# Jewish Tour Itinerary

# Thursday - Day 1

### Independence Hall/ Latrun/ Beit Guvrin/ Ayalon Institute

Start the day with a visit to the Independence Hall where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared. Next, drive to Latrun to visit the Armored Corps memorial museum, also considered as one of the most diverse tank museums in the world. Continue to Beit Guvrin national park, declared by UNESCO as a world heritage site. Explore parts of the archaeological remains and unique caves. Proceed to Ayalon Institute, once a secret underground ammunition factory established by the Haganah, the Jewish underground movement, before May 1948. Overnight stay in Tel-Aviv.

# Friday - Day 2

# Tel-Aviv/ Diaspora museum/ Tel Aviv museum of art/ Old Jaffa

We will visit the Diaspora museum, or the Tel Aviv museum of art. Drive around the main streets of Tel Aviv, center of business and entertainment of Israel. Also known as the White City, Tel-Aviv was declared by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage site for its Bauhaus style buildings. Stop at Rabin Square, place of assassination of Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin. Continue to Old Jaffa, one of the oldest port cities in the world; Visit the ancient ruins and walk along the Artists Quarter. Drive via Neve Tzedek, the first neighborhood of Tel Aviv, built in 1887 and Nahalat Benyamin, the pedestrian mall of the city where you can enjoy live street music, arts, crafts and handmade jewelry. Overnight stay in Tel-Aviv.

### Saturday - Leisure day in Tel Aviv.

### Sunday - Day 3

### Caesarea/ Haifa / Acre/ Rosh Hanikra

Drive north to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of the region; see the excavations of the Crusaders city, the aqueduct and the amphitheater that has been restored as a concert venue. Proceed to Haifa to visit the Clandestine Immigration and Naval museum and hear the story of the illegal immigrants who came to Israel at the time of the British mandate. Drive to Acre, the Old City recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site; walk through the old port and local market. Continue to Rosh Hanikra; descend by cable car into the underwater grottoes and admire the spectacular natural formation.

Overnight at a Kibbutz guesthouse or hotel.

### Monday - Day 4

# Jeep tour/ Safed/ Golan Heights/ Tel-Hai

Drive to Safed, one of the four holy cities in Israel, center of the Kabbalah movement; visit the Ari synagogue; stroll through the narrow alleyways and visit the picturesque Artists quarter. Next, enjoy a Jeep tour at the foot of the Golan. Continue to the Golan Heights; stop at Gadot overlook, the memorial for the fallen of the Golan, located over former Syrian bunkers; view the monument built in honor of the Alexandroni brigade. Proceed for a magnificent observation point over the city of Quneitra, and the Syrian territory. Drive to Tel-Hai; see the "Roaring Lion" monument and learn about the heroic battle of Joseph Trumpeldor and his comrades in 1920. Overnight at a Kibbutz guesthouse or hotel.

#### <u>Tuesday - Day 5</u> Beit Shean/ Beit Alpha/ Gan Hashlosha/ Jerusalem

Drive through the Jordan valley to Beit Shean, known as Scythopolis, and see the fascinating excavated remains from Roman and Byzantine periods. Stop at Beit Alpha to admire the beautiful mosaic floor of an ancient synagogue discovered in 1929. Visit Gan Hashlosha national park and enjoy the warm spring water pools and waterfalls. Continue via the Jordan valley to Jerusalem; stop at Mount Scopus for a blessing as you enter the city.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

### Wednesday - Day 6

#### Kotel tunnels/ Sepharadic synagogues/ Davidson center/ Tower of David

Visit the Tomb of King David on Mt. Zion. Walk along the Cardo, heart of the ancient Roman City; visit the four Sepharadic Synagogues restored after the 1967 war in the Jewish quarter; tour the Western Wall Tunnels; visit the archaeological park at Davidson Center; walk through the colorful local bazaar to visit the Tower of David museum presenting the history of Jerusalem and ancient remains of the city beginning with the first temple period.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

#### Thursday - Day 7

### Yad Vashem/ Mt. Herzl/ Ammunition Hill/ Israel Museum

Drive through Mea Shearim, one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem and learn about the unique lifestyle of the ultra orthodox communities. Proceed to Mount Herzl, the civil cemetery, and Yad Vashem the Holocaust Memorial. Visit the Ammunition Hill, a former Jordanian army stronghold, conquered by the Israeli army in the six day war, and converted into a national memorial site and museum. Drive by the Knesset, Israel's parliament and see the Menorah with the biblical emblems. Next, visit the Israel Museum, the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea scrolls are housed, and the Holyland model, a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the second temple period.

Overnight stay in Jerusalem.

### Friday - Day 8

#### Qumeran/ Masada/ Dead Sea/ Lunch and Spa

Drive through the Judean desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. Visit Qumeran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Continue to Masada, ascend by cable car and tour the mountain fortress built by King Herod the great, where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans; visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue and bathhouse; descend by cable car. Next, stop for Lunch and Spa facilities in one of the leading hotels in the area and enjoy a Swim in the mineral rich Dead Sea.