

# Ayelet TOURS

*THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!*

## Ayelet's B'nai Mitzvah Family Adventure in **ISRAEL**

July 20-31, 2023

*with optional Desert Extension July 31 - Aug. 4*



# Ayelet's B'nai Mitzvah Family Adventure in Israel



*Ayelet's B'nai Mitzvah Family Israel Adventure is an interactive, hands-on Israel tour for participants of every age. Each day is designed to engage and enlighten through a variety of sites, activities, and adventures. Our handpicked guides will bring heritage & history to life as we explore and celebrate in this amazing land!*

## DAY 1 THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023 DEPARTURE

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

## DAY 2 FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023 WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Shalom and welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport you will be greeted and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative. (
- Transfer on your own to our hotel in **Jerusalem** to check in and refresh after our long journey. (Private transfers can be arranged).
- Later this afternoon, we meet our tour guide and other group members in our hotel lobby, where we have the chance to get to know each other over Shabbat this evening.
- Together we go to the **Haas Promenade** overlooking the City of Gold for a special Shehecheyanu ceremony, enjoying a sweet taste of challah and wine (or grape juice) to mark our arrival in Jerusalem of Gold!
- We continue to the **Western Wall** to greet **Shabbat** along with the people of Jerusalem. There is nothing quite like the energy of the Western Wall as Shabbat enters. A cacophony of prayer, song, personal reflection and sometimes even dancing; this will be a moment to remember.
- We return to our hotel, where we enjoy a special **Shabbat welcome dinner** together.

Overnight in Jerusalem

## DAY 3 SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023 SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Join us for optional Shabbat services this morning.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a guided walking tour beginning at the **Tower of David Museum** and continuing through history in the **Old City**, exploring the **Jewish and Christian quarters** and exiting through the **Jaffa Gate**.
- Enjoy dinner on own as Jerusalem returns to life after the calm of Shabbat. We suggest a visit to the Mamilla pedestrian mall with its varied assortment of cafes and restaurants.
- Later this evening, we walk together to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the **Sound and Light show spectacular!**

Overnight in Jerusalem



## DAY 4

**SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**  
**THE DEAD SEA BASIN**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Early this morning, we depart Jerusalem and drive toward the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Those who wish may climb the snake path to the top of **Masada**. The rest of us ascend the desert plateau by cable car. We view the remains of King Herod's palace and fortifications and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the approaching Roman armies.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** at a Dead Sea resort, followed by an unsinkable swim in healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- Our day ends with a **camel ride** and **desert tent hospitality** at a **Bedouin encampment**.
- This evening, we return to Jerusalem and meet our Israeli rabbi to review tomorrow's B'nai Mitzvah ceremony. *(Note: B'nai Mitzvah participants are assigned Torah readings of generally 3-5 lines well in advance with audio links provided for study. We can also provide resources for tutoring if requested).*
- Dinner on own tonight.

**Overnight in Jerusalem**

## DAY 5

**MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023**  
**CELEBRATING OUR B'NAI MITZVAH**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we **celebrate our B'nai Mitzvah** in the Old City at the egalitarian section of the Western Wall, known sometimes as **Kotel HaMishpacha** (the family wall) near **Robinson's Arch**. Mazel tov!
- We enjoy a light **kiddush** as we mark this special occasion.
- We continue to **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David, including **Hezekiah's tunnels** (water tunnels in summer & dry tunnels in winter).
- Tonight, we enjoy a **gala dinner** in celebration of our B'nai Mitzvah, a festive end to this unforgettable day!

**Overnight in Jerusalem**



## DAY 6

**TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023**  
**THE PATH TO ISRAEL'S FOUNDATION**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we pass by the Israeli **Supreme Court**, noting the outstanding architecture filled with symbolism, then continue to the **Knesset**, Israel's parliament building. Here, we have a unique photo opportunity by the iconic outdoor bronze menorah sculpture, a gift from the British parliament dating back to the 1950s.
- Next, we visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's moving memorial and museum to the victims of the Holocaust. Here, we view many exhibitions, including the **Hall of Names** and the **Children's memorial**. Younger children will have the option to visit the nearby Biblical Zoo at this time.
- This afternoon, we stroll through the bustling **Machane Yehuda**, taking in the sights, smells and sounds of the market as we discover its secrets. Time for lunch on own here.
- This afternoon, we visit the beautifully renovated **Israel Museum** to view its extensive collections. We walk through the iconic **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, then see the **Holy Land model**, a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period.
- Dinner on own this evening.

**Overnight in Jerusalem**

## DAY 7

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023**  
**THE JORDAN VALLEY RIFT**

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Jerusalem and travel north through the Jordan Valley.
- We visit **Gesher**, an early kibbutz with restored 14th century buildings and Roman, Turkish and British bridges built over the Jordan River. Bread is baked here every day using the same method as almost 100 years ago.
- We stop to view the Roman ruins of **Beit Shean**, destroyed centuries ago by an earthquake and painstakingly excavated. Then, we see the intricate mosaic floor at nearby **Beit Alpha**.
- This afternoon, we cool off at **Aqua Kef**, a fun and refreshing "floating water park" on **Yam Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee)**.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

**Overnight in the Galilee**







## DAY 8

**THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023**  
NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we stop to view the ancient synagogues and have time to stroll among the shops in the artist's quarter. The shops here are famous for featuring Kabbalistic artwork and micro-calligraphy.
- Next, we enjoy an adventurous **jeep tour** up to the **Golan Heights**. Atop the Golan at **Har Bental**, we take in the amazing panoramic views reaching far into Syria as our guide updates us on the latest geopolitical happenings in the region.
- We try our hand at **chocolate making** and learn from the experts in a delicious and fun experience at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory**. Adults may choose instead to enjoy a wine tasting at the adjacent **Bahat Winery**.
- This afternoon, we once again cool off, this time on a special **kayaking trip** down the Jordan River.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.

