

TRAVEX

— ISRAEL TRAVEL EXPERTS —

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PRIVATE TOUR

ISRAEL

Jewish Heritage

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

11 days / 10 nights

Our Jewish Heritage tour invites the traveler to explore the roots of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. From Abraham to King David, from Herzl to Ben Gurion, we invite you to discover the ancient history and modern Zionism which gave birth to the modern State of Israel. Connect with ancient traditions and experience life in Israel today.

Program is for Independent Travelers

Day 1 ~ Sunday

Arrival at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, VIP assistance through airport formalities and transfer to **Tel Aviv**, Israel's cultural and commercial capital. Check in to hotel.

Overnight in **Tel Aviv**

Day 2 ~ Monday

Breakfast at hotel.

Visit **Independence Hall** where David Ben Gurion announced Israel's Statehood .

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

Continue to the **Palmach Museum** for an inter-active presentation of the pre-State Jewish fighting forces

Overnight in **Tel Aviv**

Day 3 ~ Tuesday

Breakfast at hotel.

Begin the day driving north on the coastal road to **Caesarea**, Roman Capital of Judea. Visit the beautifully restored **theater, ruins of the ancient town, harbor and aqueduct**. Continue through **Druze Villages**, stopping for **home hospitality lunch in a Druze family home**.

Following lunch, proceed to Haifa for an afternoon visit of a **high tech facility / Technion Intitute**. Cross the **Galilee** for your overnight stay in the north.

Overnight in **Galilee**

Day 4 ~ Wednesday

Breakfast at hotel.

Explore the north with an analyst specializing in the Middle East conflict and the global war on terrorists. **Jump into jeeps** for a **Northern Strategic tour** of the Golan Heights, seeing the former Syrian fortifications and learning the key role this area plays in Israel's safety. Then, with gifts in hand, **meet with IDF Soldiers** on the border. Enjoy an exclusive visit to the **Golan Winery** where you will be introduced to various grape varieties and the unique terroir of the Golan Heights. Visit one of Israel's award wining **wineries**.

Continue to **Safed**, center of **Jewish mysticism**, with **historic synagogues** and **modern artists' quarter**.

Overnight in **Galilee**

Day 5 ~ Thursday

Breakfast at hotel.

Depart for Jerusalem. Upon arrival participate in a special “**Shehechyanu**” ceremony. Spend the morning in the **Jerusalem’s Old City**. Enter the walled city through the **Zion Gate** and stroll along the restored **Jewish quarter**. Visit the **Roman Cardo** and the **Herodian Quarter**. Visit the **Davidson Center**, beginning with the multi-media presentation, ending at the **Kotel, Western Wall**.

Walk the length of the Kotel in the underground **Western Wall Tunnels**.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 6 ~ Friday

Breakfast at hotel.

Next, explore **Ir David**, the **City of David** and the new excavations unfolding. Be one of the many volunteers who have participated in this incredible operation of the **Temple Mount Sifting Project at Emek Tzurim Park** where, so far, there have been over 3,500 finds from ancient times. Stop at **Machne Yehudah Market** and experience the preparation of Shabbat as a local Jerusalemite.

Shabbat Dinner at the home of a local Jerusalem family.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7 ~ Saturday

Breakfast at hotel.

Day at leisure in Jerusalem with option to participate in morning services at a variety of local synagogues.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 8 ~ Sunday

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning briefing with a **local journalist**.

View the **Security Barrier** around Jerusalem from several vantage points.

Continue with a visit to the unforgettable Holocaust Memorial Museum at **Yad Vashem**, including the Children’s Memorial and the Hall of Remembrance.

Visit **Mt. Herzl** and pay respects to fallen Israeli soldiers and warriors for the country.

Continue via Israel’s “**capitol hill**” where the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, and the Supreme Court are located.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 9 ~ Monday

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 drive up to Jerusalem.

Optional – we invite you to attend the **Night Spectacular** Sound & Light Show at the Tower of David.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10 ~ Tuesday

Breakfast at hotel.

Drive to **Rehovot**, for a visit to the **Ayalon Institute**, code name for the secret underground bullet factory established by the Haganah, and disguised as a Kibbutz. Proceed with a self paced visit to the **Israel Museum art section**, the **Shrine of the Book** where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** are housed, **and the Scale Model of Jerusalem** from the Second Temple Period.

Conclude the program in renovated **First Station**, one of Jerusalem's newest gems.

Overnight in **Jerusalem**

Day 11 – Wednesday

Breakfast at hotel.

Departure transfer from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport.

VIP assistance through departure procedures at the airport.

Shalom U'lehitra'oth