

honeymoon | israel
It's about the journey

PHILADELPHIA

SEPTEMBER 1-11, 2022

September 1, 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

Day One: Thursday, September 1, 2022

DEPARTURE

- 9:00 p.m. Depart Newark on El Al flight #26 to Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Friday, September 2, 2022

ARRIVAL

- 2:25 p.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Meet your tour educator at the airport.
- Drive to **Jerusalem**.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem:** Over the centuries many have been moved and awed by their first sight of Jerusalem. We'll stop at the **Haas Promenade** for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the reciting of the traditional **"shehechyanu"** blessing of thanksgiving.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Shabbat candle lighting.**
- **Welcoming in the Sabbath** overlooking the Old City.
- **Private Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with other Honeymoon Israel groups.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Three: Saturday, September 3, 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.
- ***The Hearts Behind the Jerusalem Stone***: Experience Jerusalem's unique Shabbat atmosphere by taking a classic Shabbat walk through the city's Talbiya, Rehavia and Nahlaot neighborhoods. Pass through the Gan Sacher Park into Jerusalem's Capitol Hill." **Shabbat picnic lunch** near the **Israel Museum**.
- Explore the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum** which houses more than 5,000 years of cultural treasures. Among the highlights are the Archaeology Wing, with the most extensive collection of biblical artifacts in the world; the Jewish Art and Life Wing; the Fine Arts Wing; **the Sculpture Garden**; and the **open-air Model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple** period. Don't miss the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, considered the world's oldest existing biblical manuscripts.
- Return to the hotel by foot or by bus.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation**, followed by a memorable **Havdallah** service (end of Shabbat) overlooking the Old City or at the hotel.
- **Dinner (on own)** and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Four: Sunday, September 4, 2022

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ***Israel in the middle of the Middle East:*** Briefing with **Major. (Res.) Dan Feferman** from the **Jewish People Policy Institute**. For almost a decade, Dan has served as a foreign policy and national security analyst, strategist and adviser in the IDF General Staff; as a special assistant to the Deputy Chief of the General Staff; and as a commander in an elite intelligence unit of AMAN's Research and Analysis Division.
- Head towards the Old City.
- Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's **Old City**, beginning with the **Jewish Quarter**, and experience the center of Jewish life, history and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
 - A climb to the **rooftops** to see and discuss the ties and tensions between the different faith groups and communities of the Old City. From this one spot, we'll look out over the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, venerated by many Christian groups as the burial place of Jesus; the golden Dome of the Rock, which is sacred to Islam; and the Jewish Quarter's famous **Hurva Synagogue**.
 - King Hezekiah's "**Broad Wall**," a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
 - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
- **The Jerusalem Archaeological Park** is a large-scale excavation that has uncovered vital remnants of ancient Jerusalem. A particular highlight will be walking on the Southern Wall Steps used by Jewish pilgrims to enter the Temple 2,000 years ago. However, there is so much more to see, including Robinson's Arch, the remains of a major Second Temple-period street, and drainage tunnels used by Jewish fighters hiding from the Roman invaders.

- No visit to Israel is complete without experiencing the **Kotel** (Western Wall), widely considered to be Judaism's holiest site and each year over one million notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the Wall. We'll discuss the Wall's historical and contemporary importance and experience its unique atmosphere.
- At the end of the **Via Dolorosa** is the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, which many believe to be the site of Jesus' crucifixion; the church is one of Christianity's greatest pilgrimage sites and a testament to the remarkable diversity of the Christian world. It includes an empty tomb where it is said that Jesus was buried and resurrected.
- There will also be time to do some shopping while bargaining in the **Old City shuk** (market) as you walk through the Christian Quarter.
- Return to the hotel.

Option 1:

- **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 Market**, you can mix, knead, braid and bake a stunning challah for Shabbat or, if you like, eat it fresh out of the oven.

Option 2:

- **Night Market Tour:** Taste some local beers and other unique local specialties as you wander through the **Mahane Yehuda Market** at night.

Option 3:

- Dinner (*on own*) and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Five: Monday, September 5, 2022

INTO THE DESERT: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Enjoy an early **breakfast** at the hotel, checkout and set off to explore the **Dead Sea** region. Get ready for some amazing experiences in this unique natural environment.
- **As Low as It Goes:** We'll drive to the **Dead Sea Basin**, 1,412 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 the Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- Hike at **Nahal David**, part of the **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve**; this is a desert oasis with springs, waterfalls, and freshwater pools, so don't forget your swimsuits. Featured are the ibex, hyraxes and other desert mammals that live in this area. Nahal David is named after the biblical David, who fled here to escape from the murderous King Saul.
- **Muddy Good Fun:** Coat yourself in the famous **Dead Sea mud**, a time-honored tradition enjoyed by all ages. For thousands of years, it has been believed that the mud and minerals of the Dead Sea have special healing and beauty qualities. See and feel for yourself. We'll also enjoy a **buffet lunch**.
- Return to the hotel.
- Afternoon and evening at leisure.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Six: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

