

Chesal Family Israel Trip May 2023

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Depart for the North

Tour Druze Village of Isifya in the Carmel Mountains

Isifya is a Druze-majority village in northern Israel, governed by a local council. It also includes Christians, Muslims and a few Jewish households. This is an opportunity to learn about the Druze way of life first hand. Experience a local welcome with tea and a traditional snack.

Lunch Druze Style

A Druze style lunch consists of spreads like labane (a homemade goat cheese with olive oil and Zaatar), baba ganoush and hummus; salads and kebabs and dishes with lots of fresh herbs and spices.

Visit the beautiful Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa

The Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa comprise a staircase of nineteen terraces extending all the way up the northern slope of Mount Carmel. The gardens frame panoramic views of the city, the Galilee Hills and the Mediterranean Sea.

Tour Ancient Coastal city of Akko

The importance of Akko - a well protected, fortified city with a deep water port - is reflected in its' eventful history during the period of Crusader rule in the Holy Land.

Head to the Sofia Hotel and check-in

Check-in at Hotel

Freshen Up

Dinner at Hotel

Overnight: Sofia Hotel, Tiberias

The Sofia Hotel, located in the city of Tiberias, has panoramic views to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the city and its surrounding beautiful landscape - the Galilee & the Golan Heights.

Monday, May 8, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Depart for the Banias

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Hike in the Banias Nature Reserve in the Golan Heights

Banias Nature Reserve contains an abundance of natural and historical beauty, from the ruins of ancient cities to the roaring Banias Waterfall - the biggest in Israel. Enjoy the stunning nature walk!

Lunch

Hear the story about Gilad Lachimi and Kayak down the Jordan River

The Jordan River may not be wide, but it's the narrow parts that are the most exciting: the northern "mountainous Jordan" offers a heart-pumping 2-3 hour white-water experience. In contrast, on the calmer "family" routes you can paddle at your leisure, enjoying the view of the vegetation, birds, and animals on the banks.

Return to Accommodations

Dinner at Hotel

Lag BaOmer Bonfire in the Area

Overnight: Sofia Hotel, Tiberias

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Depart for Shiloh

ATV Ride through the Hills of Shiloh

Drive an ATV and experience an exhilarating adventure through the hills of some of Israel's most spectacular scenery.

Lunch on own

Visit Psagot Winery and meet with Israel Ganz, Mayor of Binyamin

In the lower gallery of the Visitor's Center of Nachalat Binyamin, resides the unique boutique of Psagot Wines. The view from the quaint stone building overlooks the majestic, panoramic Jordan mountains. Indulge in a dazzling menu of culinary delights accompanied by the finest wines.

Head to Jerusalem

Check into Hotel

Freshen Up

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Dinner on Own

Overnight: Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem

The Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem is a wonderful starting point to discover the city - the location makes it easy for guests to visit iconic landmarks.

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Walk to the Old City

Behind the Scenes Tour in the Ancient City of David

The City of David is revealing some of the most exciting archeological finds in the ancient world. Walk in the footsteps of the Prophets and Kings on the site where much of the Bible was written.

Lunch on own

Archaeological Dig

A rare opportunity which allows you to touch your roots. The Dig for a Day site offers a wealth of discoveries and practical experience with activities that include digging, sifting and pottery.

Dinner on Own

Western Wall Tunnel Tour at night

Go back over 2,000 years of Jewish History. Walk beneath the Western Wall and see the hidden layers come alive to tell the story of ancient Jerusalem.

Overnight: Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Depart for Gush Etzion

Gush Etzion is a cluster of Israeli communities located directly south of Jerusalem in the West Bank. The core group includes four Jewish agricultural villages that were founded in 1940-1947 and destroyed by the Arab Legion before the outbreak of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. These settlements were rebuilt after the Six-Day War, along with new communities.

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Visit Herodian National Park

The Herodian National Park, named after the ancient fortress built on the site by King Herod, is a towering cone shaped hill. The park is home to ruins on the site which were once a magnificent getaway palace. It is here where the privileged congregated and socialized.

Lunch

Artist Colony in Tekoa

Home to over 200 artists, Tekoa wishes to nurture its community's affinity for culture and arts. It has recently created a local artists' center, a hub for the arts in Biblical Israel, and a center of spiritual creativity.

Jeeping Overlooking the Dead Sea

Jeep overlooking the Dead Sea which is the lowest place on earth and combines turquoise waters with majestic sand-colored hills.

Visit City of Pnei Kedem overlooking the Dead Sea and Dinner

Pnei Kedem is one of the 22 communities of Gush Etzion located on the eastern side. The feeling in the community is dominated by a pioneering spirit.

Overnight: Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, May 12, 2023

Breakfast

Depart for Beit Shemesh

Private tour at the Biblical Museum of Natural History with Rabbi Dr. Natan Slifkin

The Biblical Museum is a unique institution that is part zoo, part natural history museum and part Torah education center. Showcasing mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects of Scripture, as well as related zoological topics from the Talmud. Through the exciting and interactive tour, learn the identities and symbolism of the animals of Scripture, Jewish values, Law,

Tour the Machane Yehuda market and prepare for Shabbat

Join the bustle as Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat at this astounding and authentic Middle Eastern open air market.

Candle Lighting

The Shabbat candles have ushered the holiness of Shabbat into Jewish homes for thousands of years. The primary function of Shabbat candles is to bring peace and tranquility into the home and enhance our enjoyment of the Shabbat meal.

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Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel

Combine the holiness of space and time for a magical Kabbalat Shabbat at the Western Wall. Witness throngs of Jews from around the world joining at the epicenter to welcome the Shabbat Queen in joyous song and dance.

Dinner at Hotel

Overnight: Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Breakfast

Day of Rest

Shabbat Lunch at Friends

Walking tour of Jerusalem neighborhoods

A walking tour is a fascinating way to immerse oneself in the unique experience that a tour of Jerusalem neighborhoods provides - take a walk around Jerusalem and experience just what this magical city has to offer.

Saturday Night on the Town - Ben Yehuda Street

Overnight: Leonardo Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Breakfast

Guide

Depart for the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea, located at the lowest point on earth and in a desert environment, has unique healing qualities and the status as an international wonder.

Optional Excursion - Visit Qasr el Yahud near Jericho, site of the Israelites crossing from Jordan to Israel and the Baptismal site of Jesus

Jewish tradition recognizes that Qasr El Yahud is the general location of the epic crossing of the Jordan River by the Children of Israel into the Promised Land, as they entered Canaan under the leadership of Joshua the Son of Nun.

Lunch

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Hike at Ein Gedi National Park across from the Dead Sea

In the middle of the barren desert, rivers and springs form an oasis of rich beauty. Hike to the beautiful waterfalls and explore the fascinating Dudim cave at the top. A great way to experience first hand the nature and spectacular scenery of the area.

Biking in the Dead Sea

Trip Ends