

# TIKVA TOURS



## ISRAEL ADVENTURE PURIM 2020 March 3-16, 2020 For Rubinsohn Travel

### [Registration form for the Israel Adventure Purim 2020](#)

#### **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – The Journey Begins**

Depart the US for Israel

UA 580 03MAR TU SANSFO 3:30P 5:01P

UA 954 03MAR TU SFOTLV 9:40P 9:40P

#### **Day 1 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Arrival**

Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.

Make the short drive to **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores and entertainment.

Check into the hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

#### **Day 2 – Thursday, March 5, 2020 – Arrival (D)**

ENJOY A LEISURELY MORNING AND MEET YOUR **tour educator** who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.

**Beginnings:** Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient **Jaffa**. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea, learn why Jaffa was so historically important (it was mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale) and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past.

**Welcome dinner:** Celebrate your arrival in Israel with **dinner** and opening remarks as we look forward to the exciting days ahead. A journey through Israel is also an exploration of its fabulous, varied food. Your enjoyment of Israel cuisine will begin at **Maganda**, located in Tel Aviv’s Yemenite Quarter, with a traditional Middle Eastern meal of meat skewers, hummus and salads.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

# TIKVA TOURS

## Day 3 – Friday, March 6, 2020 – Tel Aviv (B, D)

**Breakfast** at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet before checking out of the hotel.

**From a Hebrew City to a Hebrew State:** Walk along the newly-opened **Independence Hall** in Tel Aviv and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.

**The Changing Architecture and Culture of Tel Aviv:** As we make our way along the Independence Trail, we'll see the diversity of Tel Aviv's architecture and find out how this reflects the culture of a city that refuses to stay the same. Examine the "eclectic" early architecture and the **Bauhaus** buildings from the 1930s that gave Tel Aviv the nickname of the "White City" and recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll also see Tel Aviv's 21<sup>st</sup> century skyscrapers and ask what they reveal about modern Israel.

**Israel: A Start-Up:** Explore the inventiveness and audacity that are making Israel a world leader in technology and transforming the nation's economy at the **State of Mind Innovation Center**, followed by a meeting with a start-up entrepreneur.

Tel Aviv's food scene is booming. Check out some of the options with lunch (*on own account*) at the **Nachalat Binyamin food and crafts fair** (Available Tuesday & Friday) before joining the hustle and bustle of the Carmel market.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Tel Aviv

## Day 4- Saturday, March 7, 2020 – Journey North (B, L, D)

Departing Tel Aviv, we'll head northwards and back in time to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Explore life 2,000 years ago with its ancient amphitheaters, palaces and bathhouses.

Take a moment at the top of **Mount Carmel**, the setting for many biblical stories and the old stomping ground of the prophet Elijah, to admire the view of Haifa Bay.

Haifa's diversity is also reflected by the fact that it is a world center of the Baha'i religious movement.

Visit a village in the Carmel Forest for a glimpse into the world of Israel's **Druze**. Hear personal stories and insights about their culture, closely-guarded beliefs and their tradition of military service to the State of Israel. Then enjoy the tastes of the Druze kitchen with **lunch** in the home of local residents, and groove to the Levantine beat as we sing along with darbuka drummers.

Continue to **Akko** (Acre), a UNESCO Heritage Site, for a fresh look at one of the oldest towns in the world. Once a stronghold of the Christian crusaders in the Holy Land, Akko was also an important center of Muslim Ottoman rule and today is an example of the multi-culturalism of northern Israel. Highlights include:

The restored **Crusaders' Fortress** and look into the lives of the Templar knights, the Christian warriors based here from the twelfth century.

The **el-Jazzar Mosque**, one of Israel's largest mosques and an illustration of the Muslim influence in the country, then and now. The mosque is named after its designer, the talented but brutal Ottoman governor Ahmad Pasha el-Jazzar, who in Akko in 1799 repulsed the invasion of Napoleon Bonaparte.

# TIKVA TOURS

Walking along the **fortified walls** that protected Akko and made it a militarily crucial town. Over the centuries, invaders, including Napoleon Bonapart's French army in 1799, damaged but could never destroy these walls. We'll see the massive security measures carried out by Ahmad Pasha el-Jazzar on order to defeat Napoleon at Akko.

