

Israel Overture

Thursday Departures
11 Days • 9 Nights

*An Isram Israel Exclusive Tour
 Limited to 28 participants*

Tour Includes:

- Professional Tour Director
- Choice of Deluxe Hotel Plans
- 6 Days of Comprehensive Sightseeing
- Walking Tour of Tel Aviv
- Arrival and Departure Transfers

14 Meals:

- Daily Israeli Buffet Breakfast
- Friday Dinner Get-together in Tel Aviv
- 2 Dinners in Haifa
- Lunch at Kibbutz Kfar Charuv
- Restaurant Dinner in Jerusalem
- Traditional Friday Night Dinner-Israeli home in Jerusalem

Special Features

- Tour the Israeli Museum at the Rabin Center
- Dinner and special presentation in Haifa
- Descend to the Underwater Grottos at Rosh Hanikra
- Enjoy wine tasting at a Golan Winery
- Visit an Army Bunker in the Golan
- Tour the spectacular FOZ Heritage Center
- Night Tour of "illuminated" Jerusalem
- Tour Herodian Mansions or Hasmonean Tunnel
- Sound & Light Show in Jerusalem
- Shabbat Dinner with Home Hospitality in Jerusalem
- WiFi enabled buses and Free WiFi at all hotels
- Tips to all restaurant staff
- Express Airport Check-in Service & Dan VIP Lounge at Ben Gurion Airport (upon return to the USA)

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner



Olives in Tel Aviv Market



Mamilla Pedestrian Mall, Jerusalem—Courtesy IMOT-Noam Chen

ITINERARY

Thursday: En Route

Depart the U.S.A. on your flight to Israel.

Friday: Tel Aviv

Welcome to Israel! Arrive Ben Gurion Airport; meeting, assistance and transfer to your hotel in trendy Tel Aviv's Mediterranean beach. Balance of the afternoon at leisure in the "city that never sleeps". Tonight, **Get Together Dinner.** (D)

Saturday: Tel Aviv

Morning walking tour includes **Ben Gurion House**, former home of Israel's first Prime Minister; see his personal belongings and expansive library. Remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy all of the delights of this seaside city. Tel Aviv's museums and restaurants are world-class. Don't miss Tel Aviv's hip port neighborhood, with its yachts, eateries and café-filled boardwalk. (B)

Sunday: Tel Aviv/Haifa

Depart Tel Aviv. Drive to the extraordinary **Israeli Museum** at the **Yitzhak Rabin Center** chronicling the life of the late Prime Minister and the development of the State of Israel. Continue to ancient **Caesarea**; explore the Roman and Crusader ruins including the impressive 2,000-year-old theater (still in use!) and aqueduct. Then, visit **Caesarea Harbor**: a fascinating, multimedia presentation brings ancient history to life! Arrive in **Nazareth**, the sacred town where Jesus spent part of his youth; visit the Church and view **Mary's Well**. On to the sparkling port city of Haifa; check into your hotel atop Mt. Carmel. Evening: Enjoy Dinner and a special cultural presentation (*subject to minimum 10 tour participants*). (B,D)

Monday: Haifa

View the golden-domed **Baha'i Shrine** and their breathtaking "hanging gardens," – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Drive along the coast to **Rosh Hanikra**; descend by cable car to see the magnificent underwater grottoes. Continue through the picturesque

seaside town of Nahariya to the timeless Crusader city of **Acre**; walk through the subterranean city and bazaars that recall the colorful middle Ages. Then, to **Safed**, one of Judaism's holiest cities, where the Kabbalah was developed in the 16th.-century; visit the ancient synagogues and the charming **Artists' Quarter**. Return to your hotel for Dinner. The balance of the evening is at leisure to enjoy a stroll under the Carmel skies and the glow of this beautiful port city. (B,D)

