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Traveling Israel - Jerusalem Tel Aviv And The Judean Desert



Synopsis

There are many well-known travel guides available. They recommend different itineraries, accommodation and dishes, and generally provide a small amount of information about a lot of different places. My approach is different. On my website you can find all the general information you need to know about Israel (accommodation, transportation, food, society, etc.) whereas the booklets present detailed information on the sites alone. As a tour guide who has been to the sites hundreds of times I am able to relate the history of each through its artifacts and integrate into the text the answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Judaeen Desert booklet This booklet takes you to the three most visited sites in the Judaeen Desert: Masada, Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea. The Masada route takes in the main points of interest and tells two dramatic stories – the story of King Herod, a persecuted persecutor king who built himself a palace in the middle of the desert, and the story of the rebels, who 70 years later used the palace as their last fortress. Another story that my booklet deals with has nothing to do with the ancient history, but rather with the story we tell ourselves. Masada is not only an archeological site, but it was also built as a national symbol that has its own story. I have also included a description of an unknown trail that surrounds Masada. It can be combined, in its entirety or not, with a visit to the top of Masada. Ein Gedi offers a variety of walking routes and you can visit the main sites included in the booklet: the ancient synagogue with its mosaic floor, on which it is written that cursed will be the man who tells the town secret; the Chalcolithic Temple, and the flora and fauna of Ein Gedi.

Tel Aviv – Jaffa booklet The booklet begins at Summit Garden, a site that overlooks Tel Aviv, a city that grew out of the sand a hundred years ago to become a major city. At the foot of the lookout is a small, almost unnoticed archeological site that has an amazing story behind it. The path continues to the main square of old Jaffa, where St. Peter's Church stands. Although Jaffa doesn't have the importance of Jerusalem or Nazareth, the church commemorates the beginning of the separation of Christianity from Judaism. The tour continues through the alleys down to the port of Jaffa. The port is not impressive but it was nonetheless the gateway to Israel, the first thing that generations of pilgrims and pioneers saw. The point where reality met their dreams of the Holy Land, as each of them saw it. The next stop is where Adolf Eichmann was held after being brought to Israel for a trial that shook Israeli society. From there the trail visits the American colony, three narrow streets that tell the story of the groups of Americans who attempted to settle in Jaffa. All of them failed miserably but three of the most prominent American writers – Herman Melville (*Moby Dick*), Mark Twain and John Steinbeck – had some connection to these settlements. The trail ends at Neve Tzedek, the first Jewish neighborhood to lie outside the old city walls of Jaffa. I added two

chapters about Rabin Square and Sarona, the newly renovated German colony. Jerusalem booklet The first site in this booklet is the Chapel of Ascension, the holiest site for Christians on the Mount of Olives. It is here that Jesus spent his last week, and I also wrote about two more important churches located nearby: Dominus Flevit, where Jesus saw the temple, predicted its destruction and cried over it, and Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed the night before his crucifixion. From there the tour continues to the Old City through the Lions' Gate and along the Via Dolorosa, the route that Jesus took from the place he was judged by Pontius Pilate to where he was crucified, on which spot the Church of the Holy Sepulchre stands today. Another chapter is dedicated to the Wailing Wall and the Temple Mount. I also added information about less well-known sites.

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Customer Reviews

This guide book is so easy to use! It contains a lot of information and allows you to be your own tour guide. I love that it has three major different sights in Israel, you can spend a large part of your trip just following this guide, or just choose parts of it. As far as Jerusalem goes - I like the variety of

sights, but would have wanted to see a little more reference to Jewish sights (there is a lot of reference to christen sight). to conclude, I think this is a good and handy guide book and I highly recommend it.

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