



# DELICIOUS ISRAEL

## A Journey of Food and Wine

12-day Journey in Israel

**TRAVEX**  
— ISRAEL TRAVEL EXPERTS —





Israel has emerged as an international culinary hub. The new Israeli kitchen fuses flavors and traditions while showcasing local ingredients and fantastic creativity. Boutique wineries are producing award-winning wines, waiting to be paired with the local delights. From formal dining to street food, there are new delights to discover around every turn.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning as an experienced Israel traveler to rediscover the country, this program can be adapted to fit your timetable and customized to suit your own personal tastes, traditions and style.

## Day 1

### WELCOME TO ISRAEL

#### **Arrival on your designated flight.**

VIP assistance through airport procedures at Ben Gurion Airport.

Our VIP representative will meet you at the end of the jetway and escort you through the terminal, to passport control. Fast track service through passport control. Baggage claim procedures and escorting through customs to connect with your private transfer.

Private transfer from Ben Gurion Airport to Tel Aviv.

Overnight Tel Aviv



## Day 2

### A TASTE OF TEL AVIV

Breakfast at hotel.

Acquaint yourself with the neighborhoods of **Tel Aviv**, such as Neveh Tzedek, the historic train station complex, the open-air Carmel Market, Rabin Plaza, the revived Sarona compound and the Bauhaus area - a World Heritage Site.

**Private culinary tour** in Tel Aviv's Levinsky Market with our local culinary expert. Experience one of Tel Aviv's colorful open-air markets. Sample a variety of local specialties, meet the vendors and hear their stories, and learn about the cultural food mosaic that is Israeli cuisine.

This evening we propose dinner at one of our suggested local chef restaurants, an excellent opportunity to sample new Israeli cuisine.

Overnight Tel Aviv

## Day 3

### MEDITERRANEAN WINE AND CHEESE

Breakfast and check out from hotel.

Depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the coast

Walk through the excavations of the port city of **Caesarea**. Explore the excavations at the ancient city, including the architectural wonders of the Roman theater and aqueduct built by King Herod 2000 years ago, and enjoy the reconstructed port, now a cultural and culinary hot-spot. Perhaps enjoy lunch at one of the sea-side restaurants accompanied by the breeze off the Mediterranean Sea.

Wine has been part of the local tradition since Biblical times. Begin your exploration of Israeli wine with a visit to a **boutique winery** to hear their stories and enjoy a variety of local wines.

Stop at a **family goat farm**, nestled in the hills of Galilee away from city life, to meet the people and sample the wonderful homemade organic cheeses they create.

Overnight Galilee





## Day 4

### ADVENTURES IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Breakfast at hotel

Ascend to the **Golan Heights** for an overview of the region from the top of **Mount Bental**. Board your **jeep** for an off-road adventure along Israel's northern Border. Our local specialist will share perspectives about life in the Golan Heights and discuss the significance of the region.

Visit an **olive press** to learn about the ancient secrets of making olive oil including a tasting, or explore the local **fruit farms** with an opportunity to pick some seasonal fruit.

Stop in at a **micro-brewery** to sample local beer or even at a **local distillery** which has recently begun producing whiskey, both flavored with the cool mountain water of the Golan Heights.

**Home hospitality dinner with a family in Galilee.** Enjoy a sumptuous dinner prepared by a local family, a unique opportunity to meet with Israelis in their home.

Overnight Galilee

## Day 5

### GALILEAN TREATS

Breakfast at hotel

Participate in a **hands-on cooking workshop and lunch** in Galilee with Arab hosts. Our Arab cooking workshops invite you to participate in a hands-on, true to life cultural immersion. We have Druze, Moslem and Christian hosts who warmly welcome guests into their homes. This is a unique opportunity to learn to make local fare and experience a slice of Galilean village life.

In the mystical city of **Safed**, birthplace of Kabbala, meander through the narrow alleys leading to ancient synagogues and artists' quarters. The old city is the perfect spot to enjoy a coffee or tea with a Galilean treat, while soaking up the spiritual atmosphere and marveling at the sweeping vistas.

This evening we propose dinner at one of our suggested Galilean farm-to-table chef restaurants.

Overnight Galilee



## Day 6

### FROM GALILEE TO JERUSALEM

Breakfast and check out from hotel

Explore some of the historical sites around the **Sea of Galilee**, each with a story to tell.

Visit the ancient synagogue of **Capernaum**, located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Visit the first century fishing village of **Magdala**, the home of Mary Magdalene, with ruins of the ancient synagogue and a new church built on the site, simple in design but rich in mosaics and murals.

*Before leaving the Galilee, you might want to try a traditional St. Peter's Fish lunch, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.*

Continue on to the city of **Nazareth**, boyhood home of Jesus and now a bustling Arab city. This is the perfect opportunity to try some classic Middle Eastern treats including strong, black coffee and *Knafe*, a sweet local classic prepared with shredded filo dough and cheese, all laced with a rose-water syrup.

