



VIP Israel – Value Tour

1

Monday, June 27, 2011 (VIP & Transfer)

Welcome

- Touchdown at **Ben Gurion International Airport**.
- After clearing passport control, a **VIP Israel** representative will be waiting to welcome you. He will facilitate luggage identification and handling; then escort you to your awaiting vehicle.
- Ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Upon your first view of the eternal **Holy City**, stop for a moment of reflection and prayer. Participate in an age-old tradition by saying the “*Shehecheyanu*” blessing just as pilgrims have done throughout history as they approached Jerusalem.
- Check into the Hotel.
- Enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure.
- You may wish to have a “dine around evening” on your own. **Jerusalem** is a kaleidoscope of different cultures, tastes and cuisines; choose from one of many wonderful restaurants for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

- After breakfast, we start our adventure with a tour of the amazing **City of King David**. Begin with a breathtaking observation overlooking Biblical Jerusalem and observe 3,800 years of history dating back in time to the days of Abraham, when the first foundations of the city were laid. The journey quickly heads underground to some of the **newest archaeological excavations** at the site. Here, while exploring the recently excavated fortresses and passageways, you will **relive King David's conquest of the Jebusite city** as described in the 2nd Book of Samuel.
- Stop and say a prayer at the Tomb of King David. A solemn tomb, which also contains the torah 'crowns' from communities destroyed in the Holocaust.
- Descend to the archaeological discoveries excavated in the **Western Wall Tunnels**. Inside, a most interesting model shows the different dwelling periods and history of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Stand on the site believed to be the nearest spot to the "Holy of Holies".
- Enjoy a guided walk of the **Jewish Quarter** that was reconstructed after the city was unified at the conclusion of the Six-Day War in 1967. A special point of interest in the restored **Jewish Quarter** is the "*Cardo*", meaning the "*heart*" of this ancient Byzantine City. View the unearthed main Roman thoroughfare and ancient marketplace lined with columns.
- Stop by the Tzemach Tzedek Shul, established by the Chassidim of the Tzemach Tzedek. It is the only shul that survived the War of Independence.
- Also visit the **Four Sephardic synagogues** founded in 1588, the oldest of of the four known as the "Eliyahu HaNavi" Synagogue- supposedly, according to tradition, Eliyahu the Prophet appeared during Yom Kippur to be the 10th member of a minyan. Ever since a chair has been reserved specifically for his next appearance.
- Visit the excavated ruins of a "Burnt House" that was part of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. These burned ruins remained undisturbed until they were uncovered in the 1970s.
- You may wish to have dinner at the **Alrov Mamilla Avenue shopping mall** with over 140 businesses, including international names like Rolex, MAC, H. Stern, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nautica, bebe, and Tommy Hilfiger, as well as local chains like Castro, Ronen Chen, Steimatzy Books, and Cafe Rimon. The mall is also slated to house an IMAX theatre. The first Gap store in Israel opened in Fall 2009.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

3

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Jerusalem

- After breakfast, visit the new **Yad Vashem Museum**, which was completed in the spring of 2005, a memorial to the six million innocent victims of the Holocaust. Located on **Har Hazikaron**, the Mount of Remembrance, in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a vast, sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials. (Children under 10 years of age not permitted entrance).
- Continue on to visit the famous and remarkable **Israel Museum**. On the premises and housed in a specially built structure is an architectural masterpiece, The Shrine of the Book, where you will be able to view the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Tour Mt. Herzl's new museum dedicated to the life of Theodore Herzl. At Mt. Herzl, visit the gravesites of Prime Minister Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and others.
- Learn about the heroism in the 1967 battle for the liberation of Jerusalem at Ammunition Hill. Once it was a Jordanian army camp, but became a symbol of bravery in honor of the Israeli soldiers' heroic efforts during the Six-Day War.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

