



## Christian Interest Itineraries

### 7 Day Itinerary

#### Day 1

Begin in [Jerusalem](#) with the inspiring panoramic view of the [Old City](#) from the [Mount of Olives](#). From here it is a short walk to [Dominus Flevit](#) and then a walk (or drive) to the Church of All Nations and the [Garden of Gethsemane](#).

Continue to the [Temple Mount](#), scene of Abraham's offering of Isaac today marked by the [Dome of the Rock](#).



Then, it's on to the [Western Wall](#), revered as Judaism most sacred site as the last remnant of the Second Temple. On Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays you can see Bar Mitzva ceremonies at the Western Wall, the joyful occasion when a Jewish boy of 13 reads from the Torah in public for the first time.

While at the Western Wall, arrange your schedule to join a public tour of the [Western Wall Tunnels](#) by enquiring at the Western Wall Heritage Foundation ([www.english.thekotel.org](http://www.english.thekotel.org)).

Continue to Mount Zion, to visit the [Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu](#), where Peter denied Jesus, [King David's Tomb](#), the [Room of the Last Supper](#) and the [Church of the Dormition](#) - where by Catholic tradition Mary fell in to eternal sleep.



Steep yourself in the Christian holy sites in the Old City. Enter at St. Stephen's Gate, also known as Lion's Gate, and visit the [Pool of Bethesda](#) - site of the miraculous healing of a paralyzed man by Jesus, and the Church of St. Anne, where Christian groups love to sing hymns as they visit.

Take the [Via Dolorosa](#) passing the Stations of the Cross to the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#), the ancient site of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

Wander the Old City markets, steeping yourself in its sights, sounds and aromas, and try your hand at hunting and bargaining for treasures.



End your day at the [Garden Tomb](#) – a rock hewn tomb believed by Protestant denominations to be the site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Overnight: in Jerusalem

#### Day 2

The New City is on today's agenda. You can begin at [Yad Vashem](#), the Holocaust memorial, with its astounding new historical museum, Hall of Remembrance, Children's' Memorial and other moving sites.

Drive by the [Knesset](#) (Israel's Parliament – open for tours on Sundays and Thursdays) and the [New Supreme Court Building](#).

Nearby is the [Israel Museum](#) where among many other treasures you can delve into the mysteries of the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#) at the [Shrine of the Book](#) and see the [Model of Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple](#).

Continue to [Ein Karem](#) picturesque village, birth place of John the Baptist, with the [Church of John the Baptist](#), the [Church of the Visitation](#) and the [Russian Orthodox Church](#).

Return to the Old City this afternoon to visit the rebuilt [Jewish Quarter](#) with its old [Sephardic synagogues](#). Byzantine-era Cardo, Second-Temple-era Herodian Mansions and the [Burnt House](#), and First-Temple-era Broad Wall, as well as fun people-watching, galleries and restaurants.

For dinner and the evening head to downtown Jerusalem, walking the pedestrian malls of Ben Yehuda Street and Nahalat Shiva, enjoying this restored quarter of shops, cafes and restaurants that are favorites with Jerusalemites.

Overnight in Jerusalem

### **Day 3**

Head to [Jaffa](#) today, the ancient seaport mentioned in the biblical narrative of Jonah and the whale, and in the story of Solomon's import of the cedars of Lebanon. Jaffa's fishing port, [St. Peter's Church](#), artists quarter, Visitor Center and panoramic view of [Tel Aviv](#) are all highlights.

Continue to [Caesarea National Park](#) on the Mediterranean is your first stop today, where you'll find the remains of former Roman capital home of Philip the Evangelist, and where Paul was imprisoned and appeared before Festus, Felix and King Agrippa.

Tour the Roman theater, the hippodrome and promenade to the renovated Crusader city. Don't miss the "[Caesarea Experience](#)," a fascinating computerized presentation about the city's history.

Cross the beautiful [Galilee Mountains](#), stopping at Arbel National Park for an overview of the Sea of Galilee in the late afternoon.

Overnight: in the Sea of Galilee region.

## Day 4

Start the day with a visit to the Christian holy sites around the [Sea of Galilee](#), including:

The [Mount of Beatitudes](#): The traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with its beautiful view of the lake and its sacred sites.

[Capernaum](#): Known as "Jesus' Town" in the New Testament, Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee is home to one of the earliest churches in the world as well as a monumental ancient synagogue. This was also Peter's home town where Jesus performed many miracles.

[Tabha](#): Jesus' miracle of the Multiplication of the Fish and Loaves is illustrated beautifully in an ancient mosaic of the Byzantine church that stood here. Visit the renovated Benedictine church, built in the same style and along the same lines as the original one.

[Bethsaida](#): Home of Peter, Andrew and Philip and scene of Jesus' healing of a blind man.

The Yigal Alon Museum at Kibbutz Ginosar: A magnificent display of the wooden [Galilee Boat](#), dating from the time of Jesus, discovered mired in the mud on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

In the afternoon, drive to scenic [Mount Tabor](#), scene of Deborah and Barak's battle against Sisera, and of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Consider an evening boat-ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Overnight in the Sea of Galilee area

## Day 5

Drive to [Cana](#) - the village where Jesus performed the first miracle, turning water into wine, with the [Wedding Church](#) and the [Church of Nathanael](#).

Continue to [Nazareth](#) - childhood town of Jesus, with the [Basilica of the Annunciation](#); the [Church of St. Joseph](#); [Mary's Well](#); the [Church of St. Gabriel](#); and the reconstructed [Nazareth Village](#), where you can learn about daily life in the days of Jesus.

Then, it's on to [Megiddo](#), the site of biblical Armageddon, to see the excavations of the ancient fortified city that was one of Solomon's most important centers, overlooking the [Jezreel](#) Valley and the ancient Via Maris.

Then, it's on to [Muhraka](#), the traditional site of Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Ba'al, with the [Carmelite Monastery of St. Elijah](#).

In the afternoon, visit the charming church at [Nain](#), where Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead.

Overnight in the Sea of Galilee area.

## Day 6

Before saying farewell to the Sea of Galilee area, visit [Yardenit](#) – the baptismal site for pilgrims on the Jordan River south of [Tiberias](#).

Then it's on down the Jordan Valley to the [Dead Sea](#) and [Qumran](#) - ruins of the ancient Essene settlement in whose nearby caves the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#) were discovered.

Enjoy a walk through the [Ein Gedi Nature Reserve](#), a biblical oasis with a spring and waterfalls, where David hid from Saul.

In the afternoon, take the cable-car to the top of [Massada](#) scene of the epic stand by Jewish rebels at the end of the Great Revolt against Rome nearly 2,000 years ago. The new museum at the visitor's center reveals the secrets of the daily life of the rebels, the story of the excavations, and how the site became one of Israel's most important symbols.

Check into your Dead Sea hotel and enjoy a relaxing float in the healthful waters of the lowest, saltiest body of water on earth.

Overnight: in the Dead Sea

## Day 7

Head north today via the central [Negev](#) and the [Ramon Crater](#), stopping at the [Visitor Center](#) in [Mitspe Ramon](#) that tells the story of this amazing natural wonder.

Continue to [Avdat](#), once a central city on the Nabatean trade route (known as the Incense Route), which became a Christian city of pilgrimage.

Then, it's on to biblical [Be'er Sheba](#) and northward.