

# **EXPERIENCE ISRAEL**

## **Highlights and Hotspots**

8-day journey in Israel





Feel the energy of Israel with our Experience Israel tour showcasing the highlights of the country and offering a unique mix of activities and authentic cultural encounters. Our exciting itinerary invites you to discover ancient and modern history, biblical sites and the cultural mosaic of contemporary Israel.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning as an experienced Israel traveler to rediscover the country, this program can be customized to fit your own personal interests, 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





#### ENERGETIC 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. Meander through the alleys of **Old Jaffa**, with its art galleries and lively Flea Market.

The walls of southern Tel Aviv have become the canvases to local **Graffiti** artists. Walk these streets with a private Graffiti specialist to discover the culture and social issues expressed in the local urban art. Overnight Tel Aviv

## Day 3

#### ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

Breakfast and check out from hotel.

Depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the Mediterranean coast. Walk through the excavations of the port city of **Caesarea**, featuring the ancient Roman theater, hippodrome and aqueduct, as well as ruins from the Byzantine and Crusader periods.

Panoramic overview of Haifa from the top of Mount Carmel. See the splendid Bahai Gardens and the imposing Haifa Bay.

Private traditional lunch in the home of a Druze family.

The Druze are a unique religious and ethnic minority among Arab citizens of Israel. The Druze are very secretive about their traditions and we invite you meet them in person and hear their story, while enjoying some of their traditional foods.

The waves of the Mediterranean Sea crash against the walls of the old city of **Akko**. The walls, fortresses and strongholds that have survived for centuries bear the marks of many nations that conquered the city. Explore the subterranean city and bazaars.

Overnight Galilee.





#### SEA OF GALILEE AND NAZARETH

Breakfast at hotel.

Set sail on the Sea of Galilee in your private boat.

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.

Contribute to the greening of Israel and leave your mark on the land by **planting a tree** in a local forest.

Visit **Nazareth**, the childhood home of Jesus, visit the Church of the Annunciation.

**Overnight Galilee** 

Day 5

#### LOWEST PLACE ON EARTH

Breakfast and check out from hotel.

Travel south along the **Jordan Valley** to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Drive via Qumran, site of the secluded caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were first discovered. 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**, believed to have wondrous healing powers. 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. Proceed "up" to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. Celebrate your arrival to the city with a traditional **"shehecheyanu"** ceremony.

Overnight Jerusalem





#### HOLY CITY TO THREE FAITHS

Breakfast at hotel.

Enjoy a panoramic overview of Jerusalem from the top of the **Mount of Olives.** 

Enter the Old City via Jaffa Gate. 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. 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.

Spelunk through the underground **Western Wall Tunnels**, excavated under the homes and markets of the Old City.

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.

Visit the carved in stone **Garden Tomb**, believed to be the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

This evening we invite you to be our guests at the **Night Spectacular** sound & light show at the Tower of David Museum at Jaffa Gate. Overnight Jerusalem





#### TASTES OF JERUSALEM AND BETHLEHEM

Breakfast at hotel.

Private escorted visit to **Bethlehem**, birthplace of Jesus, including Manger Square, Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Fields. Drive through the New City of Jerusalem, past the Knesset (Israel parliament). View the giant Menorah depicting Israel's history through the ages.

Share in a meaningful private escorted visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's official Holocaust museum, dedicated to the memory of the victims and honouring 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.

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. Overnight Jerusalem

## Day 8

#### DEPARTURE FROM ISRAEL

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.

