



(Itinerary as of 6-30; subject to change)

Welcome to Israel! Little more than a century ago, a Jewish state was merely a dream. A land yearned for over the ages by Jews around the world, Israel is a land of deep and timeless meaning. This is where the Jewish people's history began, where our collective identity took shape. 75 years ago, the state of Israel was created by brave and passionate pioneers. These visionaries and their followers were totally devoted; not only to creating a physical haven for the persecuted, but also to generating the rebirth and renewal of a sovereign and empowered Jewish society with a strong Jewish identity. Having persevered despite tremendous external and internal challenges, today's Israel stands as a beacon for Jews around the world. It proclaims, 'Am Yisrael Chai,' that the people of Israel live and that the values of peace and freedom are ever enduring for all humanity. As we step foot on her soil, we fulfill a yearning to come home. Explore Israel and discover what makes it truly yours at a historic moment.

DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

➤ ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

- Individual arrival at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport and transfer to our stunning hotel in the north.
- Festive Opening Dinner under the stars.

OVERNIGHT: PASTORAL, KFAR BLUM

DAY 2 | THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Breakfast at the hotel

Key Highlights:

- SEE breathtaking views from atop an ancient volcano
- VISIT the earliest known synagogue on Earth
- EXPLORE a Nature Reserve and ancient archeological site
- ENJOY a safari-wagon guided tour to discover some of the world's most unique wildlife

Itinerary:

Ascend the Golan Heights. Overlooking the northern region, this strategic plateau was conquered by Israel in the Six Day War. The region plays a vital role in the security of the nation by providing a buffer with Syria.

The following activities will be tailored for each bus.

Off-road 4X4 Jeep Tour. Set out on an unforgettable off-road 4X4 Jeep Tour of the region. A local guide will provide keen geographical insights about the borders of the region, its history, and the different ways of life in the Golan Heights.

- **Breathtaking views from atop an ancient volcano — Mount Bental.** Take in the fantastic vantage point of Syria from atop this ancient volcano, which became an operating base during the Yom Kippur War. Standing a mere 20 miles from Damascus, we will have a stimulating discussion about innumerable inner rifts within Syria, the sources and impacts of Assad's allegiances and alliances — from Russia to Iran — and the impact of it all on Israel's current and future behavior.
- **Quneitra Overlook.** A thought-provoking discussion of Iran's position in and influence over Syria.
- **Lebanese border.** An overlook into the Security Zone, as we discuss the current challenges facing Israel from Lebanon: *Who is the real boss in Lebanon? How threatening is the new reality — the axis of Iran/Syria/Hezbollah — to Israel?*
- **Lunch** at a local restaurant
- **Enjoy a safari-wagon guided tour of a rare and unique Bird Park — Agamon HaHula.** Explore the Natural Bird Habitat located at the heart of the Hula Valley. Over half a billion migratory birds fly over this area annually. This rare ecological site gives visitors a chance to watch the birds up close in their natural habitat without disturbing them.
- **Visit the earliest known synagogue on Earth and hike a Nature Reserve.** Hike the splendid **Gamla** Nature Reserve which contains the earliest known synagogue in the world. Visit the ruins of the City of Gamla, where some of the most fierce and heroic battles took place during the Jewish revolt against the Romans in the First Century CE. Gazing down the steep precipices surrounding this hilltop stronghold, you'll understand why it took the Romans seven months to conquer what is now known as the "Masada of the Golan."
- **Visit the Palm Beaches's "sister region" in Israel — TZAHAR.** In the afternoon, we will visit our home in the scenic north of Israel with whom Federation has a partnership: the **TZAHAR** region (**Tzfat, Hatzor & Rosh Pina**). We will get to see and experience the impact of our Federation in this region.
- **Enjoy a Festive Community Dinner with our partnership family.** Tonight's dinner is about family, community, and connection - **OVERNIGHT: PASTORAL, KFAR BLUM.**

DAY 3 | FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Breakfast at the hotel

Key Highlights:

- **LEARN** the secrets of Jewish mysticism, Kabbalah
- **EXPERIENCE** charming Rosh Pina, one of the first Jewish towns in Israel
- **BROWSE** vibrant artists' workshops
- **EXPLORE** the mystical city of Tzfat

Itinerary:

- **Explore the mystical city of Tzfat.** Spend the morning in the mystical city of Tzfat, one of the Four Holy Cities in Israel and the birthplace of the kabbalah. Stroll through the narrow, winding

alleys. Visit the beautiful and historical synagogues. Browse through the artists' workshops and galleries in the flourishing artists' quarter.

