

Israel Perspectives & Peoples Cultural Discovery

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Israel Perspectives & Peoples Cultural Discovery

The safety and well-being of our guests and Adventure Guides are our top priority, and our explorations in Israel are currently on hold. We look forward to resuming our Israel trips in the future. Experience a unique adventure through the portal of modern Israel into biblical times. Leave contemporary Tel Aviv for ancient Jaffa, and see Roman, Phoenician, and Crusader ruins in Caesarea, Acre, and Banias. Relive biblical history at the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, and Masada, and enjoy excellent hikes on the Jesus Trail. In Bethlehem, a Palestinian Christian family gives a first-hand perspective on Christian communities in Israel and the political struggles in Palestine. Then dive deeply into Jerusalem, old and new. If you've longed to explore the Holy Land in a sensitive way, this is your journey!

Details

Arrive:	Tel Aviv, Israel
Depart:	Jerusalem, Israel
Duration:	11 Days
Group Size:	4-15 Guests
Minimum Age:	13 Years Old
Activity Level:	

Testimonials

"I have taken 12 trips with MT Sobek. Each has left a positive imprint on me—widening my view of the world and its peoples."

Jane B.

"Great introduction for first time travelers to Israel; good food, accommodations and an outstanding guide!"

William R.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1-800-974-0300

 info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

This trip enlightens travelers about the myriad rulers, peoples and history of the entire Holy Land

REASON #02

This journey includes Israel's top historical and cultural sights, while sensitively balancing both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives

REASON #03

Food and wine is an unsung highlight of visiting Israel and our trip includes everything from fine dining to wine tasting to street food.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Insightful cultural touring of modern and ancient Israel, plus several hikes up to 3 miles per day on the Jesus Trail pilgrimage route.



LODGING

Elegant modern hotels with high-quality service. Includes three nights at the legendary Scots Hotel in Tiberias.



CLIMATE

Daytime temperatures will range from the mid-60's to low 80's and nighttime temperatures will range from the low 40's to mid-50's.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Born in Israel, Rom completed three years of army service before following his passion to see the world. Through his extensive travels, he developed a deep appreciation for people, sharing ideas, human nature and history, which led him to becoming a tour guide. In his spare time, Rom loves hiking, diving, kitesurfing, and is a huge fan of street art and food.

Rom Amit

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV

Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv. After a rest you may want to stroll along the promenade or Rothschild Boulevard. Dinner tonight is on your own, as our guests will arrive well into the evening.

DAY 2

TOUR TEL AVIV & JAFFA

Start the day with a breakfast trip briefing and then take a stroll through White City, a UNESCO-listed district recognized for its Bauhaus and art deco architecture. On Rothschild Boulevard, visit the Independence Hall, which illustrates the role the city played in the establishment of the modern state. Walk through nearby Neveh Zedek, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods now enjoying a revival with new galleries and restaurants. Then explore the ancient port town of Jaffa, now a thriving artists' colony with many galleries, studios, and shops, and an unusual antique market. Enjoy a festive welcome dinner tonight.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE TO CAESAREA MARITIMA, HAIFA, & ACRE

Drive up the scenic coast to Caesarea Maritima, ancient capital of the Roman province and now a national park, to see impressive remains of the Roman and Crusader periods. Continue to Haifa, where there are lovely views of Bahai Gardens, and then on to Acre (Akko), an ancient Phoenician and Crusader seaport designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour the Citadel of Acre's stunning halls and buildings of the Knights Hospitaller and Templar, and walk through the covered bazaar. End the day with a wine tasting at the hotel's cave bar.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

JOURNEY TO GOLAN HEIGHTS & DESCEND TO BANIAS

Drive up to Golan Heights and gaze into Lebanon and Syria to the lush Tel Dan Reserve - Dan was once the northernmost city in the ancient Kingdom of Israel - and its ruins. Continue up to Nimrod Crusader Castle, built by the Arabs and occupied by the Crusaders for its strategic position. After lunch, hike down to Banias to see the archaeological remains of this sacred place that span Pagan, Jewish, Christian Byzantine, Muslim, and Crusader eras (weather permitting).

Activity: 1 hour/2 miles hiking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

HIKE AROUND MOUNT ARBEL & THE SEA OF GALILEE

Lace up your boots for today's hike along the portion of the Jesus Trail that descends from Mount Arbel to the Sea of Galilee. Enjoy stunning views and learn about the area's rich history: It is here that early Christianity evolved; Jesus delivered his famous Sermon on the Mount at the Mount of Beatitudes. At Nof Ginosar, visit a 2,000-year-old boat that was found preserved in the sea's muddy shores, and see the famous ruins at Capernaum, where Jesus lived and taught at the synagogue.

Activity: 1.5 hours/3 miles hiking with 820' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

TRAVEL TO NAZARETH & JERICHO

Journey west to Nazareth - the childhood home of Jesus - to see the Church of the Annunciation and the nearby remains of the major Byzantine church and Mary's Well. Then continue down the Jordan Rift Valley to Jericho, the world's oldest continuously inhabited city; excavations here reveal over 10,000 years of human settlement. Lunch in Jericho before we continue to Ein Gedi. On arrival at Ein Gedi, have time to enjoy the kibbutz and its beautiful surroundings.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM VIA MASADA & QUMRAN

Rise early this morning to explore the ancient fortress of Masada, the last stronghold of the Rome-opposed Jewish Zealots. See Herod's palaces, baths, and other ruins that reveal the dramatic events that took place here in the Judean Desert 2,000 years ago. Continue to Qumran, on the Dead Sea's northern shore. Now a national park, Qumran was once the home of the Essenes, a secluded desert sect that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 1947, a young Bedouin shepherd discovered manuscript fragments in clay jars hidden for centuries in the caves. Enjoy a swim in the Dead Sea before driving to Jerusalem through the Judean Wilderness.

Activity: 1 hour/2.5 miles hiking with 1,150' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

STEP BACK IN TIME IN OLD JERUSALEM

Enjoy a dramatic view of Jerusalem from the Mt of Olives, then walk down to the Garden of Gethsemane. Follow your guide through Dung Gate and into the Old City for an enjoyable tour of the Four Quarters. Get your first

view of the Temple Mount, known by Muslims as the Haram el Sharif, and observe worshippers at the Western (Wailing) Wall. There is also an option to take the underground tunnel tour. Next, visit the Davidson Centre to learn how daily life revolved around the Temple in ancient times. Then walk along the Way of the Cross, through the markets within the Christian and Muslim Quarters. The Via Dolorosa ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where you can observe intense devotion and prayer, by many different denominations, at the site of the Crucifixion and the Tomb of Christ. In the afternoon stroll through the Armenian and Jewish Quarters via the Cardo and out through the Zion Gate. Your action-packed day in Jerusalem will also include stops at the Tomb of King David and the Upper Room.

Activity: 1-2 hours/2-3 miles walking

Meals: B

DAY 9

SIGHTSEE IN THE NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM

Today's sightseeing begins with a visit to Yad Vashem - the Jewish people's powerful memorial to the six million lives lost to the Holocaust. Next, drive past the Knesset, Israel's parliament, en route to the Israel Museum, where you'll see a fascinating model of Jerusalem as it was during the time of the Second Temple and the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea scrolls. You may also take time to visit the rest of the Israel Museum collection. Enjoy lunch at the lively Mahne Yahuda food market. In the late afternoon, you are free to revisit the Old City and stroll through its historic quarters before gathering for a farewell dinner this evening to say goodbye to your Israeli guide.

Meals: B, L

DAY 10

BETHLEHEM & HERODIUM

Travel to Bethlehem and walk through Manger Square to the Church of Nativity, where many believe Jesus was born. Lunch in a Palestinian Christian family's home in Bethlehem. Stop at the Banksy-inspired Walled Off Hotel to see the separation wall with its political graffiti and the exhibit on the occupation.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

DEPART FROM JERUSALEM

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your homeward-bound flight.

Meals: B

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Dates

Feb 15 - 25, 2024

Dec 5 - 15, 2024

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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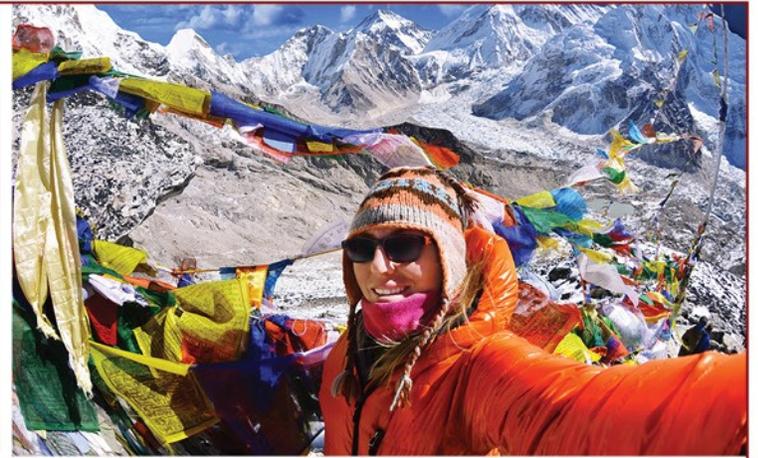
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➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



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