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ISRAEL

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TUESDAY

DAY 1: DEPARTURE DAY

Heading to Israel!

WEDNESDAY

DAY 2 : ARRIVAL DAY ISRAEL

All passengers who have booked El Al Group Flights are met at the airport and transferred to the bustling cosmopolitan city of **Tel-Aviv**. Check in to our deluxe hotel on the beautiful beach promenade. There is no scheduled touring on this arrival day.

PM Welcome dinner.

OVERNIGHT Tel-Aviv

THURSDAY

DAY 3: TEL-AVIV

AM Breakfast. We begin our tour at the **Ayalon Institute**, a secret factory camouflaged on a kibbutz producing millions of bullets for the Hagana. This was done right under the noses of the British authorities. Next, we head to the **Gaza Strip** to visit the **Memorial at Kibbutz Reim**, the site of the Nova Music Festival. Continue to **Sarona Market**, one of the newer more gourmet places to enjoy Israeli street food. We end the day walking along the ancient streets of **Old Jaffa**, viewing the archaeological excavations and charming galleries.

PM Dinner on own.

OVERNIGHT Tel-Aviv

FRIDAY

DAY 4: TEL-AVIV, CAESAREA, HAIFA

AM Breakfast. This morning we head to the bustling open-air bazaar **Carmel Market** and lively **Nachalat Binyamin Market**. Enjoy walking through the market filled with spicy aromas and strolling the many arts and craft products presented by local artists. Then we head north via Netanya to **Caesarea**. We visit the crusaders' battlement, the roman theater—where concerts and cultural events take place all summer long, plus the ancient aqueduct still standing for 2000 years. Next, an emotional visit to **Atlit**—a former detention compound for Jewish immigrants who arrived in Israel illegally during the British Mandate Period. And lastly, a quick stop to view the beautiful **Bahai Gardens** before arriving at our luxurious hotel atop Mt. Carmel.

PM 7:00pm Kabbalat Sabbath service followed by our Friday night traditional dinner.

OVERNIGHT Haifa

SATURDAY

DAY 5: HAIFA AT LEISURE

AM Breakfast. No wake-up call! Sabbath at leisure. Enjoy a delightful stroll in the beautiful city of **Haifa** or visit a local Synagogue.

OPTIONAL 9:00 am Leave for the incredible **Tel Megiddo**—the excavations that inspired James Michener's book *The Source*, and to a **Druze Village** where we learn about their culture and customs in their environment. Browse and shop in their bustling bazaar—a fun way to end an exciting tour before returning to our hotel around 3:00 pm.

PM Dinner and entertainment.

OVERNIGHT Haifa

SUNDAY

DAY 6: HAIFA, AKKO, SAFED, UPPER GALILEE

Women: modest dress, legs & shoulders covered

AM Breakfast. We begin our tour at the ancient port city of **Akko** to visit the prison where members of the Hagana and Irgun were held captive during Israel's fight for independence. Here Leon Uris's famous novel *Exodus* was filmed. Continue to the beautiful new Jewish development town **Karmiel** in the Galilee. Proceed to **Safed**, famous art colony and center of mystic kabbalah. See its synagogues and picturesque cobblestone streets and art galleries before arriving at our kibbutz, located in the lush hills of the Upper Galilee.

PM Dinner. Kibbutz talk at 8:30pm

OVERNIGHT Kibbutz

MONDAY

DAY 7: UPPER GALILEE

AM Breakfast

OPTIONAL 8:00am Walking tour of the kibbutz.

9:00am We drive to the **Golan Heights** and enjoy a magnificent view of the entire Hula Valley. See the Syrian fortifications which threatened Israel for 19 years before the Six Day War. Continue to the **Golan Heights Winery** situated in Katzrin, capital city of Golan Heights. Learn about the winery and enjoy tasting high quality wines. Next, participate in a **culinary workshop** to experience traditional Israeli cuisine.

