

# TRAVEX

— ISRAEL TRAVEL EXPERTS —

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A PRIVATE TOUR OF:

# ISRAEL

SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOR:

*Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Trip*

**Winter Tour**

We invite you to create a customized tour around the unique interests of the Bar Mitzvah boy or Bat Mitzvah girl, incorporating a memorable ceremony and celebration.

## Day 1, Sunday

### *Welcome to Israel!*

**Arrival** at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, VIP assistance through airport formalities and transfer to your hotel in **Jerusalem**.

**Pending flight arrival time** --Stop at **Mount Scopus** for first view of Jerusalem, and "**Sheheheyanu**" Blessing.

Overnight in Jerusalem

## Day 2, Monday

Breakfast at hotel

Drive to the **Haas Promenade** for a panoramic view of Old and New Jerusalem.

Enter the Old City through **Jaffa Gate**, walk along the **Old City Ramparts**.

Continue for a walking tour of the renovated **Jewish Quarter**, pass by the ancient synagogues and view the newly reconstructed Hurva Synagogue.

Stroll through the **Cardo** - the reconstructed main street of Byzantine Jerusalem.

View of the Temple Mount with the Dome of the Rock and El Aqsa Mosques.

Visit the 3,000 year old ruins of the **City of David**.

Then to the **Western Wall** -- Judaism's holiest site.

Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels**.

**Evening option:** View the "**Night Spectacular**" - the Tower of David comes to life with a spectacular new sound- and-light show

Overnight Jerusalem

## Day 3, Tuesday

Breakfast at hotel

Drive through the **New City of Jerusalem**, past the Jerusalem Theater, the President's Residence and the Knesset (Israel parliament). View the **Giant Menorah** depicting Israel's history through the ages. Visit the **Israel Museum** to view the Model of Jerusalem from Second Temple Period, and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibited in the Shrine of the Book.

Drive to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** for a visit including the Children's Memorial and the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles. Participate in the unique "twinning" program. Yad Vashem will twin your son or daughter with a child who did not have a chance to mark his or her own Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The child celebrating will share something in common with the boy or girl being remembered – a birthday, a name or place of origin.

Proceed past **Mount Herzl**, where Israel's founders and leaders are buried.

Visit the **inter-active museum** about Theodore Herzl and the creation of the Zionist movement.

**Time Permitting:** Visit to **Mahane Yehuda** colorful open air market.

Overnight in Jerusalem

#### Day 4, Wednesday

Breakfast at hotel

Drive down to the **Dead Sea** -- lowest point on earth, and south along its shores to **Qumran Caves** where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

Proceed to the oasis of the **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** for a short hike in one of the park's routes and view the waterfalls, the desert flora & fauna.

Continue to **Masada** - a World Heritage Site, ascend & descend by cable car to view excavations of this famous fortress. Visit the new museum where the story of Masada comes to life, "see and feel" the story behind the archaeological finds.

Afternoon by the **Dead Sea**, opportunity to experience its therapeutic qualities.

Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

#### Day 5, Thursday Bar-Mitzvah Day – Mazel Tov

Breakfast at hotel

*Your own arrangements for the Bar Mitzvah with local Rabbi.*

Afternoon at leisure.

Overnight in Jerusalem

#### Day 6, Friday

Breakfast at hotel

Depart Jerusalem and drive north along the Mediterranean coast, to **Caesarea** to view excavations from Roman, Byzantine and Crusader periods, and view the multimedia show. Proceed to **Zichron Ya'akov**, located at the southern end of the Carmel mountain range overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. This old Moshava established by the Baron de Rothschild was one of the first Jewish settlements of Halutzim. Continue to **Haifa** and up to **Mt. Carmel** for a panoramic view of the city, the bay, and the **Bahai Shrine and Persian Gardens** (a World Heritage Site).

Overnight in Haifa

#### Day 7, Saturday

Breakfast at hotel

Drive to ancient port city of **Akko** to visit the Crusader city with ancient walls and underground Knight's chambers. Visit the prison where members of Hagana and Irgun were held captive during Israel's fight against the British for independence. Walk through Akko's colorful oriental market and the marina.

Proceed to **Rosh Hanikra**, a cliff at the Mediterranean Sea, on the northwestern corner of Israel. Descend by a cable car to view the **grottoes** formed by wave lapping on the soft rock. Return drive to Haifa.

Overnight in Haifa

### Day 8, Sunday

Breakfast at hotel

Depart Haifa and drive through Druze villages and up north through the **Hula Valley** to the **Golan Heights** for a private **jeep ride**, and up **Mount Bental**, for view of the surrounding area. Proceed to the **Peace Observatory** for a view of the Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee.

Drive to Central Golan to view the film "**Golan Magic**" and visit the city of **Katzrin** with ruins of ancient Jewish village, a museum and internationally-acclaimed Winery.

Enjoy a hands-on workshop at a local **chocolate factory!**

Overnight in the Upper Galilee

### Day 9, Monday

Breakfast at hotel

Drive to the **Northern border**. Pass by the UN force outposts, and meet **Tzahal's (IDF) combat soldiers**. (It is customary to bring some souvenirs or small gifts from your hometown to give the soldiers, such as baseball caps, T-shirts, etc.)

Proceed to **Safed** – famous for Jewish "**Kabbalah**", with ancient synagogues and artists' quarters.

**Option** to participate in a candle making workshop or take a bike ride around the Agmon Hahuleh.

Overnight in the Upper Galilee

### Day 10, Tuesday

Breakfast at hotel

Depart the Upper Galilee and drive south along the shores of the **Sea of Galilee** to **Tiberias**. Proceed to **Capernaum** to see the ruins of the ancient synagogue.

Continue west through Lower Galilee Mountains to **Zippori** – a Mishnaic period ancient city – the Seat of the Sanhedrine, famous for the mosaic of the “**Mona Lisa of Galilee**”

Proceed to **Kfar Kedem** – a recreated ancient Galilean village that enables you to “touch the past”. Experience a wide variety of hands-on, interactive activities, bake your own Pita and enjoy a donkey ride in the Galilee Hills. Drive to your hotel in **Tel Aviv**– Israel’s commercial and cultural center, on shores of the Mediterranean. Overnight in Tel Aviv

### Day 11, Wednesday

Breakfast at hotel

City tour of **Tel Aviv** and **Jaffa**. Start your day with a visit to the **Azrieli Observatory** and view Tel Aviv from the highest vantage point.

Visit the **Independence Museum**-- where the country’s leaders assembled in May 14, 1948, to announce the establishment of the State of Israel.

**Or:** Visit the **Palmach Museum** of the pre-State Jewish fighting forces.

Drive through various neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, such as the **Neve Tzedek** area, the historic **train station** complex, the open-air **Carmel Market**, and the **Rabin Plaza**, the Bauhaus area -- a World Heritage Site.

Continue along Tel Aviv's seaside promenade to the ancient Biblical port city of **Jaffa**, with cobbled streets and artists’ galleries.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

### Day 12, Thursday

Breakfast at hotel

Visit the **Ayalon Museum** – a secret ammunitions factory of the Jewish underground during the War of Independence.

Proceed to the **National Park of Beit Guvrin** with unexcavated cave systems.

Take part in an **Archeological Dig** and tour the limestone caves.

Return drive to Tel Aviv

Overnight in Tel Aviv

### Day 13, Friday

**Departure** transfer from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion International Airport.

VIP assistance through airport formalities for departure flight.

*Program sites and sequence subject to change due to scheduling and availability.*