Continue up to **Jerusalem** for your first glimpse of the City of Gold.

Overnight Jerusalem





## Day 7

### LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

Breakfast at hotel

Start your exploration of Jerusalem at the **Mount of Olives**. Enjoy a panoramic overview of Jerusalem, the holy city to three faiths, drawing Jewish, Christian and Muslim Pilgrims for generations.

The over 3,000 year old **City of David** is one of the largest ongoing excavations in Israel. The Royal Secrets invites you to explore the site with a local specialist and see areas that are not yet open to the public. The digs have revealed preserved ancient fruit and vegetable seeds, including eggplant seeds from 1,100 years ago.

**Private culinary tour** in Jerusalem's Machaneh Yehuda Market with our local culinary expert. Experience Jerusalem's colorful open-air market. Sample a variety of local specialties, meet the vendors and hear their stories, and learn about the cultural food mosaic that is Israeli cuisine. Purchases in hand, the Israeli cuisine adventure continues in the kitchen as you learn to prepare local dishes and enjoy them together – with a nice glass of Israeli wine!

This evening we suggest a walk through Machaneh Yehuda after dark to experience the market's night life.

Overnight Jerusalem

## Day 8

### THE SALT WONDER

Breakfast at hotel

Journey through the **Judean Desert** to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Visit **Qumran**, site of the secluded caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were first discovered. Drive past the orchards bearing dates, worth their weight in gold during biblical times. Ride the cable car to discover King Herod's mountain-top fortress at **Masada**, the last stronghold and stand of the Zealots against Rome, on the edge of the barren Judean Desert. Enjoy the therapeutic qualities of the **Dead Sea**. Float on the salty waters, relax and enjoy the facilities and lunch on site. We have confirmed day-use rooms for you at a local resort hotel.

Overnight Jerusalem



## Day 9

### FLAVORS OF ISRAEL

Breakfast at hotel

Explore the insular neighborhoods of the **ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities** in Jerusalem to learn about their customs and traditions, dating back hundreds of years.

Roll up your sleeves as you knead and braid, learning the traditions of **Hallah baking** at the home of a local Jerusalem family.

Enjoy traditional generous **Arab hospitality** in a pastoral village outside Jerusalem. Meet with a local family in their home to share their stories and homemade cooking.

This evening we propose a dinner at one of our suggested restaurants overlooking the Old City.

Overnight Jerusalem

## Day 10

### MEMORY AND MODERNITY

Breakfast at hotel

Share in a meaningful private escorted visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's official Holocaust museum, dedicated to the memory of the victims and honoring the survivors. The visit is enriched with a pause at the moving Children's Memorial and a walk along the inspirational Avenue of the Righteous. The **Israel Museum** is the country's national gallery. Explore the compound, including the Model of Jerusalem from Second Temple Period and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibited in the Shrine of the Book. Wander through the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden.

Take your Israel wine experience to the next level with an exclusive, intimate **encounter with Israel's Wine Master**. While sipping wine and taking in the view of the vineyard, follow the story of wine in Israel and its pursuit of excellence through perfection.

As the sun sets over the city, join in a **traditional Shabbat dinner** at the home of a local Jerusalem family, featuring ethnic dishes, prayer and song.

Overnight Jerusalem





## Day 11

### DELIGHTS OF THE OLD CITY

Breakfast at hotel

Enter the Old City via **Jaffa Gate**. Climb along the **ramparts** of the Old City walls for a bird's eye view of life within and outside the walls. Walk along the 2,000 year old stones of the **Cardo**, the ancient Roman marketplace in the heart of the Old City. View the Temple Mount, site of the Al Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock.

While exploring the Old City, be sure to sample the fresh baked Jerusalem "*bagele*" with fragrant "*zaatar*" spice for dipping. Try the fresh squeezed pomegranate juice or the sweet "*sahlab*" poured out by the local vendor from the kettle on his back.

Walking through the Old City, we are drawn to the **Western Wall**, the holiest site in the Jewish tradition. The ancient Kotel now gathers people from around the world in prayer and celebration.

Indulge yourself with an authentic **Middle Eastern lunch** in the Old City, as an array of fresh, colorful salads are placed before you, featuring Humous and oven-baked pita bread.

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus along the final Stations of the Cross along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, traditional site of the crucifixion.

This evening we propose a festive farewell dinner at one of our suggested chef restaurants, ending your journey with good food and fine wine.

Overnight Jerusalem

## Day 12

### FAREWELL

Private transfer from your hotel to Ben Gurion Airport.

VIP assistance through airport procedures at Ben Gurion Airport.

Our VIP representative will meet you at the car. Fast track service through security check, flight check-in, hand baggage security and passport control. Escort to your gate

**Departure on your designated flight.**

Program sites and sequence are subject to change based on dates of travel.