

# ISRAEL UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

**NEW**

9 Days FROM \$2,179



City of Akko

## HOSTED TOUR PROGRAM

(2) Tel Aviv • (2) Shavei Zion • (4) Jerusalem



# - No. of overnight stays

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Tel Aviv from its modern allure to its Old Port City of Jaffa to its acclaimed food scene
- Explore ancient excavations in Caesarea and visit Ein Shemer Kibbutz Museum
- Enjoy a private tour and wine tasting experience at a Golan winery and experience a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Venture to the crusader port city of Akko with its new excavations and underground tunnels, revel in the Bahai Gardens in Haifa, and experience a special "Shabbat of a Lifetime" dinner in the home of a local Jewish family
- Explore the rock fortress of Masada, and enjoy time to float in the Dead Sea
- Delve into Old Jerusalem's sites, visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, tour the Holocaust History Museum, and visit Bethlehem

**DAY 1 | MON | TEL AVIV** Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, where you will be met, assisted through baggage and customs, and escorted to your driver. You will then be transferred to your hotel in Tel Aviv for dinner and overnight. (D)

**DAY 2 | TUE | TEL AVIV | JAFFA | TEL AVIV** Following a delicious breakfast, you will start your exploration with a visit to the "State of Mind" Innovation Center at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Enjoy a walk around the Old Port City of Jaffa, the oldest seaport in the world. Next you will embark on a choice of two culinary tours that will introduce you to the very best of Tel Aviv's food scene: a Carmel Market tasting tour or a vegan culinary tour. Later, stroll along Rothschild Boulevard, home of The White City, Tel Aviv's most prominent collection of Bauhaus buildings. Revel in an evening at leisure to discover Tel Aviv at your own pace. (B)

**DAY 3 | WED | TEL AVIV | CAESAREA | KIBBUTZ EXPERIENCE | SHAVEI ZION** After breakfast, depart Tel Aviv and head north to the ancient city of Caesarea, built by Herod the Great and once the administrative center of the Roman Empire for the Province of Judaea. The ancient port, the Roman hippodrome and amphitheater, and the impressive palace are among the many historical treasures. Next, visit Ein Shemer Kibbutz Museum, where you will experience a journey from the early days of the kibbutz communities to the present, and enjoy a delicious lunch in the Kibbutz dining hall. Continue with a tour of innovation at Kibbutz Magal and visit the Netafim greenhouse innovation center, a pioneering enterprise in the field of drip irrigation technology. Continue to your hotel in Shavei Zion for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4 | THU | SHAVEI ZION | KATZRIN | SEA OF GALILEE | SAFED | SHAVEI ZION** Have breakfast at your hotel before driving along to the city of Katzrin, the "Capital of the Golan Heights." Stroll through a Talmudic village and get a sense of what it was like to live in the times of ancient Israel. Enjoy a tour and wine tasting at a local, family-owned boutique winery. Drive to the Sea of Galilee for a boat ride on the calm water. Continue to the mystical city of Tzfat (Safed), the birthplace of the ancient Jewish mystical text, the Kabbalah. Venture through the narrow, winding alleys, peer into the beautiful synagogues and browse the workshops and galleries in the flourishing artists' quarter. Return to Shavei Zion for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

**DAY 5 | FRI | SHAVEI ZION | AKKO | HAIFA | JERUSALEM** Enjoy a full Israeli breakfast at your hotel before exploring the ancient crusader port city of Akko, a fascinating UNESCO heritage site with new excavations that reveal what life was like 1000 years ago. See the port and fortifications that enabled the town to resist invasion by Napoleon. Take time to find some mementos at the Arab Bazaar, a true Middle Eastern shopping experience. Next, visit the amazing Bahai Gardens in Haifa with its staircase of 19 terraces extending all the way up Mount Carmel. On from there, drive to Jerusalem and check in to your hotel. In the evening, experience a special "Shabbat of a Lifetime" dinner in the home of a local Jewish family. Enjoy a traditional meal as you hear about and observe the customs of the Jewish Shabbat. (B,D)