**Overnight in the Galilee**

## DAY 9

**FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023**  
THE BEAUTY OF THE COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We depart the Galilee for our trip down Israel's west coast shoreline.
- We stop atop the port city of **Haifa** for a panoramic view from **Mt. Carmel**, including the stunning **Bahai Temple** and the cascading **Persian Gardens**.
- In **Caesarea**, we explore the seaside relics from ancient times, including the Roman theater and ancient aqueduct, set aside a sparkling turquoise sea.

- We arrive in **Tel Aviv** and pass by **Rabin Square**, site of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- We enjoy a stroll along **Nachalat Binyamin**, where the artists and entertainers bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel and refresh before **Shabbat dinner** together this evening.

**Overnight in Tel Aviv**

## DAY 10

**SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023**  
SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the day at leisure. On own options abound from visiting Old Jaffa to strolling along the beach front promenade to taking in a museum or trying a stand-up paddle boarding lesson! It's a wonderful chance to experience all that this metropolitan Mediterranean city has to offer!
- Dinner on own this evening.

**Overnight in Tel Aviv**





## DAY 11 SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023 DIGGING INTO HISTORY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin today with a visit to **Independence Hall**, where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared in 1948.
- We journey to the **Beit Guvrin** region through the Haella Valley where the battle between David and Goliath took place. We take part in a unique hands-on experience at an **archaeological dig** in the caves of **Tel Maresha**. For the more adventurous, an underground **cave crawl** is included! (*Please wear closed toed shoes; no sandals or open shoes of any kind*).
- Our last stop today is at the **Ayalon Institute**, the secret underground facility that helped save the state of Israel during the War of Independence.
- We return to Tel Aviv and after a chance to relax, we gather for our gala **farewell dinner** this evening, as we recall all we have experienced together on this adventure.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

## DAY 12 MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check of our hotel.
- We bid our new friends farewell (we'll see you soon on social media)!
- We depart for the airport for our flights back to the United States, landing later today.

### OR JOIN OUR DESERT EXTENSION TO MITZPE RAMON, EILAT & PETRA, JORDAN



## DAY 12 MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 TEL AVIV TO THE NEGEV

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Tel Aviv by bus, heading south into the starkly beautiful Negev Desert. We stop at **Sde Boker**, to visit the gravesite and original hut of David Ben Gurion deep in the heart of the Negev Desert. It was Ben Gurion's dream to see the desert bloom through Jewish ingenuity and innovation, something we've seen time and time again along the way!
- We continue to **Ein Avdat National Park**, where we enjoy the freshwater pools, take in the beautiful natural surroundings and tour the archaeological site.
- Next, we head to **Mitzpe Ramon**, where we see the massive **Ramon Crater** with views from the **Visitor's Center**.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before **dinner** together this evening.

### Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

## DAY 13 TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023 THE MAGNIFICENT RAMON CRATER

- Today, we enjoy a **sunrise jeep tour** through the heart of the **Ramon Crater** as it bathes majestically in the first light of day. Photographers call dawn and dusk the "magic hour", and in such a setting, it is easy to see why!
- We return to our hotel for breakfast, then check out and drive south towards **Eilat**.
- Along the way, we stop at **Timna Park**, located in a majestic desert setting. Here, we discover the history and nature of this amazing place and take a hike through the park to see the ancient mines associated with King Solomon, along with beautiful wildlife, plants and trees.
- We arrive in **Eilat**, check into our hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure on the shores of the Red Sea.
- Dinner on our own this evening.

### Overnight in Eilat





## DAY 14

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023 PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, 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 and the Last Crusade*). We walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temples, then discover the famous **Treasury**, the **Roman theater** and more at this, the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- We pass **Wadi Rum** before returning to Israel and our hotel for dinner on own.

#### Overnight in Eilat

## DAY 15

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023 AT LEISURE IN EILAT

- Breakfast at or hotel. Check out and store your luggage by normal check out time.
- Day at leisure in Eilat. Optional on own activity suggestions include: visiting the Underwater Aquarium, enjoying a barbeque lunch and snorkeling cruise on the Red Sea or just relaxing poolside or seaside.
- Late this afternoon, we depart for the airport for our flight connecting to our late-night flight home.

## DAY 16

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back home today. L'hitraot!

\* Itinerary subject to change

\* Visit subject to availability

NOTE: A Jordanian visa will be secured by Ayelet Tours prior to travel into Jordan. A visa fee as well as border taxes of \$140 per person will be pre-collected and are non-refundable. Visa fees and border taxes are subject to change. Bring your passport valid for at least 6 months past travel dates and be sure to wear closed shoes; no sandals of any kind. No food or beverage may cross borders. A VAT refund must be requested from customs at your departure land border at the time you depart. VAT at Ben Gurion Airport will only process the refund for any goods purchased since last date of entry into Israel.

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