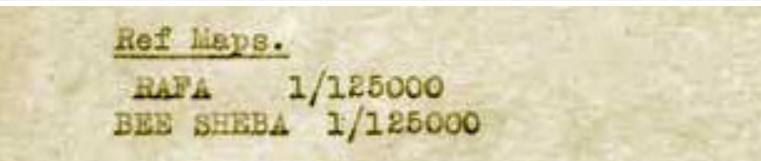


BEERSHEBA

BE PART OF HISTORY



COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIGHT HORSE CHARGE

MONDAY 23 OCTOBER – WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017

In anticipation of the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the Charge of the ANZAC Light Horse in Beersheba on 31 October 1917, the Israel Travel Centre is proud to present a series of tours commemorating the Charge, culminating in the ceremonies in Beersheba on 31 October 2017. The tours will be led by licensed English speaking tour guides knowledgeable in the history and culture of the region, and experienced in looking after Australians visiting Israel. We will also be working with a series of guest guide specialists in their fields relating to the rich history of ANZACs in the Holy Land.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ANZACS IN

DAY 1 | MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2017

Day of Arrival

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel.

Enjoy a relaxed **walking tour telling stories of the ANZACS** and the three battles that took place in and around Tel Aviv & Jaffa.

The evening is free to explore options for dinner at the many great restaurants and cafes in this buzzing city.

Overnight: Tel Aviv (check in at 2.00pm) (B)

DAY 2 | TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2017

Spies and Wine

Travel north to explore the ancient port city of **Caesarea** built by Herod the Great.

Stop for a coffee break at **Jaser Al Zarka** - The Blue Bridge built over the Crocodile River by the Germans and Turks in honour of Kaiser Wilhelm's visit to the Holy Land.

Visit Aaronson House at **Zikron Yaacov**, a former private home that is now a museum about Nili, a Jewish spy ring that supplied intelligence to British military leaders against the Ottoman Turks.

Lunch in the historic quarter of the city and enjoy **wine tasting** this afternoon at the Carmel Winery & Culture complex and a visit to a barrel room in one of Baron Rothschild's underground cellars.

Overnight: Unique kibbutz hotel for country style hospitality in the Galilee (B,D)

DAY 3 | WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2017

Golan Heights Off-Road & Brewery Visit

Start the day with a tour of **Kibbutz Degania** – the world's first Kibbutz and hear the story of the Pioneers who came in 1910 and decided to build something different – a Kibbutz.

Visit the relatively unknown **Turkish Pilots Memorial** in the fields of Kibbutz Haon, the **Railway Station at Semakh** and the **Light Horse Memorial on the Sea of Galilee** waterfront and hear the story of the Battle of Semakh.

Experience a jeep tour of the **Golan Heights** with a view of the Syrian Israeli border and an explanation of the Sykes Picot agreement that still holds in the area today!

Enjoy a **tour of the brewery** making beer from the fresh waters at the source of the Jordan River.

Overnight: Galilee Kibbutz (B,D)

DAY 4 | THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2017

From Nazareth to the Jordan Valley

Visit the magnificent **Basilica of the Annunciation** in Nazareth. Stop by the **German WWI Military Cemetery** with wooden crosses made from the propellers of crashed airplanes.

Enjoy a visit to **Nazareth village** (Option for Biblical lunch). Explore the Crusader Castle of **Belvoir** where we hear the stories of the Crusaders and Saladin's inability to take the Castle by force.

Travel along the fertile Jordan Valley stopping by the **Bridge built by General Allenby**. Visit the site of the original Baptism on the Jordan River at **Qaser El Yehud**.

Overnight: Jerusalem (B)

DAY 5 | FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2017

Jerusalem New City

Drive by the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament and visit the **Shrine of the Book** to see the original Dead Sea Scrolls. See the **model of Jerusalem** as it was during the time of King Herod.

Experience a moving visit to **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial. And later stop at the **Trappist Monastery at Latrun**. Tour the **Latrun Tank Museum**, the biggest of its kind in the world.

Overnight: Jerusalem (B)

DAY 6 | SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2017

Ancient Jerusalem



Visit the **Jerusalem Commonwealth Cemetery** on French Hill and named after Allenby's good friend General French who was killed in the Battle for Jerusalem.

Continue on for a **rooftops tour of the Old City**. Walk the **Via Dolorosa** and stop at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Place a note at the Western Wall and visit the Jewish Quarter.

Stroll the oriental markets of the **Arab Quarter**. Walk along the walls from Jaffa Gate to Mt. Zion. Visit the **Dormition Abbey** and the Room of the **Last Supper**.

Enjoy a special guided tour of the fascinating **Christ Church Heritage Centre** at Jaffa Gate – the oldest Anglican Church in the Middle East.

