visit Golan Heights
- Day 6 take a cable car to Herod's fortress, enjoy a dip in the Dead Sea
- Day 7 explore Jerusalem's Old City, take in some local music during dinner at a family's home
- Day 8 explore Bethlehem, meet a local female chef, visit Banksy's Walled Off Hotel and Museum
- Day 9 visit the holocaust museum, farewell dinner and discussion with two women peacekeepers
- Day 10 depart

### ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

### TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$5,995

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,500

# THE HOLY LAND

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your adventure  
in depth

DAY 1  
Monday  
12/2/24

### Arrive Tel Aviv, Israel

Welcome to the unforgettable city of Tel Aviv, nicknamed the 'White City' because of the presence of unique Bauhaus Architecture. From the beach to the trendy restaurants to the world-famous street art, Tel Aviv is a city for everyone.

#### Arrival Information

Arrive into Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) in Tel Aviv, Israel before 2:30 PM today.

#### Pick Up and Transfer

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. There will be one group transfer provided (time TBD). Transfers for other arrival times are available for an additional cost.

#### Check In

After checking into the hotel, join your guide for an orientation walk along the sea promenade in Tel Aviv. Enjoy the spectacular view of the Jaffa port along the way.

#### Welcome Dinner

Enjoy an animated welcome dinner tonight, as you get to know your fellow travelers. Share stories of past adventures and learn about why everyone is excited to explore the Holy Land!

Accommodations  
Melody Hotel

Meals Included  
dinner

# THE HOLY LAND

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DAY 2  
Tuesday  
12/3/24

### Tel Aviv and Jaffa

Located on the Mediterranean coast, Tel Aviv serves as the economic and technological center of the country. It's often called the White City due to the widespread presence of white colored, Bauhaus style homes and buildings. Thanks to them, the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Explore Jaffa

Set out on a walk through the city of Jaffa this morning. As you make your way through the Old Town square, consider the transformation of this city from ancient port to modern metropolis. Along the way, you'll learn about the city's ancient history from Greek mythology to becoming a major Christian site. Discuss the limits of "shared society" in a city that holds both majority Jewish and Arab neighborhoods and communities of asylum seekers and foreign workers. Wander through the quaint Neve Tzedek neighborhood, and onto tree-lined Rothschild Boulevard.

#### Lunch

Visit Na La'Gaat, a unique restaurant simulating the eating experience of those without sight, for a lunch experience in the dark.

#### Meet a Mizrahi Activist

After lunch, head south of the city to meet a Mizrahi activist whose women's collaborative advocates and organizes improved housing access and economic opportunities for people in less-resourced areas of the city.

#### Afternoon Options

Conclude your day with either a bike ride through the vibrant Yarkon Park north of the city or a paddle boat ride on the river which runs through the park.

#### Evening at Leisure

Enjoy the rest of your night, including dinner, on your own.

Accommodations  
Melody Hotel

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 3  
Wednesday  
12/4/24

### Tel Aviv to Galilee

The Templar's Tunnel in Akko is an incredibly elaborate underground passageway that was built by the Knights Templar to connect their fortress, which is no longer standing, with the port. The tunnel, which extends over more than 500 feet, was built with natural stone and was accidentally discovered in 1994.

#### Survey Excavations

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and head up the coast to Caesarea where you will explore the world-class excavations from the Roman period while learning about the development of the maritime civilization from antiquity until today.

#### Lunch and Coffee with Local Women

Venture further up the coast to visit an authentic Ethiopian-style house built of mud and straw in a nearby kibbutz for a buna (coffee) ceremony and injara (lunch). Then meet the entrepreneurial women whose work brings the unique traditions of the Ethiopian Jewish culture to both local and international visitors.

#### Continue Exploring

In the afternoon, continue to the centuries-old Crusader Fortress of Akko. You'll walk the Templar's Tunnel and visit the Jazzar Mosque while appreciating the impressive preservation efforts and rich diversity of this unique coastal town. You will then complete the drive to Galilee where you will check into the hotel that will be your home for the next three nights. Later, enjoy dinner with the group.

Accommodations  
Nof Ginosar

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch,  
dinner

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DAY 4  
Thursday  
12/5/24

### Nazareth and Galilee

The first kibbutz, or collective community unique to Israel, was called Deganya and located just south of the Sea of Galilee. Today, there are over 270 kibbutzim with diverse specialization, ranging from agriculture to high-tech and military industries.

