

## **Sample itinerary: 11 days**

### **DAY 1 - JERUSALEM**

Arrive Israel. Overnight in Jerusalem.

### **DAY 2 - JERUSALEM**

See the panorama of Jerusalem's Old City from atop Mount Scopus. Enter the walled Old City's Zion Gate. Visit the restored Jewish Quarter, whose Cardo was the "heart" of Jerusalem during Roman hegemony. See the Old Yishuv Court Museum and visit the excavated Herodian Mansions, their mosaics, friezes and mikvahs intact after 2,000 years. Descend to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and walk through the Western Wall tunnels to the Old City bazaars. Finish your tour at the Tower of David Museum in the ancient Citadel.

### **DAY 3 – JERUSALEM**

See the Jerusalem Theatre and Bet Hanassi (home of Israel's president), and the leafy streets of the German Colony. See the giant bronze Menorah outside the Knesset, Israel's parliament, en route to the magnificent Supreme Court complex. Spend time in the famed Israel Museum, whose *Shrine of the Book* houses the Dead Sea Scrolls.

### **DAY 4 – JERUSALEM**

See the Chagall Windows at the Hadassah Medical Center, then visit Yad Vashem, Israel's Museum and memorial to the Holocaust. Continue to Mount Herzl, and visit the graves of Theodor Herzl, Yitzhak Rabin and Israel's fallen heroes. Visit Mea Shearim, which is evocative of the shtetls of Eastern Europe, as well as the colorful Mahane Yehuda Market.

### **DAY 5 - DEAD SEA**

Descend through the harsh Judean Desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Ascend Masada by cable car and tour the remains of Herod's palace-fortress, where in 73 C.E., the Zealots chose suicide rather than surrender to Rome. Spend the afternoon at a Dead Sea spa. Overnight at the Dead Sea.

*AFTC would like to thank the Israel Ministry of Tourism for providing information and assistance.*

## **DAY 6 – GALILEE**

Pass the oasis of Jericho and follow the Jordan Valley north to the Galilee. Visit the vast Roman city of Bet Shean and the gardens of Bet Gabriel on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Ascend the Golan Heights, with its kibbutzim and world-class winery. Admire the view of the Sea of Galilee, and spend the night at a hotel on shore or in the Galilee hills.

## **DAY 7 - GALILEE**

Drive to Zippori, a major city 1,500 years ago, where some of the world's finest mosaics were recently unearthed, including the "Mona Lisa of Israel". See the 2,000 year-old catacombs and sarcophagi of Beth Shearim. This afternoon, how about a rafting trip on the River Jordan? Tonight, dinner in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

## **DAY 8 - AKKO/HAIFA**

Morning drive to Safed, one of Judaism's four holy cities. Wander its attractive lanes to ancient synagogues and artists' studios. Cross the Galilee to Akko (Acre), the ancient Crusader stronghold. See the underground Crusader City, the Mediterranean battlements and exotic markets. Drive on to the port city of Haifa, upon the slopes of the biblical Mount Carmel. See the magnificent Bahai Gardens, Israel's "eighth wonder of the world." Overnight in Haifa.

## **DAY 9 - CAESAREA/TEL AVIV**

Visit Atlit Camp, where the British incarcerated Holocaust survivors, then drive down the coast of the Mediterranean to Caesarea with its Roman amphitheatre, Crusader fortress and Turkish Port. Visit Zichron Yaacov, a town founded by the Rothschilds in the 19th century, then continue to Tel Aviv, Israel's largest metropolis.

## **DAY 10 - TEL AVIV**

Experience Tel Aviv's major sites and moods. See the dazzling New Opera House - part of the Golda Meir Center for the Performing Arts. Visit the Tel Aviv Museum. Admire the Art Deco and Bauhaus architecture of Rothschild Boulevard and the revitalized Neve Tzedek. Visit Independence Hall where, in 1948, David Ben Gurion declared the State of Israel. And visit the beautifully restored 4,000-year-old city of Jaffa with its cobblestoned streets lined with artists' galleries and boutiques. Discover the bustling Teyelet promenade, abuzz with cafes, entertainment and crowds. Overnight in Tel Aviv.

## **DAY 11**

Depart home, or continue your vacation in Israel with a journey south to the Negev Desert and the resort of Eilat on the Red Sea.

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