

## Chabad Mequon Israel Experience April 21-30, 2015

<u>Day 1 Tuesday April 21st</u> (VIP Welcome & Transfer) **WELCOME TO HOLY ISRAEL!** 

## VIP Welcome at Ben Gurion Airport

After landing, a Shalom Israel Tours representative will be waiting to welcome you as you exit the plane. Your party will be transported in a private vehicle to the flight staff passport control, continue to luggage identification and transfer to your luxury chauffeured vehicle.

#### **Ascend to Holy Jerusalem**

Welcome to the holiest city in the world! Here you will touch the Western Wall, walk through the diverse and beautiful streets of "new" Jerusalem, and enjoy the city's sounds, smells, and tastes; experience the people of Jerusalem, their diversity and vibrant culture.

#### Welcome Dinner & Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

<u>Day 2 Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup></u> (Private Guide & Vehicle) *JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY – THE ETERNAL CAPITAL* 

## **Western Wall Tunnels Tour**

These famous underground tunnels contain remnants of entire rooms from the Second Temple period. At Warren's Gate, you'll stand just a few feet away from where the Holy Ark stood, and feel the yearning of the Jewish people for the Temple for thousands of years.

#### City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel

In 1004 BCE, King David conquered this city and secured the place where the Holy Temple would eventually be built by his son, King Solomon. Remaining structures such as Warren's Shaft and the Tunnel of Siloam exhibit the intricate workings of this ancient capital city.

## Jerusalem Archaeological Park

Experience Second Temple-era Jerusalem on the eve of its destruction by the Romans. See a virtual reconstruction of the Temple, visit the stores and walkways of the surrounding city and see the remnants of the staircase that led to the Temple Mount and the Holy of Holies.

## **Old City Jewish Quarter**

The Jewish Quarter remains one of the single most-visited spots in all of Israel. Nestled within one square kilometer of land lay millennia of ancient history. The Old City dates back to the 8th century BCE and is home to numerous landmarks of historical significance.

Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem



# <u>Day 3 Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Private Guide & Vehicle)</u> **THE JUDEAN DESERT – KING HERODS FORTRESS**

#### **Masada Mountain & Cable Car**

Ride via cable car to the top of Masada and explore what remains of King Herod's palace. See what it was like to live there as you view the preserved baths, cisterns and barracks. It was here that leader Eleazer Ben Yair kept the Roman Legion's siege at bay for three years.

## **Dead Sea Float Experience**

Yam Hamelach, literally meaning "Sea of Salt," is 417 meters below sea level, making it the lowest place on earth. Its salty water contains unique healing properties, which, combined with the nutrient-filled mud found on its shores, creates one luxurious and healthy day.

#### **Ein Gedi National Park**

In the biblical period, David hid from Saul amongst the streams and canyons of Ein Gedi. Today, Ein Gedi serves as a refuge from city life and from the arid desert. Enjoy a nature walk amongst date trees, waterfalls, caves and ibex. On a hot day, cool off in the water.

#### Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

<u>Day 4 Friday April 24<sup>th</sup></u> (Private Guide & Vehicle) *HEBRON – HOLY CITY OF EARTH* 

## **Hebron - The Holy City of Earth**

Visit the second-holiest site in all of Israel, Hebron. Tour the Cave of the Patriarchs (*Ma'arat Hamachpela*) and the tombs of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah, the biblical forefathers. Take a moment to pray at the complex's synagogue.

#### Rachel's Tomb

The matriarch Rachel is a symbol of hope and prayer for the Jewish people, as she was childless for many years but ultimately became the mother of the Jewish people. Tradition has it that Rachel cried for the Jewish people as they passed her tomb on their way to exile.

## Jerusalem "Shuk" (Market)

With more than 250 vendors, this bustling outdoor marketplace is considered the heartbeat of central Jerusalem. Whatever you are looking for, the shuk has it: clothing, Judaica, fresh produce, meats, diamonds, restaurants – and an array of colorful characters throughout.

#### Friday Night Tour to the Western Wall

On the eve of Shabbat, Jerusalem transforms; stores shut down, and streets and alleyways fall silent, as all begin to anticipate the weekly Shabbat. Our 2000-year-old tour will pass through Jaffa gate and the Golden Menorah, and end at the Wall right as Shabbat begins.

