

A Private Journey Through Israel

An Intimate Cultural, Historical & Experiential Exploration

Created by:



Dafna Tal-Santa Claus Jerusalem-IMOT

Israel: no other place on earth stirs up passion quite the way Israel does. A country with a diverse landscape allows for a dynamic journey where visitors get a real taste of all that Israel offers in a relatively short amount of time. Visitors can rub shoulders with the biblical past and at the same time revere at the country's successes in its relatively short modern history.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrival in Israel | First Encounters with Jerusalem

Upon your arrival at Ben-Gurion International Airport in the afternoon, you are warmly welcomed to Israel by your **private guide**, who will accompany you personally throughout the day. After arrival formalities, you travel together to Jerusalem, beginning your first introduction to the country and its layered history.

Begin with a **panoramic orientation overlook** facing the Old City. From this vantage point, you are introduced to Jerusalem's geography, major landmarks, and the centuries of history that have shaped this extraordinary city.



In the evening, you enjoy a **welcome dinner at a fine restaurant**, chosen for its exceptional cuisine and breathtaking views. After dinner, you take an easy, atmospheric walk through downtown Jerusalem, getting your first feel for the city's rhythm before returning to your hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 2 – The Old City of Jerusalem: Faith, History & Complexity



The day begins on the **Mount of Olives**, offering one of the most iconic views in Israel. From here, you walk down the historic **Palm Sunday Road**, retracing a path deeply rooted in Christian tradition.

You continue to the **Church and Gardens of Gethsemane**, followed by a meaningful walk along the **Via Dolorosa**, passing the Stations of the Cross all the way to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**—one of Christianity’s most sacred sites.

Your exploration continues in the **Jewish Quarter**, where you visit the **Western Wall** and descend into the

Western Wall Tunnels, revealing hidden layers of ancient Jerusalem beneath the modern city. Time is also dedicated to wandering through the lively local market—the **souk**—where cultures, aromas, and traditions intersect.

Later in the day, you meet with a **security and geopolitical expert** who provides an insightful and balanced briefing on Jerusalem’s political complexity and current Israeli–Palestinian realities.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 3 – Bethlehem, Judean Desert & Shabbat Experience

Your day begins with an exhilarating hands-on experience: **Self-drive ATV riding through the Judean Desert**, allowing you to explore dramatic desert landscapes in an adventurous yet accessible way.

You then visit **Bethlehem**, including the **Church of the Nativity**, traditionally recognized as the birthplace of Jesus Christ. The visit offers a powerful connection to early Christian history and the living city that surrounds this ancient site.

As evening approaches, you are welcomed into a local home for a **special, traditional Shabbat hospitality experience**, featuring a festive dinner and warm personal interaction.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 4 – The Dead Sea & Masada: Nature and Ancient Strength

Today takes you to one of the world's most extraordinary natural settings. You descend to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth, over 400 meters below sea level.

A cable car ride brings you up to **Masada**, the legendary desert fortress overlooking the Judean Desert. As you explore the site, your guide shares the dramatic story of resistance, resilience, and identity that makes Masada such a powerful symbol.

Later, you enjoy time at the **Dead Sea**, floating effortlessly in its mineral-rich waters and experiencing its natural therapeutic properties before returning to Jerusalem (or, time permitting – take a short hike at the beautiful **desert oasis of Ein-Gedi**)

Overnight: Jerusalem



Itamar Grinberg-Dead Sea-IMOT

Day 5 – Modern Jerusalem: Memory, Flavor & City Life

Your morning begins with a visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's National Holocaust Memorial and Museum. Through personal stories, immersive exhibitions, and thoughtful design, the visit offers a moving and deeply reflective experience.



In the afternoon, treat your taste buds to a delicious **culinary tour of Jerusalem's food market**, tasting local specialties while learning about the city's diverse cultural influences through food.

After the tour, you enjoy a **relaxed stroll through downtown Jerusalem**, taking time to absorb daily life, browse small boutiques, sit at a café, or simply enjoy the atmosphere of the city at your own pace.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day 6 – From Jerusalem to the Galilee via the Jordan Valley

Leaving Jerusalem behind, you travel north through the **Great Jordan Rift Valley**, one of the world's most significant geological formations.

You visit **Jericho**, often considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, including the **Mount of Temptation**, traditionally associated with Jesus' time in the desert.

Continuing along the Jordan River, you stop at **Qasr el-Yahud**, the traditional baptism site of Jesus. The peaceful setting invites reflection before you continue toward the lush landscapes of the Galilee.

Overnight: Galilee

Day 7 – Christian Galilee & Druze Hospitality

Today focuses on key Christian sites surrounding the **Sea of Galilee**. You visit the **Mount of Beatitudes**, overlooking the lake, followed by **Capernaum**, including the remains traditionally identified as **St. Peter's house**.



You continue to **Tabgha**, site of the Miracle of the Fish and Loaves, and **Magdala**, hometown of Mary Magdalene, where recent archaeological discoveries bring the period vividly to life.

In the evening, you are welcomed into the private home of a **Druze family** for a **hands-on cooking workshop and dinner**, offering an intimate cultural encounter with this indigenous community and its traditions.

Overnight: Galilee

Day 8 – The Golan Heights: Nature, Landscapes & Wine

Your day begins with an **easy, scenic mountain hike through a beautiful canyon in the Golan Heights**. The walk is unhurried and accessible, allowing you to enjoy basalt cliffs, flowing water (seasonal), and sweeping natural views while connecting with Israel's lesser-known landscapes.

You then ascend **Mount Bental**, where expansive views stretch into Syria. Here, you receive a thoughtful regional briefing explaining the geography and current realities across the border.

Later, you visit a **kibbutz**, gaining insight into this unique communal lifestyle through a private visit and shared lunch with community members.

The day concludes with a visit to a **boutique winery**, where you sample locally produced wines and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Galilee and Golan wine country.

Overnight: Galilee

Day 9 – En-route to Tel Aviv: Sacred Sites to the Mediterranean

Departing the Galilee, you ascend **Mount Tabor** to visit the **Church of the Transfiguration**, followed by a visit to **Nazareth** and the **Church of the Annunciation**.

Traveling further south-west, you stop at **Caesarea**, the magnificent Roman port city built by Herod the Great, with its amphitheater, aqueducts, and seaside ruins.

You then finally arrive in **Tel Aviv**, Israel's vibrant Mediterranean metropolis !



Caesarea - Dana Friedländer -IMOT

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 10 – Tel Aviv: Creativity, History & Celebration

Your day begins with a walk through **Neve Tzedek**, Tel Aviv's first neighborhood, known for its restored architecture and artistic charm.

You then visit the **underground bullet factory**, a hidden site from Israel's pre-state period, before enjoying a **graffiti and architecture tour** highlighting the city's creative spirit and Bauhaus heritage.



In the evening, you stroll through **Old Jaffa**, followed by a fun and stylish **nightlife experience**, celebrating your final night in Israel at the city's hottest bars!

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 11 – Departure

Your final morning includes a walk along **Rothschild Boulevard** and a visit to **Rabin Square**, reflecting Tel Aviv's modern civic identity. After time to relax and refresh at your hotel, you are transferred to the airport for your afternoon departure.

Shalom from Israel