Drive to your Galilee kibbutz hotel for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Galilee

## **Day 5 – Sunday, March 8, 2020, 2019 – Golan Heights (B, D)**

Hit the ground racing as we go off-road for a **jeep tour** of the **Golan Heights** that will combine natural beauty with insights into one of Israel's most strategically important areas. Retrace the experiences of Israeli soldiers in their battles here during the Six-Day War of 1967 and talk with your jeep drivers about their personal experiences and feelings about the Golan.

The Golan Heights is also wine country. Sample some of its best during a tour of the boutique **Pelter Winery**. We're doing the driving so treat yourself to some Israeli gin to go with the grapes. L'chaim and cheers!

**Northern Borders, Northern Battles:** We'll gaze across the Golan and into Syria from the top of **Mount Bental** and gain powerful insights into Israel's geopolitical and security situation. Analyze the current challenges Israel faces on its northern border, examine the impact of the tragic civil war in Syria, and hunker down in bunkers from the vital battles that took place here during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Lunch (*on own account*).

Drive to Katzrin and visit the **ancient village**. You will experience hands on the life during the Talmudic times. The preparation of food, the different flavours of the time. Dress like the locals, press olives, taste wine and even bake bread. Before returning to your hotel, stop at an **Olive Oil factory** and see how the Olive Oil is generated. See as well the many uses of the oil.

The pioneering, socialist kibbutz movement played a vital role in the establishment of the State of Israel and was one of the early state's most influential and distinctive communities. Meet with a second-generation **kibbutz member** and hear how life has changed on the kibbutz in today's more individualistic era.

**Dinner** at the kibbutz hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz in the Galilee

## **Day 6 – Monday, March 9, 2020 – Mystics & Multi-Culturalism in the North (B, D)**

Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art or maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city. But entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:

Visit the **Ari synagogue** and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved **Rabbi Isaac Luria** (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat, they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.

See the **Caro synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari, in the sixteenth century. It is where **Rabbi Joseph Caro**, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a maggid, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.

# TIKVA TOURS

Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the **Artists' Colony** with its galleries, shops and studios.

As we drive along the Trans-Israel Highway towards Jerusalem, there will be plenty of opportunities to see the "**Security Barrier**", which runs along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and learn about the barrier's effects on Israeli security and Palestinian communities.

Lunch (*on own account*).

Drive to the Armon Hanatziv Tayelet for an amazing panoramic view of the beautiful city of Jerusalem and receive a geographical and political explanation of this complex city. Continue to the New Tachana station, which is a newly renovated site of the first train station in Jerusalem. Many restaurants and stalls which make the place joyful and exciting.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Day 7 – Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – Jerusalem New City (B, L, D)**

Visiting **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, is an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:

The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.

The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.

The **Children's Memorial**, where candles shine like stars in the sky to commemorate the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.

A special **Memorial Service** where you can pay personal tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. Eat, drink and be educated at the **Machane Yehuda shuk** (market) as we sample food and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and the Middle East and try to figure out what's Israeli about Israeli food. This multicultural, all-inclusive **tasting tour** can double up as a delicious lunch.

.Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Day 8 – Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – (B, D)**

Take part in a **Tikkun Olam** activity TBA

Meet elderly, often impoverished, immigrants who are finding a sense of purpose and creating beautiful artwork at **Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Elderly)**. We'll hear personal stories and see the ageing artisans in action, talk with those running this inspirational organization, and check out the fabulous giftshop that supports this endeavor.

**Arming for Independence:** Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot and uncover its role in the establishment of the state of Israel. This secret ammunition factory produced millions of bullets for Jewish forces fighting for a Jewish state and the end of British rule over Palestine.

Lunch (*on own account*).

Continue to **Weizman Institute** for an exciting visit at their visitor's center. It is fascinating to educate yourself with all the inventions and discoveries that have evolved in this amazing institute.

# TIKVA TOURS

Before arriving at Jerusalem, stop at the **Yvel Design Center** where you will be able to take a peek at the amazing masterpieces produced by the skilled artisans who are actually Ethiopians who have been integrated in the center and have been taught a new skill.

