



The Western Wall and Temple Mount in Jerusalem

# SHALOM ISRAEL

TEL AVIV (2 NIGHTS), HAIFA (2 NIGHTS), JERUSALEM (4 NIGHTS)

9 Days/8 Nights Itinerary

## DAY 1: Monday - WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

Arrive Ben Gurion International Airport where you will be met by our representative who will assist you through baggage claim and customs, and escort you to your driver. Your driver will transport you to your hotel in Tel Aviv, where you will enjoy dinner and enjoy your first overnight in Israel. **(D)**

## DAY 2: Tuesday - Tel Aviv & JAFFA

Following a delicious breakfast, you will meet your guide in the hotel lobby, before setting off on a fun-packed day which will include:

A visit to the “State of Mind” Innovation Center at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange where you will learn about cutting-edge developments by Israeli start-ups in fields such as science, medicine, security, space and more. We then proceed to the Old Port City of Jaffa, the oldest seaport in the world where Jonah set sail on his epic voyage only to be swallowed by a whale.

Jaffa is home to a vibrant multiethnic community of Muslims, Christians and Jews: get to know, Tel Aviv the first Jewish city of the modern era, established in 1909. For lunch you will have a choice of two culinary tours that will introduce you to the very best of Tel Aviv’s food scene:

1. **Carmel market tasting tour** – enjoy a fascinating variety of culinary riches, colorful spices and intriguing characters in the main market of Tel Aviv, where the flavors and scents of the old town combine with the young bustling atmosphere of the city’s central market.
2. **Vegan culinary tour** – Tel Aviv, the #1 vegan culinary destination in the world, is where traditional vegan and vegetarian cuisine and innovative young chefs meet, creating a one-of-a-kind savory adventure for food lovers, whether vegan or not.

After lunch enjoy a stroll along Rothschild Boulevard, the beating heart of Tel Aviv: home of The White City, Tel Aviv’s most

prominent collection of Bauhaus (International Style) buildings. Built during the 1930s and the 1940s, this functional architecture not only created well-designed objects, but also a cohesive urban landscape that is unparalleled in the world. This evening is free to explore this great metropolitan Jewish city. Overnight: Tel Aviv. **(B, L)**

## DAY 3: Wednesday - ISRAEL’S BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE. CAESAREA, KIBBUTZ EXPERIENCE, HAIFA

After breakfast, we depart Tel Aviv and head north along the beautiful coastline to the ancient city of Caesarea, a city built by Herod the Great and once the Roman Capital of the region. You’ll explore the excavations of the Crusader’s city including the aqueduct, the hippodrome and amphitheater. The city and its archeological wonders are a testament to its significance throughout the ages.

We’ll depart Caesarea for a visit to Kibbutz Ein Shemer for the The Kibbutz Experience – both past and present. We



GT Experiences ● 120 Sylvan Avenue ● Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 ● 201.266.3363/Toll Free: 833.578.1866

[www.GTExperiences.net](http://www.GTExperiences.net) ● [info@gtexperiences.net](mailto:info@gtexperiences.net)



## The Dead Sea

visit the Kibbutz Museum where we will experience a journey from the early days of the kibbutz to the present and learn about the kibbutz way of life. After your visit enjoy a delicious lunch in the kibbutz dining hall. We then Continue with a tour of innovation at Kibbutz Magal where we will visit the Netafim greenhouse innovation center, a pioneering enterprise in the field of drip irrigation technology.

Zichron Yaakov is our next stop, where we stroll through the charming and picturesque town.

In the late afternoon we arrive at the port city of Haifa. You'll enjoy this evening's dinner at a local restaurant near the hotel. After dinner we suggest a short walk to the Bahai Gardens to enjoy this magnificent view, particularly at night when the entire Gardens are lit up. **(B, L, D)**

### DAY 4: THE SEA OF GALILEE AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

After breakfast we leave Haifa and drive to the city of Katzrin, the "Capital of the Golan Heights". You'll walk through a Talmudic village and get a sense of what it was like to live in the times of ancient Israel.

Continue to the mystical city of Tzfat, one of the four holy cities of Israel and the birthplace of the ancient Jewish mystical text, the Kabbalah. Stroll through its narrow winding alleys, Peek inside some of the beautiful synagogues. Browse through workshops and galleries in the flourishing artists' quarter and picturesque artists' quarter. Enjoy a tour and wine tasting at a local Winery, a family-owned boutique winery in the Galilee. Afterwards drive to the Sea of Galilee and take a boat ride on the calm waters. Return to Haifa for dinner and overnight. **(B, WT, D)**

### DAY 5: Friday – BAHAI GARDENS, AKKO, DRUZE VILLAGE, JERUSALEM

This morning after breakfast you'll visit the amazing Bahai Gardens in Haifa, comprising a staircase of 19 terraces extending all the way up the northern slope of Mount Carmel. At its heart stands the golden-domed Shrine of the Báb, which is the resting place of the Prophet-Herald of the Bahá'í Faith.

We continue heading north to explore the ancient crusader port city of Akko, the fascinating UNESCO heritage site, with new excavations revealing what life was like 1000 years ago. Visit the Crusader Halls

and follow the underground tunnels. See the port and fortifications that enabled the inhabitants of the town to resist invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte. Spend time walking through the Arab Bazaar, reliving a Middle Eastern shopping experience.

