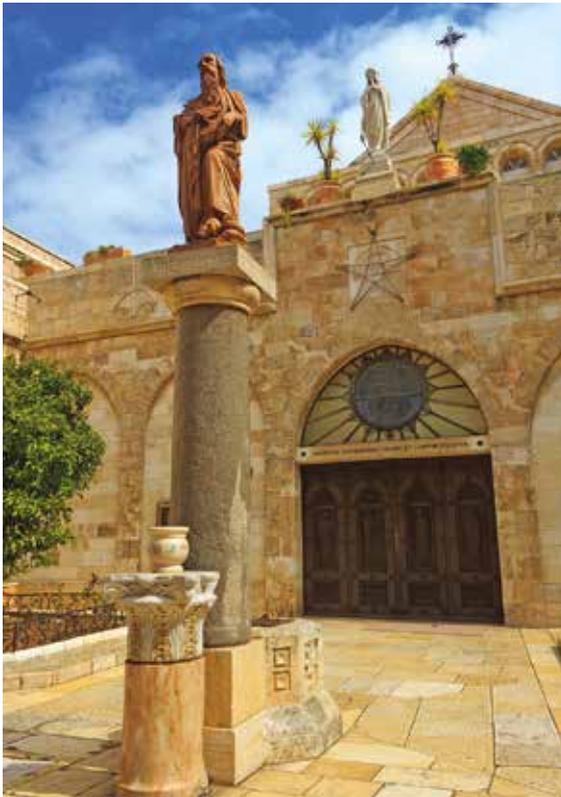


# ICONIC ISRAEL

A comprehensive tour of the Holy Land

22<sup>nd</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018;  
4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April & 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem



The Dead Sea



Mosaic floor in the Church of the Multiplication, Tabgha



A journey to Jerusalem and the Holy Land allows you to explore an extraordinary collection of both classical and Biblical sites, unequalled anywhere else in the world. Here the layers of architectural and archaeological heritage come to life from the Canaanites, Egyptians, Assyrians and Babylonians to the Romans, Crusaders and Ottomans. A plethora of famous landmarks from the palaces of Herod the Great to the pastoral landscapes of Northern Israel, the old city of Jerusalem with its divisions of Christian, Jewish, Armenian and Muslim quarters to modern day world-class museums. Then of course there is another dimension to any trip to the Holy Land that is the faith that has brought believers to this historic land. Walking along Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa, or approaching the Dome of the Rock or Wailing Wall, the beliefs of those on pilgrimages or simply travellers with a thirst for knowledge and a spiritual predisposition means that the very sites take on great significance. No matter what your faith and beliefs, this land of antiquity offers an insight into a past and the greatest stories that have influenced the course of Western civilisation.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tel Aviv, Israel.** Fly by scheduled flight to Tel Aviv. On arrival transfer into the city and check in to the Dan Panorama Tel Aviv for a two night stay. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your hotel this evening. (D)

**Day 2 Jaffa & Tel Aviv.** Enjoy a morning tour to Jaffa, the ancient port city from which Tel Aviv developed. Famous for its association with the biblical stories of Jonah, Solomon and St Peter, it has a fascinating history stretching back over four thousand years. We will explore the highlights including the Clock Tour, Flea Market and the renovated alleys and buildings of the fascinating city. Returning to the hotel, the afternoon and evening are at leisure, allowing you to explore Tel Aviv independently. (B, D)

**Day 3 Haifa, Acre & Galilee.** Leaving Tel Aviv this morning we head along the coast to Caesarea, a city dedicated to Ceasar Augustus by Herod more than 2000 years ago. Explore the archaeological excavations including Herod's Palace, the theatre, hippodrome and the famous Amphitheatre. Continue on to Tel Megiddo, an ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, before arriving at Haifa's Mount Carmel for a breathtaking view over the bay from the top of the city's famous Bahai Gardens. Following lunch, we will visit the Crusader Fortress in Acre before transferring to Galilee to check in to the Nof Ginosar Hotel for a two night stay. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Upper Galilee, Capernaum & Mount of Beatitudes.** This morning we head for the Upper Galilee, where we can see the remains

of the Syrian fortifications from 1967's Six Day War, and the present day villages of the area's Druze communities. We will visit Banias Nature Reserve, home of the source of the River Jordan before continuing on to the Hula Valley, one of Israel's most beautiful regions and a major bird



