

Israel Trip – June 18-28, 2023

DAY 1: MONDAY, JUNE 19TH | ARRIVE TO ISRAEL

B'ruchim Habaim! Welcome to Israel! Upon landing, you will be met by an AeroVIP representative who will assist you through and expedite the passport control, customs and luggage process. Once you have finished at the airport, you will meet your driver and be transferred to your hotel to check in, freshen up and relax. Spend the first day in leisure as you catch up on some rest after the long flights. Overnight at The Leonardo Art Hotel in Tel Aviv.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH | A DIFFERENT TEL AVIV

Discover the incredible secret of the Ayalon Institute, built underground by the Zionist pioneers as the only way to produce ammunition in the War of Independence. We'll descend into the hidden factory and hear the story of the daring people who lived there.

We'll then have a short drive to Israel's Children's Museum for the "Dialogue in the Dark" activity. This unique program puts you literally into the dark, and helps you understand life for the blind community in an interactive way.

We'll finish our day at Tel Aviv's Carmel Market for a late lunch, some shopping time and an unforgettable tasting tour. Overnight at The Leonardo Art Hotel in Tel Aviv.

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST | BIBLICAL JERUSALEM

Jump straight into the atmosphere of ancient Jerusalem as we open the day with a walk on the 500- year-old city ramparts. We'll then visit the City of David, the most ancient ruins in Jerusalem, taking us back into the time of the Bible. We'll see David's Palace and can walk underground in a tunnel built by King Hezekiah (great fun for kids!). We'll emerge from the tunnel at the Pool of Siloam, an important stop for Jewish pilgrims at the time of the Temple.

We'll ascend by foot in the spirit of the ancient pilgrims to the impressive excavations in the Davidson Center where we'll be able to transport ourselves 2000 years back in time and walk on the very stones that visitors would have walked on in the time of the Second Temple.

We'll pause at the Western Wall to soak up the atmosphere, and after a great local lunch, we'll explore the Jewish Quarter (including more ruins from the Biblical period). Our day will conclude with a visit to the King David's Tomb on Mount Zion. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

Israel Trip – June 18-28, 2023

DAY 4: THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND | ADVENTURES NEAR JERUSALEM

We'll drive a short distance outside of Jerusalem to the main highway into the city. Here we'll leave the comfort of our bus behind to jump into jeeps and discover the daring story of The Burma Road – an incredible feat of engineering and creativity without which the Israelis may well have lost Jerusalem in the War of Independence.

Back in our bus, we'll drive to the UNESCO world heritage site of Beit Guvrin-Maresha, where we'll explore the ruins from over 2000 years ago, and then have an opportunity to discover more for ourselves as we join the local archaeologists on a live dig.

On the way back to Jerusalem, we'll stop on Tel Azeka to look out over the Ella Valley and imagine the ancient battle that took place there between David and Goliath. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 5: FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD | B'NAI MITZVAH & MODERN JERUSALEM

The special day is here – Mazal Tov! Our b'nai mitzvah will feel like stars as they enter the Old City accompanied by drummers & shofar blowers as we head to the egalitarian section of the Western Wall. We will be met by our Rabbi who will accompany the b'nai mitzvah and all of us through this special ceremony.

Our day will continue in a reflective mood during a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust Memorial. After exploring the museum we'll head into modern Jerusalem and as we have worked up quite an appetite, we'll continue to the Machne Yehuda market for a culinary tasting tour.

Optional: In the evening return to the Western Wall plaza to experience the joyous 'Receiving the Shabbat' Jewish prayer service. Continue for a traditional Shabbat dinner at the hotel. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

DAY 6: SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH 2023 | SHABBAT

This day is very different. We start later and have an option to head to one of the nearby synagogues for Shabbat services.

Following lunch at the hotel, those who wish to, may join us as we head out to explore the Old City by walking through the alleys of the Christian and Jewish Quarters. This is a great opportunity to witness the change between the Jewish and non-Jewish congregations and how Shabbat is observed in one area yet in another it's just a regular day.

In the evening we'll head out to the Ben Yehuda Street and following Havdalah, have some time to wander around, shop, and you are on your own for dinner. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

Israel Trip – June 18-28, 2023

DAY 7: SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH | DELVE INTO THE DESERT

Our day will begin at Genesis Land as we transport ourselves back into the Biblical wilderness for a meeting with Abraham. We'll learn about life in the desert in ancient times and have the opportunity to ride a camel around his tent.

Our next stop will be the UNESCO World Heritage Site Masada. We'll ascend by cable car and explore the ruins of this remarkable desert fortress built by King Herod 2000 years ago, to discover the tragic end of its final defense.

After all that walking, we'll relax at a private Dead Sea beach for some well-earned down time (as well as lunch). Float on these saline waters and you'll come out rejuvenated!

As we start driving north, our final stop will be at Ein Gedi desert oasis. We'll take a short walk in this marvel of nature and will pause by one of the waterfalls to discuss Saul and David's meeting here. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Tiberias.

DAY 8: MONDAY, JUNE 26TH | JUDAISM IN THE GALILEE

We'll start our day with a visit to K'far Kedem. Donning traditional clothing, we'll get hands-on with Jewish life in the period of the Mishnah, enjoying an authentic lunch, riding donkeys, and enjoying various other activities.

Our next stop will be in Safed (Tzfat), one of Judaism's four holy cities. We'll wander its ancient alleyways and discover the secrets of the Kabbalah (Jewish Mysticism) which developed here 500 years ago. Expect beautiful synagogues, stunning vistas, and remarkable tales.

We'll end the day by cooling off in the water with a rafting experience on the Jordan River. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Tiberias, Galilee.

DAY 9: TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH | THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Today we'll ascend into the Golan Heights and drive to an observation deck near the Syrian border. We will look out over Syria and get an understanding of the complex relationship between contemporary Israel and its northern neighbor.

The Golan is filled with culinary treats and we'll visit to the famed De Karina chocolate factory for a chocolate making workshop and tasting. After lunch in the renowned HaBokrim steakhouse, we'll jump onto ATVs and go off-road for an adventure around the dormant volcanoes and former Syrian army bases.

We'll end our day by raising a glass to our trip during a visit to one of the best boutique wineries in Israel for a short tour and tasting. Overnight at The Leonardo Plaza Hotel in Tiberias, Galilee.

Israel Trip – June 18-28, 2023

DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH | ISRAEL'S COAST & FAREWELLS

Our first stop today will be in the beautiful seaside grottoes of Rosh Hanikra. After exploring we will travel to Akko (Acre), the former Crusader capital. We'll then explore the spectacular ruins and tunnels from the time of the Crusaders, which earned Akko UNESCO world heritage site status.

Next is Haifa, Haifa, Israel's third biggest city, and home to the world center of the Baha'i faith. From a vantage point on Mount Carmel, we'll look down over their stunning gardens and enjoy the view over the Mediterranean.

After enjoying the views, we'll end our day in Jaffa, one of the most ancient port cities in the world. After wandering the quaint alleyways of this timeless gateway to the Holy Land, we'll descend to the port where Jonah was swallowed by the whale.

Following a special farewell dinner, you will be transferred to Ben-Gurion airport where an AeroVIP representative will assist you through the check-in process to ensure you are on time for your flight. While your journey home will begin, remember that you always have another home here. Lehitra'ot! See you again!