

TOVA GILEAD - TOURS TO ISRAEL

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

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOUR - SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Thursday* DEPARTURE
Depart the United States to Tel Aviv.
- Friday* WELCOME TO ISRAEL
Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, where you are met by your guide. Drive to Jerusalem and stop at Mount Scopus for a spectacular view of the city and the traditional *shehechyanu* blessing, and a *l'chaim*. Orientation tour of the city as you wish. Arrive at the historic King David Hotel. In the afternoon drive to the Old City and visit the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, to welcome the Shabbat.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Saturday* SHABBAT SHALOM! DAY OF LEISURE
On your own take a taxi 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.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Sunday* TOUR OF JERUSALEM
Drive to 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. Stop at the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to see the bronze Menorah sculpture, symbol of the State of Israel. Drive to Jaffa Gate to 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). Walk the ramparts of the Old City walls.
Overnight at the King David Hotel
- Monday* BAR / BAT MITZVAH IN JERUSALEM
Enter the Old City at Dung Gate for your 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.)
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. Stop at the Dead Sea for an unforgettable "float." Return to Jerusalem. At night, walk to the Tower of David to see the Night Spectacular light show.
Overnight at the King David Hotel

- Wednesday* **TOUR OF THE NEGEV**
 Drive to Beersheba, capital of the Negev, and stop at Abraham's Well. Continue to Kibbutz Sde Boker to visit Ben Gurion's Hut where David Ben Gurion spent his final days and where he is buried. On to the ruins of Avdat, a sixth century Nabatean city on an old caravan route in the Negev. Go hiking in Ein-Avdat, a spectacular canyon with a spring, in the Negev. Arrive at the dramatic Ramon Crater, the largest crater in the world.
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Beresheet
- Thursday* **MITZPE RAMON - DAY OF LEISURE**
 Take a Jeep ride (2 hours) in the dramatic Ramon Crater. On your own, walk to the Mitzpe Ramon Visitor Center which also serves as a museum and memorial to Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut. At night go star gazing with Astronomy Israel.
Dinner and overnight at Hotel Beresheet
- Friday* **MITZPE RAMON / EILAT**
 Transfer from Hotel Beresheet to the Dan Eilat. Arrive in Eilat situated on the Red Sea. On your own visit the unique underwater observatory / aquarium with its exotic fish and tropical corals.
Overnight at the Dan Eilat
- Saturday* **DAY OF LEISURE IN EILAT OR TOUR OF PETRA**
 Option 1: Day of leisure in Eilat - Swim, snorkel, scuba, and relax in the bright blue waters of the Red Sea.
 Option 2: Tour of Petra - Transfer to the Arava Border Crossing into Jordan. Tour Petra, the "Red City" built by the Nabateans 2,000 years ago. Lunch included. Return to Eilat.
Overnight at Dan Eilat Hotel
- Sunday* **TOUR OF TEL AVIV**
 Flight from Ramon Airport to Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer 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. Drive to the University of Tel Aviv to visit the Museum of the Diaspora (Beit Hatfutsot), which houses the most complete record ever assembled about the Jewish people in the diaspora. Visit the biblical seaport of Old Jaffa and meander through the galleries in the Artists' Quarter. Stop at the colorful Carmel fruit and vegetable market for a "taste" of Israel.
Overnight at Dan Hotel
- Monday* **DEPARTURE**
 Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for flight back home.