#### Visit Nazareth

After breakfast, set out to the Church of Annunciation, the site where Mary received the news of the Immaculate Conception. Then take a walk through the Old Town, stopping along the way to visit "Ghada's Corner," a local women-led group that champions the preservation of local culture. You'll then have time to enjoy lunch with the group.

#### Discussion with a Local Woman

Later this afternoon, continue on to the Kibbutz Hannaton where you will meet one of the leading female Jewish clergy members in the country. Spend some time hearing about the issues of religious pluralism and the rewards of communal living. Sip some wine from the community's Jezreel Valley winery before departing.

#### Mount of Beatitudes

Begin the drive back to the hotel, making a stop along the way at the Mount of Beatitudes, the site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Take in the beautiful views of the surrounding region. Finish your journey to the hotel where you will enjoy dinner with the group tonight.

Accommodations  
Nof Ginosar

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch,  
dinner

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DAY 5  
Friday  
12/6/24

### The Golan

Golan Heights is an area of great historical and political significance as well as tremendous controversy and conflict. This land was once a part of Syria until Israel annexed the area as a result of the Six Day War. Without international recognition of the annexation, Syria has continued to demand that the land be returned to them. Despite talks between the two nations, Israel and Syria have not been able to reach an agreement on this land, and the conflict continues to this day.

#### Lunch in a Local Village

Visit the Circassian village of Rehaniya, home to one of the smallest minority communities in the country. Here, you will meet women in their homes and learn how the local production of cheese and honey have sustained their families for generations. Your time here will conclude with a delicious lunch as a group.

#### Explore Golan Heights

Travel into the Golan Heights and stop at Banais, a national reserve featuring remnants of Greek and Roman temples from ancient times that later became an important Christian site. Continue to the Mount Bental viewpoint where you'll learn about regional politics of both past and present. For those who are feeling adventurous, descend into the bunker tunnels on a ladder for a quick glimpse into the harsh reality of conflict.

#### Private Boat Ride

What better way to end the day than a private boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. Glide across the smooth, still waters as you cross this body of water on your way back to the hotel. You will enjoy dinner with the group back at the hotel after your return.

#### Morning Activities

Wake up early today and head to the Agamon Hula Nature Park for a tour of the grounds. You can choose to see the park on a mountain bike or cart ride across moderate terrain.

Accommodations  
Nof Ginosar

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch,  
dinner



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DAY 6  
Saturday  
12/7/24

### Galilee to Jerusalem

As a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem holds a huge place in the course of world history. The golden Dome of the Rock stands out as one of the most iconic of the city's 226 landmarks. The walled Old City became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981 - despite its small size, it contains a higher density of historical buildings, walls and sites than perhaps any other city in the world.

#### Travel along the Jordanian Border

You'll check out of the hotel after breakfast this morning and begin your journey south along the long and winding highway that follows the Jordanian border as you make your way to Jerusalem. Total travel time for today will be about four and a half hours, but will be broken up with many interesting stops along the way.

#### Visit Qasr al Yehud

Make a stop at the timeless Qasr al Yehud baptismal site where you will hear about the many challenges and innovative solutions relating to water management in the region. Then continue to Masada, where you will enjoy lunch and then take a cable car ride to Herod's mountaintop fortress. Explore the site excavations for this swath of land that was a refuge for Jewish rebels in 70 CE.

#### Take a Dip in the Dead Sea

After a bit more driving, you will head to a nearby Dead Sea beach for a quick dip in the waters that are at the lowest point in the world!

#### Arrive in Jerusalem

You'll arrive in Jerusalem late this afternoon. After checking into the hotel, you have the rest of the night on your own for dinner and some down time.

Accommodations  
Harmony Hotel

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 7  
Sunday  
12/8/24

### Jerusalem

Jerusalem's Old City is broken up into four quarters: Muslim, Christian, Armenian and Jewish, with the highest portions of the nearly 37,000 residents living in the Muslim and Christian Quarters. From the bustling underground Arab markets to the majestic Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the city is full of wonder.

#### Spend the Day in the Old City

Explore Jerusalem's Old City on foot today along with two guides - one Jewish Israeli and one Palestinian - who will share their perspectives in tandem. First, visit the Temple Mount/Noble Sanctuary complex which features sites rich in history as well as religious and political significance.

After taking time to approach the Western Wall, head to the City of David where you will tour the recent excavations and set out on an optional walk through underground Jerusalem and the water canal.