Time permitting we will drive to the Druze village of Dalyet El Carmel, at the top of Mount Carmel. The Druze are Arab-speaking citizens of Israel and are renowned for their hospitality. Take a fascinating tour of the alleys and old quarter of the village. We will then depart for the drive up to Jerusalem. Upon arrival we will check in at our hotel.

This evening experience a special "Shabbat of a Lifetime" dinner, with hospitality in the home of a local Jewish family. Enjoy a traditional Shabbat meal as you hear about and observe the customs of the Jewish Shabbat. Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B, D)**

### DAY 6: Saturday – MASADA, THE DEAD SEA, JERUSALEM

This morning we head east from Jerusalem towards the Dead Sea, 1412 feet (423m) below sea level. We first visit the legendary mountaintop plateau of Masada – overlooking the Dead Sea - the last stronghold





The vintage flea market in the old city of Jaffa

of the Jewish Zealots in their struggle against the Romans in 73CE – You'll ascend by cable car to the ancient fortress built by King Herod where you'll explore the site, with its synagogue and bathhouse.

After your visit to Masada you'll continue to the lowest spot on the face of the Earth, the Dead Sea. After lunch Enjoy a leisurely afternoon at the Dead Sea covering yourself in its mineral-rich mud and floating in the buoyant waters. After spending time in the Dead Sea we'll drive to a lookout point for a view of Wadi Qelt and the cliff-hanging Monastery of St. George; founded in the 5th Century and still active and inhabited by Greek Orthodox monks. Return to Jerusalem.

In the evening, enjoy the Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David – a creative depiction of the history of the city of Jerusalem projected onto the ancient stones Dinner this evening is on your own, Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B)**

#### DAY 7: Sunday – THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

After breakfast we start the day with an overview from the Mt. of Olives. We begin our exploration of the Old City

of Jerusalem at the City of David, with its fascinating tunnels. See the newest exciting excavations revealing Jerusalem during the time of the 1st Temple period. Walk through the Old City and visit some of its most famous sites, including the Western Wall and the Cardo, an ancient commercial street where you can still shop today. Stroll through the Arab Bazaar and experience traditional Middle Eastern life, with its rich colors, flavors, and smells. Take a rooftop tour of the Old City neighborhoods, for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities living alongside each other in this ancient walled city. Walk along part of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. According to traditions dating back to at least the 4th century, the church is the home of the two holiest sites in Christianity: the site where Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, known as "Calvary" or "Golgotha"; and Jesus's empty tomb, where he is said to have been buried and resurrected. Overnight in Jerusalem. Dinner on your own. **(B)**

#### DAY 8: Monday – NEW CITY OF JERUSALEM, BETHLEHEM

This morning we visit Yad Vashem, considered to be the world's primary Holocaust memorial and museum. Take a tour of the

new Holocaust History Museum, which occupies over 45,000 square feet, mainly underground. Visit the moving exhibit at the Children's Pavilion, commemorating the death of over 1.5 million Jewish children in the Holocaust. From the Yad Vashem, we will move on to the Israel Museum where we will see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition, and view the famous Model of Jerusalem, depicting the city as it was in the 2nd Temple period. Visit to Bethlehem. See the Church of the Nativity and the remains of ancient Bethlehem (beneath the Greek Monastery), from the times of Christ. After this busy day take some time to enjoy the Mamilla Mall or stroll along Ben Yehuda Street. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Jerusalem. **(B, D)**

DAY 9: Tuesday – JERUSALEM – DEPARTURE FOR HOME Shalom & L'Hitra'ot Day at leisure. Transfer to the airport and depart on your flight back home. Leave Israel with everlasting memories!



Shrine of the Bab at Bahai Gardens in Haifa





## Eilat

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meeting & assistance at Ben Gurion Airport
- Round trip transfers from Ben Gurion Airport to your Hotel in Tel Aviv upon arrival and from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion Airport upon departure
- Porterage at Hotels, as of second touring day
- Hotel accommodation at your confirmed hotels
- Seven full days of sightseeing as per the itinerary with English speaking licensed Tour guide via a luxury air-conditioned touring vehicle

- Full Israeli Breakfast daily
- Two lunches on Days 2 & 3
- Five dinners on Days 1, 3, 4, 5 (Special Shabbat dinner with a local Jewish family in Jerusalem and Day 8 (Farewell dinner)
- All entrance fees are included per the program

### TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- International Airline Tickets
- Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff
- Porterage at the airport
- Beverages with meals

### OPTIONAL TWO NIGHT EXTENSION

Eilat and Petra, Jordan \*\*

#### Day 9 – Tuesday - EILAT

Fly from Tel Aviv to Eilat, transfer to the hotel and check in. Overnight in Eilat

#### Day 10 – Wednesday - PETRA

Set out by bus on a day tour from Eilat to the beautiful “Rose City” of Petra. Overnight in Eilat

#### Day 11 – Thursday - EILAT

Departure for home.

### Legend

B Breakfast  
L Lunch  
D Dinner

WT Wine Tasting