On your way back to Jerusalem, stop at the **9/11 Memorial**. A memorial to the atrocious terrorist attack of 2001 which enlists the names of all 3000 victims.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Day 9 – Thursday, March 12, 2020 – Lowest Place on Earth and Masada Rocks (B, L, D)**

Enjoy an early **breakfast** at the hotel before setting out to explore the **Dead Sea** Get ready for some amazing experiences in this unique natural environment.

We'll drive to the Dead Sea Basin, 1412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape and the views are breathtaking.

A cable car will bring us to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE) before committing mass suicide. We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.

Lunch (*on own account*).

**The Sea of Salt:** Go floating, rather than swimming in the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.

While returning to Jerusalem, stop at **Qumran**, where a separatist Jewish sect from the Second Temple period created an isolated community and where the Dead Sea Scrolls, some of the most ancient and important religious manuscripts in existence, were discovered.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Day 10 – Friday, March 13, 2020 – Jerusalem Old City (B, D)**

**Tour the Old City:** Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of **Jerusalem**. We'll stop at Mount Scopus for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "*shehechyanu*" blessing of thanksgiving.

A walking tour will take you to the heart of Jewish life, history and holiness: Jerusalem's **Old City** and the **Jewish Quarter**. Among the highlights will be:

- Walk thru the Jaffa Gate and begin your tour with a visit to the **Tower of David Museum** where the story of Jerusalem, from the time of Abraham to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine, is told with exciting exhibitions and in a remarkable location.
- A walk along the **rooftops** for a bird's eye view of the remarkably diverse yet closely bound communities of the Old City.
- The **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
- King Hezekiah's "**Broad Wall**," a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 year ago.
- **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.



# TIKVA TOURS

- No visit to Israel is complete without experiencing the **Western Wall** (the Kotel), widely considered Judaism's holiest site. Each year, over one million notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the wall. We'll discuss the wall's historical and contemporary importance and experience its unique atmosphere. Drive to the Old City to elaborate your tour of the Old City.
- Tour the **Western Wall Tunnels**, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are revising our understanding of daily life in Jerusalem after the Roman conquest
- Visit the tomb of King David on Mt. Zion.

Walk thru the Armenian quarter and continue to the Jewish quarter. Walk along the Cardo, the ancient Roman road; visit the four Sepharadic synagogues restored after 1967 war in the Jewish quarter.. Continue to the **Christian Quarter** and follow the **Via Dolorosa**, the path Jesus is believed to have taken as he walked, holding a cross, to his crucifixion. The final station of the Via Dolorosa is the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the place where Jesus is believed to have been crucified. This church is one of Christianity's great pilgrimage sites and a testament to the remarkable diversity of the Christian world. It includes an empty tomb where it is said that Jesus was buried and resurrected. Continue to the Arab market and see the bargains and bargaining come to life. You will have free time to shop but beware the professional vendors.

Exit the Old City and walk to the pedestrian mall of Mamilla on your way to **Ben Yehuda** and **Nachalat Shiva**. Return to your hotel to prepare for the Shabbat..

This evening join thousands of People of all ages and backgrounds heading to the Western Wall for spiritual experience as they welcome the Shabbat, followed by **Shabbat meal** at Jewish Homes.

Overnight: Jerusalem

## **Day 11 – Saturday, March 14, 2020 – Towards Eilat with Timna on the way (B, D)**

Check out of your hotel and drive South thru the Negev desert towards Eilat, the vacation city.

On the way, visit **Timna** and see the copper mines and King Solomon's pillars and marvel at the huge multi-colored rock formations.

Continue to Eilat and stop to visit the **Underwater Observatory**, one of the largest sea-aquariums in the world, built into a coral reef.

Check into your hotel.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Eilat

## **Day 12 – Sunday, March 15, 2020 – Free Day in Eilat or Optional tour to Petra (B,D)**

After assistance with visa to the Jordanian border, drive straight away to **Petra** through desert highways, your ultimate destination is the astonishing rose-red city of Petra which was built by the Nabateans (An early Arab tribe). Petra was renowned for its massive architecture, pools, dams and water channels. Petra is the legacy of the Nabateans who settled in the south of Jordan more than 2000 years ago.

