



Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Israel

Explore Israel on this itinerary specially designed as a small group tour where you'll enjoy unique cultural and culinary experiences as well as visits to the high points of interest throughout Israel.

Wednesday Departures
12 Days □ 10 Nights

Small Group Tour
Limited to 14 participants

Tour Includes:

- Professional Expert Guide
- Luxury Hotels
- 8 Days of Exceptional Touring program
- Arrival and Departure Transfers

24 Meals:

- Daily Israeli Buffet Breakfast
- Welcome Dinner
- Lunch in Jaffa
- Lunch at a Winery
- Dinner in Sarona
- Lunch at a Chef Restaurant in Akko
- 2 Dinners at Mizpe Hayamim (including Dinner at Muscat Restaurant)
- Home hosted lunch in Galilee
- Dinner at a Chef Restaurant in Jerusalem

- Middle East Dinner at Abu Gosh
- Lunch at a Dead Sea Spa Hotel
- Traditional Friday Night Dinner-Israeli home in Jerusalem

Special Features:

- Night Tour of Tel Aviv
- Winery Tour, Tasting and Lunch in Elah Valley
- Golan Heights Jeep Ride and Tour an Army Bunker
- Cheese Making Workshop and Winery in Northern Israel
- Galilee Village Market Tour including Cooking instruction and Meal
- Organic Kibbutz Visit
- Mahane Yehuda "Shuk Bites" Experience
- Ride the "Segway" touring in Jerusalem
- Knesset (Parliament) Visit
- Mea Shearim Neighborhood Tasting Tour
- Night Tour of "illuminated" Jerusalem
- Tour the Hasmonean Tunnel
- Sound & Light Show in Jerusalem**
- Tips to all restaurant staff
- Express Airport Service upon arrival and departure
& Dan VIP Lounge at Ben Gurion Airport (upon return to the USA)
- Dan VIP Lounge at Ben Gurion Airport (upon return to the USA)

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

ITINERARY

Wednesday: En Route

Depart the U.S.A. on your flight to Israel.

Thursday: Tel Aviv

Welcome to Israel! Arrive Ben Gurion Airport; meeting and transfer to the spectacular Isrotel Royal Beach Hotel on Tel Aviv's lovely Mediterranean Sea.

Evening: Enjoy a night tour of trendy Tel Aviv-- the "city that never sleeps" followed by a **welcome dinner** at a top chef restaurant. **(D)**

Friday: Tel Aviv

Begin your day with a visit to **Independence Hall** where it all began. This is where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared. Then a great discovery of Tel Aviv as we drive through the main streets of this city known as the **"White City"**. Tel Aviv has been proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid **Bauhaus Architecture** and has the largest number of buildings in this unique style of any city in the world! Continue past the **Charles Bronfman Auditorium, (Israeli Philharmonic), Habimah Theatre,** the impressive **Opera House** and **Yitzhak Rabin Square**, dedicated to the late Prime Minister. Continue to the 4,000-year-old port city of **Jaffa**. Explore the magnificently **reconstructed Artists' Quarter** with its galleries and boutiques. Enjoy the local flavors at **lunch** in one of our favorite Jaffa restaurants. **Afterwards, on to Tel Aviv's bustling Carmel Market** and

lively **Nachlat Benjamin Street** with its delightful cafes and craft stalls — definitely the place to be on Friday afternoon! Return to your hotel. This evening, you can choose from one of the many excellent restaurants in Tel Aviv for dinner on your own or at your hotel. Overnight in Tel Aviv. **(B.L)**

Saturday: Tel Aviv

A delicious breakfast at your hotel followed by a visit to **Machon Ayalon** the reconstructed underground munitions factory located under the kibbutz bakery. It was built and operated during the years 1946-1948. This special clandestine factory was prepared secretly in less than a month. Its openings were covered by a 10 ton oven and a large washing machine that camouflaged the noise of manufacturing bullets. The Ayalon institute was the largest IMI factory to operate underground and produced over 2,500,000 9mm bullets mostly for Sten guns during its three years of operation. Drive to a **Winery** in the Elah Valley to enjoy a tour, **wine tasting** and a delightful **lunch**. Return to your hotel for some relaxing time at the lovely facilities and on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. **Evening:** We are out on the town as we visit **Sarona**, an old German Templar colony meticulously restored, preserving the original architecture and converted to a lively pedestrian area with a booming culinary arena. After a walking tour, enjoy free time exploring the new urban complexes including various shops, cafés and art galleries. **Dinner** at one of the fine restaurants in the city. **(B.L.D)**

Sunday: Tel Aviv/Rosh Pina (Galilee)

Drive to ancient **Caesarea** to explore the Roman and Crusader ruins. We'll then drive to the port city of Haifa for a view of the golden-domed **Baha'i Shrine** and their breathtaking "**hanging gardens**," – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue to the Crusader city of **Acre**. Enjoy **lunch** at the famous **Uri Buri Restaurant**. Afterwards, walk through the subterranean city and bazaars that recall the colorful middle Ages. Drive along the coast to **Rosh Hanikra**; descend by cable car to see the magnificent underwater grottoes. Continue to **Mizpe Hayamim in Rosh Pina**, a natural health spa and resort unique in its concept and design with flourishing herbal and flower gardens and an organic farm with the tastiest cuisine. Enjoy **dinner** in the quaint dining room. **(B.L.D)**

