

JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR

FRIDAY ARRIVAL

9 NIGHTS

Friday

Ben Gurion Airport / Tel Aviv

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, where you will be met by a Rainbow Tours representative and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv.

Saturday

At Leisure

Overnight in Tel Aviv.

Sunday

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 amphitheatre which has been restored as a concert venue. Proceed to Haifa for a panoramic view from Mount Carmel and visit "AF AL PI CHEN", the naval museum of the illegal immigration to Israel at the time of the British mandate. Drive to Acre; walk along the old harbour and local market; continue to the northernmost point of Israel at Rosh Hanikra. Descend by cable car into the limestone grottoes.

Overnight at a Kibbutz guesthouse.

Monday

Safed / Tel Facher / Banias / Tel Hai

Drive to Safed, center of the Kaballa movement; visit the Joseph Caro and the Ha'Ari synagogues, the most important synagogues in the city; stroll around the Artist's quarter. Enjoy a Jeep tour at the foot of the Golan. Continue to the Golan Heights; stop at an observation point over the city of Kuneitra and the Syrian territory. Stop at Tel Facher, a former Syrian army camp; visit the Banias springs. Next, visit Tel Hai to see the "Roaring Lion" monument and learn about the heroic battle of Josef Trumpeldor and his comrades in 1920.

Overnight at a Kibbutz guesthouse.

Tuesday

Beit Shean / Beit Alpha / Gan Hashlosha / Jerusalem

Drive to Tiberias to visit Rambam's grave; proceed to Beit Shean, also called "Scythopolis", the biggest archeological park in Israel with beautiful excavations from the Roman and Byzantine periods. Stop at Beit Alpha to see the beautiful mosaic floor of a synagogue from the Byzantine period. Onto Gan Hashlosha, (Sachne) where you will have an opportunity to enjoy the water springs located at the foot of the Gilboa mountain, the famous mountain on which King Saul was killed in the battle against the Philistines. Continue via the Jordan valley to Jerusalem with a stop at Mount Scopus for a blessing as you enter the city.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Wednesday

Jerusalem: Old City

Tour the Old City of Jerusalem. Start with a visit of King David's Tomb on Mount Zion. Walk along the Cardo, the ancient Roman road; visit the four Sephardic synagogues restored after the 1967 war in the Jewish Quarter. Tour the Western Wall Tunnels; visit Davidson Center and walk through the Roman Cardo to the local Arab bazaar. Walk through Jaffa Gate to Tower of David Museum and see the ancient remains of the city beginning with the First Temple period.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Thursday

Jerusalem: New City

Enjoy seeing the Bar-Mitzvah Celebrations at the Kotel. Continue to Mea Shearim and learn about the unique lifestyle of the ultra orthodox communities. Drive by the Knesset, Israel's parliament and see the Menorah with the biblical emblems. Next visit the Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea scrolls are housed, and the new Holyland model – a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period. Drive to Mount Herzl, the military cemetery and Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust. Visit 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. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Friday

Qumran / Massada / Dead Sea

Drive through the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea. Stop at Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Continue to Massada, ascend by cable car and tour the ancient fortress; visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue, the bathhouses etc. Descend by cable car. Next stop for lunch and Spa facilities in one of the leading hotels in the area. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Saturday

At Leisure

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Sunday

Jerusalem / Ben Gurion Airport

After breakfast, transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for departure.