Jewish Heritage Tour of ISRAEL

9 Nights * 11 Days * 6 Touring Days
Thursday Departure/ Friday Arrival
2 nights Tel Aviv * 2 nights Galilee * 5 nights Jerusalem

DAY 1, THURSDAY – DEPARTURE

- Depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel. (Contact Ayelet Tours for assistance booking flights.)

DAY 2, FRIDAY – ARRIVAL

- Shalom and welcome to Israel.
- Greeting and assistance by an Ayelet representative.
- Transfer to our hotel; remainder of the day is on own at leisure.

Overnight Tel Aviv

DAY 3, SATURDAY - TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Tel Aviv on own.

Overnight Tel Aviv
DAY 4, SUNDAY - CAESAREA, HAIFA, AKKO, ROSH HANIKRA, KIBBUTZ

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Drive along the Mediterranean Coast to Caesarea, the ancient Roman capital of the area. Here we view the Roman Theater, the aqueduct, and ancient port as well as the impressive excavations of the Crusaders’ city.
- We continue to Haifa to visit the Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum ("Af al Pi Chen") and hear the story of the illegal immigrants to Israel at the time of the British mandate.
- Visit Akko’s Crusader era fortress before walking through its colorful bazaar to the port.
- Drive north along the coast to Rosh Hanikra, and descend by cable car to experience close up, the amazing limestone grottos carved by the sea.
- Arrive at kibbutz for dinner.

Overnight Kibbutz in the Galilee

DAY 5, MONDAY – SAFED, GOLAN, TEL HAI

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- We tour the mystical city of Safed – center of Kabalistic practice. Explore the narrow alleyways lined with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries.
- Enjoy a jeep ride up to the Golan Heights, where we pass former Syrian bunkers and stop atop Har Bental for panoramic views stretching far into neighboring Syria.
- Take in the view at the Mitzpe Gadot overlook, the memorial site for the fallen people of the Golan.
- Visit Tel Hai to see the ‘Roaring Lion” monument and learn about the heroic battle of Josef Trumpledor and his comrades.
- Dinner at our kibbutz.
- Meet with a kibbutz member to learn about their unique lifestyle, and the challenges and changes to their communal arrangements over the decades.

Overnight Kibbutz in the Galilee
DAY 6, TUESDAY – KINNERET, BEIT SHE'AN, GILBOA, JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Travel to Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where we visit Rambam’s grave.
- Visit the extensive Roman ruins of Beit Shean, destroyed over 1,300 years ago by earthquake, and recently excavated and reconstructed on a massive and impressive scale.
- Visit the intricate mosaics in the synagogue at Beit Alpha.
- We continue to Gan Hashlosha, (Sachne) where, weather permitting, we enjoy a dip in the sparkling warm waters. These natural springs are often referred to as the original Garden of Eden.
- Continue via the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem.
- Ascend to Jerusalem, pausing at Mt. Scopus for a special opportunity to say "Sh'hekiyanu!" as we look out over The City of Gold for the first time.

Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 7, WEDNESDAY – OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, WESTERN WALL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our tour of the Old City of Jerusalem with visit to the tomb of King David on Mt. Zion.
- Explore the Cardo, the ancient Roman marketplace now featuring outstanding shopping opportunities. We then visit four Sephardic synagogues in the Jewish quarter restored after the 1967 War.
- Enjoy a spiritual visit, and time for reflection at the Western Wall.
- Continue to the Western Wall Tunnels, where we discover the archeological wonders that remained untouched for centuries.
- Visit the Davidson Center, built into the ancient stones adjacent to the Temple Mount.
- Stroll through the colorful marketplace to the Jaffa Gate and visit the Citadel Museum at David's Tower, to learn more about Jerusalem's 3000 years of history.

Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 8, THURSDAY – YAD VASHEM, MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We share the joy as we view the many Bar Mitzvah ceremonies at the Kotel.
- Continue on to Mea Shearim neighborhood to learn about the unique lifestyle of the Ultra-Orthodox residents.
- Visit Mt Herzl, Jerusalem’s military cemetery and learn from our guide some of the heroic stories of those buried here.
- Drive to Yad Vashem, the memorial to the 6 Million Jews murdered in the Holocaust – here we view the many moving exhibitions including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
- Explore the bunkers at Ammunition Hill, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem.
- Drive by the Knesset, Israel's Parliament and see the Menorah.
- Browse the extensive, newly renovated galleries of the Israel Museum, which is world class in every way. The galleries range from pop and modern art, back through the Renaissance and Classical periods, with a strong emphasis on Jewish and Israeli archeological history. Walk through the iconic Shrine of the Book which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, and see the impressive scale replica, in miniature, of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period.

Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 9, FRIDAY – MASADA, DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Early this morning we depart for the Dead Sea Basin.
- Stop at Qumeran, site where Dead Sea scrolls were found.
- Ascend by cable car to King Herod's fortresses and castle atop Masada.
- Visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue, and the bathhouses, learning about the Jewish Zealots last stand against the Roman forces.
- Enjoy lunch and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the Dead Sea
- Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight Jerusalem
DAY 10, SATURDAY – JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning with the opportunity to attend Shabbat services (on own).
- Free day to enjoy the calm of Shabbat.

Overnight Jerusalem

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DAY 11, SUNDAY – L’HITRAOT!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Depart for Ben Gurion Airport for our flight back to the United States. L’hitraot!

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

*Itinerary subject to change
* Visit subject to availability

The above program can be extended and customized for groups or private family tours. See our 12 night program to add Eilat and Petra, Jordan to your visit.