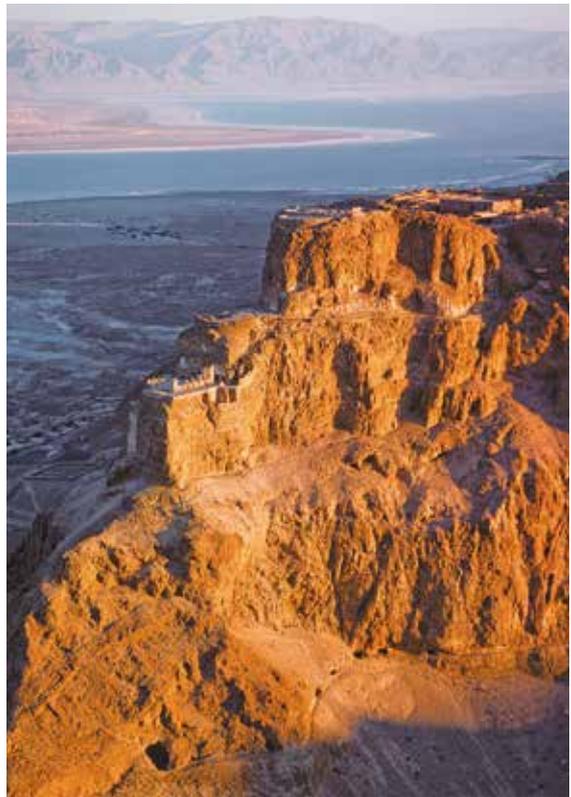
The Old City, Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock



Ancient Beit S



Mount Carmel and Bahai Gardens, Haifa



The Fortress of Masada

migration centre. Every spring and autumn an estimated 500 million birds pass through on their journeys between Africa, Asia and Europe. Reaching the shores of the Sea of Galilee, we visit Capernaum's ancient synagogue and Peter's House before stopping in Tabgha, home to the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Leaves, with its 5th century mosaic floor. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 5 Safed, Nazareth & Beit Shean.** After checking out of the hotel we visit the nearby town of Safed, known for its cobblestoned alleys and as the 'City of Kabbala' following the settlement of Rabbis, Kabbalistic scholars and other Jews who were fleeing the Spanish Inquisition in the 16th century. Continue on to Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. Called the City of Annunciation, Nazareth is revered as the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared before Mary to tell her she was to bear the Son of God. Enjoy panoramic views of the city and visit the Church of the Annunciation, which is built where Mary is said to have lived. Leaving Nazareth we travel on to Beit Shean to visit the excavations of this beautiful Roman City. Arrive in Jerusalem in the early evening and check in at the Dan Panorama Hotel for a five night stay. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 6 Masada & the Dead Sea.** Depart this morning on a full day excursion to the UNESCO

World Heritage Site of Masada and the Dead Sea. Visit the Masada Fortress, located a little to the north of ancient Sodom. The mountain fortress of Masada looms high above the Dead Sea's desolate landscape and is often described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel. It was here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around 73 AD, after a prolonged Roman siege, over 950 members of the Jewish faith took their own lives rather than risk the faith of retaliation and a future of slavery. We will enjoy a cable car ride to the top of the summit for a walk around the site of this heroic last stand. Among the fascinating sights you will see are the casement wall, the bath house, the magnificent three-tiered Northern Palace, the synagogue, the Western Palace, the Roman ramp and siege camps. Following lunch we transfer to the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, where you have the opportunity to take an "unsinkable" dip in its salty waters. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 7 Jerusalem (New City).** We will learn about the region's more modern history today during our tour of 'New Jerusalem'. We will start the day in Mount Herzl, the site of Israel's National Cemetery and the resting place of Yitzhak Rabin. Visit the nearby World Holocaust Remembrance Centre at Yad Vashem before continuing on to the Israel Museum and the open-air market of Mahane Yehuda. The afternoon and evening will be at leisure for you to explore independently. **(B, D)**

