

# ISRAEL TRIP • JUNE 8-20, 2014

## Day 1: Sun

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

## Day 2: Mon

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

## Day 3: Tues

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: Weds

Experience the biblical landscapes park at **Neot Kedumim**; take part in a shepherding workshop. At the **Latrun** IDF Armored Corps center, review (or climb on) the tanks and learn about battles fought there for the road to Jerusalem. At the "Dig for a Day" program at **Beit Guvrin**, have a hands-on experience of archaeology as you uncover actual artifacts while taking part in an ongoing archeological dig. A visit to the **Israel Museum** and 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. **Leonardo Plaza Hotel**. (B)

## Day 5: 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 6: Fri

Morning B'nai Mitzvah service at Kotel, followed by a visit to the world-renowned **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 7: Sat**

Beginning with Shabbat services in Jerusalem. Enjoy Shabbat menukha/Shabbat rest, or enjoy a stroll through the streets of Jerusalem. At night enjoy the sights, sounds and shopping of vibrant Ben Yehudah Street. Overnight **Leonardo Plaza Hotel**. (B, L)

### **Day 8: Sun**

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 **Tzipori/Sepphoris** to see some of the most beautiful Jewish mosaics from the Byzantine period. 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. **Leonardo Plaza Hotel Tiberias**. (B)

### **Day 9: Mon**

In the morning 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. Visit to the **tomb of Maimonides** and the ancient synagogue of **Hamat Tiberias**. **Leonardo Plaza Hotel Tiberias**. (B)

### **Day 10: Tues**

On to the coast and 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. A visit to the northernmost coastal point of Israel at **Rosh Hanikra**, descend by cable car into the limestone grottoes. We end the day with in 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. **Dan Carmel Haifa**. (B)

### **Day 11: Weds**

Drive south along the coastal road down the Mediterranean coast. A visit to **Zikhron Ya'akov**, one of the first Jewish settlements established by the Halutzim/Jewish pioneers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A beach horseback ride followed by lunch at the beautiful **Moshav Havatzelet HaSharon**. Then on to the ancient city of **Caesarea**. Explore the excavated Roman and Crusader ruins, including the Roman Theater, Aqueduct and Crusader Fortress. Overnight **Herods Tel Aviv**. (B)

### **Day 12: Thurs**

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. A visit to the **Palmach Museum**, one of Israel's newest treasures. 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 13: Fri**

Morning arrival at Los Angeles International Airport.