Shabbat Dinner & Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem



## <u>Day 5 Shabbat April 25<sup>th</sup></u> (Free Day) **SHABBAT IN HOLY JERUSALEM**

# **Shabbat Morning at Leisure & Lunch**

Enjoy breakfast and your morning at leisure and Shabbat lunch at your hotel.

## Jerusalem Old City - Saturday recommendation

Explore the Old City's ancient quarters on your own. Walk from Jaffa Gate down the Arab Market to the Western Wall. Explore the Christian Quarter café's & stores, or browse the Armenian Quarter's famous ceramics shops. Be sure to stay in areas with other tourists.

# **Tower of David Night Spectacular Show**

In the evening you'll head back to the Tower of David's rooftop to view an epic nighttime extravaganza of sight and sound, depicting the conquests of the Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Turks and others, as they tried to overtake Jerusalem. This show is simply "Spectacular."

#### Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem

<u>Day 6 Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup></u> (Private Guide & Vehicle) **UNITED JERUSALEM – THE NEW CITY** 

## 1967 Six Day War - Ammunition Hill

On the night of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1967, a four-hour battle took place here at Ammunition Hill in which 36 men lost their lives. Today you can view the trenches and reconstructed bunker that serves as a museum and tells the story of the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem.

## **United Hatzalah Headquarters Visit**

A fully volunteer Emergency Medical Service Organization with more than 2,300 volunteers around the country, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. With the help of GPS and ambucycles, Hatzalah's average emergency response time is 3.5 minutes.

#### Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum

In 1963, the Yad Vashem Museum was established as the world center for Holocaust research, education and commemoration. With survivor testimonies, powerful displays, artifacts and memorial gardens, this museum embodies one crucial message: Never again.

#### Ben Yehuda Street - evening recommendation

Here you'll find all the restaurants, shops, street vendors and street performances you could ever ask for. Sip a latte at one of Ben Yehuda's many sidewalk cafes, grab a delicious frozen treat, invest in some Judaica, purchase souvenirs, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere.

Overnight: The Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem



## **Ancient City of Caesarea Ruins**

The Caesarea National Park contains the remains of a prestigious city established by King Herod the Great. Prepare to be amazed when you visit the mighty Roman Amphitheatre, the Hippodrome, a 20,000 seat horse racing arena, as well as the impressive Roman Aqueducts!

#### Neve Michael Children's Home Tour & Lunch

Neve Michael serves 250 children, aged 4-18 years old, from all over the country, who were brought to its doorsteps under traumatic circumstances. Here you'll learn about this loving home that is devoted to underprivileged and abused children and making their lives better.

## **Zichron Yaakov Town Visit**

Visit one of the first Jewish settlements in the Holy Land, home to Israel's first large-scale winery. It was founded in 1882 by Baron Edmund de Rothschild and named in his father's honor. Today, Zichron is a picturesque town, featuring cafes, vistas and a historic center.

## N.I.L.I Museum of the Jewish Underground

Initially opened in 1956, this newly renovated museum tells the story of the first Zionist militia, the N.I.L.I. Learn about the self-sacrifice of the Aaronson family, who bravely acted as spies against the Ottoman Empire, in order to help British forces capture Palestine.

## **Beit Shearim National Park**

An excavated ancient Jewish town, famous for, according to the Talmud, being the burial site of Rabbi Judah HaNasi. Other sites that can be seen include an ancient glassmaking industrial site and two caves, one which contains a relief of a menorah with seven branches.

## Dinner & Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Northern Israel

<u>Day 8 Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> (Private Guide & Vehicle)</u> **THE GOLAN HEIGHTS & TZFAT – CITY OF MYSTICS** 

#### **Golan Heights Jeeping Adventure**

Jeep tours take you off the road to hard-to-reach places, such as streams, fields and mud tracks. The Golan is green and lush, with small villages nestled into the hills. Learn about the biblical and historical importance of the Golan sites while enjoying a bumpy jeep ride.

