King Herod’s Palace Terraces - Masada

Towering over the Dead Sea (Original 1), Masada National Park isn’t just a UNESCO World Heritage Site or an ancient fortress; it’s a potent symbol of Jewish heroism and national resilience. This dramatic mountaintop plateau boasts one of the most significant archaeological sites in Israel. To visit, ascend by cable car for breathtaking views, or take the challenging Snake Path for a challenging experience (Original 2).

King Herod, renowned for his architectural marvels, built the fortress around the year 30 BC. (Original 3) Centuries later, during the Jewish revolt against Rome (68 AD), a group of Jewish zealots (members of a fanatical sect arising in Judea during the first century AD and militantly opposing the Roman domination of Palestine) captured Masada, which turned out to be the final stand of the rebellion and Jewish presence in the land of Israel for the next 2000 years. The siege by the Roman forces was climaxed by a tragic yet defiant act, when in 73 AD, the 960 rebels on the mountain chose death over surrender.

King Herod’s grand northern palace, perched on terraces overlooking the Dead Sea. (Original 3)