4

Thursday, June 30, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Jerusalem

- After breakfast, experience the **Tish Family Zoological Garden (the Biblical Zoo)** in Jerusalem and see animals that are referred to in the Bible. This modern zoo has the animals roaming freely in enclosures remnant of their natural habitat and not in cages. Located on the slope of one of Jerusalem's mountains, there are numerous corners for visitors to come in close contact with some of the less dangerous animals. This is a **fun place for the whole family**, especially for the children.
- Next visit **Ein Yael**, which is a Living Museum nestled between the Jerusalem Hills in the picturesque Rafaim Valley. It serves as a vibrant tribute to the rich 4,000-year history of the day-to-day life in the old Jerusalem era.
- Take some time to orientate yourself with Jerusalem. Spend the afternoon touring the neighborhood streets of **Meah Shearim, Nachlaot, Rechavia, Yemin Moshe** and the German Colony to see Jerusalem's oldest and most unique neighborhoods.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

5

Friday, July 01, 2011 (Guide & Armored Vehicle)

Chevron

- After breakfast, visit the famous and remarkable **Israel Museum** to visit **The Shrine of the Book**, where you will be able to view the **Dead Sea Scrolls** housed in a specially built structure - an architectural masterpiece. Also on the museum grounds is a **huge outdoor model of Jerusalem** during the second temple period, you don't want to miss this.
- Enjoy a walk & test your "Israeli bargaining skills" at the **Machne Yehuda Shuk (open market)**.
- Spend the afternoon shopping and check out 'Meah Shearim', Jerusalem's ultra orthodox neighborhood, where you'll experience a typical hectic Friday afternoon.

Toward evening – WELCOME SHABBAT AT THE KOTEL

- As the sun sets, preparations will be made for welcoming the Shabbat with prayers and dancing at the Kotel. As you enter the Old City, look around and notice how people from all corners of the world enter through the various Gates with one purpose in mind – to welcome the Shabbat Bride at the holiest place on earth.
- Enjoy a festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel dining room.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

6

Saturday, July 02, 2011 (Free Day)

Shabbat Shalom

- In the morning, attend services at the Tzemach Tzedek Shul in the Old City or The Great Synagogue, or a shul of your choice.
- Have a Shabbat lunch buffet at the hotel dining room.
- The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.
- As Shabbat expires, participate in a moving Havdallah service at your hotel.
- After Shabbat, you may choose to take a walk down Ben Yehuda Street. On Saturday nights, Ben Yehuda Street is one of the favorite gathering places for many young Jerusalemites. There are many artists displaying their jewelry and crafts, as well as many wonderful sidewalk cafes, ice creameries and restaurants.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem, Prima Kings

7

Sunday, July 03, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Dead Sea

- After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and depart to the **Dead Sea** area, traveling south through the Judean Wilderness.
- Arrive at **Masada**. Ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car, or for the more daring, ascend the snake path just as the Jews did thousands of years ago.
- Explore the ancient remains of the fortifications, King Herod's palace, storerooms and baths. Discuss the terrible dilemma faced by its Jewish population during Roman times with your guide. Descend by cable car or on foot via the old Roman Ramp, or the snake path.
- Take in the beauty of the natural **Ein Gedi Waterfall**. Experience a small slice of heaven as you hike along a waterfall oasis whose beauty exudes vibrant colorful hues.
- Continue along the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, and a rich source of minerals for export. Take a **swim or 'float'** and let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else, but the sea and the salt all around you.
- Toward the evening, visit **'Eretz Beresheit' / Genesis Land**; to enjoy **camel tour & traditional desert dinner**.

