

First-Timers Itinerary - October 20-31, 2014

Monday, 20 October – USA Departure

- Overnight flight to Israel

Tuesday, 21 October – Foundations of the Modern State

- Morning arrival in **Israel** met and assisted by our ITC representative. Our tour begins at the **Ayalon Institute** and continues in the art galleries and market stalls of **Old Jaffa**. On to the **Palmach Museum**, then check-in and welcome dinner at our hotel.
- Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, 22 October – The Mediterranean Coast

- We begin at **Independence Hall**, before travelling north along the **Mediterranean Coast** to **Caesaria** to see the Roman Excavations. Then on to the grottos of **Rosh Hanikra**, at Israel's border with Lebanon. Drive the northern road to the Galilee for hotel check-in and dinner.
- Overnight: Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar

Thursday, 23 October – The Golan Heights

- Begin with a nature walk among the lush forests and streams of the **Banyas Nature Reserve**. Ascend the **Golan Heights** and gaze down over the Galilee from the peak of **Har Bentel**. Enjoy a tour, tasting and chocolate-making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** or a tour and wine and cheese tasting at the **Bahat Winery**. Dinner at the hotel.
- Overnight: Kibbutz Nof Ginnosar

Friday, 24 October – In the Footsteps of Mystics

- Early departure to the mystical city of **Tzfat**. Then travel south for the **ascent to Jerusalem**. Walk through colorful, bustling **Machaneh Yehuda** open-air market, as Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat. **Shabbat Services at Kol Haneshama Synagogue. Shabbat dinner at the hotel.**
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat, 25 October – Shabbat in Jerusalem

- **Shabbat morning services at HUC**, followed by a **walking tour** in the **Old City**, including lunch in the Christian Quarter. **Havdalah with Anat Hoffman**. Dinner on your own on the Ben Yehuda/Jaffa Road Pedestrian Mall or in the German Colony.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 26 October – Jerusalem Then and Now

- **Ammunition Hill**, the **Knesset**, the **Kotel Tunnels**, and the **Southern Wall Excavations** are among the sites on today's schedule. Free evening in Jerusalem.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 27 October – Making a Difference

Admire the beautiful **Chagall Windows** and visit the **Trauma Unit** at **Hadassah Hospital**. Then on to the new Holocaust Memorial Museum and Children's Memorial at **Yad Vashem**. **Plant a tree** in Israeli soil in honor or in memory of a loved one. This evening we will enjoy **The Night Spectacular**, the new sound and light show at the **Tower of David Museum**. Dinner on your own.

- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 28 October – Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Today we are joined by the "Returning Visitors" group. Together we will travel to the **Dead Sea Region**. **Swim in the Dead Sea and visit Masada**. Then we continue south to **Kibbutz Yahel**, the Reform Movement's first Kibbutz.
- Overnight: Kibbutz Yahel

Wednesday, 29 October – Our Peers in Israel

- Visit the ecological gardens at **Kibbutz Lotan**, and witness the ingenuity of the Arava Desert communities. Lunch in the **kibbutz dining room**. Return to Eilat for a free evening on the boardwalk.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Thursday, 30 October – Sun and Fun

- Spend the **day at leisure** sampling the delights of Eilat, including beautiful beaches, your hotel's pool and spa facilities, a Red Sea yacht cruise, water-skiing, paddle boats, wind-surfing, banana boats, snorkeling, a swim with the dolphins, or scuba- and "snuba"-diving to get up close and personal with Red Sea coral and fish (extra charges apply for some of these activities)
- Late afternoon/early evening departure on domestic flight to Tel Aviv and overnight **flight to the USA**.

Optional Extension

Thursday, 30 October – Petra

- Early departure for **Petra** to explore the amazing decorated red rock formations of the ancient Nabateans. Enter Jordan at the Arava crossing and travel to the **Red Rose City**. Tour its treasury, the Roman theatre, and the impressive caves and rock formations of this **Nabatean City**. Buffet lunch included.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Friday, 31 October -

- Morning flight to Tel Aviv and afternoon **flight to the USA**.