

WELCOME

ברוכים הבאים

11 DAY | BAR/BAT MITZVAH ISRAEL TOUR

11-DAYS | 9-NIGHTS

DAY ONE: Sunday

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Monday

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Drive to Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
- Visit the **Old City of Jaffa**, ascend from the ancient port, through the renovated artists' colony and alleyways to the **Jaffa Overlook** for an introduction to Tel Aviv.
- Check into the hotel.
- Enjoy dinner on your own in **Tel Aviv**, at a choice of a wide array of restaurants from the Tel Aviv Port to Jaffa, and downtown Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Tuesday

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *My Journey to Israel* Intergenerational **Opening Program**.
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute**, near Rehovot, for an eye opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
- Visit to **Independence Hall**, site of David Ben Gurion's monumental proclamation of the State of Israel in May 1948.
- Lunch on your own.
- Visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its restored buildings and sidewalk artists, and continue onto the colorful Carmel Market and then to Shenkin, one of Israel's most avant-garde streets.
- **LaDa'at Scavenger Hunt in Tel Aviv - מתחת לפני השטח בתל אביב**: Explore the city of Tel Aviv while participating in a special family scavenger hunt, walk the walk, talk the talk and imagine the unimaginable.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Wednesday

CONQUEST AND SPIRITUALITY ON THE ROAD NORTH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Drive northwards along the Mediterranean Coast.
- Guided visit to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period; visit the Herodian Theater and new excavations along the Mediterranean shore concluding with a visit to the 900-year-old crusader city built on the same site.
- Lunch on your own.
- Walk through the 2,000 year old underground water tunnels at **Park Alona**, which once brought water to Caesarea. (*Weather permitting.*)
- Explore **Safed**, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years, and a contemporary artists' colony, including:
 - Guided visits to the **Ari, Caro** or **Abuhav Synagogues** with their great stories and mystical messages.
 - Visit the **Cana'an Gallery** in Safed for a glimpse at the world of mystical art and a weaving workshop.
 - A stroll through the quaint **Art Galleries** and shop in the artists' colony.
 - A visit to the **Safed Candle Factory**.
- Drive north through the **Hula Valley**.
- Check into the kibbutz hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

- *Possible* activity with **Kibbutz Youth**.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY FIVE: Thursday

B'NAI MITZVAH CELEBRATION IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- ***Possible B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony*** in the ancient Talmudic period Bar-Am synagogue nestled in the Galilee Mountains.
- **Jeep** tour climbing to the **Golan Heights** in the footsteps of IDF soldiers and their battles in the Six Day War, to enjoy the beautiful natural scenery and gain an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- Lunch on own in a Druze village.
- Visit **Emek Habecha, the Valley of Tears**, on the Eastern edge of the Golan Heights, site of one of Israel's fiercest battles during the Yom Kippur War.
- Enjoy the culinary delight of a **Chocolate Workshop** at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** on Kibbutz Ein Zivan in the Golan Heights.
- Enjoy **Rafting** or **Kayaking** on the Jordan River.
- Return to the hotel.
- *Possible* celebratory dinner at **Dag Al HaDan** fish restaurant, located in a pastoral setting along the river.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SIX: Friday

SERENITY ON THE WAY TO THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit the **Kinneret Cemetery** and hear about the dreams of the early Zionist pioneers.
- Swim in the warm waters and natural springs at the **Gan Hashlosa Nature Reserve (Sachne)** situated at the foot of Mt. Gilboa.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Continue south via the Jordan Valley and East through the Judean Desert to Jerusalem.
- Upon entering Jerusalem stop for the "**shehechyanu**" blessing, traditionally recited upon entering Jerusalem.
- Check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at a local synagogue or at the Kotel.
- **Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN: Saturday

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Optional morning services.
- Return for a walking tour of the **Old City of Jerusalem** including:
 - A walk along the **Ramparts** of the Old City.
 - The ancient **Roman Cardo** in the Jewish Quarter.
 - The **Hurva Synagogue** and Square in the Jewish Quarter.
 - King Hezekiah's First Temple Period **Broad Wall**.
 - The **Rooftops** of the Old City, providing perspective and unparalleled overviews of the four quarters.
 - Lunch on your own.
 - The **Christian Quarter** and segments of the Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.
 - The famous Moslem Quarter **Shuk (Market)**.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol* **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- Enjoy dinner on your own in **Jerusalem**, at a choice of a wide array of restaurants.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY EIGHT: Sunday

MEMORY AND RENEWAL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided visit through the newly renovated **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
 - The new **Historical Museum**
 - The **Children's Memorial**
 - A concluding **Memorial Service**
- Lunch on your own.
- Take part in an active dig at the **Beit Guvrin Caves** and prepare to get your hands dirty as you uncover pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago, followed by a crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth.
- Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Monday

B'NAI MITZVAH CELEBRATION

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Possible B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony** overlooking the Walls of the Old City, at one of the following options:
 - **Southern Wall** at the Davidson Center
 - The **Goldman Promenade**
 - **Mt. Scopus**
 - On the rooftop of **HUC**
- Hands-on **Social Justice Project**.
- Return for a walking tour of the **Old City of Jerusalem** including:
 - Guided visit to the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park**, including a visit to the Davidson Center and the Southern Wall Excavations.
 - Visit the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall alongside the Temple Mount.
- Return to the hotel.
- *Possible* celebratory dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Tuesday

INTO THE DESERT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Descend to the **Dead Sea Basin**.
- Ascend the cable car or walk up the snake path to **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Short hike to **Nahal David** the freshwater spring at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, a lush oasis in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea.
- Lunch on your own.
- Bathe in the relaxing and healthy sulphur springs at the **Mineral Beach** and float in the Dead Sea.
- Return to Jerusalem
- Late check out from the hotel.
- **Farewell Dinner** at a restaurant overlooking the Old City.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Wednesday

RETURN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.