

TOVA GILEAD - TOURS TO ISRAEL

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FAMILY TOUR OF ISRAEL AND JORDAN- SAMPLE ITINERARY

Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the Ramon Crater

- Friday* **WELCOME TO ISRAEL**
Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, where you are met and transferred to bustling, cosmopolitan Tel Aviv, Israel's center of culture and commerce, with beautiful Mediterranean beaches and outdoor cafes. UNESCO declared the "White City" a World Heritage sight. On your own walk to Nachalat Binyamin and see artisans selling their crafts and stop at to the colorful Carmel fruit and vegetable market for a "taste" of Israel.
Overnight at the David Intercontinental Hotel
- Saturday* **SHABBAT SHALOM! TEL AVIV**
Enjoy a day of leisure. Stroll along the seaside promenade to Old Jaffa.
Overnight at the David Intercontinental Hotel
- Sunday* **TEL AVIV / PETRA**
Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for flight to Eilat. Arrive at Ramon Airport and transfer to the Arava Border and cross into Jordan. Arrive in Petra and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Petra was built by the Nabateans over 2000 years ago and was an important stop on the ancient caravan route. Petra was rediscovered in 1812, by the Swiss explorer Burckhardt. Walk through the Siq to the Treasury. See the Treasury which starred in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, the Royal Tombs and the Nabatean Theater, and if you wish climb to El Deir.
Dinner and overnight at the Mövenpick Hotel
- Monday* **WADI RAM**
Drive to Wadi Ram and take a jeep ride through the red sand dunes and eroded sandstone Seven Pillars. It was this area of Wadi Rum that so inspired T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). Enjoy a traditional lunch in a Bedouin Tent. In the evening take a sunset camel ride in the desert.
Dinner and overnight at Sun City Camp
- Tuesday* **WADI RAM / MITZPE RAMON**
Depart Sun City and drive to the Arava border to cross back into Israel. A driver in a minibus will wait for you on the Israeli side and drive to Kibbutz Yotvata Restaurant for ice cream and lunch. Continue to Mitzpe Ramon, situated on the Ramon Crater, the largest in the world.
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Beresheet
- Wednesday* **MITZPE RAMON**
Take a short walk along the Machtesh to visit the Ramon Museum Visitor Center, which also serves as a museum and memorial for Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut. Return to the hotel. At night join Astronomy Israel for star gazing.
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Beresheet
- Thursday* **BAR / BAT MITZVAH AT THE RAMON CRATER**
Celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at a beautiful spot overlooking the Crater. Enjoy breakfast after the service. Take a jeep ride through the Geological Park of the Ramon Crater. Afternoon at leisure.
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Beresheet

Friday

TOUR OF JERUSALEM

Depart Hotel Beresheet and drive north to explore the unusual Bell Caves and excavations of Beit Guvrin. Participate in a live archaeological dig where visitors young and old can "Dig Israel." Drive to Abu Gosh, site of biblical village of Kiryat Ye'arim and have lunch at Naura Restaurant. Continue to Jerusalem and stop at Mount Scopus for a spectacular view of the city, the traditional *shehechyanu* blessing, and a *l'chaim*. Arrive at the historic King David Hotel. In the evening visit the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, to welcome the Shabbat.

Overnight at the King David Hotel

Saturday

SHABBAT SHALOM! TOUR OF THE OLD CITY AND SOREK CAVE

Enter the Old City at Jaffa Gate and visit the Tower of David Citadel and Museum, which traces the history of Jerusalem. Explore the narrow alleyways and the colorful *shuk* (Arab Market). Enjoy lunch at Dolphin Yam Restaurant. Continue to the Absalom Reserve in the Judean Hills to explore the Sorek Cave with its astounding stalagmites and stalactites. Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight at the King David Hotel

Sunday

TOUR OF JERUSALEM

Enter the Old City and walk the ramparts of the Old City walls. The walkway offers a unique panoramic view of the Old City and its surroundings. Tour of "Behind the Scenes" of the Western Wall Tunnels, led by a special guide. Drive to Yad Vashem, memorial to victims of the Holocaust. Visit the Museum the Children's Memorial, and the Hall of Remembrance. Walk through the labyrinth of the Valley of the Destroyed Jewish Communities and along the Avenue of the Righteous. Drive to Ein Karem, a picturesque biblical village, and birthplace of John the Baptist.

Overnight at the King David Hotel

Monday

DEPARTURE

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport where you will be met at the entrance to the terminal and assisted with the departure procedures.

