

## **General Information on suggested tours for accompanying persons**

All tours will be accompanied by an **English**-speaking guide. Tours are subject to a minimum number of 19 participants. The Organizers reserve the right to change the date or time of any tour due to organizational reasons.

**All tours depart from Hilton Hotel Lobby and return to the Hotel.**

### **Instructions on Booking Tours:**

Please note that tour bookings can only be accepted and confirmed upon receipt of the completed registration form (via email or the conference web site ([www.ipred.co.il](http://www.ipred.co.il))) and the payment required for the selected tour.

### **Cancellation Policy:**

All cancellations/alterations must be made in writing. Cancellations before January 3, 2010 will be accepted free of charge. For cancellations after this date no refunds can be granted. Reimbursement will be made after the conference.

*Tour nr 1: Monday January 11, 2010*

**Tel Aviv & Yafo City Tour: Tel Aviv celebrates 100 Years** – approx. 4h tour  
 \$51 per person, the tour is subject to a minimum of 19 participants. Departure at **09:00**, lobby hotel.



Tel Aviv offers a wide range of sightseeing, each of which has its own national and cultural significance. In July 2003, UNESCO proclaimed “The White City”, the unique urban and historical fabric of Tel Aviv, as a World cultural heritage site.

The tour takes you also through the modern architectural styles of the 1930’, especially along Rothschild Blvd. A shady, tree lined boulevard, where history sprouts from every nook. This boulevard was, in the past, the main first street in the city and the majority of the buildings here are from the beginning of last century. Here it is possible to find the first street light to be placed in the city and also the first kiosk. Nowadays, the beautiful boulevard is one of the main hubs of entertainment of the city. On Fridays, in the summer season, there are street parties, giving the whole area a cheerful, vibrant character. The Neve Tzedek neighborhood of Tel Aviv was the first Jewish neighborhood to be built outside of Jaffa at the beginning of 1887, 22 years before the establishment of the City of Tel Aviv. With the passing of the years, Neve Tzedek has become a center of taste, culture and lifestyle and a desirable area to live in. Many intellectuals and artists chose to dwell and to create here.

The port of Jaffa is where the first Jewish settlers of the late 1800s and early 1900s landed when arriving in the land of Israel. Visit this part of the greater Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality on your Israel tour for a taste of the ancient character and modern spirit.

Jaffa is one of the world’s oldest cities, with a harbor that has been in use since the Bronze Age. The city’s history is connected to a series of successive conquests that rocked Israel through the millennia. In biblical times, Jaffa was ruled by the Egyptians, the Canaanites, the Philistines and other ancient peoples. The tribal Israelites of the post-Exodus period enjoyed a period of rule that was interrupted by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians and other conquerors. The Romans captured and destroyed Jaffa during Maccabean times, slaughtering thousands as well.

During the Middle Ages, Jaffa came under Arab control and served as a major regional port and provincial capital. The Crusades marked a violent period with fighting between the Christian forces and Saladin who tried to keep the area from falling to Christian rule. When the city came under the control of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century, it was in ruins. Jaffa was slowly restored but local residents left during the 18th century due to pirates who took control of the port. World War One brought British control with the Mandate period that lasted some 28 years, until Israel’s independence in 1948. Following Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, Jaffa became part of the new State of Israel, and then was folded into the municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Today’s Jaffa is a city with a diverse population of Jews, Muslims and Christians. Currently undergoing a wave of gentrification, Jaffa is a socio-economic mix of young artists, new wealth and older, less affluent inhabitants. Culturally, Jaffa has become a place where creative types of all kinds live, work and set up shop, making its streets a maze of discovery – with galleries, theaters, restaurants, a flea market and an antique district – for the curious visitor.

*Tour nr 2: Tuesday January 12, 2010*

## Jerusalem of the 3 Religions – approx. 6h tour

\$51 per person, the tour is subject to a minimum of 19 participants. Departure at **09:00**, lobby hotel.



Jerusalem: the Golden City, the Eternal City, the Holy City. No other city means so much to so many people. Walk with us through 4000 years of history in the footsteps of Kings, Emperors and Prophets. We will trace Jerusalem's Roman high street. We will see incredible rooftop views and narrow twisted streets. Soak up the smells and sounds of the Shuq markets. Jerusalem tours offer rewarding insights into a city that is like no other.

Jerusalem is steeped in over three millennia of history as well being the vibrant capital of the modern state of Israel. It is a city which embraces all faiths and is adored by its religious and secular residents alike. Thus, for the visitor, Jerusalem holidays offer more than just holy sites. A holiday in Jerusalem is an emotional and transforming experience that is not quickly forgotten. The Old City of Jerusalem encloses within its walls some of the holiest sites to the three monotheistic religions.

The Western (wailing) Wall, or Kotel, is the last remnant of the ancient Jewish Temple that stood here over 2000 years ago, and the holiest place for Jews. Only a portion of the Western Wall is visible above ground: the entire length can be explored via the Kotel tunnels. Above and to the east of the Western Wall is the magnificent Dome of the Rock - the third holiest place in Islam - and the El Aqsa Mosque. Access is possible everyday except Friday.