OVERNIGHT: Dead Sea, Isrotel

8

Monday, July 04, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Tel Aviv

- After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and depart toward Tel Aviv.
- Move on to view the White City of Tel Aviv, whose outstanding architecture blends the various trends of the Modern Movement and town planning in the early part of the 20th century.
- Browse the shops and experience the unique flavor of the famous Dizengoff St. Visit "HaCarmel" market for the fresh fruits and vegetables of Tel Aviv.
- Nearby is a flourishing **Shuk Hapishpeshim**, where you can test your bargaining power and pick up a few souvenirs and gifts from the array of old, new, antique and odd objects on sale. These range from furniture, pottery, brassware, rugs and clothing.
- Enjoy a Mediterranean swim on a glorious **Tel Aviv beach**.
- Visit the old Jaffa Port that was the most important port during ancient times. Through this port the cedars from Lebanon were imported in order to build Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.
- Browse through the artist colony and the galleries of old Jaffa.

OVERNIGHT: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

- After breakfast, visit the ancient city of **Caesarea**, built by Herod the Great and once the seat of Roman rule. Drop it to the Caesarea Harbor Project where a fascinating cinematic exhibition will take you on an enchanted voyage through the history of Caesarea.
- Along the route, you will be exposed to the various civilizations that ruled the city, including the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Crusaders.
- On to the **Caesarea National Park**, which contains an impressive Roman Amphitheatre, the Hippodrome (a horse racing arena that could seat 20,000); also a giant headless statue on Byzantine Street and the Roman Aqueducts.
- Further along the coastline, visit the ancient city of **Acco**, 14 miles above Haifa and once known as the Crusaders capital of the north. This city is almost 4,000 years old. Walk on the city walls to the harbor, and then through the colorful markets to visit the huge, cool, yet spooky Subterranean Crusader Halls. Explore gates, towers, tunnels and secret passageways.
- Situated above these halls is the notorious Acco Prison that was built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison Jewish underground fighters during their struggle against British rule. See a model of a mass escape of over 200 prisoners in May 1947, later made famous by the movie Exodus.
- Tour the ancient, magnificently excavated city of **Tzippori**, home to Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi. Revel in the beautiful mosaics and other finds from the time of the Mishna. Visit a 4,500 seat Roman theatre, the Nile Mosaic building and the giant underground waterworks.
- Take a sunset cruise on the Kinneret in **Tiberius**.

OVERNIGHT: Tiberius, Kibbutz Lavi

10

Wednesday, July 06, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Tzfat

- After breakfast, visit **Tiberius**, the capital of the Galilee, which is located on the shores of **Lake Kinneret**. Interred there are Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Meir Baal HaNess and many other outstanding Sages.
- Visit **Tzfat's** restored Old City including the artists' colony. **Tzfat** has much to offer in the way of art galleries, gift-shops and restaurants found tucked away amongst the winding, cobblestone streets and take a dip in the famous **Mikveh of the Ari z"l** in the mystical city.
- See the **unique synagogues** such as the Ari Sephardi, Ari Ashkenazi, Ari Beit Midrash, Caro Synagogue, Abuhav synagogue (built in 1490) and many more.
- Stop by **Tzfat's famous candle shop** and visit art and sculpture galleries.
- On **Mount Canaan**, overlooking scenic **Tzfat**, visit the exciting new visitors' center – **Otzar HaStam**. The center, the only one of its kind in the world, opens a window to the fascinating world of "**Stam**" – the ancient art and tradition of the Jewish Scribes, writing Sifrei Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzot.
- Join a discussion on **kabbalah** with **Rabbi Leiter**, director of '**Ascent of Tzfat**', the center for Jewish Mysticism in **Tzfat** and the **Galilee**. You will enjoy the relaxing atmosphere in the enclosed courtyards, shaded by canopies of grape vines and take in a fantastic view from the roof overlooking **Mount Meron** and the **Galilean Hills**.
- **Enjoy Dinner and Farbrengen** at Ascent of Tzfat.

OVERNIGHT: Tiberius, Kibbutz Lavi

11

Thursday, July 07, 2011 (Transfer)

Farewell

- After breakfast, we will transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for the departure flight home.
- A VIPIsrael representative will be waiting to assist you in your departure from Israel.

Begin planning your next VIPIsrael adventure!!!!