**Day 8 Old Jerusalem and Bethlehem.** This morning we will visit the Mount of Olives from where we can enjoy spectacular views over the 'Golden City' of Jerusalem. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus as you walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest. See the place where early Christians held gatherings before the first church was built around 380 AD. Next,

we will drive to Bethlehem and visit the Church of the Nativity, built over the Grotto where, according to tradition, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to Jerusalem and taking a walking tour of the Old City from Jaffa Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Following his official recognition of Christianity, Emperor Constantine constructed a vast sanctuary, built on what he believed was the site of Christ's resurrection. Continue your walk through the Christian Quarter to the bazaar, passing the Roman Cardo in the Jewish Quarter and the Western (or Wailing) Wall. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 9 Jerusalem.** Enjoy a day at leisure to further explore Jerusalem independently. **(B, D)**

**Day 10 Jerusalem to London.** Following a leisurely morning at the hotel, check out and transfer to Tel Aviv. Stop at a local restaurant for a light lunch before continuing to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London. Arrive this evening. **(B, L)**

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

2018	2019
Twin: £3695	Twin: £3765
Single: £4995	Single: £5095

**Group Size:** We are restricting the group size to just 25 participants.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights hotel accommodation • Meals as shown (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Wine or beer with included lunches & dinners • Guided excursions as stated in the itinerary • All entrance fees • English speaking local guide • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Complimentary Wi-Fi on coach • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, meals other than those shown.



Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth

# YOUR ACCOMMODATION

During our escorted tour of Israel, we will be staying at three properties.



## Dan Panorama Tel Aviv

Located on the seafront overlooking the Old City of Jaffa, the Dan Panorama Tel Aviv is the ideal base for a stay in Israel's second city. Simply cross the road to enjoy the great beaches and soft sands of the Mediterranean, or take a stroll to discover the city's Carmel Market a short distance away. Also nearby is the Neve Tzedek neighbourhood which was the first Jewish neighbourhood built outside of the walls of Jaffa. Neve Tzedek has a village feel to it, filled with small alleyways and boutique stores to peruse. All rooms are air-conditioned with private bathrooms, minibar, safe, satellite TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, hairdryer and telephone.



## Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee

Located five miles to the north of Tiberias, in a fantastic location right on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the Nof Ginosar Hotel is the ideal starting point for us to explore the north of Israel and discover the region's famous historic and cultural sights. The rooms feature a balcony overlooking the picturesque surroundings and private gardens. All are air-conditioned and feature a private bathroom, parquet floors, mini-bar, coffee and tea making facilities, telephone, safe-deposit box, satellite TV and hairdryer. The hotel's restaurant serves a richly assorted buffet of the finest Israeli cuisine and international dishes. Perhaps take an after dinner stroll along the Tzalmon River, cross the neighbouring kibbutz's fields and explore the sea shore, or simply wander down to the hotel's private beach to enjoy the spectacular views.

*Please note that for the 2018 departure the hotel used will be the Leonardo Plaza Tiberias instead of the above – please refer to [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk) for further details.*



## Dan Panorama Jerusalem

This recently renovated hotel is located in the heart of Jerusalem and is within close walking distance of the Old City. Directly across the road from the hotel is the splendid Bloomfield Garden, one of the largest parks in Jerusalem and a great vantage point from which to overlook the city. A scenic stroll past historic landmarks takes you down to the endlessly fascinating Old City that invites you to explore a medley of cultures, famous holy sites and the more earthly attractions of vibrant multi-coloured open markets. Our spacious Deluxe rooms come with free Wi-Fi, satellite TV, minibars and safes, and the Panorama restaurant specialises in traditional Israeli and international cuisine.



## NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem.