

BEST-DAY ADVENTURES: EXPLORING ISRAEL

For single Jewish travelers in their 50s & Beyond

May 1 – 12, 2023

with optional Eilat/Petra extension

May 12 – 15, 2023

(As of 11/12/21)



Isn't it time for you to "come home"? Delve deep into the fabric of our homeland with all your senses as you rejoice in our independence, bond with your fellow travelers, and connect with Judaism, Israel and her neighbors.

This outstanding tour is designed to encompass a comprehensive look and feel of Israel in a social, historical, and very interactive context. Our tour incorporates soft adventure, a plethora of daily activity and extensive travel throughout the central and northern regions (and southern region for those who opt to add the Eilat/Petra extension).

First time visitors will have their heart & soul touched forever. Long-since visitors will renew a sense of belonging that has long been missed. Our customized tour will take you on a chronological journey from an Israel that "was" to an Israel that "is", to an Israel that will always "be". To top it off we'll introduce you to our uniquely personal brand of service, and along with a great group of fellow single travelers, every day will be the BEST DAY of your trip...so far!

Day 1: Monday, May 1, 2023: BEGIN OUR JOURNEY

- Greeting and accompaniment for those on our recommended overnight flight with Tour Leader Bill Cartiff.
- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 2, 2023: ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL

- We arrive in Israel in the late afternoon and meet our local guide and then transferred to our hotel for check in.
- After some time to refresh, we enjoy a delicious Israeli **welcome dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight at Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 3: Wednesday, May 3, 2023: THE BEAUTY OF THE COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **welcome program**, introductions, and an overview of our tour before heading out to begin our journey.
- We drive north to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. Here, we see the excavations of the Crusaders' city, the aqueduct and the outdoor theater that has been restored as a concert venue.
- Next, we stop for a panoramic view in **Haifa** atop **Mt. Carmel**, overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Temple** and **Persian Gardens**.
- We also see the **El Jazzar Mosque**, Israel's largest outside of Jerusalem, and the largest one among the mosques built in Israel during the Turkish period.
- Our next stop is in **Akko** to see the **British prison**, an impressive Crusader fortress built in the Ottoman era. During the British rule, the fortress was used as a central prison for hundreds of members of the underground organizations due to their struggle to defend the Jewish settlement.
- We continue to our hotel to check in and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Upper Galilee

Day 4: Thursday, May 4, 2023: NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we re-live the decisive tank battles of the 1973 war at the **Oz 77 memorial**, including the chance to view the powerful documentary film at nearby **Kibbutz El Rom**.
- We enjoy a **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights** to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the panoramic views of Syria. Here, we enjoy a **pizza lunch**, freshly prepared while you learn about this important and fascinating military outpost.
- This afternoon, we tour and taste the freshness of Israel's agricultural world-leadership at the **Pelter Winery**, one of the finest boutique vineyards in the rich northern wine country. Here, the focus is on delicious local wines and you will enjoy a sampling of several brands complimented with other decadent delights including gin, cheeses, chocolate and yogurt.
- Tonight, we visit a **Druze village**, where we will enjoy **dinner** and meet with the remarkable **Naseba Keesh Samara** as we learn about this unique community.



Overnight at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, Upper Galilee

Day 5: Friday, May 5, 2023: TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the mystical city of **Safed (Tzfat)**, where we view the beautiful ancient synagogues and browse through the artist's quarter.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**. Upon arrival, we stop at the **Haas Promenade** to recite a special "Shehecheyanu" blessing as we overlook the **City of Gold**.
- After checking into our hotel and a chance to refresh, we greet **Shabbat** with the people of Jerusalem at the **Western Wall**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.



Overnight at Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 6: Saturday, May 6, 2023: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we invite you to attend services at one of Jerusalem's many synagogues OR enjoy a **walking tour** through history in the **Old City**, exploring the **Arab shuk** and the **Christian quarter**.
- Lunch on own following our walking tour.
- Enjoy time at leisure on own. We suggest a visit to the **Israel Museum**, which recently completed a \$100 million renovation. See the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, and the miniature model of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period, among other fascinating exhibits.
- Dinner on own ("follow the leader" option will be available).
- Tonight, we walk to the **Tower of David** to watch the spectacular **Sound and Light Show**.

Overnight at Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, May 7, 2023: UNDERSTANDING THE PAST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a **political briefing** by Chief Political Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, **Gil Hoffman**, followed by a tour of the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament.
- At **Mt. Herzl**, we visit the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, and see the military cemetery, Israel's version of Arlington.
- We set out on a guided tour of **Machane Yehuda**, Jerusalem's outdoor marketplace, filled with foods of every variety. Together we'll learn about Middle Eastern spices and taste various foods as we participate in the "**Shuk Bites**" experience.
- We return to the **Old City** and explore the **Jewish quarter** and the **Cardo Market** with time for shopping, followed by an underground tour through the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- Dinner on own ("follow-the-leader" option will be available).

Overnight at Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 8: Monday, May 8, 2023: A DAY IN THE DESERT: MASADA & MORE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- We begin with a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- We continue onto **Masada** and ascend by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress and castle, including the walls, palaces, synagogue and bathhouses, while learning about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Romans.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach to enjoy **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**, followed by time to relax at a beautiful resort.
- We return to Jerusalem later this evening and enjoy a **group dinner** together at a local restaurant.



Overnight at Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday, May 9, 2023: JERUSALEM TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
- We depart for **Tel Aviv**.
- This afternoon, we visit Tel Aviv's largest and most-centrally located shuk, the **Carmel Market** and **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall. With its restored buildings, sidewalk artists and avant garde attitude, this is one of Israel's trendiest modern hotspots for buying local goods, crafts and souvenirs as well as a hangout for bars, restaurants, coffee shops and chef-owned food stalls.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel.
- Meet at our hotel's **rooftop bar** for a complimentary happy hour with stunning views of the sea.
- Dinner on own tonight ("follow-the-leader" option will be available).

Overnight at Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 10: Wednesday, May 10, 2023: VIBRANT TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in a "hands on" **archaeological dig**, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past.
- Next, we discover the secret underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence at the **Ayalon Institute**.
- This afternoon, we enjoy the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the paramilitary forces from Israel's pre-statehood days.
- Free time for dinner on own ("follow-the-leader" option will be available).

Overnight at Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 11: Thursday, May 11, 2023: TOURING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel. We store our luggage for the day.
- We begin our day by seeing a different angle of Tel Aviv. Our guide leads us on a “**graffiti tour**” where streets turn into galleries of art and where artists subtly (and sometimes obviously) convey their messages.
- Our final stop today is at **Independence Hall** where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared.
- The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the beach, take a bike ride on the boardwalk with the free bikes offered by our hotel, or to visit the Ottoman-era neighborhood of **Old Jaffa**; home to winding alleys filled with craft shops and art galleries and a lively flea market.
- We come together one last time for a **farewell program** and **dinner**, followed by a transfer to Ben Gurion Airport (transfer is included for those whose flights depart after 11:00pm).
- Those choosing to spend the full overnight in Israel or participating in our Eilat/Petra extension will be brought back to our hotel. (*Please note that breakfast is not included on Friday morning for those staying overnight on own).



Overnight at Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 12: Friday, May 12, 2023: WELCOME HOME

- We arrive home and start packing for our next Best-Day Adventure!
OR
- Extend your adventure with a trip to **Eilat & Petra, Jordan**.

Accessibility note: *Guests should be in adequate physical condition. While plenty of shade and breaks are incorporated, full participation requires periods of standing or walking along even, uneven and occasionally hilly terrain. There will be steps, inclines, and cobblestone surfaces. Options are provided when possible, but all listed features are included, available, encouraged and meaningful to the aim of this comprehensive tour. Participants with physical limitations should take this into account.*

EILAT/PETRA, JORDAN

EXTENSION

May 12 - 15, 2023

Note: Extension to Eilat/Petra will be escorted by a Best-Day Adventures tour leader if 15 people are registered, Otherwise, participants will be tended to with point-to-point hosting and will join along with an existing public tour (with other travelers) to Petra.

Day 12: Friday, May 12, 2023: TO EILAT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight to **Eilat**.
- Upon arrival, we are transferred to our hotel for check-in.
- Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure in Eilat relaxing at the beach, by the pool or checking out the Underwater Aquarium.
- This evening, we enjoy **Shabbat dinner** together.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 13: Saturday, May 13, 2023: PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We cross the border into Jordan and begin our full day tour of **Petra**, the Red Rose City.
- We explore the **Nabatean City** (as seen in *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*), walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temples.
- We discover the famous **Treasury**, the **Roman theater**, and more at this Eighth Wonder of the World.
- In the early evening, we cross the border back into Israel and return to our hotel for a relaxing evening and dinner on own.

(Note border taxes are due in USD at the border crossing – currently \$65 per person)

Overnight in Eilat

Day 14: Sunday, May 14, 2023: EXPLORE EILAT/DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the day at leisure in Eilat. Optional on own activity suggestions include visiting the Underwater Aquarium, enjoying a barbecue lunch and snorkeling cruise on the Red Sea or just relaxing poolside or seaside.
- We check out of our hotel this afternoon and transfer to the airport for our flight to Tel Aviv, connecting with our overnight flight back to the United States.

Day 15: Monday, May 15, 2023: WELCOME HOME

- We arrive home and start packing for our next Best-Day Adventure!

The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