- **Enjoy a whiskey distillery visit and unique culinary activities.**
- **Learn the secrets of Kabbalah.** Meet with **Rabbi Eyal Reiss**, director of the **International Center for Tzfat Kabbalah**, for an introduction into the secrets of the Kabbalah. Together, we will welcome Shabbat from the rooftop of the Kabbalah Center with musical guests.
- **Lunch and wine tasting at Adir Winery.**
- **Experience one of the first established Jewish towns. Rosh Pina**, “the Princess of the Galilee,” is one of the first *Moshava* (established Jewish towns) in Israel. While strolling the charming alleyways of this authentically picturesque Galilee village, you will encounter the perfect mix of natural, cultural, historic and entertainment hotspots: trendy coffee shops, gourmet restaurants, art galleries, museums, festivals, and historical sites surrounded by magnificent Galilee mountains.
- **Shabbat Dinner.** Enjoy an uplifting Shabbat experience at the Kibbutz with special guests.

OVERNIGHT: PASTORAL, KFAR BLUM

DAY 4 | SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Breakfast at the hotel and check out

Key Highlights:

- **DISCOVER mesmerizing underground caves**
- **EXPERIENCE “The Eighth Wonder of the World”**
- **EXPLORE an ancient Roman city**

Itinerary:

Depart the region and explore the Coast Line *en route* to Tel Aviv.

- **Tour underground caves.** Take the cable car down beneath the stunning chalk-white cliffs of **Rosh Hanikra** at Israel's northernmost coastal border. Tour the system of underground caves beneath the grottos that have been eroded by pounding waves over thousands of years.
- Explore the port of **Akko**, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities of the world. Walk through its labyrinthine alleys, colorful Oriental markets, museums, and fishermen's port.
- **See the Eighth Wonder of the World.** Journey through **Haifa** and enjoy the panoramic view of the **Bahá'í Gardens** from the top of the **Carmel Mountain**. UNESCO's World Heritage describes the Bahá'í Gardens as “The Eighth Wonder of the world.”
- **Explore an ancient Roman city.** Continue along Israel's coastal highway to **Caesarea**. Explore the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, Crusader harbor and 12th-century ramparts. This ancient city, now an archaeological park located on the Mediterranean Sea, was constructed by

Herod the Great between 22 and 10 BC. It was named for Caesar Augustus. Caesarea was one of the most splendid cities in Palestine and was the capital of the province for almost 600 years.

- **Head to Tel Aviv for hotel check-in.** Free evening at leisure; dinner on your own.

OVERNIGHT: CARLTON HOTEL, TEL AVIV

DAY 5 | SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Breakfast at the hotel

Optional: Early-morning walk along Tel Aviv's iconic '**Tayelet**' beachfront promenade.

Key Highlights:

- **EXPLORE** an ancient city tied to a powerful story
- **TOUR** the Mediterranean's "Capital of Cool"
- **CELEBRATE** alongside North America's most dedicated community leaders

Itinerary:

- **Explore the Old City of Jaffa.** Stroll the winding streets of the Old City of Jaffa, a neighborhood with art galleries, restaurants, theaters, museums, and nightclubs. As one of the world's oldest ports, Jaffa is thought to have been the port from which Jonah left in the story of the Whale.
- **Visit the Peres Center for Peace & Innovation.** A unique center that focuses on Israel as an "innovation nation," the Peres Center showcases the diverse fields and people behind Israeli innovation with the aim of promoting a better future of prosperity and peace.
- **Tel Aviv City Tour.** Tel Aviv is one of the most vibrant cities in the world. Titled the "Mediterranean Capital of Cool" by the New York Times, Tel Aviv is a 24-hour city with a unique pulse, combining sandy Mediterranean beaches with a world-class nightlife, a buzzing cultural scene, incredible food, UNESCO recognized architecture, and an international outlook. Our guide will take us through the diverse streets and squares of Tel Aviv and show us the highlights, such as the White City, Bauhaus architecture collection, the famous Rothschild Boulevard, Independence Hall, and Neve Tzedek.
- **Visit a museum.** Visit the **Anu Museum**, a museum of the Jewish People (former Diaspora Museum) or the **Palmach Museum**, an experiential museum covering the Palmach legacy. *(Choose one)*
- **MEGA Event:** Kick-off with a celebratory event hosted by Jewish Federations of North America at Tel Aviv Expo Center.

OVERNIGHT: CARLTON HOTEL, TEL AVIV

DAY 6 | MONDAY, APRIL 24

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Key Highlights:

- **DISCOVER** a fascinating story representing the complexities of the Middle East
- **REENACT** a triumphant historical journey

➤ **EXPERIENCE a memorable ceremony at a historic site**

Itinerary:

Depart Tel Aviv and journey to Jerusalem.

- **Hear an emotional story of forbidden love.** Morning session presentation with **Tzahi HaLevi and Lucy Aharish**. Their lecture **Selfless Love / Love thy neighbor** combines their life story as an interfaith Jewish-Muslim couple in Israel. Two famous Israeli public figures, we'll explore their families' responses, how and why they kept their relationship a secret for four years, and some of the racial harassment they experienced.
- **Reenact a triumphant journey.** Depart Tel Aviv and reenact the "War of Independence" Journey. Retrace the path of the heroic convoy and the events of the **Burma Road**: the triumphant entrance to the besieged city of Jerusalem during Israel's War of Independence. Our jeep ride will conclude with a meaningful *Shehecheyanu* ceremony expressing our gratitude upon reaching Jerusalem, surrounded by the panoramic view of Judean hills.
- **Hotel check-in and Early Dinner at the Hotel.**
- **Experience a special Erev Yom HaZikaron at a historic site.** We will commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism with a special experience at **Latrun**, the site of fierce fighting during the 1948 War of Independence. This 24-hour experience will deepen your understanding of Israel's resilience, mutual aid, and Jewish peoplehood.