**DAY 6 | SAT | JERUSALEM | DEAD SEA | MASADA | ST. GEORGE | JERUSALEM** After breakfast this morning, set off towards the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on Earth at 1388 feet below sea level. Enroute, visit the legendary mountaintop plateau of Masada, the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots in their struggle against the Romans in 73 CE. Ascending by cable car to the ancient fortress, explore the site with its synagogue and bathhouse. Afterwards, savor a leisurely afternoon at the Dead Sea shore with free time to cake yourself in mineral-rich mud and float in the buoyant waters. Next, drive to a lookout point for a view of Wadi Qelt and the cliff-hanging Monastery of St. George that was founded in the 5th Century and is still inhabited by Greek Orthodox monks. In the evening, enjoy a Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David, a creative depiction of the history of the city of Jerusalem (weather permitting). (B,L)

**DAY 7 | SUN | JERUSALEM - OLD CITY** Enjoy breakfast and then start the day's adventuring with an overview from the Mt. of Olives. Begin the exploration of the Old City of Jerusalem at the City of David with its fascinating tunnels. See the newest excavations revealing Jerusalem during the time of the 1st Temple period. Walk through the

Old City and visit some of its famous sites, including the Western Wall and the Cardo, an ancient commercial street where you can still shop today. Walk through the Arab Bazaar and experience traditional Middle Eastern life, with its rich colors and flavors, then stroll along part of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. According to traditions dating back to the 4th century, the church is the site where Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, and also the site of Jesus's empty tomb, where he is said to have been buried and resurrected. This evening is yours at leisure to explore Jerusalem at your own pace. (B)

**DAY 8 | MON | JERUSALEM - NEW CITY | BETHLEHEM | JERUSALEM** Have breakfast at your hotel and then head out to visit Yad Vashem, considered to be the world's primary Holocaust memorial and museum. Tour the new Holocaust History Museum and visit the exhibit at the Children's Pavilion, commemorating the death of over 1.5 million Jewish children. From Yad Vashem, move on to the Israel Museum. There you can see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition and view the famous Model of Jerusalem, depicting the city as it was in the 2nd Temple period. Continue to Bethlehem. See the Church of the Nativity and the remains of ancient Bethlehem (beneath the Greek Monastery), from the times of Christ. Return to Jerusalem and enjoy a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

**DAY 9 | TUE | JERUSALEM | TEL AVIV TO USA (OR EXTEND YOUR STAY)** Transfer from your hotel to Ben Gurion airport for your return flight home or continue your trip with an optional extension to Eilat and Petra.

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

### Two Night Extension to Eilat (Israel) & Petra (Jordan) from \$939

Rate Includes: Airport transfers Jerusalem & Eilat, Round-trip air Tel Aviv/Eilat/Tel Aviv; 2 Nights at Herod's Hotel or similar in Eilat; Full Israeli breakfast daily; Round-trip transfer from hotel to Arava border with Jordan and return; Sightseeing with Jordanian English-Speaking guide; Lunch in Petra

### INCLUDED FEATURES

- Deluxe hotel accommodations for 8 nights
- Full Israeli breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 5 dinners
- 7 full days of touring as per the itinerary with a professional, government licensed English-speaking guide in a Luxury air-conditioned coach
- All entrance fees to the sites described in the itinerary
- Meeting and assistance at Ben Gurion International Airport upon arrival
- Round trip transfers from Ben Gurion Airport to/from your hotel
- Porterage at hotels
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charges

### PREFERRED HOTELS (or similar)

City	Nts.	Hotels
Tel Aviv	2	Tal Hotel by the Beach
Shavei Zion	2	Nea Resort
Jerusalem	4	Leonardo Boutique Hotel

**Guaranteed Departure Dates:** Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 2 & 16, Apr 20, May 4 & 18, Jun 15, Jul 13, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 12 & 26, Nov 2, 16 & 30

### STARTING FROM PRICES VALID THRU NOVEMBER 2020

Deluxe Class Hotels:	\$2,179
Deluxe Class Single Supplement:	\$799

Prices are per person, land only based on double occupancy. Rates for third person are available on request. Extension does not include entry visa to Jordan (approx. \$60 per person).