

#### DAY 1: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL / JERUSALEM

Arrive at the Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) in Tel Aviv and transfer to Jerusalem. Relax at the hotel before a reception and welcome dinner this evening, where you'll meet your fellow Travelers and the expedition team.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodations: American Colony Hotel

#### DAY 2: JERUSALEM

Begin the day on the Temple Mount, capped by the shining cupola of the Dome of the Rock. Meet an imam from the Al-Aqsa Mosque who will explain the importance of this holy site to Muslims. Then visit the Western Wall, touch the ancient stones and meet with a rabbi to learn about the significance of this sacred place. Afterwards, join a local pastor at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, home to 6 Christian sects and, according to tradition, the tomb of Jesus. In the afternoon, ascend to the top of the Mount of Olives and take in a panoramic view of the domes, spires and golden stones of Jerusalem's Old City.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: American Colony Hotel

#### DAY 3: JERUSALEM

Just outside the Old City's walls lies the City of David, thought to be the original capital established by King David some 3,000 years ago. Venture into the archaeological site and meet with its Israeli administrators; later, speak with residents of the nearby Palestinian neighborhood who oppose the excavations. Get an insider's perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with an Israeli politician before traveling to Ramallah, where you will hear from a high-ranking Palestinian official.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: American Colony Hotel

#### DAY 4: JERUSALEM

Spend the day tracing the turbulent history of the birth of the state of Israel. At Yad Vashem, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust, learn more about this dark time in history and hear stories of its survivors. Then travel to Ein Kerem, where Christian tradition says John the Baptist was born. An Israeli and a Palestinian guide will each tell their divergent narrative of the village's role in Israel's 1948 War of

Independence. Explore Jerusalem on your own before gathering in the evening for a discussion with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists from the Bereaved Families Forum.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: American Colony Hotel

#### DAY 5: BETHLEHEM AND THE WEST BANK

Travel to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc to hear the viewpoints of Israeli settlers. Continue to Bethlehem and visit Manger Square; then, at the Church of the Nativity, descend into the cave revered by many as the birthplace of Jesus. Walk through a nearby Palestinian refugee camp and learn how murals and graffiti have been used to depict their struggles. Stop at Herodion, a volcano-shaped hill and fortress built by Herod the Great. Over dinner, enjoy a performance by a group of Israeli and Palestinian musicians.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: American Colony Hotel

#### DAY 6: JERUSALEM / JERICHO / DEAD SEA

This morning, meet with an environmentalist from EcoPeace Middle East, whose efforts to foster Arab-Jewish cooperation through environmental stewardship were featured in the 2010 issue of National Geographic magazine. View the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum, then drive through the Judean Desert to Jericho to visit the archaeological site of Tel Jericho. This afternoon, continue to the hotel, located in the Ein Gedi kibbutz on the shores of the Dead Sea. Learn about the kibbutz movement before enjoying time on your own to float in the Dead Sea, wander through the hotel's botanical garden or relax with an optional spa treatment.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Ein Gedi Kibbutz Hotel

#### DAY 7: THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY / TIBERIAS

Ride a gondola up the flank of the Masada fortress and explore King Herod's 2,000-year-old mountaintop refuge. Then follow the Jordan Valley north to the Roman city of Bet She'an to see its remarkably preserved amphitheater, baths and column-lined streets. Along the way, stop to dip your feet in the Jordan River where Christian pilgrims come to be baptized.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The Scots Hotel or Bayit Bagalil Boutique Hotel

#### DAY 8: GALILEE

Visit Caesarea Philippi, a center of worship from the Hellenic age to the early Christian era. Explore the area at your leisure this afternoon: follow a scenic trail to the Baniyas waterfall or enjoy a short hike through Tel Dan National Park to the ancient city of Dan. Take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to Capernaum where Jesus lived and preached and where many Apostles, including Peter, made their home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The Scots Hotel or Bayit Bagalil Boutique Hotel

#### DAY 9: NAZARETH / JAFFA / TEL AVIV

Hear the perspective of an Israeli-Arab Christian on the way to Nazareth where you will visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, one of the largest churches in the Middle East. On an excursion to the mountaintop village of Beit Jann, discover the secretive traditions of the Druze people and enjoy lunch with a Druze family in their home. Travel toward the Mediterranean coast this afternoon and explore picturesque Jaffa, a strategic port town dating back to the Bronze Age. Afterwards, return to the bustling city of Tel Aviv to enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Dan Tel Aviv Hotel

#### DAY 10: CAESAREA MARITIMA / TEL AVIV

Follow the coast north to Caesarea Maritima, Herod's harbor city, and visit the ruins with geoarchaeologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beverly Goodman or a local expert. Then enjoy time in the afternoon to explore Tel Aviv on your own before gathering with your fellow Travelers for a farewell reception and dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Dan Tel Aviv Hotel

DAY 11: TEL AVIV

After breakfast, transfer to the Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) in Tel Aviv for flights home.

Meals Included: Breakfast