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Last Updated: October 2, 2013

Spirit of Israel - DOSPD

12 days: Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

What's Included

Arrival transfer - Welcome gift - Language lesson - Tel Aviv walk including, Neve Tzedek and the Yemenite quarter and visit to local markets - Visit the ancient port of Jaffa - Sample Jaffa Felafel at a local restaurant - Visit The Jewish Diaspora Museum - Excursion to Haifa including the Bahai gardens, Carmelite Monastery, Elijahs cave and German colony - Explore Akko including the subterranean crusader city, museum of underground prisoners and Torah Synagogue - Visit a Druze village and enjoy a local dinner - Visit the Sea of Galilee, including Mount of Beatitudes and Jesus' Boat - Visit a Kibbutz for a meal - Explore Nazareth including the Church of the Annunciation, Synagogue Church and Mary's well - Follow a procession in Jerusalem to the western wall - Tour Bethlehem, including the market, Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity - Explore the old city of Jerusalem including the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Temple of the Mount - Visit Qumran to learn about the dead sea scrolls - Float in the Dead Sea - Visit a Judean Bedouin Village - Excursion to the Mt. of olives - Visit the Church of the Ascension and the Garden of Gethsemane - Visit the Rockefeller Archaeology museum

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2013 - December 31st, 2013

Itinerary



Day 1 Tel Aviv

Arrive at any time with transfer included. Enjoy a language lesson this evening.

Please look for a welcome notice in the reception area of our hotel, advising the time and location of this evening's welcome meeting, where you meet your tour leader and travelling companions. Afterward there will be the chance for the group to head out for an optional local dinner.

Day 2-3 Tel Aviv (2B,1L)

Walk through Tel Aviv including historic Neve Tzedek and the Yemenite Quarter and the Carmel and Arts and Crafts markets. Visit the ancient port of Jaffa and for lunch, enjoy the world-famous Jaffa falafel. Visit the Jewish Diaspora Museum, one of the biggest museums in the world that specializes in the history of the Jewish people.

Day 4 Haifa/Akko (1B)

Excursion to Haifa, including the Bahai Gardens, Carmelite Monastery, Elijah's Cave and German Colony. Continue to Akko, our base for the next three nights.

Estimated Travel Time:

Private transport; approx 1.5hrs to Haifa, 15mins to Akko

Day 5-6 Akko (2B,1L,1D)

Explore Akko including the subterranean crusader city, museum of underground prisoners and Torah Synagogue. Afternoon visit a Druze village to explore, and enjoy a local dinner. On Day 6, visit the Sea of Galilee, taking in the Mt of Beatitudes and Jesus Boat. Visit a kibbutz for a meal and the chance to learn about the kibbutzim lifestyle.

Day 7 Nazareth/Jerusalem (1B)

Visit Nazareth including the Church of the Annunciation, Synagogue Church and Mary's Well. Travel to Jerusalem to welcome in the Sabbath. Follow the crowds, laden with food for the holy day, to the Western Wall, the holiest sight in Judaism.

Estimated Travel Time:

Private transport: 1.5hrs akko-nazareth, 2hrs to Jerusalem

Day 8 Bethlehem/Jerusalem (1B)

Tour of Bethlehem, including the market, manger square and the Church of the Nativity.

Day 9 Jerusalem (1B)

Explore the old city of Jerusalem including the Via Dolorosa, the path Jesus walked, carrying his cross, on the way to his crucifixion. Visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Temple of the Mount.

Day 10-11 Jerusalem (2B,1L)

Drive through the desert to the ruins of Qumran to learn about the Dead Sea scrolls. Float in the Dead Sea and explore the ruins of Masada. Later, visit a village and meet Judaeen Bedouin people. On Day 11, excursion to the Mt of Olives. Enjoy incredible views and walk amongst olive trees that date back 2000 years. Visit the Church of the Ascension and the Garden of Gethsemane. Visit the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum.

Visit Masada, a Unesco World Heritage site, and famous rock fortress which was the last stronghold of the Jewish in the war against the Romans. The story of the site reveals the courage of the defenders of Massada and their battle against the conquering Romans. Visit Herod's palace, the mikveh, storerooms, watchtowers, and the synagogue.

The Dead Sea is actually a lake, without any form of life whatsoever existing in its waters. The water is so dense that it is practically impossible to sink, being five to ten times as salty as regular sea water. While swimming, cover yourself with the sea's mud, which is reputed to have special healing powers. You will notice that the salt penetrates any cuts on your body and has an unusual smell, but there are showers to wash off under after swimming.

Day 12 Jerusalem (1B)

Depart at anytime.

You are free to depart at anytime today. We are able to assist in post tour accommodation if you would like to extend your visit. Please ask at the time of booking.

What's Included

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Highlights

Encountering three of the world's major religions in the Holy Land, Visiting a kibbutz for a meal and meeting the local residents, Investigating the 2,000 year-old ruins of Qumran and learning about the Dead Sea scrolls, Gazing up at the blue skies while floating on your back in the Dead Sea, Witnessing the contrast between village life and big city existence.

Dossier Disclaimer

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previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

Discovery Adventures is operated in conjunction with G Adventures, the world leader in sustainable adventure travel. An award winning company with over 800 employees and 17 operational offices worldwide, G Adventures has 20 years experience in creating culturally interactive travel experiences. G Adventures advocates a triple bottom line business philosophy where equal attention is given to the environmental, social and economic impact of tourism to achieve long-term environmentally responsible growth whilst protecting destinations & cultural heritage for future generations.

Group Leader Description

All Discovery Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12

Meals Included

11 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Dinner

Meals

Travelling with Discovery Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful foods and flavors that are available in the world. Some meals are included in the trip price in more remote regions or as a highlight where we can share a local specialty or cultural experience. In many places where there is a choice of eating options, we like to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each others company, but there is no obligation to do this. Your CEO will be able to suggest favorite restaurants during your trip. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Meal Budget

Allow USD250-300 for meals not included

Transport

Private van, walking, boat

About our Transportation

On this trip we will travel by air-conditioned private minivan for most journeys.

Solo Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Comfort hotels (11 nts)

My Own Room

If you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops.

About Accommodation

The accommodation level for most Discovery Adventure tours are comfortable, in mid-range hotels, motels, lodges, guest houses, etc. You'll often enjoy air-conditioned rooms, complete with en suite bathrooms and some amenities. Accommodation and amenities can vary by Country and region and please remember that standards can be different from what you are used to in your home country, which is part of the appeal of adventure travel. Some trips may include camping, permanent tented camps or more rustic lodges, depending on the remoteness of where you are visiting. Please see your trip details for more information, specific to your tour. Porterage is not included, but can be arranged directly at most hotels.

Joining Hotel

Deborah Hotel
87 Ben Yehuda Street
Tel Aviv 63437
Tel: 00972-3-5278282
www.deborah.co.il

Joining Instructions

**Please note, the arrival transfer included occurs on Day 1 of the tour. If you plan to arrive prior to Day 1, you will be required to arrange pre-tour accommodation through G Adventures to be eligible for the transport from the airport. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Arrival Complications

If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Joining Hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Israel)
Emergency Phone Number: +972 54 554 4905 (Simon)

G Adventures Local Office (Cairo, Egypt)

Emergency number: +20 122 221 16 99 (Mohammed, Middle East Regional Manager)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0844 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 01805 70 90 30 00

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Finishing Point Instructions

We are able to organise extra accommodation post-trip should you require it. Please enquire at the time of booking.

At the end of the tour, we can locally arrange departure transfers to Tel Aviv. Distance from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv : 1 hour (approx 1 hr 30 with traffic)

What to Take

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We highly recommend using a backpack, soft compact suitcase or light sports bag, whichever you find easiest to carry, plus a small daypack. Luggage space on transport is limited. You must be prepared to carry your own bags as porters are not often available.

