

TOVA GILEAD - TOURS TO ISRAEL

155 East 44th St., 6th Fl., New York, NY 10017 Tel: 800.242.8682 Email: tova@tovagilead.com

BAR/BAT MITZVAH IN ISRAEL TOUR

Thursday Departure (12 days)

Thursday- USA Departure

- Depart the United States for Tel Aviv

Friday- Welcome to Israel

- Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, to be met by our representative; continue to Jerusalem for check-in at the historic King David Hotel
- Late afternoon, drive to Mount Scopus for a breathtaking view over the Old City; we recite the traditional *shehechyanu* blessing and enjoy a *l'chaim*
- As evening falls, welcome Shabbat at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site
- Delicious Shabbat dinner at the hotel

Overnight: King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday- Shabbat in Jerusalem

- Take part in an enjoyable, interactive "Tour Game" adventure in the 19th century neighborhood of Yemin Moshe
- Continue on a delightful walking tour in the Old City of Jerusalem: enter Jaffa Gate and visit the Tower of David Museum, which traces the history of Jerusalem; walk high up on the city ramparts and then explore the narrow alleyways of the colorful shuk (Arab market); continue along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Afternoon at leisure
- Evening: Walk to the Tower of David for the wonderful "Night Spectacular" Sound and Light Show

Overnight: King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday- Jerusalem

- Visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum and Children's Memorial, and participate in a special commemorative service
- Pay tribute to the Leaders of the Nation and those who gave all for their country at Har Herzl Military Cemetery
- Walk through colorful, bustling Machne Yehudah open air market and enjoy a Middle Eastern lunch
- Visit the Israel Museum, including Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book, the scale model of ancient Jerusalem, and the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden
- Stop at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, for a "photo opp" at the iconic bronze menorah sculpture
- Free evening in Jerusalem

Overnight: King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem!

- Enter the Old City of Jerusalem for a moving Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Robinson's Arch. Explore the Second Wall Excavations and learn about the ancient Temple
- Arrive at the Western Wall, the Jewish people's holiest site
- In the Kotel Tunnels, walk along the massive foundation stones of the Western Wall
- Walk through the reconstructed Jewish Quarter with its four restored Sephardic synagogues and boutique-lined Cardo, once an ancient bazaar
- See history in action at the Burnt House
- On Mt. Zion to visit King David's Tomb and the Room of the Last Supper

- Go way back in time to King David's Jerusalem in David's City and enjoy sloshing through Hezekiah's water tunnel (*time permitting*; strap-on water shoes and flashlights needed; dry Siloam Tunnel option also available)
- Enjoy a sumptuous celebratory dinner at the King David Hotel

Overnight: King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday– Masada & the Dead Sea

- Drive through the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth
- Continue past the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered
- Ascend Masada by cable car. Tour this impressive excavation and discuss the dilemma faced by its Jewish population under Roman siege
- Hike to the lovely waterfall of Ein Gedi; experience the wildlife and lush foliage of this oasis
- Enjoy a home hospitality lunch at Kibbutz Ein Gedi and learn first-hand about this unique Israeli lifestyle
- Stop at the Dead Sea for an unsinkable float
- Return to Jerusalem for a free evening

Overnight: King David Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday– The Galilee

- Depart Jerusalem and drive north to the Jezreel Valley
- Explore the fascinating sarcophagi of Beit Shearim, where First Century sages were once buried
- At K'far Kedem travel back 2000 years to the time of the Mishna and enjoy a period lunch experience in a tent
- Continue to picturesque Akko, with its medieval port and citadel
- Drive along Haifa Bay and ascend Mt. Carmel to take in breathtaking views of Haifa Harbor
- View the spectacular Bahai Gardens and learn a bit about the unique Bahai utopian vision
- Proceed to a charming Druze village to meet a member of this mysterious religious group; enjoy home hospitality and dinner

Overnight: Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

Thursday– The Galilee & the Golan Heights

- Drive through Upper Galilee mountains to Safed, the 16th century birthplace of the mystical Kabbalah Movement. Stroll its cobbled walkways and explore its medieval synagogues and numerous art galleries
- Ascend the Golan Heights to take an exciting jeep ride through its rugged hills. Stop to gaze down over the Hula Valley as the Syrians once did
- Enjoy a raucous kayak ride on the Jordan River
- Drive through Tiberias, one of Israel's four holy cities, with its lakeside promenade and hot springs
- Return to Haifa for a BBQ dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

Friday– The Mediterranean Coast

- Drive along the Mediterranean seashore to Caesarea, once a Roman capital city. See King Herod's ancient port, the Roman amphitheater and aqueduct, and Crusader fortifications
- Continue to Tel Aviv, Israel's center of culture and commerce, with beautiful Mediterranean beaches and outdoor cafes. The "White City" was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO
- Walk through lively Nachalat Binyamin, where artisans sell their crafts, and then to the colorful Carmel fruit and vegetable market for a "taste" of Israel

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday– Shabbat Shalom, Tel Aviv!

- Enjoy a day at leisure in Tel Aviv to relax and swim, take a walk along the beach, or try free Israeli dancing on the boardwalk. Most art galleries are open today
- In the evening, enjoy a walk, on your own, to the Tel Aviv Port

Overnight: Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Sunday- Beit Guvrin & Old Jaffa

- Drive south to explore the impressive excavations of Beit Guvrin, including fascinating burial caves and underground dwellings
- Participate in an active archaeological dig, where visitors young and old can unearth authentic artifacts
- Continue to remarkable Machon Ayalon, a secret pre-State ammunition factory, built under the noses of the British
- Explore the pathways, art galleries, and market stalls of the biblical seaport of Old Jaffa, once the gateway to the Land of Israel; take time for some last minute shopping

Evening: Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Monday -Departure

- Return flight to USA
- Begin planning your ***next Israel tour*** with Tova Gilead!