The visit begins with the possibility of a **short horseback-riding** for about 700 m. until the entrance of the Siq, which is about 1.2 km long (walking distance). There is a possibility to rent a chariot (extra) to get inside Petra and back to the gate outside. Petra is famous for its huge monuments such as the **Treasury**, Royal Tombs, the Court, Roman theatre, Roman Street, Qassier El- Bint (Palace of

# TIKVA TOURS

Pharaoh's daughter) and many other smaller monuments which fascinate the visitors. The city itself is almost 45 square km and is considered to be the second wonder of the world.

After the visit, time for **lunch** in a nice restaurant. After lunch drive back to border.

On the way, a short visit to **Aqaba** with the possibility to stop and take a walk around.

Transfer to the border at around 18:00 p.m. and crossing back to Eilat.

Dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Eilat

## **Day 13 – Monday, March 16, 2020 – Drive North via Mitzpe Ramon (B,L,D)**

Depart Eilat via **Mitzpe Ramon**. Stop to gaze into the Ramon crater, a geological wonder. Proceed to **Sde Boker** and see Ben Gurion's hut and grave overlooking the magnificent Zin valley.

Stop for a **camel riding** experience and a visit to an **authentic Bedouin tent**, learn about the Bedouin hospitality and enjoy a **light lunch**.

Continue to Hatzetim and visit **Israel's Air Force museum** to view the planes and equipment and to hear the story of this brave fighting force.

Drive back to Tel-Aviv.

DINNER AT RESTAURANT (TBA)

TRANSFER TO BEN GURION AIRPORT BY 8:30-9:00PM FOR DEPARTING FLIGHT

## **Day 14 – Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – FLIGHT AT 12:05AM**

UA 955 17MAR TU TLVSFO 12:05A 6:10A

UA 555 17MAR TU SFOSAN 8:00A 9:29A

### **\*PRICE PER PERSON:**

**Double Occupancy: \$5,699.00**

**Single Occupancy: \$6,759.00**

**\*Based on current airfare from San Diego and may be subject to change**

**Deposit: 30% of the cost for the tour**

**Final Payment due January 3, 2020**

**Your passport must be valid for six months after the date of departure from Israel. If you are not traveling on a US passport, please let us know.**

**[Registration form for the Israel Adventure Purim 2020](#)**

# TIKVA TOURS

**Group airport transfers** as per the itinerary.

**Israeli Tour Educator:** From the start of the program as per the Itinerary until the end of the program

**Tour Escort:** A representative from Rubinsohn Travel will accompany your group

**Transportation:** by licensed air-conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary

**Accommodations:** in the following hotels based on 2 persons sharing a room, with en-suite facilities and air conditioning

**Suggested hotels or similar:**

City	Dates	Hotel Option
Tel Aviv	March 5-7, 2020	Metropolitan
Galilee	March 7-9, 2020	Kibbutz Lavi – EDEN wing
Jerusalem	March 9-14, 2020	Leonardo
Eilat	March 14-16, 2020	Leonardo Privilege

**Single rooms:** All participants accommodated in single rooms will be charged the single supplement.

**Meals:** include full Israeli Breakfast at hotel (buffet) daily, 12 dinners and 2 light lunches

**Entrance fees** for all sites set forth in the itinerary

**Porterage**

**Taxes and service charges** are included (as per current Israel's tax laws)

**Educational programming and special events** – as set forth in the itinerary

**Educational materials** – will be provided based on materials available

**24-hour emergency contact service**

**Security:** We receive real-time updates from the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI). The SPNI runs the Situation Room and coordinates all tours for the Ministry of Education and other official bodies in Israel, with the Army, Police and other security services. The Tour Educator will be in touch with my office where he/she will receive updates. The itinerary is subject to change without prior notice in the case of a security reason decided upon by me and by my partners.



# TIKVA TOURS

**Baggage allowance:** For safety and convenience we ask that each participant limit themselves to only 1 piece of luggage (up to 50 lbs) and one carry on piece of luggage (up to 10 lbs.) in accordance with airline regulations. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings.

**Insurance:** Our partners are proud to carry no-fault insurance and professional liability insurance, up to the sum of \$2,000,000 (US). General liability insurance covers bodily injury and property damage or loss due to any activity of the organizer everywhere in Israel.

A copy of the policy can be provided upon request. We recommend you also carry a personal travel insurance policy.

