



Israel: Active Senior Tour Fall 2023



ISRAEL ACTIVE SENIOR TOUR FALL 2023

12 DAYS | 11 NIGHTS | 10 GUIDED DAYS

This marvelous custom made tour gives seniors of like minds a chance to bond while still seeing and experiencing all of the wonderful sites that Israel has to offer.

TOUR OVERVIEW

Dates	October 26th – November 6th
Highlights	Tel Aviv, Carmel Mountain, Haifa, Sea of Galilee, Misgav Am, Hula Valley Sefad, Beit Shean, Beit Alfa, Tiberias, Jerusalem, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea
Duration	12 days, 11 nights
Activity Level	Moderate
Flight	On Own

ITINERARY

DEPARTURE, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2023



- Depart from the U.S.A on own for your ISRAEL ACTIVE SENIOR TOUR FALL 2023.

DAY 1, THURSDAY OCTOBER 26, 2023

Arrival in Israel and Tel Aviv-Jaffa



- Individual arrivals at: Ben Gurion Airport
- Shalom and welcome to Israel. Upon arrival pass through immigration, collect your baggage, and proceed through customs to Arrivals Hall. Make your way by private transfer (Gil Travel can assist) or taxi to Herods Tel Aviv.
- Upon arrival at the hotel, drop off the luggage, have time to refresh, and have a bite to eat. We will do our best to get you into the rooms prior, but normal check-in starts at 2:00PM.
- **1PM Meet group in Lobby of Herods Tel Aviv.**
- Head to the Old Port of Jaffa, one of the oldest port cities in the world. Visit the ancient ruins and walk along the Artist's Quarter where you will find studios and art galleries. Shops catering for Judaica, archaeology, jewelry, and art line its narrow alleys which are named after the signs of the Zodiac, and listen to the beautiful stories of Jaffa and Jaffa port.
- Return to the hotel for some rest and prepared for our festive dinner.
- Welcome Dinner at local restaurant.

Overnight – Herods, Tel Aviv

DAY 2, FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2023

Tel Aviv – The first Hebrew City



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Leave the hotel at 8:30AM for a beautiful touring day in Tel-Aviv.
- Explore your roots at ANU: The Museum of the Jewish People. The museum connects Jewish people to their roots and strengthens their personal and collective Jewish identity. It tells the fascinating narrative of the Jewish people and the essence of Jewish culture, faith, purpose, and deed while presenting the contribution of world Jewry to humanity.
- Head to Rehovot to visit the Ayalon Institute, once a secret underground ammunition factory was established by the "Haganah," who were the Jewish underground movement before May 1948 during the British mandate.
- At the end of the tour, the bus can drop you at Nachalat Binyamin which is a craft fair every Friday and Tuesday. You can also walk through the colorful Carmel Market.
- Shabbat dinner at the hotel

Overnight – Herods, Tel Aviv

DAY 3, SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2023

Shabbat day at leisure



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Explore the city, enjoy a café, meet up with friends! Visit a museum, enjoy Sarona market (a culinary center and beautifully restored Templer Colony), enjoy the sunny Mediterranean beach, or stroll down Rothschild Boulevard.
- Dinner on your own this evening

Overnight – Herods, Tel Aviv

DAY 4, SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2023

The Mediterranean Coast and the Western Galilee



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Today you will drive along the coastal route stopping first at the Atlit Detainee Camp established by the authorities of the British Mandate for Palestine at the end of the 1930s. Until 1945 it was used for illegal Jewish immigrants seeking refuge in Palestine (which became Israel in 1948).
- Drive to the summit of Mount Carmel where you will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of Haifa Bay and the Western Galilee. View the golden-domed Bahai Shrine and exotic Persian Gardens.
- Continue to a Druze Village for an authentic hospitality including lunch.
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight - Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias

