

## From Past to Future - Highlights of the Jewish State

### **Day 1 – Thursday, Arrival**

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where our representative will meet you after passport control, assisting as you to pick up your luggage and head out to meet your transfer to your hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

### **Day 2 – Friday, Tel Aviv tour**

Our first day of touring will begin immediately after breakfast. We will head out for an interesting walking tour through Tel Aviv and Jaffa. We will start on Rothschild Boulevard, where we will see Tel Aviv's beautiful Bauhaus style architecture, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Amongst the buildings will be the newly renovated independence hall, the site commemorating the declaration of the founding of the State of Israel on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1948.** We will continue on to Neve Tzedek, Tel Aviv's very first neighborhood. Next stop will be **Jaffa**, the world's oldest port city, for a view of the old city and its well known artist's colony.

To end our day, you will enjoy free time at one of Tel Aviv's busiest areas on Friday afternoons – the **Nachalat Binyamin Crafts Fair and Carmel Outdoor Food Market** – Enjoy the sounds, smells and of course the great shopping!

Overnight: Tel Aviv

### **Day 3 – Saturday, Free time –Day at leisure in Tel Aviv**

Overnight: Tel Aviv

### **Day 4 – Sunday, Travel to the North**

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and drive to Rehovot. Our first stop, the **Weizman Institute**, which played a key role in the development of the state. We will enjoy an amazing presentation of Israel's high technology and see the stunning mansion of Haim Weizman, Israel's first president. We will then continue on to **Zichron Yaacov** for a stroll through the historical streets of one of the earliest settlements from Israel's first immigration periods. Next we will visit the Carmel Mizrahi Winery for a **wine tasting** tour. Next we will drive to **Daliat El-Carmel**, a Druze village located on top of Mount Carmel, to learn about the unique Druze community and enjoy free time for an authentic Druze lunch (separately). Finally, we drive on to Haifa with a stop at the Louis Promenade to enjoy the breathtaking views of the Haifa Bay and the beautiful **Baha'i Gardens**.

Overnight: **Haifa**

### Day 5 – Monday, Tzfat and the Golan Heights

Israeli breakfast at the hotel and check out. Our journey will begin with a short visit to **Tiberias**, a city located on the shores of Lake Kinneret and a significant spiritual center during the period of the Mishna and Talmud. Continue on to **Tzfat**, where we will walk through the mystical alleyways of the city and hear stories of the Kabbalists & their ancient synagogues. Our Tzfat tour will end with a visit to its famous artists' colony where we will meet a **Kabala artist** and learn about his special techniques. Next we will drive to **Rosh Pina**, originally founded in 1878 by a group of ultra-orthodox Jews intending to become farmers with the support of Baron Edmund de Rothschild. Rosh Pina is one of Israel's oldest colonies but today is a small town known for its choice of great restaurants, cafes and art galleries.

In the afternoon, we will drive over to the beautiful Hula Valley, Israel's first Nature Reserve. The **HaHula Tourism Complex** is located at the center of the Hula Valley and is considered to be one of the world's most important centers for bird watching and ornithology.

Overnight: **Kibbutz hotel**

### Day 6 – Tuesday, Adventure Day

Today will give you an opportunity to enjoy the North of Israel in a unique and exciting way. We will start our day by driving to **Mount Bental**, a beautiful spot with a panoramic view of the Upper Galilee, the Golan Heights and Syria. We will then continue on to **Golan Magic, an entertaining 3-D multi-media adventure** viewed on a 180-degree screen. After the film, a walk through the giant model of the **Golan Heights**, the largest of its kind in the world, accompanied by special narration, sound and light effects. Then, we will end the first half of the day with a visit to The Golan **Olive Oil Mill** and Visitor Center. As we walk through this uniquely designed building with its antiquated ambience, our guide will explain the olive oil production process, including the evolution from antique tools to modern machinery.

The rest of day is free! We will be happy to provide you with a list of options in the area and recommend the most suitable ones for your party.

Options include: **biking or hiking tour, rappelling, kayaks** on the Jordan River, participating in a gourmet chocolate workshop and so much more...

Evening Option (Seasonal) – a lantern tour in either the valley of the lost river or Nimrod fortress

Overnight: Kibbutz hotel

### Day 7 – Wednesday, Travel to Jerusalem

Check out from the hotel and depart towards Jerusalem. Our first stop will be the **Tel Hai Museum**, a memorial dedicated to the dramatic 1920 battle lead by Joseph Trumpeldor, a hero known for his loyalty to the nation.

Next, we will visit the "**Naharayim Experience at Gesher.**" Nicknamed the "start-up" of last century, this unusual light and sound show includes models, which demonstrate the dam system, running water and a combination of sounds and colors. The demonstration shows how the desert transformed into a symbol of, and a vision for Jewish immigration and industrial development in Israel.

Our day will continue with a drive to Jerusalem through the Jordan Valley's stunning landscape. Upon arriving in Jerusalem we will stop at **Mt. Scopus** to enjoy the magnificent view of the city and a brief explanation about the capitol's past and future.

Overnight: Jerusalem

### **Day 8 – Thursday\*, Old City of Jerusalem**

After breakfast, we will begin the day at the **City of David** for a virtual reality movie about King David's historical city, and a "wet" walking tour of the ancient water system connecting Warren's Shaft to the **Shiloah tunnels** (Hezekiah's tunnel). Next we will visit the recently discovered **Herodian Road**, which will lead us, as it once led so many worshippers during the period of the Second Temple, in the direction of the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, to the **Archaeological Garden** & the new Southern Wall excavations (Davidson Center). See the restored **Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall (HaKotel), the colorful bazaars and the Cardo**.

\*Many Bar Mitzvah celebrations take place at the Western Wall on Thursday, we will bump into some as we walk through and get to wish them a MAZAL TOV!

After dinner at the hotel, we'll listen to a **fascinating lecture entitled "Behind the Scenes" about Israel's current events** including recent highlights and future plans.

Overnight: Jerusalem

### **Day 9 – Friday, Jerusalem's New City**

Today we will visit the graves of Israel's former Prime Ministers and soldiers who died in battle at the **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery**. We will then continue to the new Museum at the **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial, including Valley of the Communities. We will pass by the **Knesset** - Israel's Parliament building, as well as the famous Menorah and the new home of Israel's Supreme Court.

Next we will visit the **Israel Museum** to see the **Shrine of the Book** and display of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and visit the model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. Then, continue on for walking tour through the neighborhood of **Mahane Yehuda Market**, meeting different local ethnic groups and tasting some of their cultural foods.

Drive to the Western Wall to participate in the tradition that spans millenniums – the Kabbalat Shabbat service and watch as the Jewish Sabbath descends over Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

### **Day 10 – Saturday,**

Day at leisure in Jerusalem – (or optional tour (at additional cost) to the Dead Sea & Masada)

Evening Option: Enjoy a breathtaking night tour of the Old City, including a light and sound show combined with 3D slides projected onto the great wall in the **Tower of David**. This highly recommended show depicts the different periods in Jerusalem's long history in an interesting and unique way. Duration: Around one hour.

Overnight: Jerusalem

### **Day 11 – Sunday, Departure**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast.

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your flight home.