Monday: Rosh Pina

Begin the day with a tour of **Safed**, one of Judaism's holiest cities, where the Kabbalah was developed in the 16th-century; visit the ancient synagogues and the charming **Artists' Quarter**. Continue to the **Adir Winery** for **wine tasting**, and to participate in a hands-on **cheese making workshop**. We'll then ascend the **Golan Heights** and continue through the valleys and ranges on a thrilling **Jeep ride**; take in the breathtaking panoramic views and learn about the strategic importance of the area. Drive to wondrous **Mt. Ben Tal** for a magnificent view beyond the Israeli borders. Visit an **army bunker** and hear the fascinating story of the war fought in the Golan. Return to your hotel for **dinner** in the **Muscat Gourmet Chef restaurant** of the Mizpe Hayamim. **(B.D)**

Tuesday: Rosh Pina/Jerusalem

Driving first to **Capernaum** to see the fantastic ruins of the ancient synagogue dating back to the 5th-century. Continue to a local Galilee Village where you will have a taste of Galilean village life. Enjoy a visit to a local market before arriving at **your hosts' house where you will prepare a meal together which you will enjoy together with a selection of side dishes that your host cooked especially for you**. Continue **to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu** for a tour throughout the Kibbutz with your feet in

the soil and nothing but green in your thoughts. The tours show how everyday living is merged with nature as a way of life. The combination of a Jewish Orthodox lifestyle with organic farming, in a vibrant, versatile and cooperative community, is something worth seeing and experiencing. Then drive south and rise through the mountains to “golden” Jerusalem celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the reunification of the city, stopping first for a blessing and a toast to our arrival in the eternal city. Check in to the newest hotel in Jerusalem, the spectacular Orient Hotel built on the grounds of historic buildings preserved from the Templar Era of the 1880’s. Overnight in Israel’s capital. Evening: **Night Tour of illuminated Jerusalem** followed by **Dinner** at the Eucalyptus Restaurant where every dish has its origins in biblical scenes and all the spices and herbs grow in the surrounding hills of Jerusalem and Judea. The restaurant is set in an ancient stone building with a huge scenic balcony where you can enjoy the crimson sunsets as they hit the walls of the old city—the special ambiance of the evening is simply intoxicating. **(B.L.D)**

Wednesday: Jerusalem

Enter the **Old City** from the Dung Gate; walk to the **Western Wall**, last remnant of the Second Temple. View the **Dome of the Rock**. Drive to **Mt. Zion** to visit the traditional **Tomb of King David** and the **Room of the Last Supper**. Proceed to the restored **Jewish Quarter**; walk along the **Cardo**, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Visit the **Herodian Mansions**, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago, or, walk through the extraordinary **Hasmonean Tunnel** (*tunnel schedule permitting*.) Follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**; walk through the exotic **bazaars** with their wondrous aromas. We’ll then drive to **Machane Yehuda Market** a microcosm of everything Jerusalem has to offer. The market is Israel’s most sprawling and buzzing network of alleys and vending stalls. Enjoy the **“Shuk Bites”** experience where you’ll sample and taste a variety of market products while you hear the intriguing back stories of the vendors you’ll meet. End the day with a thrilling **Segway Ride** through the charming and picturesque neighborhoods of Mishkenot Shaananim and Yemin Moshe. Tonight, attend the **“Night Spectacular” Sound & Light Show** at the Citadel Museum (weather and schedule permitting). **(B.L)**

Thursday: Jerusalem

Begin the day with a tour of the **Knesset** (Parliament). Continue to **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s national Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, with its Children’s Pavilion and Avenue of the Righteous. On to **Mea Shearim** for a **Culinary Tour**. Here, in this ultra-Orthodox neighborhood, it’s like time stood still. Everything is so different from the modern Jerusalem that we see elsewhere. The “Ashkenazi” food is the same as it was hundreds of years ago. Here you’ll savor the taste of “Cholent”, “kugel”, “Blintzes” and delight in the most perfect Herring you’ll ever have not to mention the Challahs which are baked in 150-years-old-ovens. But don’t overdo it as tonight, we’ll experience a different side of Israel as we drive to the Israeli-Arab town of **Abu Gosh**, known as the “Hummus Capital of Israel” where we enjoy a delicious local meal. **(B.L.D)**

Friday: Jerusalem

Descend through the Judean desert to the **Dead Sea**, lowest point on Planet Earth. Ascend **Masada** by cable car and see this last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. Visit the excavations, Herod the Great’s palace, synagogue and bathhouse. Continue to a Dead Sea Spa Hotel for **lunch** and to enjoy an “unsinkable” **swim** in the buoyant waters of the **Dead Sea on the hotel’s private beach**. Drive via the **Qumran Caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, on

your return to Jerusalem. **Evening:** You will be deeply moved as you join Jerusalemites welcoming the Sabbath at the Western Wall. And tonight, the memories will last us a lifetime as we join an Israeli family at their home for the traditional **Friday dinner** together. **(B.L.D)**

Saturday: Jerusalem

Enjoy a day at leisure at your beautiful hotel featuring a magnificent rooftop outdoor swimming pool, as well as an indoor pool in the spa complex where saunas, Turkish baths, and an array of pampering spa treatments are available . Or continue on your your exploration of Jerusalem on this final day in Israel. **(B)**

Sunday: En Route

Transfer to the Airport for your international departure flight. Enjoy our **Express Check-in Service** and complimentary entrance to the exclusive **Dan VIP Lounge.** **(B)**

Luxury Hotels

City	Nights	Hotel
Tel Aviv	3	Isrotel Royal Beach-Exec.Room with Exec. Lounge Access
Rosh Pina	2	Mizpe Hayamim Spa Hotel
Jerusalem	5	Orient – Orient Room

Contact us for Tour Dates and Pricing