REMEMBERING OUR PAST, UNDERSTANDING OUR PRESENT

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Checkout of the hotel.
- *The Art of Tikkun Olam*: Meet elderly, often impoverished, immigrants who are finding a sense of purpose and creating beautiful artwork at **Yad LaKashish** (Lifeline for the Elderly). We'll hear personal stories and see the ageing artisans in action, talk with those running this inspirational organization, and check out the fabulous giftshop that supports this endeavor. *Yad LaKashish program is supported by Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.*
- Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the **Shoah**.
 - The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
 - The **Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
 - A **memorial service** where we'll pay tribute to those who were lost. It will include the opportunity to talk about family members and loved ones who died during the **Shoah**.
- As we drive north through the **Jordan Valley**, we'll discuss the strategic and political situation in this area and consider how Israeli control over it is viewed by some as vital to national security but by others as an impediment to any future agreement with the Palestinians.
- Check into the hotel followed by **dinner**.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation**.

Overnight: Kibbutz HaGoshrim, Upper Galilee

Day Seven: Wednesday, September 7, 2002

SERENITY AND SECURITY IN THE NORTH

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, or maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city, but in any case upon entering **Tsfat (Safed)**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish while not quite of this world. Here you'll:
 - Visit one of the city's ancient synagogues.
 - Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the **Artists' Colony** with its galleries, shops, and studios.
 - Meet with **David Friedman**, a Tsfat artist inspired by Kabbalah.
- Lunch (on own), en route.
- Explore Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights**. While overlooking the Hula Valley from former Syrian fortifications discuss the challenges Israel faced leading up to the **1967 Six-Day War**. Cross the Golan plateau to the border with Syria and view the abandoned city of **Kuneitra** and the nearby United Nations outpost, for an insight into the experiences in the **1973 Yom Kippur War**.
- **Cool Off Down the Jordan River:** With the hot weather, it's time to take to the water with **rafting** or **kayaking** down the Jordan River. This is the dry and arid Middle East and not the Rockies, so the current is mainly calm and suitable for ages five and up. Water shoes are recommended.
- Return to the hotel and freshen up.
- Depart the hotel for an Israeli **dinner event and party**.

Overnight: Upper Galilee

Day Eight: Thursday, September 8, 2022

THE MOSAIC OF ISRAEL

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by checkout.
- **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 a **Za'atar workshop** - mix some za'atar leaves, sesame seeds, sumac, olive oil and sea salt, and presto, you've produced one of the great spices of local Arab cuisine. We'll then combine our za'atar with Sindyanna olive oil and pita bread for a delicious manakish munch.
- Lunch on own.
- Head to Tel Aviv and check into the hotel.
- Ascend to the roof top of the **Dizengof Center** the largest shopping mall in center Tel Aviv, see the various sustainability programs in an effort to minimize their carbon foot print.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation** and meet the Israelis.
- Dinner (*on own*) and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Nine: Friday, September 9, 2022

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Navigate Your Way Through the Labyrinth of Israel Politics:** Join journalist **Tal Shalev**, chief political correspondent for **Walla! News**, one of Israel's largest news websites, for an introduction into the country's turbulent political scene where coalition governments and powerful ideological divisions are a fact of life.
- **What's Going on in Bohemian Tel Aviv?** Join an expert on Tel Aviv's alternative scene for an urban adventure as you explore the latest street art, slang, and graffiti and discover what they reveal about life, ideas and ideology in Israel's cultural capital.
- Take a **tasting tour** through the trendy area where the colorful Carmel Market, Nachalat Binyamin pedestrian mall and Sheinkin Street meet in central Tel Aviv.
- Lunch (*on own*) and the rest of the afternoon at leisure.
- Meet at the lobby for **Shabbat Candle Lighting**.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** on the beach.
- **Private Shabbat dinner** with other Honeymoon groups at the hotel.
- **Oneg Shabbat** & Ask the Rabbi session.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Ten: Saturday, September 10, 2022

SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Shabbat reflection** at the hotel, led by your group rabbi/educator.
- Experience 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.

Option 1:

- **Celebrating Shabbat Tel Aviv Style:** Take in the Tel Aviv sites as you walk south toward Jaffa.
- Ascend from the port of **Old Jaffa** through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.

Option 2:

- Visit **ANU – Museum of the Jewish People**, the largest Jewish museum in the world, and join a fascinating journey that portrays the story of the Jewish people through the generations and up to the present time. The Museum represents all parts of the Jewish people and highlights the creative works and cultural riches of a variety of communities in different periods of history.

Option 3:

- Free time.

All:

- Lunch (*on own*), en route.
- Return to the hotel by bus or enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure and return to the hotel on your own.
- Late checkout.
- **Honeymoon Israel Conversation**, followed by a memorable **Havdallah service** (end of Shabbat) by the beach or at the hotel.
- Light **farewell dinner** at the hotel.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight.

Overnight: Flight

Day Eleven: Sunday, September 11, 2022

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

This trip is planned by a joint venture of Assaf Fried &



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