

Monday – October 28 / En Route

Depart on your flight to Israel.

Tuesday – October 29 / Jerusalem

Welcome to Israel! Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport, where we will meet and assist you before transferring to your hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy in Jerusalem's best location.

Evening: Meet new friends at a welcome reception, followed by dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem – King David Hotel

Wednesday – October 30 / Jerusalem

There is simply no place like Jerusalem. Your discovery of one of the world's oldest and most majestic cities begins at Mount Zion, just outside the walls of the Old City, where you will visit King David's Tomb. Afterwards, experience the thrill of entering the Jewish Quarter through the Zion Gate, as Jews have for thousands of years. Walk along the restored Roman Cardo and get a close look at the main shopping center from the Byzantine period. History is all around as you see more impressive sights including the recently discovered ancient wall of Jerusalem from the time of King David. Then, an unforgettable emotional highlight: you'll descend to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, where for centuries Jews have come to pray, mourn and celebrate. Continue to the excavations of the Western and Southern Wall, remaining from the time of the Second Temple. In the Jerusalem Archaeological Park tour the dynamic Davidson Center where history comes alive. Depart the Old City for Hadassah Medical Center to admire its magnificent Chagall Windows. Conclude the day at the Military Cemetery on Mount Herzl, where we feel the heavy price paid by the defenders of the State of Israel and pause at the graves of great statesmen, including: Theodor Herzl, Golda Meir and Yitzchak Rabin.

Evening: Together we'll dine at an excellent restaurant where you'll enjoy a taste of modern Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem – King David Hotel

Thursday – October 31 / Jerusalem

The day begins as we drive via the campus of Hebrew University to Mount Scopus, the ideal place to see panoramic views of the "Golden City" and the Judean Desert. Then, it's on to Latrun, the site of many critical battles to control the main road to Jerusalem during the War of Independence. At the outdoor Armored Corps Museum view combat tanks and hear about heroic actions of young Israeli soldiers. Arrive at a JNF Forest and connect to the land as we follow the tradition begun by the pioneers of modern Israel and plant trees, creating a lasting memory. Continue to the Tel Maresha Dig located at Beit Guvrin, where we have the rare opportunity to experience hands-on archaeology and are joined by an archaeologist for a tour of this subterranean city. Learn about past civilizations as we dig and sift for authentic artifacts and treasures.

Evening: Dinner is on your own.

Overnight: Jerusalem – King David Hotel

Friday – November 1 / Jerusalem

No tour of Jerusalem is complete without a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, where you will participate in a private memorial service. Walk along the Avenue of the Righteous, where Oscar Schindler and others are honored. Wander through the courtyards of the Valley of the Destroyed Communities where thousands of towns and villages are memorialized. Spend time at the Museum, Children's Memorial and the New Museum with its Hall of Names. Afterwards, travel past the impressive Supreme Court complex to the world-renowned Israel Museum. You'll admire the many treasures including a scale model of Jerusalem and the dramatic Shrine of the Book housing one of the world's most incredible archeological discoveries, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest manuscript of the Hebrew Bible. Another must-see are the large-scale, modern sculptures in the beautiful Billy Rose Sculpture Garden. Now visit the lively Machne Yehuda Market and step back in time as you stroll down the lanes with stalls offering every variety of fresh and specialty foods, clothing and housewares. Experience the wonderful flurry of sounds, sights and aromas. Near the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) you'll stop to admire the bronze seven-branch menorah, the official emblem of the State of Israel. You have the option to return to the Old City to again approach, touch and pray at the holiest Jewish site in the world, the Western Wall.

Evening: This evening enjoy a traditional Shabbat dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem – King David Hotel

Saturday – November 2 / Jerusalem - Walking Tour

This morning you have the opportunity to attend a synagogue service. Late morning, your discovery of this captivating, sacred city continues with a special walking tour. Take in magnificent views from atop the medieval Citadel (Tower of David) at the historic Old City Jaffa Gate. Located within the Citadel you'll visit the fascinating Museum of the History of Jerusalem. Afterward, discover the narrow streets of the Old City's colorful bazaar, a Jerusalem landmark, bustling with shops, stalls and many exotic sights. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to further explore the wonders of this fabulous city.

