What is behind the scenes of a small country constantly in the headlines?

Israel is a place of contradictions: an ancient land with the newest technology; a tiny state with immigrants from dozens of countries; a haven for the Jewish people and a home for Muslims, Christians and Druse; a country small in area with an astounding array of flora and fauna. Join us on this 14-day trip to explore, encounter and understand Israel.

We start in Jerusalem, the place the ancients described as the center of the world. We will have in-depth tours of the Old City and its holy sites, and visit the modern Israeli institutions of government and culture.

Continuing to the magnificent Judean desert, we will enter the home of Herod’s mountain fortress, Masada. Trips to Gush Etzion, Hebron, Bethlehem and Samaria will reveal the Biblical heartland as well as places that are sources of conflict in modern times.

Continue on to the north of the country to explore the birthplaces of Christianity and of Jewish mysticism. Archaeological sites are everywhere! We will also immerse ourselves in the beautiful landscapes, and learn that the land of Israel sits at the crossroads of three continents, and in the middle of multiple cultures.

We end our trip in the metropolis of Tel Aviv, exploring the “start up” economy Israel is famous for, and learning about the birth of the Jewish state.

Also, did we mention gorgeous beaches, delicious food and wonderful wine? Join us to experience this amazing adventure!

**For More information, visit us at [www.uaf.edu/summer/travel](http://www.uaf.edu/summer/travel)**

**Important note:** Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

**Note about Mobility:** Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

**Tour Dates:**
- Oct. 19 - Nov. 2, 2020
- Jordan and Petra Extension: Nov. 2 - 6, 2020

**Tour Cost:**
- $5,300.00
- Single supplement: $1100.00
- Jordan and Petra Extension: $1790.00
- Single supplement: $380.00

**Inclusions**
- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground transportation
- Entry fees
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Israel are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.
**Day 1, Oct. 19: Jerusalem**
Check in at hotel. Orientation and welcome dinner.

**Day 2, Oct. 20: Old City of Jerusalem**
A comprehensive tour of the Old City including views from the rooftops, a look at the four quarters of the city and the market, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Western Wall, and of course the essential archaeological sites.

**Day 3, Oct. 21: New City of Jerusalem**
Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and the home of its parliament, the Knesset. We start our day with a talk on Israeli politics, then a tour of the Knesset and of Yad Vashem, Israel’s main Holocaust memorial. In the afternoon, we will visit the world-renowned Israel Museum.

**Day 4, Oct. 22: Judean Desert**
A descent (literally!) to the lowest place on earth and its fascinating landscapes and stories: the Dead Sea, the beautiful oasis of Ein Gedi and the fabulous mountain fortress of Masada. Dinner at Abraham’s Tent in Genesis Land, a stunning location overlooking the desert.

**Day 5, Oct. 23: Hebron and Gush Etzion**
This area south of Jerusalem stood as the heartland in Biblical times; today it is the home of both Jewish and Palestinian communities and holy sites. Return to Jerusalem in the afternoon, free time as the city prepares to welcome the Sabbath. Dinner in the hotel.

**Day 6, Oct. 24: Bethlehem**
Morning tour of Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, lunch at the home of a resident who will speak about the city and life there. Optional walking tour in the afternoon. Tower of David sound and light show at night.

**Day 7, Oct. 25: Samaria**
We start our day with a talk on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, one of the most complex issues in our area. Then we head north of Jerusalem to the fascinating sites of ancient Shilo, home of the Biblical Tabernacle, and Mount Gerizim, where we will look into the city of Nablus (Shechem) and meet representatives of the Samaritans, one of the oldest communities in the country. We will also hear about local Israeli and Palestinian business ventures. Lunch and wine tasting at Tura Winery.
Day 8, Oct. 26: Caesarea - Zippori - Bet Shearim

On our first day in the north of the country we will explore sites from the time of the Romans, also the time of Christianity’s beginnings and of a flourishing Jewish life and literature. From the Roman stronghold of Caesarea to the mixed city of ancient Zippori, the north is full of stories and ruins.
Dinner at a kibbutz.