DAY 5, MONDAY OCTOBER 30, 2023

Golan Heights



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Drive-up the Golan Heights to the summit of Mount Bental, 3,805 feet above sea level.
- Discover first-hand the strategic importance of the area, affording you a bird's-eye view of the Hula Valley below.
- Visit a nearby winery and enjoy a tasting.
- Visit the Hula Valley, the second home of thousands of migrating birds that pass through the area in autumn and the springtime, as well as the home of many native birds. Enjoy a safari wagon enabling an hour of bonding with nature, serenity, and a break from routine life. During the tour, our experienced staff will navigate the safari wagon to the beautiful and enclosed areas of Agamon Hula Lake. We will be surrounded by peace and fantastic scenery.
- Continue to Misgav Am, a northern Kibbutz close to Lebanese border. Here we will see the breathtaking panoramic view and get a deeper understanding of the events which have shaped the lives of the residents of the Upper Galilee.
- In the afternoon, proceed to Safed, (Tzfat) one of the four holy cities in Judaism. Tzfat is the center of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah). There, you will enjoy a visit to the Joseph Caro and Ha' Ari synagogues and stroll down the spectacular narrow alleyways in the picturesque Artists' Quarter.
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight - Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias

DAY 6, TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2023 Heading south through the Jordan Valley towards the Dead Sea



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Drive along the Jordan valley towards Beit Shean, known as "Scythopolis", and see the fascinating excavated remains such as a large amphitheater, a Byzantine-era colonnaded street, ritual baths, a pottery workshop, a basilica, a Roman temple, and more, all dating from the Roman Empire and Byzantine periods.
- Stop at Beit Alpha to admire the beautiful mosaic floor of a synagogue from the Byzantine period that was discovered in 1929.
- Continue south to the northern side of the Dead Sea. You will notice a complete change of topography (going from green to desert) and continue to the Dead Sea hotel area.
- Check-in into our hotel for overnight.
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight - Herods Hotel, Dead Sea

DAY 7, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Ascend Masada and descend to the Dead Sea



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Ascend Masada by cable car and tour the mountain fortress built by King Herod, where the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. Visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue, and bathhouse. Descend by cable car.
- Hike at Nahal David (Ein Gedi)
- Return to our hotel to enjoy the spa facilities – the Dead Sea, therapeutic mud, the many pools, and sulfur. Enjoy a float in the mineral-rich Dead Sea.
- Spa treatments (at an additional cost) should be scheduled in advance.
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight - Herods Hotel, Dead Sea

DAY 8, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2023

From the Golden Sea to the Golden City, Jerusalem



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Depart the Dead Sea area and visit Qumran. In a cave in the Judean Desert cliffs south of Qumran, a young Bedouin boy in 1947 found the first Dead Sea scrolls.
- We will then proceed along the Dead Sea until we reach Eretz Beresheet (Genesis Land). Enjoy an ancient experience where you are greeted by Eliezer and brought into the tent of Abraham. Be a part of the Biblical story as you ride a camel to the tent and partake in some light refreshments, followed by an authentic meal.
- Proceed to Jerusalem. Enjoy a panoramic view of the Old City where our guide will lead us in the "Shehecheyanu" blessing to welcome us to the Golden City of Jerusalem!"
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

DAY 9, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Jerusalem, the New City



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Begin your day at Mount Herzl, named after the founder of modern Zionism. Pay your respects to some of the nation's most influential figures including Theodore Herzl, Yitzak Rabin, and Golda Meir. Continue to Yad Vashem - the museum that tells the story of the Holocaust and commemorates the lives of those who perished and survived its atrocities.
- After Yad Vashem, proceed to The Israel Museum where you will explore the extensive collection of this world-class institution, which includes works by European masters such as Rembrandt up through modern and contemporary European, American, and Israeli artists. On the grounds of the museum, visit the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. Here you will also view the Miniature model of Jerusalem, depicting the city as it was 2000 years ago.
- Special Shabbat dinner at a local family's home.
- Overnight Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

DAY 10, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Jerusalem, a day at your leisure



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- The entire day is free at your leisure for you to explore Jerusalem at your own place. Places we suggest include the Tower of David Museum, a walk through the Old City quarters and Arab market, Mishkenot Shananim, or The First Station.
- In the evening, we will rejoin as a group and attend The Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David Museum. The lights tell the story (that spans thousands of years) of Jerusalem's history. Bring a jacket as it could be quite cool in Jerusalem in the evening and this venue is outdoors.
- Dinner on your own this evening.