Overnight: Jerusalem (B)

THE HOLY LAND TOUR OCTOBER 2017

DAY 7 | SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2017

Floating in the Dead Sea



Drive to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth.

Enjoy a nature walk at **Ein Gedi**, and hike to the water falls. Visit the mountain fortress of **Masada**

built by Herod the Great and the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans.

Enjoy a float this afternoon in the salty waters of the **Dead Sea**, and the mud which is well known for its curative effects.

Overnight: Dead Sea/Beersheba (B,D)

DAY 8 | MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2017

Following the Path of the ANZACS

Today we closely follow the **path of the ANZAC's** leading up to the attack on Beersheba. Travel along the Besor River. Cross the Hanging Bridge to the **Besor Dam** built by the ANZACS.

Stop by the restored Turkish "Patish" Ruins and hear the story of Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen's "**Haversack Ruse**", where he deliberately left false clues of a major attack coming from Gaza instead of Beersheba.

Continue to the **Hatzerim Air Force Museum**, where you will find a huge collection of airplanes and helicopters, all previously standard equipment of the Israel Air Force. Hear the story of this brave fighting force.

Finish the day at **Abraham's Well** and Visitors' Center - situated on the banks of the biblical Beer-Sheva River, at the gates of the Old City. Discover the innovative heritage site dedicated to showcasing the life of the Patriarch Abraham.

Overnight: Desert cabin accommodation OR Beersheba / Arad hotel (B, D)



DAY 9 | TUESDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2017

Battle of Beersheba Commemoration

Enjoy a special day in Beersheba commemorating the centenary of the achievements of the Australian soldiers in World War I.

Start the day with a moving service hosted by the Australian Ambassador and various dignitaries at the **Beersheba Commonwealth Cemetery**.

Join in the opening ceremony of the **new ANZAC Museum in Beersheba** which will be dedicated



to the history of the Battle of Beersheba, and built by the Beersheba Municipality in cooperation with the Australian Government, the Australian Embassy in Israel and the Pratt

Foundation. The museum will be completed and officially inaugurated on 31 October 2017 (TBC).

Visit **Tel Sheva** for an overview of the main battlefield sites in the area and a special ceremony hosted by the New Zealand Embassy.

Experience a **re-enactment of the Charge** by the Australian Light Horse Association and the WWI Heritage Society. A large contingent (in full World War One battle attire) plan to re-enact the ride in 2017, the 100th Anniversary of the great charge.

*Continue on (time permitting) for the Australian event at the magnificent **Park of the Australian Soldier** established by the Pratt Foundation in 2008.*

The park includes special facilities for children with physical and/ or mental disabilities, including a maze for blind children with signs in Braille.

At the end of the day, we enjoy a **festive farewell dinner** at an authentic Middle Eastern Restaurant in Jaffa or Abu Ghosh.

Overnight: Tel Aviv: (B,D)

DAY 10 | WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

Day of Departure

Transfer to Tel Aviv Airport for departure on your onward flight.

Numbers are strictly limited. Descendants of the charge are encouraged to pre-register their interest as soon as possible.



BACKGROUND

On 31st October 1917, the outcome of the First World War was anything but clear. The losses at Gallipoli, setbacks on the Western Front and failures in the First and Second Battles of Gaza were the backdrop to the Battle of Beersheba. And so it was on this day that the ANZAC Light Horse gathered behind a ridge south-east of the city and moved off at a trot. Surprise and speed were their one chance.

Facing sustained enemy fire, the mounted infantry rode under the Turkish guns and cleared the trenches in close combat. Though outnumbered, the audacity of the surprise attack carried them through. The capture of Be'er Sheva was complete by nightfall, and the precious wells of the town were secured. It was the success and desperation of the Charge, by mounted infantry, not cavalry - that earned it an immortal place in Australian history. Importantly, on the same day, the British Government in London approved the Balfour Declaration setting off a chain of events that would eventually lead to the resurrection and re-establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948, after almost 2,000 years of Jewish exile. In the cemetery at Beersheba, 1241 Commonwealth soldiers are buried. Men who sacrificed their lives in service of their country, and expressed values of the highest order: honor, courage, loyalty and duty.

INCLUSIONS

- Airport meeting assist upon arrival
- Airport transfers
- 9 nights' twin share accommodation in 4 star hotels
- Breakfast daily on tour; and four hotel dinners
- One festive farewell restaurant dinner
- 8 days touring with licensed English speaking tour guides
- Modern motor coach for all touring
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Travellers gift packs (bags, hats and maps)

PRICE**

USD\$2,195 per person in twin share

- Single supplement cost on application
- Cost based on min. group size of 30 participants

** ITINERARY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGES AND SECURITY CLEARANCES **

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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