

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

(As of 3/1/19)



DAY 1: THURSDAY - DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2: FRIDAY – ARRIVAL

- Shalom and welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport you will be greeted and assisted by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer (on own) to our hotel to check in and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 3: SATURDAY – LEISURE SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Tel Aviv on own. Relax at the beach, take in a museum or art gallery or just stroll around the city.
- Dinner on own tonight.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



DAY 4: SUNDAY – THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we drive north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area. Here, we view the ancient theater restored as a concert venue, the aqueduct, the 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 who came to Israel at the time of the British mandate.
- Next, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Akko** and walk through the old port and color bazaar.
- Later this afternoon, we continue north along the coast to **Rosh Hanikra**, and descend by cable car to discover the chalk cliff grottoes carved out by the Mediterranean waters over time.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

DAY 5: MONDAY – SAFED, GOLAN, TEL HAI

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we tour the mystical city of **Safed**, center of Kabbalistic practice and one of the four holy cities in Israel, where we explore the narrow alleyways lined with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries.
- We enjoy a **jeep ride** up to the **Golan Heights**, where we pass former Syrian bunkers and stop to take in the view at the **Mitzpe Gadot** overlook, the monument built in honor of the Alexandroni brigade.
- We proceed to a magnificent observation point overlooking the city of Kuneitra and the Syrian territory.
- We visit **Tel Hai** to see the 'Roaring Lion' monument and learn about the heroic battle fought by Josef Trumpeldor and his comrades in 1920.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.
- Following dinner, we meet with a kibbutz member to learn about their unique lifestyle and the challenges and changes to their communal arrangements over the decades.



Overnight in the Galilee



DAY 6: TUESDAY – KINNERET, BEIT SHEAN, JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we travel to **Tiberias** on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**, where we visit **Rambam's grave**.
- We continue through the Jordan Valley to see the extensive Roman ruins of **Beit Shean**, destroyed over 1,300 years ago by an earthquake and recently excavated and reconstructed on a massive and impressive scale.
- We also visit **Beit Alpha** to view the intricate mosaics in the synagogue.
- 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.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** via the Jordan Valley, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** for a special opportunity to say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We check into our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY – ANCIENT JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to the **Tomb of King David** on **Mt. Zion**.
- We enter the **Old City** and stroll through the **Jewish quarter**, stopping to explore the **Cardo**, the ancient Roman marketplace now featuring outstanding shopping opportunities. Then, we visit four Sephardic synagogues in the Jewish quarter restored after the 1967 War.
- We continue with a tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archeological wonders that remained untouched for centuries.
- Our next stop is at the **Davidson Center**, built into the ancient stones adjacent to the **Temple Mount**. Here, we learn about the construction and history of the Temple Mount area through multi-media exhibitions.
- We stroll through the colorful marketplace to the Jaffa Gate and visit the **Tower of David Museum** to learn more about Jerusalem's 3,000 years of history.
- Spend the evening at leisure discovering Jerusalem and enjoying dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 8: THURSDAY – MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we share in the joy of the many **B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies** at the **Kotel**.
- We drive through **Mea Shearim**, one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, to learn about the unique lifestyle of the Ultra-Orthodox residents.
- At **Mt. Herzl**, Jerusalem's military cemetery, our guide imparts some of the heroic stories of those buried here, including Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.
- Our next stop is at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. Here, we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
- This afternoon, we explore the bunkers at **Ammunition Hill**, the official museum symbolizing the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem.
- We drive by the **Knesset**, Israel's Parliament and see the bronze menorah statue out front.
- Later this afternoon, we 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 miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 9: FRIDAY – MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Early this morning, we depart for the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Along the way, we stop at **Qumran**, the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found by a local shepherd.
- We ascend **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouses, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth.
- Later this afternoon, we return to Jerusalem for a quiet Shabbat on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 10: SATURDAY – SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning with the opportunity to attend Shabbat services on own.
- Free day to enjoy the calm of Shabbat.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 11: SUNDAY – L’HITRAOT!

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart (on own) for Ben Gurion Airport for our flights back to the United States, landing later today. 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.