#### **Mount Bental IDF Bunker**

Enjoy views of Syria from a key mountaintop location on Israel's northern border. From the top of this dormant volcano, you will see the majestic Mount Hermon, the picturesque Druze villages of the Golan and bunkers and trenches left over from the Yom Kippur War.

#### **Tzfat Old City & Artist Quarter**

Tzfat is one of the four holy cities in Israel. It has served as a spiritual center since the 1600s, when famous Kabbalists roamed here. Tzfat awaits art lovers, soul-seekers and historians to cobblestone alleys, medieval synagogues, galleries and mystical atmosphere.

BBQ Dinner in Tzfat & Overnight at the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Northern Israel



<u>Day 9 Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> (Private Guide & Vehicle)</u> *TEL AVIV – ISRAEL'S MODERN JOURNEY* 

# **Megiddo National Park**

Throughout history, Egyptian, Assyrian and Israelite leaders have all fought for control of the ancient city of Megiddo. Dating back nearly 5,000 years, Megiddo was strategically located on the trade route between Egypt and Assyria and was the site of numerous battles.

#### **Arrive in Tel Aviv**

Stretching along a beautiful beach strip of the Mediterranean Sea for 100 years, Tel Aviv is considered the face of modern Israel. Nicknamed "The White City" for its abundance of Bauhaus style architecture, Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage City in 2003.

#### **Palmach Multimedia Museum**

Founded in 1941, the Palmach became a fully trained underground military force made up of volunteer men and women who fought to rid Palestine of the British – later merging with the IDF for Israel's War of Independence. The Palmach's story comes to life at this museum.

## **Old Jaffa Port & Market**

Built 4,000 years ago, the Jaffa Port is the oldest in the world. The prophet Jonah embarked on his ill-fated journey from this port, and building materials for the First and Second Temples were delivered to Jaffa. The metropolis of Tel Aviv is largely an extension of Jaffa.

#### **Farewell Dinner**

Before transferring to Ben Gurion Airport for your departure from Israel (come back soon!), enjoy a festive group dinner to reminisce over your amazing experience. We'll miss you!



#### ISRAEL TOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

6 nights at the Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem 2 nights at the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel, Galilee

#### **MEALS IN YOUR TOUR**

Daily Breakfast Buffet at each Hotel Welcome Dinner at the Leonardo Plaza, Jerusalem Shabbat Dinner & Lunch at the Leonardo Plaza Hotel Lunch at the Neve Michael Children's Home Dinner at the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel BBQ & Klezmer Music Dinner in Tzfat Farewell Restaurant Dinner in Tel Aviv

#### PROFESSIONAL TOUR SERVICES

VIP Welcome at Ben Gurion Airport Welcome Transfer to Your Jerusalem Hotel Farewell Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport 7 Day Private Professional Tour Guide & Vehicle All Sites & Activities per Your Tour Itinerary Shalom Israel Tours Maps/Hats/Bottle Carriers

#### **ACTIVITIES YOU'LL EXPERIENCE**

Western Wall Tunnels Tour
City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel
Jerusalem Archaeological Park
Old City Jewish Quarter
Masada Mountain & Cable Car
Dead Sea Float Experience
Ein Gedi National Park
Hebron – The Holy City of Earth
Rachel the Matriarch's Tomb
Jerusalem "Shuk" (Market)
Tower of David Night Spectacular Show
1967 Six Day War - Ammunition Hill

United Hatzalah Headquarters Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum Ancient City of Caesarea Ruins Neve Michael Children's Home Tour Zichron Yaakov & NILI Museum Beit Shearim National Park Golan Heights Jeeping Adventure Mount Bental IDF Bunker Tzfat Old City & Artist Quarter Megiddo National Park Palmach Multimedia Museum Old Jaffa Port & Market

#### TOTAL PACKAGE PRICING USING THE LEONARDO PLAZA JERUSALEM:

Number of Participants	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Per Double Adult	\$3400	\$3220	\$3020	\$2820	\$2680	\$2580	\$2340

**RESERVATION:** A \$250 per person deposit is requested at time of registration. FINAL BALANCE: Final balance is due 45 days prior to the clients' arrival in Israel.