

TOVA GILEAD - TOURS TO ISRAEL

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ISRAEL FAMILY BAR/BAT MITZVAH TOUR

- Thursday* **DEPARTURE**
Depart the United States to Tel Aviv.
- Friday* **WELCOME TO ISRAEL**
Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, where you are met and transferred to the historic King David Hotel. In the late afternoon, drive to Mount Scopus for a spectacular view of the city, the traditional *shehechiyanu* blessing, and a *l'chaim*. Continue to the Old City and visit the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, to welcome the Shabbat.
Friday night dinner and overnight at the King David Hotel
- Saturday* **SHABBAT SHALOM! A WALKING TOUR OF THE OLD CITY**
Take part in a guided, fun-filled "Tourgame" adventure in the 19th century neighborhood of Yemin Moshe. See Sir Moses Montefiore's carriage. 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 of the Old City and the colorful *shuk* (Arab Market). Continue along the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Walk the ramparts of the Old City walls. Afternoon at leisure. At night, walk to the Tower of David to see the Night Spectacular light show.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Sunday* **TOUR OF JERUSALEM**
Participate in a special service at Yad Vashem, memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, and visit the Museum and Children's Memorial. Continue to Mt. Herzl, burial place of Israel's leaders and site of the military cemetery. Walk through the colorful Machne Yehudah open air Market, abounding with fruit, vegetables, and tasty delights. Enjoy a Middle Eastern lunch. Drive to the Israel Museum and visit the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed. Stroll through the outdoor Billy Rose Sculpture Garden and see the scale model of Jerusalem as it looked in Herod's time. Stop at the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to see the bronze Menorah sculpture, symbol of the State of Israel.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Monday* **BAR/BAT MITZVAH IN JERUSALEM**
Enter the Old City at Dung Gate for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service at Robinson's Arch. Tour the Jerusalem Archaeological Park and see the Second Temple excavations. Arrive at the Western Wall and walk through the Western Wall Tunnels. Continue to the reconstructed Jewish Quarter with its four restored Sephardic synagogues. Browse the boutique-lined Cardo, once an ancient Byzantine bazaar. Visit the Burnt House. Drive to Mt. Zion to visit King David's Tomb and the room of the Last Supper. If time permits, visit the City of David and walk through Hezekiah's Water Tunnel. (Bring shorts and water shoes. Water is knee deep.)
Celebration dinner and overnight at the King David Hotel
- Tuesday* **TOUR OF MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA**
Drive through the wilderness of the Judean Desert to the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea. Continue along the sea past the Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Arrive at Masada, the mountain fortress where the Jewish Zealots fought against mighty Rome. Ascend by cable car to the mountaintop. Tour Herod's palace, the Zealots' synagogue and the Roman bathhouses. Drive to the nature reserve of Ein Gedi, hike to the waterfall, and observe the wildlife and lush foliage in this oasis. Enjoy lunch at Daniela & Yehuda's home at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. Stop at the Dead Sea for an unforgettable "float." Return to Jerusalem.
Overnight at the King David Hotel

- Wednesday* **TOUR OF THE GALILEE**
 Depart Jerusalem and drive north to the Valley of Jezreel. Visit Beit Shearim catacombs, burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi, compiler of the Mishna. Stop at K'far Kedem near the excavated Talmudic town of Tzippori for a biblical experience and lunch. Drive to the picturesque Bay of Akko, with its medieval port and Citadel. Continue along Haifa Bay. Ascend Mt. Carmel and drive along Rehov Panorama with breathtaking views of Haifa Harbor. See the golden-domed Bahai Temple and the beautiful Persian Gardens surrounding it. Drive to the unique Druze villages and enjoy home hospitality and dinner.
Overnight at the Dan Carmel Hotel
- Thursday* **TOUR OF THE GALILEE AND THE GOLAN**
 Drive through the mountains of the Upper Galilee to Safed, 16th century birthplace of the mystical *Kabbalah* movement. Stroll the cobbled streets to explore the ancient synagogues and galleries of this quaint Artists' Colony. Drive to the Golan Heights and take an exciting jeep ride through the rugged hills of the Golan. Stop at a former Syrian fortification to view the Hula Valley below. Conditions permitting go kayaking on the Jordan River. On to Tiberias, one of the four Holy Cities with a seaside promenade and hot springs.
BBQ dinner and overnight at the Dan Carmel Hotel
- Friday* **TOUR OF MOUNT CARMEL AND CAESAREA**
 Drive along the Mediterranean seashore to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of the country. See King Herod's ancient port, the Roman amphitheater, the aqueduct and the fortifications of the Crusaders. Drive past the seaside resorts of Netanya and Herzliya to Tel Aviv, Israel's center of culture and commerce, with outdoor cafes and beautiful Mediterranean beaches. The "White City" was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Walk through Nachalat Binyamin to see artisans selling their crafts. Stop at the colorful Carmel fruit and vegetable market for a "taste" of Israel.
Overnight at the Dan Hotel
- Saturday* **SHABBAT SHALOM! TEL AVIV**
 Day of leisure. Enjoy the beach, swim in the Mediterranean, and stroll along the seaside promenade. In the evening, on your own, walk to the Old Tel Aviv Port.
Overnight at the Dan Hotel
- Sunday* **TOUR OF BEIT GUVRIN AND TEL AVIV**
 Drive south 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." Continue to Machon Ayalon, an underground ammunition factory that operated during the British Mandate. Return to Tel Aviv, passing Rehovot, home of the Weizmann Institute of Science, and Rishon Le Zion. Visit the biblical seaport of Old Jaffa and meander through the galleries in the Artists' Quarter. Last minute shopping. Evening transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.
- Monday* **DEPARTURE**
 Flight back home.

