

AYELET PLATINUM

The heart and frontier of

**Israel**

**The Center & South**

10 Days / 7 nights

***Private Car Tour***

*Experience the beauty and allure of Israel's southern desert region and explore the timeless sites of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.*





DAY 1: TUESDAY

## DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY

## WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are greeted by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to our hotel in Jerusalem.
- Evening at leisure to settle in and enjoy dinner on own.

### Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 3: THURSDAY

## ANCIENT JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we meet our guide who will share this amazing journey with us!
- We begin our day in the **Old City** above the rooftops, where we walk along the **ramparts** to gain a birds-eye view of the different neighborhoods.
- We continue to the **Jewish quarter** and enjoy time to shop in the **Cardo market**.
- We proceed on our tour of the **Old City** with stops in the Arab market (shuk) and the **Christian quarter**, where we stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- We stop at the **Western Wall** with time for personal reflection.
- We complete our day at **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David. While we are led through the City of David, we will hear the story of a young child growing to rule the Jewish Kingdom from his capital of Jerusalem and will see new excavations being revealed daily.
- This evening we enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

### Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 4: FRIDAY

## GREATER JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin the day in Israel's **9/11 Memorial**, a thought-provoking space overlooking the approaches to Jerusalem. It features remains from the Twin Towers and is the only monument outside the United States inscribed with the names of all the victims who perished that fateful day.
- Today, we tour **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**. Younger children may visit the nearby **Biblical Zoo**.
- At **Mount Herzl**, Israel's national cemetery, we hear stories about modern Israel's foundation and pay our respects at the grave sites of some of Israel's most prominent leaders, including Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. We also learn about the many lesser-known heroes of Israel's wars who are buried here.
- Next, we stop at the **Machane Yehuda open-air market** and enjoy lunch on own. This colorful market features a mix of vendors selling spices, produce and wares. The market is also home to trendy cafes and restaurants.
- We return to our hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**.
- This evening we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall**, followed by **dinner** at our hotel.

### Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 5: SHABBAT

## SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning to explore this beautiful city on our own. We suggest:
  - **Synagogue hopping** to see the different services throughout Jerusalem: Italian, Moroccan, Sephardic, Ashkenazi, Reform or Conservative; all within walking distance from each other, and from our hotel.
  - Visiting the word class **Israel Museum**.
  - Stopping at the **"First Station"** enclave with shops and restaurants open on Shabbat.
- This evening, we suggest a visit to **Mamilla Street, Emek Refaim** or seeing the **Sound and Light** show at the **Tower of David**.

### Overnight in Jerusalem





#### DAY 6: SUNDAY

## MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- We stop along the way to view the **Qumran caves**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered by a local shepherd and also to enjoy a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi** (*weather and time permitting*).
- Upon arrival, we ascend the imposing mountain of **Masada** to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouse, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' fateful last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to Mineral Beach for an unsinkable swim in the luxuriating, salty and mineral-rich waters of the **Dead Sea**. Here, we can cover ourselves in silky, healing mud and float at the lowest place on Earth.
- Next, we continue along the banks of the Dead Sea to the **Mitzpe Ramon** as we enjoy the beautiful desert views.
- We check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

### Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

#### DAY 7: MONDAY

## EXPLORING THE CRATER

- We set out on a sunrise hike into the **Ramon Crater** (optional, should the group choose not to hike in the morning, can be substituted for Ein Avdat).
- We return to our hotel for breakfast.
- We continue to the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitor's Center** for an interactive introduction to the Ramon Crater. We also have an opportunity to learn about the life of former Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon.
- We continue to the **Ein Avdat Nature Reserve** and explore this beautiful oasis, with its lovely flora and fauna, in the middle of the barren desert landscape.
- Next, we head to **Sde Boker**, home and burial site of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion. We will hear the story of Ben Gurion and his extraordinary vision to make this beautiful Negev region bloom.
- We return to our hotel to enjoy the pool and relax for the afternoon.
- We enjoy dinner together.

### Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

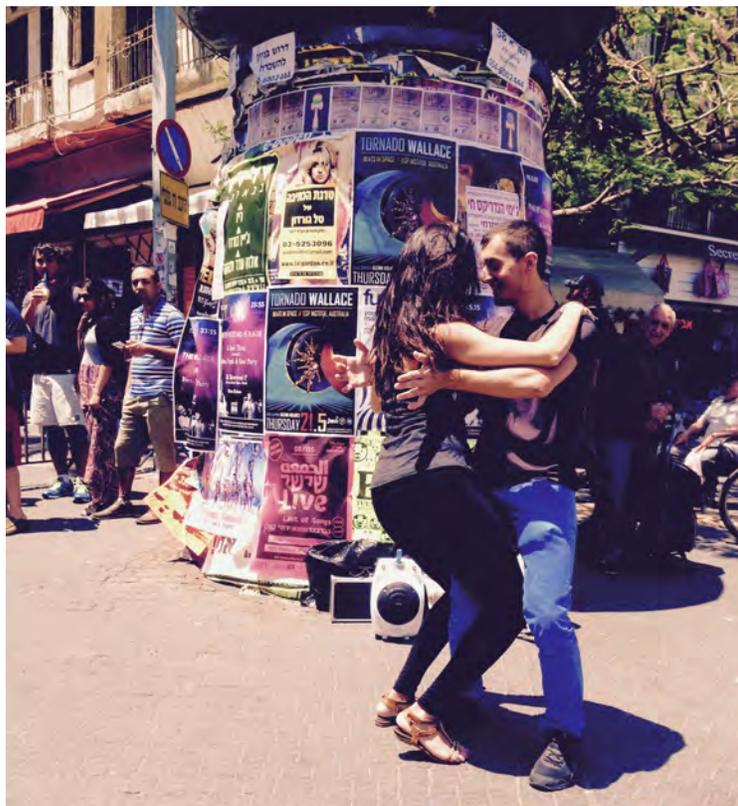


DAY 8: TUESDAY

## THE ROAD NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to the **Be'er Sheva River Park**, a massive water, environmental and economic development project that is transforming the riverfront into a 17,00-acre civic paradise.
- We stop for lunch on own in Be'er Sheva en route.
- This afternoon, we drive north to **Beit Guvrin**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We explore this amazing and vast archaeological park, where we see how an ancient civilization built amazing underground structures ranging from private houses to elaborate facilities.
- We check into our hotel in Tel Aviv and enjoy **dinner** on own.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 9: WEDNESDAY

## EXPLORING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods where the colorful and edgy street art brings the fringe into the forefront.
- Next, we enjoy a stroll through **Tel Aviv's White City**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to see one of the largest concentrations of **Bauhaus-style architecture** in the world.
- We continue our tour on the **Independence Trail** with a walking tour through the **Ahuzat Bayit** neighborhood, where Tel Aviv was originally developed.
- We continue to the bustling **Carmel Market**, where we wander through the pyramids of spices, brightly-colored exotic vegetables, nuts, olives, and delicious halva creations.
- This afternoon, our guide leads us through the ancient port city of **Old Jaffa** where the walls tell centuries of stories. We wander through the cobblestone alleyways and admire the artists' galleries that are framed by views of the sea.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.
- We transfer together to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.

DAY 10: THURSDAY

## WELCOME HOME

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

*The memories last forever!*

*\*itinerary subject to change*

**Contact Ayelet Tours for  
custom extension options**



**MAKE IT YOURS! Enhance/extend your tour based on your family's interests. A few suggestions:**

- Add a chef-led **culinary experience** in one of Israel's famed markets, culminating in a cooking class and delicious meal.
- Meet with a leading voice from Israel's **high-tech Start Up Nation**. Learn firsthand how Israeli culture fosters and encourages innovation.
- Receive a **geopolitical** update from an Israeli journalist or politician.
- Enjoy **home hospitality** and learn about one of Israel's many fascinating subcultures, among them Bedouin or Ethiopian.
- See Tel Aviv on two wheels with a **guided bicycle tour**.
- **Shabbat of a Lifetime** program, where you join an Israeli family for Shabbat dinner in their private home.
- Other enhancements include: **winery and culinary** visits (cheese, olives, etc), off-road **jeep adventures**, archaeological digs, and so much more...

**Contact Ayelet Tours for pricing and to start custom planning with an Israel travel expert today!**

***Ayelet** Tours, Ltd.*

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