Tuesday: Haifa/Jerusalem

We'll depart Haifa driving first to **Capernaum** to see the fantastic ruins of the ancient synagogue dating back to the 5th-century. Ascend the strategic **Golan Heights** and learn about the 20th century battles that protected Israel's future. On to **Katzrin**, capital of the Golan and to the **Monument of the 7th Brigade**. It is here, in the magnificent strip of the Golan that has become known for producing the finest wines in the world, that we will enjoy a tour of the wine making process as well as **sample some of the Golan's tastiest wines**. Continue for a visit to a former **Syrian army bunker** at **Kibbutz Kfar Charuv**, settled by Americans and Israelis together; view of the fertile valleys below as you tour the kibbutz and enjoy lunch in the communal dining room. Visit the remains of an 8th century Roman city at **Bet Shean** (not in winter due to early closure). Then drive south and rise through the mountains to "golden" Jerusalem, stopping first for a blessing and a toast to our arrival in the eternal city. Overnight in Israel's capital. (B,L)

Wednesday: Jerusalem

Drive to **Hadassah Medical Center** to see the sublime **Chagall Windows**. On to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, with its **Children's Pavilion** and **Avenue of the Righteous**. Then, to **Mount Herzl** to pay respects to Israel's founders and heroes. Pass the post-modern **Supreme Court** and the **Knesset (Parliament)** en route to the **Shrine of the Book**, home of the Dead

Sea Scrolls. Time to walk through the New Israel Museum and the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden; see the Scale Model of ancient Jerusalem. Evening: **Night Tour of illuminated Jerusalem** followed by a Restaurant Dinner and the "Night Spectacular" Sound & Light Show at the Citadel Museum (weather and schedule permitting). (B,D)

Thursday: Jerusalem

Drive to Mt. Zion to visit the traditional Tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. Enter the Old City to the restored Jewish Quarter; walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Walk to the Western Wall, last remnant of the Second Temple. View the Dome of the Rock. Proceed through the extraordinary Hasmonean Tunnel (tunnel schedule permitting) or tour the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; stroll through the exotic bazaars with their wondrous aromas. End today with a visit to the fabulous Friends of Zion Heritage Center celebrating the Christian heroes who have contributed to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. These heroes come alive through, cutting edge, high tech imaging, audio-visual presentations, holograms and much more. Or, an optional visit to Bethlehem may be arranged. A free night tonight.



Walls Surrounding Old City, Jerusalem

The shops are open late as it's the start of the Israeli weekend. Enjoy the many eateries along the outdoor Mamilla Mall, Ben Yehuda Street, or the "Tachana". (B)

Friday: Jerusalem

Descend through the Judean desert to the Dead Sea, lowest point on Planet Earth. Ascend Masada by cable car and see this last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. Visit the excavations, Herod the Great's palace, synagogue and bathhouse. Then, opportunity to enjoy an "unsinkable" swim in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea. Drive via the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, on your return to Jerusalem. Evening: Join Jerusalemites welcoming the Sabbath at the Western Wall (during daylight savings time

only). Tonight, a unique and memorable evening as we join an Israeli family at their home to enjoy the traditional Friday dinner together. (B,D)

Saturday: Jerusalem

Enjoy a full day at leisure for relaxation and on your own exploration. For those still craving to see and do as much as possible, your tour manager will provide entrance tickets to the Museum of the History of Jerusalem in the Old City—definitely worth a visit. Overnight in Jerusalem. (B)

Sunday: En Route

Transfer to the Airport for your international departure flight. Enjoy our Express Check-in Service and complimentary entrance to the exclusive Dan VIP Lounge.

