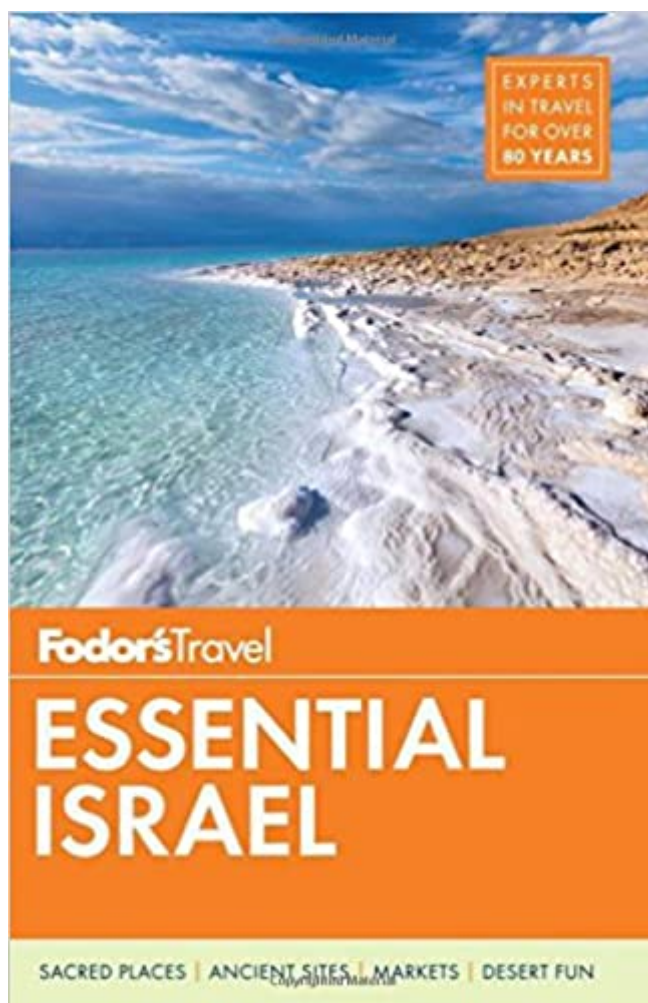


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# Fodor's Essential Israel (Full-color Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering trusted advice for all tastes and budgets for more than 80 years. Israel packs in riches from cherished religious sites to stunning archaeological treasures to spectacular natural wonders. Holy land to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, this is where biblical places like Jerusalem and Galilee come alive. Colorful features in Fodor's Essential Israel help travelers experience all of this and more: awe-inspiring ancient cities, delicious food and wine, and a vibrant contemporary culture. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks
- Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path
- In-depth breakout features on the Dead Sea, Masada, Israeli wine, and more
- Coverage of Jerusalem, Jaffa, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, Eilat, the Negev, Haifa, Nazareth, Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, the Golan Heights, Beersheva, and Petra in Jordan

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher, aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. The New York Times "The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. The Chicago Tribune "In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series

remains one of the best on the market. Fodor's Booklist "Fodor's super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Sacramento Bee "Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure. Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor's Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

I bought it to my boyfriend and he loved it!

Writing a guidebook to Israel has to be one of the most frustrating things imaginable for an author. You're invariably going to shortchange someone simply because it's too dense historically or will invariably offend someone by writing about the West Bank or other territories. Having said that, I tried to ignore everything and focus on Fodor's Essential Israel as a guidebook. Having returned from a trip less than a year ago, most of it was still fresh - Essential Israel's glaring missive was the lack of West Bank coverage - other than Bethlehem, it seemed to ignore everything else. I don't know if it was an intentional oversight or something else, but there's a lot of history there, and it would have been nice to cover cities that would be of interest. Other than that, it's a typical travel book that focuses on Israel and a brief section on Petra, Jordan. The maps are decent enough and the basic attractions are there, but you'll need another reference guide if you're going to branch out on your own for anything. I think that this book is mainly geared towards someone who will do a tour of the Holy Land in a packaged way, being driven from site to site. That's fine if that's your way of traveling, but if you want to branch out, Lonely Planet seemed to do a better job at handling the logistics of getting from A to B on your own, and the DK Jerusalem guidebook had tons more photos and illustrations to put what you see in context and give background information, while deftly avoiding political issues.

