

honeymoon | israel
It's about the journey

LOS ANGELES

MARCH 3-13, 2022

March 3, 2022

Dear Honeymoon Israel Participants,

Welcome to Israel!

Congratulations and *Mazal Tov* for embarking on the Honeymoon Israel journey. We are confident that the next 9 days will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

Honeymoon Israel will be a fun, inspirational, meaningful, and provocative experience. You'll have the chance to see so much – from the beaches of Tel Aviv to the ancient stones of Jerusalem. We encourage you to open all of your senses and absorb the sites, sounds, tastes, and people of Israel.

Together with your partner, your Honeymoon Israel trip is part of a larger journey, that of building a family in whatever way is meaningful to you. As you establish the foundations of your family, we hope that Honeymoon Israel serves as a cornerstone that strengthens your connection to the Jewish people and Jewish life.

We look forward to accompanying you on your Honeymoon Israel journey and to staying connected and supporting you in the years ahead.

Enjoy and have a blast!

Best Wishes,

The Honeymoon Israel Team

ITINERARY

Day One: Thursday, March 3, 2022

ON THE WAY TO ISRAEL

- 2:00 p.m. Depart LAX on El Al Flight #5.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Friday, March 4, 2022

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Meet your tour educator at the airport.
- Drive to Tel Aviv.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Shabbat candle lighting** and **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming the Sabbath).
- **Private Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Three: Saturday, March 5, 2022

SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Shabbat reflection**, led by your group rabbi/educator, at the hotel.
- Together with the **SHLOFTA improvisation ensemble**, get to know one another through a fun, interactive workshop.
- Feel the Shabbat atmosphere as many Tel Aviv residents take a day's break from their busy work weeks. Enjoy the beauty of the sea and the urban setting of the city life.
- **Beginnings**: Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient **Jaffa**. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea; learn why Jaffa, mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, is so historically important; and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past.
- Lunch (*on own*), en route.
- Return to the hotel or enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure and return to the hotel on your own.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation** followed by a memorable **Havdallah service** (end of Shabbat) by the beach or at the hotel.
- Dinner (*on own*).

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Four: Sunday, March 6, 2022

THE ART IN THE HEART OF TEL AVIV

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- **What's Going on in Bohemian Tel Aviv?** Join an expert on Tel Aviv's alternative scene for an urban adventure. Explore the latest street art, slang, and graffiti and find out what they reveal about life, ideas, and ideology in Israel's cultural capital.
- **Ethnic Tasting Tour:** Eat, drink, and learn at **Levinsky Market**, where we'll sample food, sweets and spices from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East and try to figure out what is Israeli about Israeli food. This ethnic **tasting tour** doubles as a delicious **lunch**.
- Depart Tel Aviv and head north.
- Check into the hotel and enjoy **dinner**.

Overnight: Upper Galilee

Day Five: Monday, March 7, 2022

SERENITY AND SECURITY IN THE NORTH

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation.**
- ***The Syrians, the Soviets, and the Golan today:*** Our exploration of the role of the Golan Heights in Israel's history and security will include a visit to the former **Syrian military headquarters** in the area. Learn how this building, located near the abandoned Syrian town of **Kuneitra**, survived the brutal fighting that took place here in 1967 and 1973. We'll also find out what this structure has to do with the Soviet Union and the Israeli spy Eli Cohen, and hear about the impact of Syria's ongoing civil war in this area.
- Lunch (*on own*), en route.
- Drive to **Tsfat**, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years and a contemporary artists' colony. Here, we'll:
 - Explore the **Ari, Caro, or Abuhav Synagogue**, each with its great story and mystical messages.
 - Walk through the quaint **Artists' Colony**, its galleries, and craft shops.
 - Dialogue with **David Friedman**, a Tsfat artist inspired by Kabbalah.
- Return to the hotel and freshen up.
- Depart the hotel for a **dinner event and party.**

