

Bar / Bat Mitzvah Tour

IsraelExperts Bar / Bat Mitzvah Tour - 11 nights/ 12 days
Tours starting on 23 June, 07 July, 11 August and 22 December

IsraelExperts

WEDNESDAY

ARRIVAL

Arrival to Ben Gurion Airport where you will be welcomed by your IsraelExperts representative. Transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Tonight we meet with the guide and all the participants and set expectations for the coming days. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Dinner and Overnight in Tel Aviv

THURSDAY

TEL AVIV/ PALMACH MUSEUM/ MINI ISRAEL/ AYALON INSTITUTE

We start with a visit to the Independence Hall. Relive the moment and hear David Ben Gurion declare the State of Israel. Palmach Museum an experimental museum covering the Palmach legacy through the stories of individuals. Drive to Mini-Israel for a visit "around Israel" and get to know the places we will be visiting during the trip. Continue with a visit to the Ayalon Institute, site of an underground bullet factory for the Haganah. See how they managed to keep the site secret even from the people living right above their heads.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

FRIDAY

TEL AVIV/ JAFFA/ NEVE TZEDEK

We start the day with a visit of the Diaspora Museum, where we will learn about the Jewish communities throughout the world prior to the creation of the State of Israel. At Rabin's Square, we will reflect on the impact of Itzhak Rabin assassination on Israel's current society. Continue to the Old City of Jaffa for a walking tour. Climb the sea walls and smell the Mediterranean air. This was the first site New Olim saw when they arrived to Eretz Israel. Walk the Artists Colony. The next stop is Neve Tzedek, where we will learn about the Birth of Tel Aviv and the people who made it happen. Stroll the arts and crafts fair of Nachlat Benyamin, the perfect place to find unique souvenirs and Judaica to take home. We end the day in trendy Sheinkin and make sure to relax sipping coffee with the locals in one of the many coffee houses. Enjoy a traditional Shabbat dinner at the hotel followed by Oneg Shabbat.

Shabbat dinner and overnight in Tel Aviv

SATURDAY

SHABBAT AT LEISURE IN TEL AVIV

Shabbat at leisure on your own. Join the locals on the beach or visit one of the many museums in Tel Aviv that are open on Saturdays.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

SUNDAY

CAESAREA/ HAIFA/ ACRE/ ROSH HANIKRA

We load our suitcases on the bus and drive north to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of the region. We will see the excavations of the crusaders' city, the aqueduct and the amphitheatre which has been restored as a concert venue. We proceed to Haifa for a panoramic view from Mt. Carmel, followed by a visit of the "Af al pi chen", the naval museum of the illegal immigration to Israel at the time of the British mandate. We then drive to Acre, where we will walk along the old harbor and local market. Continue to the northernmost point of Israel at Rosh Hanikra. Descend by cable into the limestone grottoes and watch the short movie to learn about Rosh Hanikra's historical significance during the War of Independence. Enjoy a Kibbutz dinner at the guest house.

Dinner and overnight at Kibbutz Lavi

MONDAY

SAFED/ JEEP TOUR/ GOLAN HEIGHTS/ BANIAS

We drive to Safed, center of the Kabbalah movement. We will attend a Kabbalah Art workshop in the studio of Avraham Loewenthal to learn about Kabbalah Art. We then will visit the Joseph Caro and the Ha'Ari synagogues, the most important synagogues in the city and stroll around the Artist's Quarter. A Jeep tour will take us to the foot of the Golan Heights. We stop at an observation point to see the destroyed city of Kuneitra and Syria. At Tel Facher, we will see the remains of this former Syrian army base. Visit the Banias springs, Israel's largest waterfall. Put your feet in the cold water to cool off. At Tel-Hai we will see the "Roaring Lion" monument and learn about the heroic battle of Josef Trumpeldor and his comrades in 1920. In the late afternoon or early evening we will meet with a Kibbutz member and learn about their unique lifestyle. Enjoy a Kibbutz dinner at the guest house.

Dinner and overnight at Kibbutz Lavi

TUESDAY

TIBERIAS/BEITSHEAN/BEIT/ALPHA/ SACHNE/JERUSALEM

We then drive to Tiberias to visit the grave of Rambam (Maimonides) the first person to write a systematic code of all Jewish Law. We then proceed to Beit Shean, also called "Scythopolis", the biggest archeological park in Israel with beautiful excavations from Roman and Byzantine periods. We stop at

Beit Alpha to see the gorgeous mosaic floor of a synagogue. We then will have the opportunity to enjoy the Sachne water springs located at the foot of Mt. Gilboa. The water is clear and refreshing. We continue via the Jordan valley to Jerusalem where we will stop at Mount Scopus for the She'HeCheyanu blessing.