Enjoy lunch on your own before visiting the Church of Holy Sepulchre and walking the "Way of the Cross" to Saint Stephen's gate and the Pool of Bethesda.

Later, you will enjoy an intimate dinner at a family home nearby. The lively meal will be accompanied by live, local music as well as a discussion on the themes of the day.

Accommodations  
Harmony Hotel

Meals Included  
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 8  
Monday  
12/9/24

### Bethlehem

Believed by many Christians to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, Bethlehem is a popular pilgrimage destination. It is home to the Church of the Nativity, which is considered to be one of the oldest Christian churches in existence.

**Visit Bethlehem** Today you will head to Bethlehem where you will stop at Manger Square and the Church of Nativity, the millennia-old heart of Christianity in the Holy Land.

**Lunch with a Local Female Chef** Later this morning, you will meet an accomplished Palestinian chef, a woman whose work draws on local produce and innovates local flavor. Walk through the market with her on your way to a nearby kitchen where you will enjoy lunch followed by a hands-on tutorial on preparing one of the favorite Palestinian dishes you just sampled.

**Banksy's Walled Off Hotel and Museum** Take in the bold visual display as you walk past the extensive graffiti art and murals along a tall barrier that separates this city from Jerusalem when you visit Banksy's Walled Off Hotel and Museum.

**Hear Different Perspectives from Local Women** Later, you will meet a local woman within West Bank Palestinian society and hear a different view from a women-led group that advocates for further Israeli development in Jewish settlements in these disputed territories.

**Dinner on Your Own** Return to Jerusalem for time on your own to enjoy dinner and explore the city.

Accommodations  
Harmony Hotel

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch

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DAY 9  
Tuesday  
12/10/24

### Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem literally translates to “a monument and a name,” and is the second most popular site for Israeli visitors after Jerusalem’s Western Wall. Opened to the public in 1957, Yad Vashem has served as Israel’s official memorial for the victims of the Holocaust. It’s dedicated to preserving the memory of the dead, honoring Jews who fought their Nazi oppressors and honoring those who aided Jews in need.

#### Experience the Holocaust Museum

Spend the morning on a guided tour of Israel’s national holocaust museum and memorial, a sobering exhibition of an atrocity whose impact has touched generations of Jewish people in Israel and abroad. Take some time to reflect and consider the importance of preserving memory and promoting tolerance.

#### Meet a Female Politician

You will have a chance to meet with a leading Israeli female politician or diplomat today for a discussion on the achievements of women in leadership at critical moments in the nation’s history up until today.

#### Take a Tasting Tour

Lunch today will be on foot, as you wander through the famed Mehane Yehuda market for a tasting tour before spending the rest of the afternoon on your own for shopping or exploring.

#### Farewell Dinner

Enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner tonight with your fellow travelers along with two women peacemakers - Israeli and Palestinian - whose efforts show the way toward a shared future.

Accommodations  
Harmony Hotel

Meals Included  
breakfast, dinner

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DAY 10  
Wednesday  
12/11/24

### Depart Jerusalem

All great adventures must one day come to an end. Bid farewell to your new friends and splendid Israel as you head to the airport for your flight home.

#### Transfer to the Airport

Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.

#### Departure Information

Depart Tel Aviv, Israel (TLV) any time today. One group transfer is included (time TBD closer to the trip); private transfers at other times can be purchased for an additional fee.

*Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.*

Meals Included  
breakfast

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### Accommodation Details

#### Melody Hotel

Located just a short walk from the Mediterranean and across the street from Independence Park, the Melody Hotel offers a peaceful retreat furnished with urban design. Take in the spectacular view of the sea from the 8th floor terrace during your stay.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, air conditioning, WiFi

#### Nof Ginosar

The Nof Ginosar Hotel is nestled along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and in front of the Golan mountains. With a private beach and beautiful green gardens, the hotel is the perfect place to relax after a busy day of exploration.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, hair dryer, air conditioning, WiFi

#### Harmony Hotel

The Harmony Hotel is situated right in the heart of Jerusalem and just a few minutes away from the Jaffa Gate. Blending the best of the old and new city, this boutique hotel features 60 rooms with modern furnishings.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, hair dryer, air conditioning, WiFi

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### Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ English-speaking guide(s) throughout the trip
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ All gratuities except for head guide

### Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from the destination
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for the main guide

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### Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

### Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

### No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

### Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

### Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

**good-natured realist and have a sense of humor!** Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a