Overnight: Upper Galilee

Day Six: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

THE MOSAIC OF ISRAEL

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- **A Way Forward in the North:** Visit **Sindyanna of Galilee** and sample some of their award-winning olive oil. We'll learn how this non-profit organization is producing fine, fair-trade products and creating economic opportunities for Arab women, one of Israel's most underemployed sectors. The tour will include: talking with one of the **basket weavers** about her life and work. We'll see how she uses traditional and modern weaving techniques and find out how Arab and Jewish women are coming together to learn and revitalize this long-established local craft.
- Lunch (*on own*), en route.
- **A Boon or a Barrier to Peace?** As we drive south on the Trans-Israel Highway, there will be plenty of opportunities to see the **Security Barrier** which runs along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian territories and to learn about the barrier's effects on Israeli security and Palestinian communities.
- Ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem:** Upon entering the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, experience the convergence of the old and the new. Stop for an overlook of the city and recite the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Ask the Rabbi Session** with your Honeymoon Israel rabbis and educators.
- Dinner (*on own*) and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Seven: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

INTO THE DESERT: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Enjoy an early **breakfast** at the hotel before setting off to explore the **Dead Sea** region.
- **As Low as It Goes:** We'll drive to the **Dead Sea Basin**, 1412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape, and the views are breathtaking.
- **The Last Stand:** Climb via the Snake Path or take the cable car to the top of Masada with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE) before committing mass suicide. We'll descend the mountain via cable car.
- **Lunch and swim** at **Kalia**, Dead Sea. Go floating, rather than swimming, in the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- Drive back to Jerusalem and return to the hotel.
- Dinner (*on own*).

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Eight: Thursday, March 10, 2022

THE OLD CITY MAZE

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Israel in a Shifting Middle East:** Discuss Israel's strategic security environment with **Major (Res.) Dan Feferman**, a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute, a leading think-tank focusing on issues of importance to Israel and the Jewish people, and a former foreign policy and national security analyst, strategist and adviser in the IDF.
- Head toward the Old City.
- Discover the archaeological treasures and other highlights of the **Jewish Quarter:**
 - Ascend to the **rooftops** of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other.
 - Walk through the **Cardo** – the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th century, King Hezekiah's First Temple-period **Broad Wall**, and **Hurva Square** – the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
- Stop at the **Kotel** (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site.
- Free time to explore the Old City with lunch (*on own*).
- Continue to the fascinating medieval **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, venerated by many as the site of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation & Meet the Israeli couples joining the trip**
- **High Times in the Holy City:** Jerusalem at night provides a very different vision of the Holy City. Check out how the locals let their hair down during a **free evening** and explore Jerusalem nightlife, including dinner (*Option to dine with Israeli couples on own*).

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Nine: Friday, March 11, 2022

REMEMBERING OUR PAST, UNDERSTANDING OUR PRESENT

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**.
 - The **Historical Museum**.
 - The **Children's Memorial**.
- Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market, with lunch (*on own*).
- **Beyond Beautiful Braids**: In this **challah-baking workshop**, you'll learn some secrets to making challah that's crusty on the outside, and light and fluffy on the inside. Guided by a world-class chef at the Teamim Cooking School in the Mahane Yehuda Shuk (market), you can mix, knead, braid, and bake a stunning challah for Shabbat, or eat it fresh out of the oven, if you like.
- Return to the hotel with time to prepare for shabbat.
- **Shabbat candle lighting** and **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming the Sabbath).
- **Private Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with the other Honeymoon Israel group.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Ten: Saturday, March 12, 2022

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ***The Jewish Family – Thoughts and Reflections on Its Identity:***
Meet with **Avraham Infeld**, a leading Jewish educator, President Emeritus of **Hillel International**, and member of the **Honeymoon Israel** Board of Directors, at the hotel.
- Shabbat **picnic lunch** overlooking the Old City.
- Variety of walking tours around the old and new city of Jerusalem.
OR
- Free time to explore Jerusalem on own.
- Return to the hotel.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation**, followed by a memorable **Havdallah service** (end of Shabbat) overlooking the Old City or at the hotel.
- Light **farewell dinner** at the hotel.
- 8:00 p.m. Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight.

Overnight: Flight

Day Eleven: Sunday, March 13, 2022

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

- Flight