Overnight in Jerusalem

WEDNESDAY

NEW JERUSALEM

We start the day with a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Holocaust. While many Holocaust museums exist throughout the world, Yad Vashem is unique as it tries to deal with the question of the Holocaust and the establishment of the State and the relationship between the two. We continue to Mt. Herzl where we will visit the Herzl Museum. Through this multi media presentation we will learn of the life of Theodore Herzl and his vision of Jewish State. We then visit his grave at Mt. Herzl, Israel's national military cemetery. Last stop today is a Mitzvah project (volunteering): (Magen David / Yad Sara / Yad LeKashish). Tonight meet the rabbi and prepare for the ceremony.

Overnight in Jerusalem

THURSDAY

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY/ OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

From our hotel, we head for the Walls of the Old City and to the Kotel. Together we celebrate our Bar / Bat Mitzvah ceremony at the Robinson's Arch, which is under the auspices of the United Conservative Movement - as our children pledge their loyalty to the Jewish present and future as they have their Aliyah to the Torah, bless it, read from it and share some personal words. After the ceremony, we visit the Southern Wall excavations, before continuing to the Davidson Center and the City of David. We enjoy a special BM celebratory lunch at a local restaurant. The remainder of the day, we enjoy the hustle and bustle of the Old City. We walk the Cardo and the Arab Shuk. Return to the hotel for fresh up, dinner on your own at 8PM we gather in the hotel lobby and the bus will take us to the Kotel Tunnels. Enjoy a guided tour of the famous tunnels, which is even more special when done at night.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Bar / Bat Mitzvah Tour continued

FRIDAY

MASSADA/ DEAD SEA LUNCH AND SPA

We drive through the Judean desert to the Dead Sea, where we will stop at Qumran, where The Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We then continue to Massada, the last stronghold of the Jews against the Romans. We ascend by cable car and will visit the remains of this ancient fortress. On top we will reflect on what we as contemporary Jews struggling to build a better future learn from Masada. Descend by cable car. Our next stop is Ein Gedi Spa on the shores of the Dead Sea for lunch and Spa time. We return to Jerusalem in time for Shabbat.

This is our last night together as a group and after a quick fresh up we meet at a hall of the hotel and discuss our experiences. Our bus will then drive us to the Kotel, where we will join the locals in the Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Return to the hotel is by foot (or you may take a taxi on your own account) Enjoy a traditional Shabbat Dinner at the hotel. Shabbat dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

SATURDAY

SHABBAT AT LEISURE IN JERUSALEM

Shabbat is at leisure on your own. Sleep in or go to the Kotel or join one of the local synagogues for Shabbat services (a list of synagogues is available on request) Optional walking tours in the old city and the neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Tonight you may want to go to Ben Yehuda to join the locals for some shopping. Overnight in Jerusalem

SUNDAY - DEPARTURE

The participants returning home - **Transfers to Ben Gurion** airport to board your return flight.

SUNDAY - OPTIONAL EXTENSION TRIP TO EILAT AND PETRA

Participants who choose to extend their trip to Eilat, after the check out, take the transfer to Sde Dov airport and board the morning flight to Eilat.

Check in at the hotel in Eilat. In the afternoon our representative in Eilat will pick you up from the hotel for a 2.5 hours Jeep tour at the "Arava " Wadis.

Overnight in Eilat.

MONDAY

EILAT - OPTIONAL DAY TRIP TO PETRA

Pick up from hotel at approx. 07:00AM and drive to the border. After assistance with visa to the Jordanian border, drive straight away to Petra through desert highways, your ultimate destination is the astonishing rose-red city of Petra which was built by the Nabateans (An early Arab Tribe). Petra was renowned for its massive architecture, pools, dams and water channels. Petra is the legacy of the Nabateans who settled in the South of Jordan more than two-thousands years ago. The visit begins with the possibility of a short horseback-riding for about 700 m. until the entrance of the "Siq", which is about

1.2 km long (walking distance). There is a possibility to rent a chariot (extra) to get inside Petra and back to the gate outside. Petra is famous for its huge monuments such as the Treasury, Royal tombs, the Court, Roman theatre, Roman Street, Qassier El- Bint (Palace of Pharaoh's daughter) and many other smaller monuments which fascinate the visitors. The city itself is almost 45 square km and is considered to be the second wonder of the world. After the visit, time for lunch at a nice Restaurant. After lunch drive back to Border. On the way, a short visit to Aqaba with the possibility to stop and take a walk around. Transfer back to Israel to the border at around 6:00PM

Overnight in Eilat

TUESDAY

EILAT - DAY OF LEISURE

Enjoy the last day of the sunny Eilat for enjoining the beaches and water activities. Before leaving Eilat optional visit the Underwater Observatory, one of the largest Sea aquariums in the World. Check out and take a taxi on your own to the airport in Eilat for your flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival to Tel Aviv, take a taxi to the hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv.

WEDNESDAY

DEPARTURE

Transfer to Ben Gurion airport.

This tour is also available in Private Car. For further information, please contact us.