OVERNIGHT: WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, JERUSALEM

DAY 7 | TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Breakfast at the hotel

Key Highlights:

- **EXPERIENCE the Jewish faith's holiest site on Earth**
- **JOURNEY behind the scenes of Jerusalem's geopolitics and foundation**
- **CELEBRATE Israel's 75th year of independence at an unforgettable event**

Itinerary:

***Yom HaZikaron** is Israel's official Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Throughout the day we will observe Yom Hazikaron like a native Israeli and stand with our Israeli brothers and sisters while we experience the siren.*

- **Visit Yad Vashem**, considered the foremost memorial to mankind's darkest period and Israel's official memorial and historical museum to the victims of the Shoah.

-OR-

- **Special geopolitics briefing by Colonel (res) Grisha Yakubovich: Overcoming challenges against all odds.** Col. Grisha is an expert in the Israeli-Palestinian field with a long list of field and headquarters positions spanning 30 years. The child of a holocaust survivor who led the IDF delegation to Auschwitz, Col. Grisha will share his own history of growing up in the anti-semitic USSR to become a senior commander in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

- **Lunch**
- **Walk the Old City of Jerusalem.** Stroll the ramparts and walk around one of the most intense places on Earth — the Old City of Jerusalem. At the heart of the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian religions, this one-kilometer area in the center of Jerusalem is home to the holiest site in the world for Jews: The **Kotel** (a.k.a. Western Wall or Wailing Wall).
- **Experience the holiest site on Earth.** Enter through the Jaffa Gate and explore the **Jewish Quarter**. The walk culminates at the **Kotel** — the Western Wall. A centerpiece for Jewish prayer and longing since biblical times, the Kotel is the ancient retaining wall and the last remaining wall of the Second Temple. Catch glimpses inside the cloistered Armenian Quarter, the Valley of Hinnom, the Judean Desert, the Arab Shuk (market), the Garden of Gethsemane, the ancient graveyard on the Mount of Olives and Muslim homes inside the Muslim Quarter.
- **Tour Ir David (City of David).** Descend the ancient foundations of King David’s Jerusalem. Tour the wet Siloan’s Tunnel built by King Hezekiah to protect the city’s water source from the invading Assyrian Army during the days of the First Temple. Journey through the underground tunnels by which the city was conquered and residents fled. Go down to the hidden spring where kings were coronated, between ancient shafts, walls, and fortresses at the place where Jerusalem began.
- **Celebrate Erev Yom HaAtzmaut.** As Yom Hazikaron concludes, the celebration of Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, begins. This milestone birthday will be a celebration to remember for a lifetime!

OVERNIGHT: WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, JERUSALEM

DAY 8 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Breakfast at the hotel

Key Highlights:

- **EXPERIENCE** the wonders of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on Earth
- **EXPLORE** the fascinating remains of Masada, an ancient and holy fortress
- **JOIN WITH** Jewish community leaders from around the world for the culmination of our journey

Itinerary:

Yom HaAtzmaut — Celebrate Israel’s 75th Independence Day.

- **Depart Jerusalem and travel to the Dead Sea region** — the lowest place on Earth. The lake’s surface is 1,412 ft. below sea level, making its shores the lowest land-based elevation on Earth. The lake is nearly 10 times as salty as the ocean and is known to have supplied wide variety of products, including asphalt for Egyptian mummification. The Dead Sea is also known for its healing properties and was one of the world’s first health resorts (for Herod the Great).
- **Ascend via cable car to Masada.** Tour the remains of King Herod’s desert fortress retreat, incredibly preserved by the arid conditions of the Judean Desert. Learn about the history of this fascinating place, a symbol of the ancient sovereignty of the Kingdom of Israel. Take in the spectacular views from atop the isolated rock plateau.

- **Experience the Dead Sea and a nearby resort hotel.** Spend the remainder of the morning and early afternoon at a Dead Sea resort hotel and have a chance to swim and float in the super-buoyant waters of the Dead Sea (lunch included).
- **Return to the hotel.** Time to relax or shop in the nearby Mamila, open-air mall. Pack and get ready for dinner.

-OR-

- **Join with Jewish communities from around the world in a festive Yom HaAtzmaut celebration that embrace local Israeli traditions.** Organized by JFNA.
- **Visit IDF Army Base.**
- **Return to the hotel.** Time to relax or shop in the nearby Mamila open-air mall. Pack and get ready for dinner.
- **Farewell Dinner**
- **Transfers will be provided to Ben Gurion airport for your flight back home and for those who are returning to the hotel.**

Lehitraot and Nesiah Tova!

Safe Travels!