

AYELET PLATINUM

The heart and heartland of
Israel
The Center & North

10 Days / 7 Nights

Private Car Tour

Venture to the lush north, including the Golan Heights & the Sea of Galilee region, and explore the timeless sites of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.





DAY 1: TUESDAY

DEPARTURE

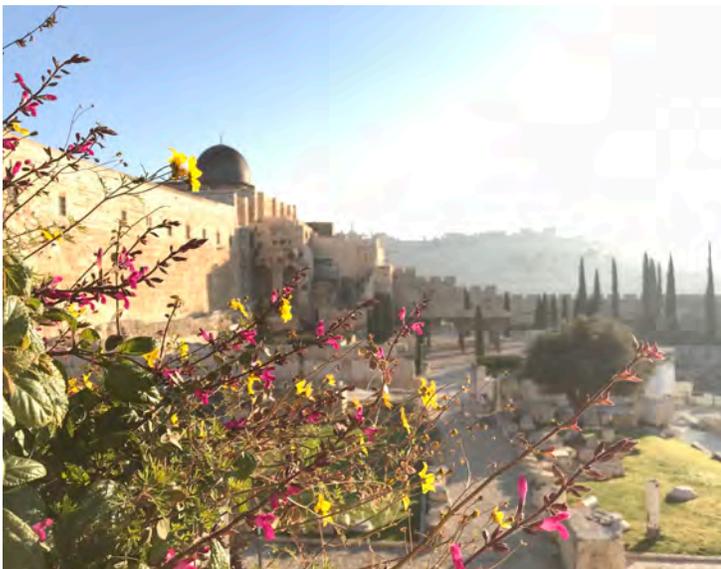
- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

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

JERUSALEM TODAY

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin at **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.
- This afternoon, we wander through the alleys of **Huzot Hayotzer** and enjoy the arts and crafts on display by local artisans. (*summer*)
- This evening we enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem





DAY 4: FRIDAY

MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. 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.
- We return to Jerusalem, stopping on the way to enjoy a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi** and also to view the **Qumran caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a local shepherd.
- We return to our hotel to prepare for Shabbat.
- This evening we welcome **Shabbat** at the **Western Wall**, followed by dinner together.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 5: SHABBAT

SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning OR 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 world class **Israel Museum**
 - Stopping at the **"First Station"** enclave with shops and restaurants open on Shabbat.
- This afternoon, we come together for a walking tour of the **Old City**. We stop at the **Western Wall** with time for personal reflection. We also walk through the **Jewish quarter**.
- We proceed on our tour of the Old City, including 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 complete 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.
- This evening, we suggest a visit to **Mamilla Street** or **Emek Refaim**.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 6: SUNDAY

THE COASTAL ROAD

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we drive north along the Mediterranean Sea to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. We see the amazing Roman aqueduct, beautiful mosaics, the remarkably restored ancient theater and the excavations of the crusaders' city.
- Next, we visit **Haifa** and take in the views atop **Mt. Carmel** overlooking the **Bahai Gardens**.
- We stop for lunch on our own at the footsteps of the Bahai gardens in Haifa's picturesque **German Colony**.
- We continue to the UNESCO World Heritage city of **Akko**. Here, we walk the alleyways and hear the stories from the time of the bible all the way to Napoleon's failed siege. We enjoy the bustling shuk and the port overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.
- We continue toward the **Galilee** and check into our kibbutz, where we enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

DAY 7: MONDAY

EXPLORING THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Our morning begins with a hike through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, source of the Jordan River and site of ancient archeological finds. (Hikes can vary with personal physical abilities).
- We continue to **Har Bental** for panoramic views stretching far into neighboring Syria. While here, we learn about the current situation in Syria and its impact on world geopolitics.
- After lunch on our own, we spend the afternoon in the Talmudic village of **Katzrin** to see the ancient ruins, including the synagogue and homes of members of the ancient Jewish community.
- Experience the annual bird migration over the **Hula Valley National Park**, located at the center of the Afro-Syrian Rift, where over 500 million birds from more than 400 species pass through each year. *(time permitting)*
- We return to our kibbutz for a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee



DAY 8: TUESDAY

THE ROAD SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, one of the four holy cities of Judaism. We stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter, and learn about Kabbalah.
- We next tour the ruins of the once thriving city of **Zippori**, where Jews and Gentiles lived side by side for centuries and where the Mishnah was codified almost 2,000 years ago.
- Next, we begin our drive south towards Tel Aviv
- We check into our hotel and refresh before enjoying an afternoon at the beach.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 9: WEDNESDAY

EXPLORING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day in **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.
- Visit an artist's studio and **try your hand at creating art** reflecting your experiences in Israel through a new visual medium.
- Enjoy **home hospitality** and learn about one of Israel's many fascinating subcultures, among them Druze or Ethiopian.
- Volunteer with **Leket** and pick fruit and vegetables for the needy.
- Add the **Shabbat of a Lifetime** program, where you join an Israeli family for Shabbat dinner in their private home.
- Become an **Archaeologist** for a day by digging with your hands in one of Israel's new excavations.
- Other enhancements include: **winery and culinary** visits (cheese, olives, etc), off-road **jeep adventures**, and so much more...

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

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

19 Aviation Road, Albany, NY 12205

800.237.1517 | 518.783.6001

Fax 518.783.6003

www.ayelet.com | ayelet@ayelet.com



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