Checklist

Documents:

- Passport (with photocopies)
- Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- EUR/USD cash
- Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)
- Discovery Adventures/G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier
- Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

Suggested Items:

- Light fleece top
- Light windproof/waterproof jacket
- Small towel and swimwear
- Sun hat
- Personal clothing for mild to hot weather (See also "What to Take" and "Local Dress" sections of this dossier)
- 1 smart outfit for special evenings
- comfortable walking shoes
- Flashlight/torch
- Sport sandals
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries
- Watch or alarm clock
- Money belt
- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, Aspirin, bandaids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, insect repellent, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

Optional Items:

- Camera
- Reading/writing material
- Binoculars

- Cover for backpacks

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Israel and Palestinian Territories:

Most tourists to Israel and the Palestinian Territories will be issued a free visa, on arrival valid for 90 days, at air and land borders. Known exceptions to this are India, Singapore and many African countries. Please double check the requirements in relation to the passport you travel on.

Usually your entry and visa will not be stamped into your passport, but onto a separate piece of paper.

Please note: if you are planning to enter Israel via land from Egypt or Jordan, that even without an Israeli visa in your passport, the exit stamps from these neighboring countries will indicate that you have visited Israel. This will impact your ability to use the same passport to travel to Syria Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Saudi, Libya and Yemen.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

ATMs are found widely in Israel and will generally accept cards on the Visa and Mastercard networks. While this is the best way to get the majority of your money in Israel, and the vast majority of Cirrus network cards work fine, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will work in the Middle East. Check with your bank before travelling.

Credit cards are accepted by most larger restaurants and stores. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5-10% usually applies. Cash advances can also be made with some banks. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible. Euros and US Dollars are all easy to exchange to local currency.

Travellers cheques can be tricky to exchange and we do not recommend that you use them as your primary source of funds. In large cities you can exchange them in some 5-star hotels and banks but this takes time and incurs a high fee. Thomas Cook or American Express travellers cheques in US or Euro currencies are the easiest to exchange.

Always take more funds rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

The currency in Israel is the Israeli Shekel(NIS).

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Note that almost all local purchases (meals, souvenirs, most optional activities, etc) will be paid for in local currencies.

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Departure Tax

Included in airline tickets but there may be departure taxes if you are exiting at a land border.

Tipping

It is customary to tip around 10-12% at restaurants in Israel, particularly Tel Aviv. At the end of your trip if you felt that your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is also expected and appreciated. The precise amount is entirely a personal preference, however 20-25 USD per person per week can be used as a general guideline.

Optional Activities

Tel Aviv:

Diaspora Museum 35NIS

Museum of Modern Art 40NIS

Independence hall 17NIS

Haganah Museum - free entry

Asrieli Observatory - 22NIS

Jerusalem:

Israel Museum 42NIS

Zedekiah's cave 16NIS

Museum on the Seam 30NIS

Garden Tomb - free entry

City of David & Hezekiah's tunnel- 25NIS

Monastery of the Cross - 10NIS

Please note that optional activities can be booked locally through your CEO - prices are subject to change at any time.

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit, hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities for some time during this trip, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based

activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

- www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Trip Specific Safety

Like anywhere in the world, major cities have areas safer than others, use common sense, be aware of your surroundings and mind your personal belongings.

Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

Please note that all passengers traveling to Antarctica are required to fill out this questionnaire.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

Through our commitment to responsible tourism we have developed the Planeterra Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of people and communities around the world through support of international charities, local organizations and community projects in the places that we visit on our tours. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit www.planeterra.org

Planeterra Dollar-A-Day Program

Our Dollar-A-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to help us give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar per day for the duration of their tour. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to support our Planeterra projects.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking)

Local Dress

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts. Outside of capital cities and the more touristic centres, local dress is often more conservative and as a matter of respect we ask that both men and women are aware of this and recommend loose-fitting clothes with your shoulders covered. Ask your CEO for more specific advice.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that you'll receive a special discount code for free online prints and we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Please visit <http://www.gadventures.com/evaluations>

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

Be sure to stop by [The Watering Hole](#), our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the [Departure Lounge](#) section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at wateringhole.gadventures.com.