Explore this mythic land starting in Jerusalem, a walled hilltop city with a fabled 5,000-year past, sacred to more than a third of the world’s population. In Bethlehem, Galilee, and across the countryside, retrace biblical events and learn about ancient civilizations and unique modern communities. Israel is as beautiful as it is fascinating and you will be struck by the majestic deserts, rolling hills, and picturesque coastlines. And, to enrich your journey, we’ve arranged exclusive lectures with journalists, writers, and experts on historic topics and current events.

**The Heritage & The Hope**

Israel’s unmatched history, archaeological treasures, and cultural attractions make it an essential destination for religious pilgrims and secular travelers alike.
With more than 30 years experience, a Master’s degree in Biblical Studies and deep insight into his homeland’s complex past, present, and future, Amir Orly is the ideal guide for your discovery of Israel. He serves as a guide for dignitaries, media and heads of state and has developed and taught academic programs on religion and regional conflict for several American universities. Amir will enrich each stop along your journey with historical background and surprising insights.
Your journey begins as you board your overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Meet your guide, Amir Orly on arrival and transfer to Jerusalem.
Check in at the Arthur Hotel. Located just outside the walls of the Old City, the Arthur is walking distance to Zion Square, Machane Yehuda Market, shops and bistros.
Spend the next five days exploring Jerusalem, a major site of pilgrimage for both religious and secular travelers thanks to its unmatched historical and spiritual importance.

Temple Mount and the Western Wall

The Jewish Quarter
Via Dolorosa at the 9th Station of the Cross

Cardo Maximus
Mount Zion

Grave of Oskar Schindler in the Catholic Cemetery

Statue of the ‘Dormition of Mary’ in the crypt of the Church of the Dormition

King David’s tomb
The Church of the Holy Sepulcher
Recognized since the 4th century as the site where Jesus was buried and rose from the dead.
Discovered in Cave 1 at Qumran in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed in the Shrine of the Book. The building’s design resembles the ancient jar in which the scrolls were found.
On the western slope of Mount Herzl, the Yad Vashem Museum and its nine interactive galleries including the impressive Hall of Names commemorates victims of the Holocaust.
The Basilica of the Agony at the base of the Mount of Olives. Built atop the remains of a 4th c. Byzantine basilica and a 12 c. Crusader chapel, it is commonly referred to as the Church of All Nations in recognition of the many countries that contributed to its completion (1917-1924).

The Gardens of Gethsemane

And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

Mark 14, The Holy Bible: King James version
Bethlehem of Judea is home to the largest Christian-Palestinian community in the Middle East.

The **Church of the Nativity** has been rebuilt and restored several times. The original structure was commissioned by Constantine I (4 c.), rebuilt by Justinian I (6 c.) and restored by Crusaders (1165-69) however the basilica sits atop several, much older sites of worship. Beneath the stone and marble floors are several grottos including that which is reputed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Openings in the floor of the Nave reveal ancient mosaics, alters, and icons. A finely carved wooden door gives visitors access into the Grotto of the Nativity.
On a rocky plateau overlooking the Dead Sea stand the remains of Masada. Built by Herod the Great in 30 BCE, this royal citadel was a refuge in turbulent times. The castle complex was later used as a fortress by the Zealots to escape Roman enslavement. Reputedly, when Roman soldiers finally breached the walls (73 CE), they discovered 960 men, women, and children had taken their own lives.

Ascend by cable car to explore the ancient ruins including the palace, a synagogue, church, elaborate water system and cisterns and the many storerooms recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Continue to the Essene ruins of Qumran, the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.
It is time to leave Jerusalem behind and journey north into the Galilee, and into history once again as you enter Beit She’an.

The fertile Beit She’an valley has hosted human occupation since the Copper Age (5-4 millennia BCE). Positioned at the crossroads between the Jordan River and Jezreel valleys also made it desirable to occupying forces. Archaeological excavations have uncovered as many as nine different civilizations including Canaanite, Egyptian, Israelite, Philistine, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine – to name a few.
Ascend the Golan Heights and enjoy the spectacular vistas of Israel’s most beautiful landscapes.

The Golan is important to Israel for security reasons however, the rich volcanic soil provides the country with important crops such as wheat, avocados, wine grapes and olives. During your visit, enjoy a tour, tasting, and lunch at the Golan Olive Mill.
Spend the night at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Deluxe rooms offer spacious luxury and modern amenities with lovely views from your private balcony.

Arriving in the afternoon, there will be time to enjoy the hotel’s private beach or gardens.
Continue your exploration of Galilee with a visit to Capernaum – a former fishing village (140 – 37 BCE).

It is recorded that Jesus met four of his apostles during his ministry here. The fishermen- Peter, Andrew, James, and John and Matthew the tax collector all lived in the village.
Visit Tabgha and the Church of the Multiplication. Built atop the remains of 4th and 5th century churches, the current building enshrines an ancient mosaic depicting the miracle of the loaves and fishes.
Mount of Beatitudes, the Church of the Beatitudes, and the Sea of Galilee
Visit the ancient city of Safed, the spiritual center of the Kabbalist mystics since the 1600’s. At an altitude of 2,953 ft., it is the highest city in Israel and known for its breathtaking views of Galilee.

Today, Safed is the world’s leading center for Jewish Art. Over 30 galleries and workshops feature sculpture, pottery, calligraphy, blown glass, silver, and fine jewelry.
Your day ends at the five-star Colony Hotel Haifa.

Located in the restored historic center of the German Colony, the Colony Hotel is a short walk to the Bahai Gardens.

Enjoy modern amenities such as air conditioning, complimentary Wi-fi, and elegant dining in the private garden or the rooftop restaurant with views of Bahai Temple and the Gulf of Haifa.
The following day, take a trip to Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

Founded in 1912, the success of Technion has contributed to Israel’s ranking as one of the top ten nations in technology.
Sitting on a natural harbor at the north end of Haifa Bay, the Old City of Acre has been conquered more than just a few times.

The city holds many spectacular sites sacred to Islam, Judaism and the Baha’i but perhaps the most spectacular and certainly most popular among visitors are the Christian Crusader structures (1104 – 1291).
Conquering Mamluks (1291) summarily destroyed the castle and its fortifications, rendering it useless to future crusaders. Centuries later, the Ottomans erected caravanserais, mosques, public baths and other structures atop the ruins. Not until the 1950’s and 60’s were the sub-floors of the original fortress discovered and restored creating the illusion of an underground city.
End your day at Rosh Hanikra National Reserve.

Formed over thousands of years, the chalk and limestone cliffs have eroded to form fissures, grottos and tunnels. Descend 200 ft. by cable car to view the spectacular grottos and caves below.
The beauty and tranquility of the Bahai Gardens reflect the Bahá’í faith and its dedication to the unity of God, religion and all mankind.

19 terraces and 9 concentric circles filled with flowers, sculptures, quiet pools, and fountains create a path that enables visitors and pilgrims to prepare themselves for entry to the holy spaces set throughout the gardens.
Nazareth is a site of early human occupation since the Iron Age (10-8th c BCE). With its religious significance revealed, the tiny hamlet became a major site of pilgrimage to Christians and Muslims alike. Today, Nazareth is a sprawling modern city with a multitude of sacred shrines, churches, and mosques.

Virgin Mary Grotto

Basilica of the Annunciation

The Synagogue Church
Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

Mensa Christi Church

Church of St. Gabriel
Visit the Tishbi Winery for a tour, tasting and lunch.
Enjoy two nights at the Market House, a boutique hotel in Jaffa.

Relax in stylish comfort just walking distance from the historic sites of the Old City.
Visit Givat Haviva, a non-profit institute dedicated to fostering a shared society, resisting racism and discrimination, and building greater understanding between different groups in Israeli society and among nations. Givat Haviva is a recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its longstanding work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation.

The Peace Gallery at the Center for a Shared Society.
In the morning, explore the ruins of Caesarea, the eastern capital of the Roman Empire built by Herod the Great and dedicated to the Emperor Augustus Caesar (2-10 BCE). Known as a Wonder of the Ancient World, the site includes the restored amphitheater, an aqueduct and the remains of the largest hippodrome of the empire.
Return to Jaffa for a final night and a farewell dinner with fellow travelers.
Optional Post Extension to JORDAN

Returns to the U.S. March 22, 2023
Fly to Amman. Enroute to Petra, visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George.

During the construction of the church (1896), a 6th century mosaic was uncovered depicting an intricate map of the Holy Land sites of Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Territories and Egypt’s Sanai.
Overlooking the Jordan Valley is Mount Nebo, declared as the burial site of Moses.
Spend your first two nights in Jordan at the Petra Mövenpick, a luxury hotel overlooking the entrance to the *Rose Red City* - the Petra Archaeological Park.
Spend a full day exploring the remarkable rock cut city of Petra.

The ancient metropolis of Petra is more than 2,000 years old and one of the world’s most famous archaeological sites as well as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Forts, an amphitheater, the famed treasury and more than 800 tombs are carved from the rose-red sandstone.
Enjoy a special dining experience at the Petra Kitchen where local women guide you in the preparation of a typical Jordanian meal.

This is truly a Jordanian experience—furnishings and tableware are all produced by the Iraq al Amir Women’s Co-operative, and the aprons and table linen are hand-embroidered by the Jordan River Foundation.
The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth; at its surface it is 1,300 feet below sea level and at its deepest point it is more than 2,300 feet below sea level. Scientists believe it is sinking more each year. It is also the saltiest body of water with more than 32% salinity. It is impossible to sink and nearly impossible to swim in the Dead Sea.
Movenpick Dead Sea Resort
Visit Jerash - Exquisitely preserved Roman Ruins including theaters, churches, temples, a Nymphaeum and colonnaded streets.
Stop at the Saracen Castle – a 12th century castle built by Saladin to ward off the Crusaders.
## Your Adventure Costs

### ISRAEL

*The Heritage & The Hope*

March 6 – 17, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs: Per Person, Based On Double Occupancy</th>
<th>Main Tour</th>
<th>Post-Extension to Jordan Based on 10 travelers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Only</td>
<td>$5,995 per person</td>
<td>$2,695 per person, including the Tel Aviv/Amman Flights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Room Supplement</td>
<td>$1,995 per person, additional</td>
<td>$795 per person, additional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Air from Washington DC, including departure taxes &amp; fuel surcharges (Subject to change)</td>
<td>$2,190 per person, additional</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Any more questions?

If you have questions after today, feel free to contact your Journey Manager, Lori Ellefsen at 718-280-5021, or email her at Lorie@classescapes.com.