

WELCOME

ברוכים הבאים

12 DAY | FAMILY ISRAEL TOUR

12-DAYS | 10-NIGHTS

DAY ONE: Wednesday

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Thursday

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Ascend to Jerusalem through the **Judean Hills**.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem – ברוכים הבאים**: Enter the vibrant and colourful 3,000 year old city of Jerusalem and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Upon entering Jerusalem stop for the “**shehechyanu**” blessing, traditionally recited upon entering Jerusalem.
- Check into the hotel.
- *My Journey to Israel* Intergenerational **Opening Program** and **Welcome Dinner** at a restaurant overlooking the Old City.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY THREE: Friday

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, for guided visits to some of the sites excavated over the past 30 years, including:
 - Walk along the **Rooftops** of the Old City for a behind the scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live together.
 - The **Cardo**, a Byzantine street that is now the world's oldest shopping arcade
 - The **Hurva Square**, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
 - Guided visit to the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park** with a special visit to the Davidson Center, to view the new presentation of *Life During the Time of the Temple*, followed by a guided visit to the Southern Wall Excavations.
- **OR**
- Visit the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall alongside the Temple Mount.
- The **Kotel** (Western Wall).
- Return to the hotel.
- *Optional* **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at a local synagogue or at the Kotel.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY FOUR: Saturday

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Optional* **Shabbat Services**.
- **Shabbat in Jerusalem** with optional tours to (*on own or with guide*):
 - The Museum of the History of Jerusalem at **David's Citadel**, for a walk through the history of Jerusalem from the time of Abraham 4,000 years ago to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine.
 - The famous **Jerusalem Arab Shuk** (Market) in the Old City.
 - The **Old City Ramparts** for a walk along the ancient walls of the city.
 - The **Israel Museum**, one of the most creative and innovative museums in the world with a visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls of the Shrine of the Book and the newly restored Second Temple Period Model of Jerusalem.
- *Possible* afternoon meeting with **Israeli Scouts** and encounter program.
- **Free Evening in Jerusalem** on Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall or on Emek Refaim Street in the German Colony.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY FIVE: Sunday

SEARCHING FOR ROOTS

- Breakfast at the hotel.

Adults and Older Youth

- 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**

Younger Children

- Visit the **Tisch** Family Zoological Gardens, a beautifully landscaped habitat with a special focus on preserving Biblical fauna, geared to children of all ages (2-80).

All Participants

- **LaDa'at Machaneh Yehuda - אל השוק**: Actively explore the colorful and ethnically rich **Machaneh Yehuda Market** of Jerusalem, with 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.
- Dinner on your own in the **Mamilla** Pedestrian Arcade, a new and contemporary shopping area, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City.
- **The Night Spectacular** at the **Tower of David Museum** - The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night time show which is a celebration of sight and sound, depicting the story of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SIX: Monday

JEWISH STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to the **Dead Sea Basin** and ascend the cable car 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 or at a Dead Sea hotel.
- Experience the weightlessness of the **Dead Sea** as you float in its waters.
- Ride through the desert in Biblical style (on **Camels**) at Eretz Bereishit—Genesis Land.
- Return to Jerusalem for dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN: Tuesday

DRIVING THE RIFT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out and depart Jerusalem.
- Drive northwards along the **Jordan Rift Valley**.
- Visit the 1,500-year-old **Beit Alpha Synagogue** at Kibbutz Heftzibah, which boasts the famous mosaic floor depicting the Binding of Isaac and view an audio-visual program about a Byzantine synagogue building fund.
- Swim in the warm waters and natural springs at the **Gan Hashlosha Nature Reserve (Sachne)** situated at the foot of Mt. Gilboa.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- 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.
 - A stroll through the quaint **Art Galleries** and shop in the artists' colony.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Wednesday

NATURE AND SECURITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **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.
- Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River and the Biblical settlement of Dan.
- Lunch on your own.
- Ride the **Manara** cable car to ascend the Manara Cliff overlooking the Hula Valley and the Golan Heights.
- Enjoy **Rafting** or **Kayaking** on the Jordan River.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.
- *Possible* meeting with **Kibbutz Youth**.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY NINE: Thursday

ALONG THE COAST

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit the **Hula Nature Reserve** and the Ophoria Interactive Experience, connecting birds, water and the Zionist endeavor.
- Drive to Caesarea and stop for lunch on your own at the old port.
- 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 the new interactive audio-visual program *'The Stars of Caesarea,'* located in the 900-year-old crusader city built on the same site.
- Continue south along the **Coastal Plain**.
- Drive through **Tel Aviv**, known as the "city that never sleeps" and pass by centers of culture and recreation such as the Habima Theater, sprawling beaches, Dizengoff Street and Rabin Square.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Free Evening in Tel Aviv** with an opportunity to:
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** with its many cafes and bars
 - Experience the **Tel Aviv Port** with its restaurants and clubs
 - Explore the newly gentrified **Neve Zedek Neighborhood**
 - Saunter down the **Tel Aviv Beach Promenade**
 - Visit the newly renovated **Jaffa Port**

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY TEN: Friday

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
 - Follow the story of Israel's pre-state elite fighting force, the Palmach, while walking through a state of the art multimedia experience that allows a glimpse into the lives of extraordinary people at **Beit Hapalmach**.
- OR**
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute**, near Rehovot, for an eye opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
 - Guided walk through the newly renovated and world-renowned Jaffa Flea Market - **Shuk Hapishpishim**.
 - Visit the **Old City of Jaffa** and stroll through the renovated artists' colony and the ancient port.
 - Lunch on your own near the colorful Carmel Market or avant-garde Shenkin Street, and then visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its restored buildings and sidewalk artists.
 - *Optional* **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at a local synagogue.

- Dinner at the hotel or at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY ELEVEN: Saturday

SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Free Time in Tel Aviv** with an opportunity to:
 - Take in the grand art collection at the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**
 - Explore the newly gentrified **Neve Zedek Neighborhood**
 - Visit some of Tel Aviv's legendary **Art Galleries**
 - Enjoy the **Ganei Yehoshua Park** on the Yarkon River
 - Crash the waves of the **Mediterranean Sea**
 - **Bike Ride** or **Segway Tour** of Tel Aviv
- **Festive Farewell Dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY TWELVE: Sunday

DEPARTURE

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