Day 9, Oct. 27: Tsvat, Tel Dan and Banias National Parks

Our morning will be a visit to the mystical city of Tzfat, home of artists and spiritual seekers since the Middle Ages.
In the afternoon, we will hike in the beautiful national parks of Tel Dan and the Banias.
Dinner in the hotel.
Talk on natural history and snakes in Israel.

Day 10, Oct. 28: Golan - Tiberias

We ascend to the Golan Heights to explore its spectacular natural beauty as well as understand its strategic importance to Israel’s security. We will take a jeep tour along the border with a security expert.
Our afternoon will be spent at the Sea of Galilee, the sites significant to Christianity all around it and the town of Tiberias.
Dinner at a moshav.
Evening tour of the Hula valley reserve, which is on a major bird migration route.

Spices at a Jerusalem market
Day 11, Oct. 29: Rosh HaNikra - Akko - Tel Aviv

On our way to Tel Aviv, we will visit the northern coast and see the beautiful grottoes at Rosh HaNikra on the border with Lebanon. The Crusader stronghold of Akko and its amazing ruins will be our afternoon stop. Our tour ends in Tel Aviv where we will stay for the next few days. Dinner in Zikhron Yaakov.

Day 12, Oct. 30: Tel Aviv

We will start our day at the Palmach Museum to get some background on Israel’s War of Independence. From there we will visit the Peres Innovation Center, a great introduction to Israel’s current title as the “Start Up Nation”. Old Jaffa is right next door, and there will be free time to explore the flea market and the galleries there. Dinner at the Tel Aviv port.

Day 13, Oct. 31: Bet Guvrin and Bet Shemesh

South of Tel Aviv lies the Shephelah, the lowlands, one of the most fertile archaeological sites in the country. We will explore caves, millennia old hideouts, and Biblical era towns. Dinner in Tel Aviv.

Day 14, Nov 1: Tel Aviv

Optional morning walking tour of Neve Zedek, the first Jewish neighborhood outside of Old Jaffa, and of the historic beginnings of Tel Aviv. Free afternoon for beach, shopping, bike riding. Farewell dinner.

Day 15, Nov 2: Tel Aviv

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Tel Aviv airport or continue to Jordan and Petra extension.

"In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles."

- David Ben-Gurion
A journey through ancient landscapes and culture.

Day 1, Nov 2: Tel Aviv - Aqaba
Travel south to Aqaba via Israel's beautiful Negev desert.
Highlights: modern and ancient Beersheba, the Ramon Crater.
Overnight in Aqaba.

Day 2, Nov 3: Aqaba - Petra
Travel to the Nabatean City of Petra.
Highlights: Siq Canyon, 'The Treasury'. exploring the main archeological sites and highlights along the way including The Monastery or The High Place of Sacrifice.

Day 3, Nov 4: Petra – Wadi Rum Canyons
Travel to the Canyons of Wadi Rum.
Highlights: Visits to historical sites of Madaba, including the famous 'Madaba Mosaic Map' (Madaba Map); Mt. Nebo, where according to tradition Moses saw the Promised Land and where he was buried; and Jerash, one best preserved Roman cities in the world

Day 4, Nov 5: Wadi Rum Canyons - Eilat
Hike the desert landscapes near Wadi Rum before transferring to the city of Eilat.
Highlights: Wadi Rum’s beauty remains intact in its breathtaking scenery. Traveling via 4X4 jeeps crossing over red sand dunes to explore the beautifully eroded pillars of sandstone rock, including the Seven Pillars, Khaz Ali canyon and Jabel Um Asharim. Crossing back into Israel for final night at Eilat.

Day 4, Nov 5: Eilat - Tel Aviv
Transfer by air to Tel Aviv airport.

Dates:
November 2-6, 2020

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