

“Israel: from past to present”

March 13th–29th, 2018

Tuesday March 13th – Departure from Kansas

Wednesday, Mar 14th Shalom and welcome to Israel, meeting and assistance at the airport, transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Subject to arrival time, we will visit Sarona (once a Templers settlement), Neve Tsedek and Old Jaffa. Check in and rest at our hotel, dinner after which we recommend to stroll along the beach board, next to your hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv. Leonardo Art hotel



Thursday, Mar 15th **TEL-AVIV.** Begin the day with a visit to the **Palmach Museum**. Continue with a tour of the **White City**, UNESCO World Heritage Site for its treasure of Bauhaus Architecture. The tour focuses on the modern architectural styles of the 1930's along Rothschild Boulevard. It is the story of Tel-Aviv, from its beginning to today and

is a wonderful opportunity to savor the experience of life in Tel-Aviv, in the past and the present. Visit the **Independence Hall** where David Ben Gurion established the State of Israel in 1948. In the afternoon, visit the old city of **Jaffa**, the picturesque **Flea Market**, archeological sites, the view of Tel Aviv from the Crest Garden and the renewed alleys of Old Jaffa. (If visited on the previous day, your guide will add a site).

Overnight: Tel Aviv.

Friday, Mar 16th **CAESAREA, ZICHRON YA'ACOV, ATLIT, HAIFA.** Depart Tel Aviv along the coastal road to visit the Roman port city of **Caesarea** and the Roman capital of ancient Israel. See the Roman Theater from the days of King Herod and Paul's imprisonment. We continue to **Zichron Ya'acov** – a sample of the story of Zionism and settlers from Europe. Proceed to **Atlit Detention Camp** and visit the museum dedicated to the pre-state illegal immigration, telling the story of Jews fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe. Continue to Haifa. If time permits – a possible visit to the IDF “Mini West Point” academy. Visit **Haifa** and the **Bahai Temple and Gardens**.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Bay Haifa



Saturday, Mar 17th **AKKO, KIBBUTZ, ROSH HANIKRA.** Driving north to **Akko** and visit the amazing underground Crusader city. Visit **Kibbutz Beit Haemek** for lunch and to learn about the Kibbutz life. In the afternoon, visit **Rosh Hanikra** with its beautiful grottos.

Overnight: Haifa

Sunday, Mar 18th **TZIPORI, NAZARET, TZFAT.** Visit **Tzipori**, the Mona Lisa of the Galilee, with the famous mosaic floor. Continue to **Nazareth** and visit the Church of the Annunciation. Enjoy a visit to the **city of Tzfatz**, world known as Kabbala Center. If time permits – visit **Misgav Am** observation point overlooking Lebanon. Proceed to our hotel in the upper Galilee.

Overnight: Leonardo Club Tiberias

Monday, Mar 19th **GOLAN HEIGHTS.** Visit **Banias** (Caesarea Philippi), **Gamla** nature reserve, the Golan Heights observation point at **Har Bental** and the **Valley of Tears**. See the movie about the fierce tank battle that took place here in 1973.

Overnight: Tiberias

Tuesday, Mar 20th **SEA OF GALILEE, JORDAN RIVER, QUMRAN, DEAD SEA.** Visit **Capernaum** the synagogue where Jesus preached, and the **Baptism site (Yardenit)**. Drive along the Jordan Valley and visit **Gesher**, a kibbutz that stopped the Iraqi army from invading Israel in 1948. Drive towards Dead Sea, stopping on the way at the **Jericho observation point**. Our last visit today will be - **Qumran** – the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found.

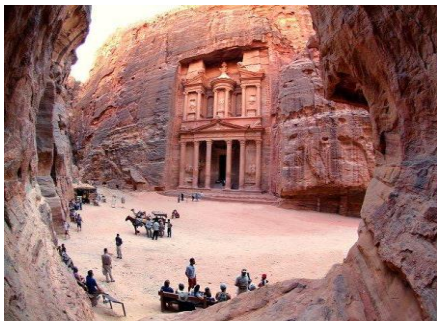
Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Dead Sea

Wednesday, Mar 21st **DEAD SEA.** Morning tour to **MASADA FORTRESS**, ascend and descend by cable car. Back to our hotel to enjoy the spa and the wonders of the sea. Maybe – a short hike at Ein Gedi nature reserve.

Overnight: Dead Sea

Thursday, Mar 22nd **EILAT.** We head south towards **Eilat on the shores of the Red Sea**. On the way – visit the **bird watching centre** of this unique spot. We also visit the **Timna Park** where King Solomon mines were found. Free time to enjoy the beach and the underwater observatory (optional).

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Eilat



Friday, Mar 23rd **EILAT or PETRA.** A free day at Eilat or take an **optional tour to Petra**, the Nabatean city carved in the red rocks of the desert, declared as one of the wonders of the world. Additional cost for trip to Petra is \$250 + \$125 for visa and border crossing fees.

Overnight: Eilat

Saturday, Mar 24th **INTO THE DESERT.** Morning drive to **Mitzpe Ramon** – the largest world erosion crater. Here we will learn the geological story behind this unique and amazing work of nature. The visitor centre also serves as a Museum and memorial for Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut who died in 2003 when the Shuttle Columbia disintegrated when re-entering the earth's atmosphere. Continue from here to **Sde Boker** to visit the hut of David Ben Gurion – the founder of the State of Israel and the stunning view from his tombstone site.

Overnight: Leonardo Jerusalem

Sunday, Mar 25th JERUSALEM. Begin the morning with a visit to the **Mt. of Olives** and the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Enter the **Old City** and see the **Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and the **oriental bazaar**. Continue to **Mt. Zion** with King David's Tomb and the the Room of the Last Supper. Afternoon visit to the **City of David**, the place Kind David set as his residence before taking the city. After dinner enjoy the **Sound & Light show** at the Tower of David.

Overnight – Leonardo Jerusalem



Monday, Mar 26th JERUSALEM. Today we visit the **Menorah** near the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) and proceed to **Yad Vashem** – the holocaust museum. We then experience the **Machne Yehuda colourful market**. Continue to The **Ammuniton Hill** where the fierce battle of the Six Day war took place. Then visit the **Western Wall** and the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City.

In the evening, enjoy watching Israelis dancing **Israeli folk dances**.

Overnight: Leonardo Jerusalem

Tuesday, Mar 27th JERUSALEM. Today we visit **Davidson Centre** – the archaeological park next to the temple mount. Continue through the **Wall Tunnel** and visit the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City. We will also visit the Shrine of the Book and the Jerusalem model from the Second Temple time at the **Israel Museum** and end the day at the **Herzl Museum**. On the way to the hotel we will stop to see the wall that separates between the city and the Palestinian area.

Overnight: Leonardo Jerusalem

Wednesday Mar 28th OUR LAST DAY OF TOURING. We bid farewell to Jerusalem. On the way, we stop at the **September 11th Memorial**, the largest of its kind outside the USA. Continue to **Beit Guvrin Maresha** caves, a shelter of the Jews who rebelled against the Greeks during first temple time and the Romans in the second temple time. Our last point will be the **Ayalon Institute**, which tells one of the fascinating and mysterious stories in the history of the struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Enjoy a farewell dinner in a typical Israeli home.

We are transferred to the airport for our 11:30pm overnight flight.

Thursday, Mar 29th -- Arrival home. You have just returned from a lifetime experience!