Evening: Enjoy dinner on your own. A fantastic choice of restaurants can be found at the upscale pedestrian Mamilla Mall or the nearby Jerusalem city center, all within walking distance of our ideally located hotel. Your tour meets up later in the evening at the Tower of David, where we'll enjoy a spectacular sound and light show. Watch the story of Jerusalem unfold in breathtaking moving images projected on the ancient walls and archeological ruins of the Citadel. The perfect way to end your stay in Jerusalem!

Overnight: Jerusalem – King David Hotel

Sunday – November 3 / Jerusalem to Masada - Dead Sea

We say farewell to Jerusalem and begin our journey into the desert. Soon you'll notice a dramatic change in landscape to breathtaking wilderness beauty. As you approach the remote location of the mountain fortress Masada, hear tales of legendary courage that symbolizes the spirit of the Jewish people. Enjoy the stunning panorama of the Dead Sea as you ascend by cable car to the summit for an in-depth tour of the extensive archeological excavations. In stark contrast to the parched desert is the spectacular beauty of your next stop, the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, a tropical oasis on the edge of the Dead Sea. Walk the path to the famous waterfall taking in the green lush vegetation. You'll arrive at your luxury Dead Sea resort and spa in time to enjoy the unusual environment and exceptional facilities. Venture into the Dead Sea for an "unsinkable" swim – an experience not to be missed.

Evening: Dinner is included at your hotel.

Overnight: Dead Sea – Isrotel Dead Sea

Monday – November 4 / Dead Sea to Eilat

This morning you'll continue your journey south to Eilat traveling past exquisite geological formations, including the cliffs of the Nachal Pratzim and the moon-like landscape of the salt mountains of Sodom. In the distance catch a glimpse of the atomic city of Dimona, and then the "Big Crater" with its magnificent geological layers. Next, an unexpected sight – the town of Yeroham, a modern hub of activity flourishing in the Negev Desert. Your desert journey continues with a unique Middle Eastern experience. You visit with Bedouins and are warmly welcomed into their tent to learn about their about their culture, customs and tradition of hospitality. Afterwards, your hosts will lead you on an unforgettable camel ride. Our routing brings you close to one of nature's masterpieces; the Ramon Crater. As far as you can see, discover the majestic beauty of this spectacular natural treasure. Stop at the new Visitor Center at the edge of the crater to experience breathtaking views of the world's largest "makhtesh". The center also houses a moving museum and memorial to Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut. Then, it's on to the fabulous resort city of Eilat and your beachfront hotel on the shores of the Red Sea.

Evening: Dinner is included at your hotel.

Overnight: Eilat – Isrotel Royal Beach

Tuesday – November 5 / Eilat

A relaxing day awaits as you board a yacht for a cruise on the calm, clear waters of the Red Sea. Use the complimentary snorkeling equipment to discover Eilat's world-renowned reefs or sit back and enjoy the gorgeous coastline as the crew prepares your buffet lunch. Later, you have leisure time to discover the vast range of recreational activities and amenities of your beachfront hotel.

Optional Day Tour to Petra, Jordan.

Evening: Tonight is free to explore and have dinner on your own. Walk along the lively seafront promenade and choose from a variety of restaurants. After dinner, check out duty free shopping and the dynamic nightlife!

Overnight: Eilat – Isrotel Royal Beach

Wednesday – November 6 / Eilat to Tiberias

This morning, you'll take a short flight from Eilat to Tel Aviv. Your exciting exploration of Northern Israel begins in the ancient Roman port city of Caesarea, located on the beautiful Mediterranean coast, where you explore the impressive ruins of this former Roman capital. Next, visit Atlit Detention Camp constructed by the British to imprison desperate Jews arriving in spite of the British Mandate 1939 -1948. During an emotional tour see how these "illegals" were held for the crime of entering their Jewish homeland. Enjoy the landscape as you drive through the Galilee to your lakefront hotel in the picturesque city of Tiberias on Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), the perfect location to discover Northern Israel.

Evening: Dinner is included at our hotel.