PM Dinner

OVERNIGHT Kibbutz

TUESDAY

DAY 8: UPPER GALILEE, JERUSALEM

AM Breakfast. Today we head to **Beit Shean**, the most exciting antiquity excavation in Israel. It is compared to Pompeii of Ancient Rome. Then we visit an **ancient synagogue** to marvel at the mosaic floor. Continue toward Israel's capital—**Jerusalem** of gold. Following in our forefathers' footsteps, we enter Jerusalem and gather for a traditional Shehecheyanu welcome.

PM Dinner.

OVERNIGHT Jerusalem

WEDNESDAY

DAY 9: JERUSALEM—NEW CITY

AM Breakfast. Begin the day at **Hadassah Hospital Synagogue** to view the famous Chagall windows. Continue to the **Military Cemetery** to view the gravesites of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and other past leaders of Israel. Continue to **Mt. Herzl** to view the final resting place of Theodore Herzl, father of modern political Zionism. Our last stop, an emotional visit to Israel's national memorial to the Holocaust—**Yad Vashem**, including the New Museum, the Children's Pavilion, and the Avenue of the "Righteous Gentiles."

PM Dine on your own tonight. Consider the choices directly across the street from our hotel, one of the restaurants located in the old train station behind our hotel or speak to the concierge at our hotel for assistance and information. **8:30pm** Meet in the lobby or at the Jaffa gate—enjoy the spectacular **Sound and Light Show** tonight!

OVERNIGHT Jerusalem



Tel Aviv

*During certain periods of special events or circumstances it may be necessary to revise the routing of the itinerary.



Upper Galilee

THURSDAY

DAY 10: JERUSALEM—THE OLD CITY

Lots of walking today, modest dress for women

AM Breakfast. We begin early this day at the **Western Wall**—the holiest site in Judaism. Proceed to the **Western Wall Tunnels** to see the excavations that run along the Western Wall. Continue our walking tour through the restored **Jewish Quarter of the Old City**. Enjoy strolling the **Cardo**, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem and the main thoroughfare of the city from Roman times.

PM Cocktails and celebration dinner!

OVERNIGHT Jerusalem

FRIDAY

DAY 11: MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

Don't forget swimsuits and water shoes today!

AM Breakfast. Drive along the shores of the **Dead Sea** passing the Caves of Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found to **Masada**. Ascend by cable car to the last stronghold of the zealots in their struggle against the Romans. See Herod's Palace, the Synagogue and Bath houses. Descend by cable car. Then on to an exciting and rejuvenating floating experience at the Dead Sea known for its therapeutic qualities.

5:30pm Departure for the **Western Wall** to witness the ushering in of the Sabbath

PM Friday night traditional Shabbat dinner.

OVERNIGHT Jerusalem

SATURDAY

DAY 12: JERUSALEM ON SHABBAT

AM Breakfast. No wake-up call! Sabbath. For those interested in attending morning services, the Great Synagogue is a short walk from our hotel.

11:00 am we depart from our hotel and head to the fantastic **Israel Museum** to view the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Shrine of the Book, and the renovated model of the city of Jerusalem from the 2nd Temple Period. You will have some free time to explore the museum after your guide's overview. **OPTIONAL Walking Tour of the Christian Sites in the Old City at 2:00pm (after the Museum)**

PM Dine on your own

OVERNIGHT Jerusalem

SUNDAY

DAY 13: LATER CHECK OUT / BEN GURION AIRPORT –

AM Breakfast. Porters will be collecting luggage from your rooms. Depart hotel in the afternoon. We visit **Latrun**, home of the IDF Tank Museum and the location of the strategic intersection during Israel's War of Independence. Continue to our **Farewell Dinner** followed by a transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.

We leave the great land of Israel for our return to the U.S.A. with unforgettable sights and memories etched in our minds of this extraordinary, incredible country. **SHALOM!**

MONDAY

DAY 14: TEL AVIV – U.S.A.



Beit Shean



Culinary Workshop



Dead Sea



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