



ISRAEL FAMILY JOURNEY

December 2017 Itinerary

The following is an updated itinerary. While the program is confirmed, minor modifications may still be made.

DAY 1 | THURSDAY, December 21 | Baruch HaBah – Welcome Israel!

- Arrive to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport on self-booked flight
An airport VIP greeting and complimentary transfer to our Jerusalem hotel is included for all travelers arriving by 4:15pm this day
- 2:30pm – Option for early arrivers to discover the foundations of Jerusalem at the City of David archaeological park and follow the Pilgrims' route into the Western Wall complex (meet at hotel)
- 6:00pm – Meet as a full group in the hotel lobby before departing from the hotel
- Evening: Tower of David – Night Spectacular Show in the Old City
- Enjoy a welcome dinner at the Joy Restaurant in the Mamilla Complex
- Overnight in Jerusalem: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem
[Meals Included: Dinner]

DAY 2 | FRIDAY, December 22 | The Old City of Jerusalem

- Enter the Old City via Zion Gate – Explore the rooftops, alleyways and squares of the Jewish Quarter
- Reflections at the Kotel – The Western Wall
- Experience the color and energy of Mahane Yehuda open-air marketplace
- Travel to the Haas Promenade for a panoramic overview of the geography of Jerusalem
- Return to accommodations to freshen up and prepare for the start of Shabbat
- Option to experience Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall or at a local synagogue
- Enjoy a festive Shabbat dinner at our hotel
NOTE: We have invited lone soldiers from the IDF to join our dinner, pending availability
- Overnight in Jerusalem: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem
[Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner]

DAY 3 | SATURDAY, December 23 | Shabbat in Jerusalem

NO BUS IS PROVIDED TODAY

- Morning Option – Jerusalem Beyond the Walls – Montefiore's Windmill, Yemin Moshe, Mishkenot



Sheananim, and the First Jerusalem Train Station Market

- Shabbat lunch served at hotel
- Afternoon Option: Return to the Old City for a tour of the Christian Quarter and Arab Shuk (bazaar)
- Go deep under the Old City in the Kotel Tunnels
- Discover Jerusalem nightlife at Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall
- Overnight in Jerusalem: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch]

DAY 4 | SUNDAY, December 24 | Loss & Renewal in Israel

- Morning: Docent-led tour of the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center
Children's alternative: Tour of the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo
- Learn about the leaders who shaped the story of modern Israel at Mt. Herzl National Memorial
- Drive by the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, and the Supreme Court grounds
- Travel deep into the Judean desert for a camel riding adventure and a memorable desert tent dinner feast at *Erez Bereshit*
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Dead Sea Resort Hotel, Dead Sea

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner]

DAY 5 | MONDAY, December 25 | Adventures in the Judean Desert

- Rise early and summit Masada – Hike the Snake Path or take the cable cars
- Explore and recount the story of Masada – Herod's desert mountain fortress and the bastion of an ancient Jewish Rebellion
Participants celebrating a B'nai Mitzvah have the opportunity to take part in a brief ceremony here
- Descent Masada via the cable cars and return to our accommodations
- Experience effortless floating at the Dead Sea and enjoy our deluxe resort hotel facilities
- Take a short nature walk to the desert oasis at Ein Gedi National park and view wild ibex in their natural habitat (time permitting)
- Travel northwards to the Galilee via the Jordan Valley, part of the Syrian-African Rift Valley
- Check-in and dinner at our kibbutz accommodations on the Sea of Galilee shores
- Overnight: Kibbutz Maagan Guest House, Sea of Galilee

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner]

DAY 6 | TUESDAY, December 26 | Mystics in the Galilee



- Enjoy the Safari Wagon and bird watching at the Hula Valley migratory bird reserve
- Walking tour of ancient Tsfat – The historic center of Jewish mysticism in the Galilee highland
- Lunch on own and personal exploration time in the Tsfat artists quarter
- Sunset cruise on the Sea of Galilee with Israeli dancing followed by a gourmet dinner at DECKS
- Overnight: Kibbutz Maagan Guest House, Sea of Galilee

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner]

DAY 7 | WEDNESDAY, December 27 | Perspectives from the Golan Heights

- Guided walking tour of the kibbutz
- View Israel's neighbors and navigate former bunkers at the summit of Mt. Ben-Tal
- Discover the Druze culture, enjoying traditional hospitality and lunch at Ein Kinya village
- Explore the Golan Heights on a historical off-road jeep trek
- Travel to Haifa, Israel's main port city, and check-in to our hotel on Mt. Carmel
- Evening: Dinner on own in the historic German Colony neighborhood of Haifa
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Haifa

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch]

DAY 8 | THURSDAY, December 28 | Along the Mediterranean Coast

- Overlook of Haifa from the Bahai Temple and Gardens on the slopes of Mount Carmel
- Tasting, tour and lunch at the Binyamina Winery in the Carmel Mountains
- Explore Caesarea – Herod's Roman amphitheater and grand palace on the beach
- Arrive to Tel Aviv, and enjoy a sunset walking tour of ancient Jaffa seaport*
- Check-in to our luxury hotel on the Tel Aviv beachfront (10-day tour only)
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch]

**NOTE: The eight-day option ends this evening with a transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for return flights or a domestic flight to Eilat for those extending to Eilat.*

DAY 9 | FRIDAY, December 29 | Founding of Modern Israel

- Visit the Ayalon Institute – Learn about the story of the Haganah and the quest to create a modern Jewish State at this secret ammunition factory
- Independence Hall – Recount the creation of modern Israel where it happened and learn about the Jewish State's founding values



- Explore Tel Aviv's historic Neve Tzedek neighborhood and trendy Rothschild Blvd.
- Celebrate the spirit of Tel Aviv at the Nahalat Binyamin street festival and the Carmel Market
- Option to attend a local Kabbalat Shabbat service on the beach or at a local synagogue
- Evening: Enjoy a festive Shabbat dinner experience as a group at our hotel
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner]

DAY 10 | SATURDAY, December 30 | Shabbat on the Beach*

NO BUS IS PROVIDED TODAY

- Relaxed morning to explore Tel Aviv on own or enjoy the city's Mediterranean beach culture
- Shabbat lunch at the hotel (late check-out at 2pm)
- Experience a "Tel Aviv-style Shabbat" relaxing on the Mediterranean beach!
- Walking Tour — Rabin Square Memorial, HaBimah Theater Grounds, and the classic Bauhaus architecture of Tel Aviv
- Program wrap-up and farewells
- Evening: Transfer to Sde Dov Airport for flight to Eilat or transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for overnight flights back to North America

[Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch]

**An optional add-on tour of Acco & Rosh Hanikrah is also offered today. Meet in the lobby at 7:45am*

DAY 8 or 10 | THURSDAY, December 28 -or- SATURDAY, December 30

- Evening – Pick-up at Eilat Airport and transfer to Eilat hotel
- Overnight: Herod's Palace, Eilat

DAY 9 or 11 | FRIDAY, December 29 -or- SUNDAY, December 31 | Optional Petra Tour

- OPTION #1: Guided day tour of Petra (pick-up at 7:00am at hotel)
- OPTION #2: Relaxed day at pool and beach
- Overnight: Herod's Palace, Eilat

[Meals Included: Breakfast – Lunch included with Petra tour]

DAY 10 or 12 | SATURDAY, December 30 -or- MONDAY, January 1 | Red Sea Relaxation

- Relaxed day to enjoy Eilat, pool & beach
- Transfer to Eilat airport from hotel for domestic flight to Ben Gurion Airport

[Meals Included: Breakfast]