

# Ayelet Tours, Ltd.®

## **Jewish Heritage Tour through Israel**

**12 Nights – 14 Days – 8 Touring Days**

**Thursday Departure/ Friday Arrival**

**2 nights Tel Aviv \* 2 nights Galilee**

**5 nights Jerusalem \* 2 nights Eilat \* 1 night Tel Aviv**

**OPTION: Day Tour to PETRA**

### **DAY 1, THURSDAY - DEPARTURE**

We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

### **DAY 2, FRIDAY – ARRIVAL**

Shalom and Welcome to Israel! Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer to our hotel. Overnight Tel-Aviv.

### **DAY 3, SATURDAY – TEL AVIV**

Following breakfast, enjoy a day at leisure to explore Tel Aviv on your own. Overnight Tel Aviv

### **DAY 4, SUNDAY - CAESAREA, HAIFA, AKKO, ROSH HANIKRA, KIBBUTZ**

Breakfast. Drive along the Mediterranean Sea road to Caesarea, the ancient Roman capital of the area, to view the Roman theater, the aqueduct, and ancient port as well as the excavations of the Crusaders' city. Continue to Haifa, Israel's largest port; view the city and the breathtaking Bahai Temple and Persian Gardens from atop Mount Carmel. Visit the "Af Al Pi Hen" at the Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum, and hear of the attempts to break the British Mandate's limitations of Jewish immigration. Then visit Akko, before walking through its colorful bazaar to the port. Drive north along the coast to Rosh Hanikra, to see the amazing grottos carved by the sea. Arrive at kibbutz for dinner and overnight.

### **DAY 5, MONDAY – SAFED, GOLAN, JORDAN RIVER, TEL HAI**

Breakfast followed by a tour of the mystical city of Safed – center of Kabbalistic practice. Explore narrow alleyways lined with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries. Hop in a Jeep for an exciting tour of the Golan Heights, passing former Syrian bunkers on our way to Mt. Bental, to enjoy the panoramic views stretching deep into Syria. Proceed to Tel Facher, a former Syrian army camp and hear about Eli Cohen – Israel's "super spy". Continue to the Banias Springs and Tel Dan, the sources of the Jordan River. Visit Tel Hai and the Hashomer Museum, to hear about the early settlers who reclaimed the land at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Overnight: A kibbutz in the Galilee

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### **DAY 6, TUESDAY – KINNERET, BEIT SHE'AN, GILBOA, JERUSALEM**

Breakfast. Travel to Tiberias to visit Rambam's grave; continue along the shores of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and then south to Beit She'an to tour the extensively excavated Roman city, once covered by a mudslide. Stop at Beit Alpha to see the beautiful mosaic floor of an ancient synagogue. Proceed to Gan Hashlosa, (Sachne) where you may enjoy a dip (weather permitting) in the sparkling warm waters flowing from springs at the foot of the Gilboa Mountain. Continue via the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. Ascend to Jerusalem, pausing at Mt. Scopus to say Shehehianu as you enter the city. Overnight: Jerusalem.

### **DAY 7, WEDNESDAY – OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM, WESTERN WALL**

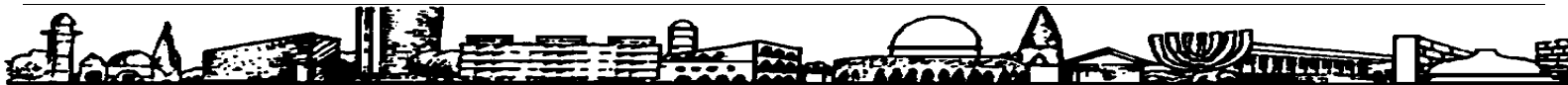
Following breakfast, we begin tour of the Old City of Jerusalem with visit to tomb of King David on Mt. Zion. Explore the Cardo, an ancient marketplace where you can still shop today. Then visit four Sephardic synagogues in Jewish quarter restored after the 1967 War. Enjoy a spiritual visit to the Western Wall followed by a fascinating tour of the Western Wall Tunnels stretching under the Old City. Stroll through the colorful marketplace to the Jaffa Gate and visit the Citadel Museum at David's Tower, to learn more about Jerusalem's 3000 years of history. Overnight Jerusalem

### **DAY 8, THURSDAY – MODERN JERUSALEM, YAD VASHEM**

This morning, share the joy as you join the many Bar Mitzvah ceremonies at the Kotel. Continue on to Mea Shearim and learn about the unique lifestyle of the Ultra-Orthodox neighborhood. Pause at the Knesset, Israel's Parliament and see the Menorah. Discover the treasures of the Israel Museum including the Shrine of the Book, housing the Dead Sea Scrolls and the new Holy Land model, a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the second temple period. Drive to Mt. Herzl, to visit the gravesites of Zionist luminaries including Herzl, Rabin and Golda Meir. Afterwards, drive to Yad Vashem, the memorial to the 6 Million Jews murdered in the Holocaust – here we view the many moving exhibitions including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. Visit Ammunition Hill, a former Jordanian army stronghold, conquered by the Israeli army in the Six-Day War. Overnight: Jerusalem

### **DAY 9, FRIDAY – MASADA, DEAD SEA**

Depart Jerusalem early this morning as we travel south and descend to the lowest place on earth – the Dead Sea. Stop at Qumeran, site where Dead Sea scrolls were found. At Massada, ascend via cable car to the legendary mountain fortress, once a luxurious palace built by Herod the Great and later the last stronghold of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. Explore the unique remains including the bathhouse, water cisterns, storerooms, hanging palaces and the Synagogue. Later, enjoy lunch and a chance to swim (float) in the mineral rich Dead Sea. The high mineral content in the water and the mud is well known for its curative effects. Return to Jerusalem. Overnight Jerusalem



### **DAY 10, SATURDAY – JERUSALEM**

Following breakfast, enjoy the chance to explore Jerusalem on your own. Overnight Jerusalem

### **DAY 11, SUNDAY – HATZERIM, SDE BOKER, MITZPE RAMON, EILAT**

Breakfast. Head south the Israeli Air Force Museum at Hatzetim, to see aircraft from Israel's history. Continue to Sde Boker to Ben Gurion's Hut and Gravesite, where we will recall his dream of turning the desert green. Drive to Mitzpe Ramon for a breathtaking view of the Ramon Crater. Then continue on to Timna to see the copper mines and King Solomon's pillars and marvel at the huge multi-colored rock formations. Continue through the Negev Desert to Eilat. Overnight: Eilat

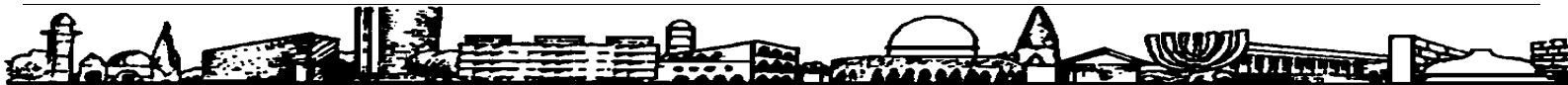
### **DAY 12, MONDAY – EILAT**

Breakfast. Enjoy a day of leisure relaxing or enjoying some of the many water sports on the shores of the Red Sea or opt for an exciting day tour to Petra in Jordan.

#### **Day tour to Petra (OPTIONAL – Additional charge)**

A mini-bus will provide early morning pick-up at hotels and transfer to Jordanian border for crossing formalities. After assistance with visa continue to cross border into Jordan and board bus to begin your touring experience. Drive through desert highways to your ultimate destination the astonishing rose-red city of Petra that was built by the Nabateans (an early Arab tribe). Petra was renowned for its massive architecture, pools, dams and water channels. Petra is the legacy of the Nabateans who settled in the South of Jordan more than two thousand years ago. The visit begins with the possibility of a short horseback-ride for about 700 m. to the entrance of the Siq, which is about 1.2 km long (walking distance). There is a possibility to rent a cart (extra) to get inside Petra and back to the gate outside.

*Petra is famous for its huge monuments such as The Treasury, Royal Tombs, The Court, Roman Theatre, Roman Street, Qassier El- Bint (Palace of Pharaoh's daughter) and many other smaller monuments which fascinate visitors. The city itself is almost 45 square km and is considered to be the second wonder of the world. After visit, there time for lunch in a nice restaurant. After lunch drive back to border. On the way, a short visit to Aqaba with the possibility to stop and take a walk around. Arrive at Jordan/Israel border around 18:00 PM to conclude crossing formalities. Once finalized, cross border into Israel & return to Eilat.*



### **DAY 13, TUESDAY – EILAT, TEL AVIV**

Following breakfast, visit the Underwater Observatory, where you can view the marine wildlife of this coral reef without getting wet. Drive to Mamshit for a camel riding experience with visit to an authentic Bedouin tent to learn about their hospitality and enjoy a light lunch. Continue to Tel Aviv. Overnight: Tel Aviv

### **DAY 14, WEDNESDAY – DEPARTURE**

Breakfast, followed by our transfer to Ben Gurion Airport. L'hitraot!

### **THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

*\* visit subject to availability*

The above program can be extended and tailor-made for groups.

**Day Tour to Petra** – If booking this optional day tour, additional charge will apply.

ALSO plan to bring \$45.00 per person in US currency (and valid passport) when you travel to Jordan to cover visa fees and border taxes (for both entry to Jordan & return into Israel). Credit cards or travelers checks not accepted.

