



GIL TRAVEL
Your Personal Link With The World

PRESTIGE ISRAEL TOUR 2012

12 DAYS | 10 NIGHTS | 8 TOURING DAYS

Monday - Arrival

On arrival at Ben Gurion airport, a Kenes representative will meet you and provide you with a **private transfer** to your hotel in Tel Aviv

Tuesday - Tel Aviv and surrounding area



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Touring will start with a visit to the **Ayalon Institute**; there is no doubt that the efforts of the Haganah members who worked in the secret factory under harsh conditions played a crucial role in the success of the War of Independence. Drive to Glilot Junction and visit the "**Better Place**" where Israeli electric cars are being developed. Tour the new Visitors Center and enjoy a multimedia show. Drive past **Rabin Square** – memorial to the late Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin who was assassinated during a peace rally in November 1995 and **Rothschild Boulevard**. The Boulevard is full of examples of Bauhaus architecture, which has earned Tel Aviv the title of the "White City". Drive and walk through one of the first neighborhoods established outside of the old city of Jaffa – **Neve Tzedek** and see the impressive restored houses, in this trendy quarter of Tel Aviv. End the day with a visit to the open arts and crafts fair at **Nachlat Binyamin** (open every Tuesday and Friday), enjoy their colorful displays and walk through the fruit and vegetable Carmel Market. Return to your hotel.

Overnight, Tel Aviv

Wednesday - Negev Desert



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Check-out of the hotel this morning and drive to **Beer Sheva** – the capital of the Negev. At **Hazerim** we will visit the **Air Force Museum** and then continue to a local winery for a wine tasting tour. Visit a goat cheese farm and enjoy a picnic lunch. After lunch visit Ben Gurion's grave at Sde Boker before arriving at your Dead Sea Resort and Spa Hotel. Float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea or enjoy spa treatments. All treatments should be reserved in advance (a list of available treatments will be supplied on request).

Dinner and overnight, Dead Sea

Thursday - Masada | Ein Gedi | Camel Ride



After breakfast in the hotel, check-out and visit the mountain top fortress of **Masada** – ascend by **cable car** and explore the ruins of the fortress built by King Herod, and the advanced water cistern. This site is where the Zealots chose mass suicide rather than surrender to Roman capture. Descend by cable car and continue to **Ein Gedi** – a lush oasis set between the harsh Judean Desert and the sterile Dead Sea, and where King David hid in the cave while King Saul's 3,000 soldiers searched for him. The area is filled with gushing waterfalls and dense growth. The hike is approximately 30 minutes each way (through water). En route to Jerusalem stop at **Genesis**

Gil Travel and Tours 1511 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA, 19102

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Land (Eretz Beresheet) for hospitality in Abraham's Tent and enjoy a short camel ride. Continue to Jerusalem and enjoy a panoramic view of the city from Mt Scopus and partake in the **Shecheyanu** ceremony, the blessing on our arrival to the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Overnight, Jerusalem

Friday – Jerusalem: Old City



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Enter the Old City and walk along the outer walls of the old city known as the **Ramparts** and look in to the different quarters: Muslim, Christian, Armenian and Jewish. Walk along the **Cardo**, once the Roman market place and view the **Western Wall**, last remnant of the 2nd Temple. Continue to the **Davidson Center** and explore the Herodian Temple as displayed in this modern Visitors Center, visit the wide steps and other relics found in excavations here from the time when the Second Temple stood in its full glory, 2000 years ago! Early afternoon visit to the colorful **Shuk Machane Yehuda**, to experience the smells and tastes of the country and see the locals doing their last minute shopping prior to the start of the Sabbath. Participate in the "Shabbat of a life time" program. Meet our host who will take us on a unique tour of the Old City and introduce the Sabbath to your (no cameras will be allowed). After this short tour you will be taken to a private home to join the Shabbat celebration. Learn about the Jewish tradition and enjoy the Shabbat meal with the family. Return to your hotel at the end of the evening.

Overnight, Jerusalem

Saturday - Day at Leisure

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Today is a free day to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight, Jerusalem

Sunday- Jerusalem: New City



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Today will be spent visiting the new city of Jerusalem. Drive by the Israeli Parliament and the Menorah, emblem of the state of Israel. Continue to the **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial. Visit the new Museum and Children's Memorial. Proceed to the **Kennedy Memorial** for a **tree planting** ceremony in the forest nearby. End the day with a visit to **Ammunition Hill**, where one of the most fierce and famous battles of the Six Day War (1967) took place and now a public park and museum. Ammunition Hill is dedicated to the memory of the Three Brigades, the Air Force and the Central Command who liberated Jerusalem and its 183 soldiers who fell in the 6 days of fighting.