Overnight: Tiberias – U Boutique Kinneret

Thursday – November 7 / Tiberias

Today's touring begins in the magnificent mountaintop holy city of Safed, the center of the Jewish mysticism - Kabbalah. Wander along quaint cobblestone streets of this well-known artists' colony and visit its historic synagogues and fantastic shops. Afterwards, you're off to explore the fascinating Golan Heights, with its unusual lava landscapes and formations. Visit Gadot Viewpoint, a former Syrian base, to learn about this 1967 battlefield and see the memorial sculpture standing amidst the ruins. For a truly "off the beaten path" experience, you'll board jeeps for a discovery of strategic areas including the former high-ground Syrian fortifications. Hear about heroic bravery as you walk through the trenches of the 1967 battlefields. Now for a change of pace and a treat for your taste buds, stop in Katzrin to visit the award winning Golan Heights Winery. Enjoy a short tour and sample some of the best wine that Israel has to offer.

Evening: You'll board the "fun boat" for a cruise on the Sea of Galilee, complete with Israeli folk dancing. The cruise ends at Kibbutz Ein Gev, where we've arranged an enlightening visit with "Kibbutzniks" in their private homes to experience first-hand this unique way of life. We'll have dinner (included) at the kibbutz's popular seaside restaurant

Overnight: Tiberias – U Boutique Kinneret

Friday – November 8 / Tiberias To Tel Aviv

Start another exciting day driving through Druze villages and hear about their religion, culture and loyal service in the Israel Defense Forces. Arrive at the northwestern corner of Israel, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the white cliffs and rare beauty of Rosh Hanikra. Descend by cable car to explore the winding underground grottoes formed over thousands of years from waves hitting the soft chalk rock. Next, it's on to the ancient port city of Akko to see the fascinating and meticulously restored medieval underground Crusader city – the only one of its kind in the world. A scenic drive along the coast brings us to the gorgeous city of Haifa built around Mt. Carmel. We'll stop at an ideal hilltop location for the best views of the Bay of Haifa and the Bahai Temple, with its stunning terraced garden. Then, it's on to the Mediterranean's "Capital of Cool", vibrant Tel Aviv. Arrive in time to enjoy the Nahalat Binyamin outdoor arts and crafts market, the liveliest place to be on Friday afternoon, with colorful street performers, musicians, cafes and unique shopping.

Evening: Enjoy a traditional Shabbat dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv – Hilton Tel Aviv

Saturday– November 9 / Tel Aviv

Today is a day of leisure and fun in Tel Aviv. Your luxury beachfront hotel is steps from the popular miles-long promenade, the best location to experience the energy and spirit of this dynamic city. Walk along the sandy beaches, choose from restaurants and cafes on the endless boardwalk or enjoy the ambience of your hotel's fantastic pool area.

Evening: It's a special night; the gala Farewell Banquet at your hotel—a festive evening with live music, singing and dancing.

Overnight: Tel Aviv – Hilton Tel Aviv

Sunday – November 10 / Tel Aviv

Today we take in the sights near Tel Aviv, driving via Jaffa, Bat Yam and Rishon Letzion to Rehovot, where you'll visit the Ayalon Institute, a top-secret underground bullet factory that was hidden from the British Army from 1945 to 1948. Descend into the factory to see where this best kept secret made a crucial difference in establishing a Jewish homeland. Return to Tel Aviv and drive along historic and hip Rothschild Boulevard for a close look at the Cultural Center, City Hall and Rabin Square. Notice the world-famous "White City," a collection of Bauhaus-inspired square white buildings with curved balconies. Next, an experience unlike any other; the incredible Palmach Museum. Recognized for its unique multimedia presentation, you will see, hear and feel the struggles of the young self-trained soldiers who became the first defenders of Israel. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy as you please. You may wish to shop, visit the Museum of the Diaspora or return to your beachfront hotel and enjoy the amenities.

Evening: Join us for a relaxing dinner at an excellent Tel Aviv restaurant, the perfect close to your incredible Israel experience.

Overnight: Tel Aviv – Hilton Tel Aviv

Monday – November 11 / Tel Aviv - En Route

Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for your return flight.

Although this journey of discovery has ended, your impressions, memories and connection to Israel will last a lifetime.

THIS ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES