

ISRAEL TRIP

JUNE 3-13, 2013

Day 1: Mon

Depart from USA for your overnight flight to Israel. Meals served on board.

Day 2: Tues

Arrive Ben Gurion Airport. Transfer to your hotel in Jerusalem the **Leonardo Plaza**. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 3: Weds

We begin the day at the Western Wall (Kotel). We visit the **Davidson Archaeological Center** to understand the Holy City before the Roman destruction. We walk through the excavations below the Temple Mount and travel underground as we come as close as humanly possible to the site of the Holy of Holies in the **Rabbinic Tunnels**. Visit the **Jewish Quarter**, a visual and architectural delight; explore the underground wonders of the **Herodian Quarter** a complete residential quarter preserved with mosaic floors, frescoes, ritual baths and cisterns and **Burnt House**. Tour the excavated Cardo, once a main shopping street of ancient Jerusalem. End your sightseeing today with a visit to the **Citadel Museum at David's Tower**, to learn more about Jerusalem's 3000 years of history. Overnight **Leonardo Plaza Hotel**. (B)

Day 4: Thurs

Our day of touring begins with a drive through the **Judean Desert**, stopping at the **Qumran Caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Drive to the **Ein Gedi oasis** along the shores of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, then to **Masada**. Ascend by cable car to view the last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. Visit the excavations, Herod's Palace, synagogue and bathhouses. Then on to the Dead Sea for an amazing experience in one of the world's natural wonders. Overnight **Leonardo Plaza Hotel**. (B)

Day 5: Fri

Morning drive to the world-renowned **Israel Museum**, visit the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea scrolls are on display and see **scale model** of the Old City from the time of King Herod. Proceed to **Yad Vashem** Memorial to the six million martyred Jews of the Holocaust. Walk along the Street of the Righteous, dedicated to those non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish lives during the Second World War. Continue via **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery**, where Israel's heroes are buried (Herzl, Meir and Dayan, among others). In the evening we return to the Kotel where we welcome the Shabbat and celebrate with dinner and zmirot (songs) at the hotel in Jerusalem. Overnight **Leonardo Plaza Hotel**. (B.D)

Day 6: Sat

Beginning with Shabbat services at Hebrew Union College we are treated to a special lunch afterwards at the beautiful courtyards of the campus. At night enjoy the sights, sounds and shopping of vibrant Ben Yehudah Street. Overnight **Leonardo Plaza Hotel.** (B)

Day 7: Sun

We begin today with a visit to the ancient city of **Caesarea**. Explore the excavated Roman and Crusader ruins, including the Roman Theater, Aqueduct and Crusader Fortress. Continue up the Mediterranean Coast to the sparkling port city of **Haifa**, driving atop Mount Carmel for a panoramic view of Haifa Bay and a view of golden-domed Bahai Shrine in Haifa. Drive north along the coastal road to the timeless Crusader city of **Acre**. Tour the subterranean city with its labyrinth of alleys, winding streets and bazaars that date to the Middle Ages. Continue to the northernmost point of Israel at **Rosh Hanikra**. Descend by cable car into the limestone grottoes. On to Tiberias nestled on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for overnight at the **Leonardo Plaza Hotel.** (B)

Day 8: Mon

A morning visit to **Safed**, center of Jewish mysticism since the Middle Ages. Tour the ancient synagogues and walk through the winding cobblestone streets of its charming Artist's Quarter. In the afternoon we visit **Tel Dan and Banias**, one of Israel's most beautiful natural sights and source of the Jordan River. On to the **Golan** and a visit to **Katzrin** and the Golan Winery. Back to Tiberias for overnight at the **Leonardo Plaza Hotel.** (B)

Day 9: Tues

Morning visit to the **tomb of Maimonides** and the ancient synagogue of **Hamat Tiberias**. Driving via the Jordan Rift we stop in **Beit Shean** and visit one of the largest excavated Roman cities including its beautiful Amphitheater. On to **Beit Alpha** and **Tzipori/Sepphoris** to see some of the most beautiful Jewish mosaics from the Byzantine period. Overnight **Herods Hotel Tel Aviv.** (B)

Day 10: Weds

Start the day exploring the highlights of Tel Aviv. Relive history as you visit **Independence Hall**, where David Ben Gurion proclaimed the birth of the State of Israel. Then to picturesque **Neve Zedek**, one of the first neighborhoods of Tel Aviv. End the day with a visit to **Old Jaffa**, where Jonah set sail. We share a special meal together at the **Maganda restaurant** and then on to the airport for late night flight back to Los Angeles. (B.D)

Day 11: Thurs

Morning arrival at Los Angeles International Airport.