Overnight, Jerusalem



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Monday - Road to the Galilee



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel before checking out. Depart Jerusalem and drive via the Jordan Valley to **Old Gesher** which provides a glimpse into the pre-state era of the Israeli State and the transformation of the Jewish settlements in this part of the country. A 15 minute audio visual program does an excellent job of relating the story of the settlements of the area.

Visit the natural springs of **Sachne** (bathing suits optional). Ascend the Upper Galilee and visit **Agmon Hula**, an agricultural region in northern Israel with abundant fresh water and a paradise for bird watchers. Enjoy a family activity at this beautiful bird sanctuary. Check-in to Kibbutz Hagoshrim hotel in the Galilee.

Dinner and overnight, Galilee

Tuesday - Upper Galilee



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel. Start your touring with a visit to Tel Dan National Park and continue to Metulla where we will stop at the **Dado** lookout point – see the neighboring Lebanon village and hear about the geopolitical situation of the area. We will meet our jeeps and tour the Golan before heading to **Safed**. Safed is where the study of the Kabala began 400 years ago.

Dinner and overnight, Galilee

Wednesday - Mediterranean Coastal Plane



Begin your day with a delicious breakfast in the hotel before checking out. Drive towards the Western Galilee and arrive at **Acre** designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The waves from the Mediterranean Sea crash against the walls of Acre's old city, washing the steep, thick sandstone walls that have survived the centuries. The walls, fortresses and strongholds of the city bear the marks of many nations that left impressive buildings behind them, beautifying Acre to this day. Continue to **Haifa** and enjoy the panoramic view of the **Baha'i Gardens**. Drive to **Atlit**, the

detention camp constructed during the British Mandate towards the end of the 1930's as a military camp on the Mediterranean coast. From 1939 to 1948 it was a detention camp for "illegal immigrants" who found themselves yet again incarcerated behind barbed wire. A recently purchased ship, similar in size and appearance to those used to transport immigrants to Israel is on display now. Continue to Tel Aviv and check in to your hotel.

Overnight, Tel Aviv

Thursday - LE HIT TRA'OT

Departure transfer to airport

* Visit subject to availability; please bring with you a valid driver's license

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HOTELS ON TOUR:

City	Hotel	Nights
Tel Aviv	Dan Panorama	2
Dead Sea	Daniel	1
Jerusalem	Dan Panorama	4
Galilee	Hagoshrim deluxe rooms	2
Tel Aviv	Dan Panorama	1

TOUR DATES & RATES:

Arrival Date	Rate per person sharing double room	Single Supplement	Child under 18 sharing parents room supplement
February 13	\$2,328	\$975	\$1,721
March 12	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
April 23	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
May 7	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
June 18	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
July 16	\$2,600	\$1,170	\$1,721
August 13	\$2,725	\$1,310	\$1,721
October 15	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
October 22	\$2,541	\$1,140	\$1,721
December 24	\$2,556	\$1,155	\$1,721

Included services in our tour rates:

- Ben Gurion Airport to your Hotel in Tel Aviv on arrival
- Tel Aviv Hotel to Ben Gurion Airport on departure
- Meeting point on arrival at the Steimatzky bookstore at the Main Arrival Hall at the Ben Gurion International Airport
- 8 Comprehensive days of touring in deluxe air conditioned motor coach
- All entrance fees and attractions as per the above itinerary
- Touring with a professional Israel Government licensed guide
- 10 nights' at Superior First Class accommodations on bed and breakfast basis at the hotels as mentioned above.
- 15 meals (10 Israeli buffet breakfast at hotels, 1 Friday night dinner in Jerusalem, 1 dinner at the hotel in the Dead Sea, 2 dinners at the Kibbutz in the Galilee, Picnic lunch in the Negev)

Not included services in our tour rates:

- Tips to guide/driver and Hotel staff
- Lunches en route on sightseeing days
- Treatments at the Dead Sea Spa
- **Travel Insurance:** www.giltravel.com/travel-insurance.html
- **Israel cell phone rental:** <http://phones.giltravel.com/>

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