Overnight Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

DAY 11, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Jerusalem, The Old City



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Begin our day at the highest point of ancient Jerusalem, Mt. Zion, and the Tomb of King David.
- Walk through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. See the Cardo - the heart of the ancient Roman City, and visit Hurva Synagogue, which was destroyed 3 times and rebuilt in 2010.
- Enjoy time at the Western Wall.
- Tour the fascinating underground Western Wall tunnels.
- Visit the Burnt house (dating back to 70CE) belonging to the Katros Family. Learn about the time of the holy temple and hear what might have been the actual reason for its destruction.
- Walk through the colorful local bazaar.
- This evening enjoy a briefing with a local political analyst in a private room at our hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

DAY 12, MONDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Jerusalem last day



- Enjoy Israeli breakfast at your hotel.
- Visit Yad Lakashish (Lifeline for the Aged), a nonprofit organization that empowers seniors in need in Jerusalem. Israeli artisans and immigrants from all over the world make handmade crafts on a daily basis. This is a great place to buy some gifts, where the proceeds go to a fabulous cause!
- Drive to Hadassah Hospital and see and admire the Chagall Windows.
- Drive-by Israel's Supreme Court and the Knesset (Israel's parliament).
- Walk through the Mahane Yehuda Food Market - a real treat and have lunch (on your own) in one of the many restaurants.
- Return to the hotel, get some rest, pack, and check out by 5 P.M.
- We will enjoy a lovely farewell dinner at a popular local restaurant.
- Group Transfer to Ben-Gurion airport. (Individual Transfer to other locations may be arranged for an additional fee)
- Departure Flight on own.

PRICE PER PERSON: \$4625 (double occupancy)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2,260

ACTIVE SENIORS 65+ TOUR TO ISRAEL OCTOBER 26TH TO NOVEMBER 6

Included services in our tour:

- ✓ Transfer from the hotel to the airport.
- ✓ 10 Full day touring with all entrance fees and attractions as per the above itinerary, English speaking tour guide.
- ✓ 11 nights accommodations in Deluxe/Superior First Class Hotels- Herods Tel Aviv, Leonardo Plaza Tiberias, Herods Dead Sea, and Leonardo Plaza Jerusalem
- ✓ 10 days of touring in a luxury motor coach with English-speaking tour guide.
- ✓ Daily Israeli breakfast
- ✓ 9 dinners
- ✓ 1 lunch
- ✓ Briefing with a political speaker
- ✓ Sound and Light show in Jerusalem
- ✓ Two bottles of water per day per person on the bus

Not Included in our tour:

- ✓ Airfare
- ✓ Meals not included in itinerary
- ✓ Transfer from Ben-Gurion Airport to your hotel
- ✓ Treatments at the Dead Sea spa
- ✓ Items of a personal nature (laundry, souvenirs, toiletries)
- ✓ Please note there is NO credit for unused services or joint transfers
- ✓ PCR tests if required
- ✓ Travel Insurance. For more details look at <http://www.giltravel.com/travel-protection/>
- ✓ Tips to guide/driver and hotel staff. Optional tips for Israel are suggested as follows:

Tips are not included: Average per person to be paid direct to guide \$80.00 and to bus driver \$60.00, Escort \$50.00. Hotel maid \$1.00 per day per person; portorage \$1.00 per bag, Hotel dining room waiter/waitress \$1.00 per person per meal.

Travel insurance is highly recommended. We will not take more than 20 people per bus.