LAND PRICES (USD) PER PERSON – OVERTURE – THURSDAY DEPARTURES

HOTEL PLAN	CORAL		RUBY		TURQUOISE		SILVER		TOPAZ		SAPPHIRE		OPAL		EMERALD	
Tel Aviv	Crowne Plaza (C)		Sheraton (C)		Carlton (P-E) ●		Carlton (P-E) ●		Hilton (DSV)		Hilton (DSV)		Dan (DCL)		Dan (E)	
Haifa (Dlx, Bayview)	Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel		Dan Carmel (E)	
Jerusalem	Dan Panorama (D-E)		Inbal (OC)		Inbal (OC)		David Citadel ■		Orient (OE)		Waldorf Astoria (D)		King David ▲		King David (DOC)	
2018 Departure Dates	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single	Twin	Single
May 10	3350	4720	3515	5035	3565	5155	3690	5470	3645	5325	4000	6030	3910	5850	4450	6890
May 17*, 24, 31	3380	4760	3535	5100	3570	5170	3700	5485	3645	5325	4005	6045	4085	6200	4650	7295
Jun 7, 14, 21	3380	4760	3655	5335	3690	5400	3700	5485	3645	5325	4005	6045	4085	6200	4650	7295
Jun 28	3360	4715	3420	4870	3455	4940	3620	5320	3645	5325	3800	5630	3945	5915	4500	6990
Jul 5	3345	4690	3350	4730	3385	4800	3620	5320	3625	5280	3640	5310	3840	5710	4390	6775
Jul 19, Aug 2, 16	3345	4690	3535	5100	3570	5170	3620	5320	3695	5415	3710	5450	3925	5875	4470	6925
Aug 30	3345	4690	3335	4695	3370	4765	3620	5320	3645	5325	3665	5355	3840	5710	4390	6775
Sep 27*, Oct 4	3345	4690	3590	5205	3655	5335	3620	5320	3635	5300	3825	5675	3840	5710	4390	6775
Oct 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8	3380	4760	3535	5100	3570	5170	3620	5320	3635	5300	3825	5675	4080	6185	4640	7275
Nov 15	3320	4640	3420	4870	3455	4940	3560	5200	3515	5060	3790	5610	3785	5600	4350	6685
Dec 13	3265	4530	3480	4995	3545	5120	3525	5125	3595	5215	3750	5535	3820	5670	4390	6775
Dec 20	3445	4890	3675	5375	3740	5500	3780	5660	3765	5560	3900	5830	4040	6115	4610	7215
Dec 27	3205	4405	3350	4725	3415	4855	3525	5125	3500	5030	3605	5235	3750	5525	4320	6625
2019 Departure Dates																
Jan 17, Feb 14	3145	4285	3355	4740	3380	4780	3480	5045	3480	4985	3580	5190	3625	5280	4195	6380
Mar 7, 21, 28, Apr 4	3345	4690	3420	4870	3455	4940	3620	5320	3625	5280	3810	5655	3840	5710	4390	6775
Apr 25*	3525	5045	3595	5220	3725	5480	3770	5630	3790	5655	4115	6305	3925	5875	4470	6925
May 2*	3345	4690	3535	5100	3570	5170	3620	5320	3660	5345	4020	6065	3840	5710	4390	6775
May 9, 16, 23, 30																

RATES TO BE ADVISED

Tel Aviv: (C) Club Room/Exec. Lounge Access (P-E) Premium Sea View/Exec. Lounge Access (DSV) Deluxe Sea View Room (DCL) Deluxe Room, City View/King David Crown Lounge Access (E) Exec. Room Sea View/Exec. Lounge Access Jerusalem: (D-E) Deluxe Renovated Room/Exec. Lounge Access (OC) Superior Room, Old City View (OE) Orient Room, Exec. Lounge Access (D) Deluxe Room (DOC) Deluxe Old City View Room

UPGRADES IN JERUSALEM & TEL AVIV (Per Room, Total Stay):

- ▲ King David - Jerusalem: Upgrade from Standard Room to Deluxe New City Room \$260
- David Citadel - Jerusalem: Upgrade from Superior Room to Deluxe Pool View/Old City View Room \$300
- Carlton - Tel Aviv: Upgrade to Executive Sea View Room \$116

* Revised touring due to holiday. Please inquire for Special rates for child or adult as third in room.

Tour is guaranteed on a minimum of 4 passengers. Should the tour fall below 4 passengers, you'll be offered the option of touring by Share-a-car at a supplement of \$495 per person (3 persons minimum)

FOR HOTEL DESCRIPTIONS AND DETAILS ON OUR MIX & MATCH HOTEL PLANS, SEE PAGES 8-10. FOR TOURING BY PRIVATE CAR, SEE PAGE 42.