Fodor's travel guides are well known and well recognized with good reason; first, a consistent layout and content organization helps weary travelers find what they need when planning or actually traveling. The easy to use legend provides quick glimpse information and frankly, the ample amount of information is unsurpassed in a small easy to carry travel guide. So, why the one star deduction?

While I appreciate the size of the book for easy transport, the font is extremely small making it difficult to read especially when on the go. Needs larger font!

As with all the books in this series, it is well written. The illustrations are excellent as are most of the maps. I would have preferred a map of the Yad Vashem museum to have been included. The guide book is very good on Masada and Jerusalem. If you are a true history buff I strongly recommend that you supplement the Fodor guide with Dan Bahat's *Carta's Historical Atlas of Jerusalem* and Jerome Murphy-O'Connor's *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide from Earliest Times to 1700* (Oxford Archaeological Guides). Great emphasis is placed on the vibrant life of modern Israel; its hotels, restaurants, markets and shopping; and advice is given on using local and public transportation. There is a section on Petra, and the book recommends using a reliable tour company to make all arrangements.

It's been so many years since I have been to Israel. There was so much to see! It was spring break and I was a Biblical Languages major. A couple professors put a tour together and there were about 8 of us on the trip together. That was 17 years ago. And I really would like to go back. This last year I finished up a translation of the Bo Giertz classic *"With My Own Eyes"*. The late Bishop retells the story of Christ's life using notes from a six-month tour of Israel he took in 1930 when it was still common to see the ancient farming traditions Jesus makes use of in his famous parables and fishermen still fished in the manner of the disciples Peter and John. This book has opened up the gospel accounts in a very new way and is the real reason I want to make a return trip. So I was glad to receive Fodor's *Essential Israel* to help me as I contemplate trying to put together a tour of the Holy Land. There are so many cultural notes in this book. Recommendations for places to eat and what to eat. I really wish I had read their note on bargaining before I tried to manage the crowds of Jerusalem when the Sabbath let out. The *"Great Itineraries"* are excellent. People go to Israel for different reasons. Some are going to be more interested in the modern culture, some in the historical sites for Judaism and some are going to want to follow the footsteps of Jesus. I am of course a little more inclined to the later itinerary myself. As I looked it over I was impressed with whoever wrote that section and their knowledge of the Bible, and what should be read where. Of course, these are just suggested itineraries that could be augmented one way or another. Perhaps with a side trip to the crusader stronghold of Akko, which was one of my favorite stops 17 years ago.

Fodor's once again has come up with a helpful and interesting travel guide. If you plan to visit Israel this combines practical information on places to stay and eat at as well as fascinating information about places to visit. One plus is the history of the area that is addressed in this book as well as the great pictures and some 30 maps of varying sizes. There are a number of articles or sections or features in this book that I really like. Jesus in Galilee looks at the rise of Christianity in the area. A two page section titled Touring The Cradle Of Christianity has a map of the sea of Galilee and the towns and landscape mentioned in the bible. For those interested in food and drink there are fascinating sections on wine making in Israel and street food in Israel. There are six features in this book. In addition to the two I have mentioned above Jesus in Galilee and The Wines of Israel, there is Israel Through the Ages, Jerusalem, Keeping The Faith, The Dead Sea: A Natural Wonder and Masada: Desert Fortress. In the feature Jerusalem, Keeping The Faith articles on the Western Wall, The Temple Mount, The Church Of The Holy Sepulcher and The Dome Of the Rock include great photos, fascinating history as well as current information on visiting these historic places. This is a superb guide for those visiting Israel in person or as an armchair traveler.

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