## Not included:

**Airfare:** While the airfare is included, the airport taxes are subject to change until ticketing.

- Transfers from the passengers' residence to the departure gateway and back (unless on group bus).
- Airport transfers in Israel for participants not on group flights. Those traveling outside of the group flight will be offered transfers at their own expense.
- Tips and gratuities for guide and drivers (Suggested: Guide: \$8-10 per person per day, Driver: \$4-5 per person per day, \$2 per person per day for restaurants, hotel reception, bell boys - \$12-16 per person per day. Guide: 60%, driver: 30%, misc.: 10%) – **will be collected separately**
- Items of personal nature: room charges, telephones, minibar etc.
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks at meals, other than those provided by the restaurant. Bottled water (may be obtained for extra costs)
- Passport and Visa Fees (It is the responsibility of each traveler to have the necessary documents prior to departure). Passports must be valid for 6 months from the day of departure from Israel.
- Border crossing taxes (Taba, Aquaba, Allenby Bridge or Sheik Hussein Bridge) if applicable.

**Travel Insurance:** We highly recommend taking out comprehensive travel insurance, which should cover emergency evacuation, cancellation, delay, illness, loss or damage to personal belongings and luggage, etc.

## **Participants Lists**

Full list of participants is due 75 days prior to departure

Rooming list is due 60 days prior to departure

Lists should include first and last names as they appear on the participant's passport/birth certificate

## **Petra Tour**

Supplement for optional day tour to Petra - \$235 pp not including \$125 border fees to be paid in cash (US dollars) on morning of the tour

# TIKVA TOURS

**The price above includes the following:**

**Airfare:** flights from USA to Tel Aviv and return via an IATA or ARC Carriers, in coach class. The fare basis is “group fares” Most airlines define a group as at least 10 or more participants, which is subject to penalties if changes are made. The rate will include airport taxes. **The airfare and airport taxes are subject to change until ticketing.**

**Group airport transfers** as per the itinerary.

**Israeli Tour Educator:** From the start of the program as per the Itinerary until the end of the program

**Transportation:** by licensed air-conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary

**Accommodations:** in the following hotels based on 2 persons sharing a room, with en-suite facilities and air conditioning

**Single rooms:** All participants accommodated in single rooms will be charged the single supplement

**Meals:** include full Israeli Breakfast at hotel (buffet) daily, X12 dinners and X2 light lunches

**Entrance fees** for all sites set forth in the itinerary

**Porterage**

**Taxes and service charges** are included (as per current Israel's tax laws)

**Educational programming and special events** – as set forth in the itinerary

**Educational materials** – will be provided based on materials available

**24-hour emergency contact service**

**Security:** I and my partners receive real-time updates from the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI). The SPNI runs the Situation Room and coordinates all tours for the Ministry of Education and other official bodies in Israel, with the Army, Police and other security services. The Tour Educator

# TIKVA TOURS

will be in touch with my office where he/she will receive updates. The itinerary is subject to change without prior notice in the case of a security reason decided upon by me and by my partners.

**Baggage allowance:** For safety and convenience we ask that each participant limit themselves to only 1 piece of luggage (up to 50 lbs) and one carry on piece of luggage (up to 10 lbs.) in accordance with airline regulations. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings.

## Not included:

- Transfers from the passengers' residence to the departure gateway and back (unless on group bus).
- Airport transfers in Israel for participants not on group flights.
- Tips and gratuities for guide and drivers (Suggested: Guide: \$8-10 per person per day, Driver: \$4-5 per person per day, \$2 per person per day for restaurants, hotel reception, bell boys - \$12-16 per person per day. Guide: 60%, driver: 30%, misc.: 10%) – **will be collected separately**
- Items of personal nature: room charges, telephones, minibar etc.
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks at meals, other than those provided by the restaurant. Bottled water (may be obtained for extra costs)
- Passport and Visa Fees (It is the responsibility of each traveler to have the necessary documents prior to departure)
- Border crossing taxes (Taba, Aquaba, Allenby Bridge or Sheik Hussein Bridge) if applicable.

**Travel Insurance:** We highly recommend taking out comprehensive travel insurance, which should cover emergency evacuation, cancellation, delay, illness, loss or damage to personal belongings and luggage, etc.

## [Registration form for the Israel Adventure Purim 2020](#)