The Via Dolorosa is the traditional path Christian pilgrims take in the Old City of Jerusalem. Call the `Way of Sorrows, the tourist walking this route, the holiest Christian thoroughfare in the world, is symbolically reliving the events of Jesus Christ` passion. Around the Old City, Christian visitors make their way to the shrine of the Ascension on the summit of the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Mt. Zion, the site of the Last Supper. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is primary among Christian shrines in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher that marks the site of the Resurrection had, from its earliest times, been celebrated as the supremely sacred place in all of Christendom. Finished in 335 AD, the great basilica was apparently built upon the foundations of an earlier Roman shrine dedicated to the goddess Aphrodite. It was during this splendid era of church construction that the tradition of Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem began. The most visited pilgrimage sites in Jerusalem were Bethlehem, where Jesus was born; Golgotha, the site of his death (and where legend says the skull of Adam is buried); the Church of the Holy Sepulcher; and the Mount of Olives, where Jesus (supposedly) ascended to heaven.

In the New City, visit the charming neighborhood of Yemin Moshe for the Montefiore Windmill - a famous Jerusalem landmark. The beautiful YMCA and famous King David Hotel are nearby. The pedestrianised Ben Jehuda Street is lined with a cafes, shops and restaurants.

The Shrine of the Book, exhibits the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Discovered in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls date back to the pre-Christian era, and are thought to represent the earliest version of the Old Testament.

No Holy Land tour is complete without the spectacular views of Jerusalem from Mount Scopus. The holy sites of the Old City are clearly visible, and there are wonderful views out to the Judean desert to the east.

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*Tour nr 3: Wednesday January 13, 2010*

**Nazareth, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum** - approx. 8-9h tour (1h lunch break)  
 \$65 per person, the tour is subject to a min. of 19 participants. Depart at **08:00**, lobby hotel (lunch not provided)



Follow Jesus life and the first miracles whilst visiting Christian sites in the lower Galilee and the City of Nazareth.

**Dress regulations for visiting holy places apply.**

We will start our tour by visiting the hometown of Jesus and one of the most sacred Christian places – Nazareth. Here stands the Church of the Annunciation that believed to be built at the exact place where Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

Driving through Cana of Galilee and following the trail of miracles we will arrive at Tabgha- the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fish. During the fifth century, a large monastery and a church decorated with exquisite mosaic floors were built on the site. The complex covered an area of 56 x 33 m. and included courtyards and many rooms used as workshops for a variety of crafts as well as for lodging for the monks and the many pilgrims who came to visit.

The monastery and church at Tabgha were destroyed in the 7th century, probably during the Arab conquest of the country, and buried beneath a thick layer of silt and stones. In the 1980s, after excavation, the church was restored to its Byzantine form, incorporating portions of the original mosaics.

Our next stop will be Capernaum – Capernaum was first established during the Hellenistic period (2nd century BCE). During the period of Jesus' activity in the Galilee (beginning of the 1st century CE), it was a large Jewish village. In the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (3rd-7th centuries) it became a prosperous town spread over some 13 acres, along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and the moderate slope to the north. The inhabitants were fishermen, farmers and merchants. A Roman milestone bearing an inscription from the period of the Emperor Hadrian (early 2nd century CE) attests to the important road across the village, which linked the Galilee with Damascus.

The synagogue of Capernaum was an impressive structure also said to be the place where Jesus lived. Built of large, white limestone blocks from the hills of Galilee west of the town, it stood out among the buildings of grey basalt surrounding it. The synagogue was built on a platform, two meters above the houses of the town, and separated from it by streets on all four sides. Oriented north-south, it had a decorated, southern façade towards Jerusalem.

Driving through the city of Tiberias we will continue to “Yardenit”, this Jordan River Baptismal complex attracts pilgrims from all over the world. And as we are touring the area do not forget to enjoy the panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee

*Tour nr 4: Thursday January 14, 2010*

**Massada & Dead Sea Ein Gedi Spa** - approx. 8-9h tour (1h lunch break)

\$85 per person, the tour is subject to a min. of 19 participants. Depart at **08:00**, lobby hotel (lunch not provided)



**Massada**, ancient mountaintop fortress in Israel, is known as the final outpost of the Zealot Jews in their rebellion against Roman authority (AD 66-73). Located in the Judean Desert, the fortress sits atop a mesa-shaped rock that towers some 1,300 ft (400 m) above the western shore of the Dead Sea.

According to the ancient historian Josephus, Massada was first fortified sometime during the 1st or 2d cent. BC Between 37 and 31 BC Herod the Great, king of Judea, further strengthened Massada, building two ornate palaces, a bathhouse, aqueducts, and surrounding siege walls. In AD 66, with the outbreak of the Jewish war against Rome, the Zealots, an extremist Jewish sect, seized the fortress in a surprise attack and massacred its Roman garrison. Massada remained under Zealot control until AD 73, when, after a siege, the 15,000 soldiers of Rome's tenth legion finally subdued the 1,000 men, women, and children holding the fortress. In a final act of defiance, however, almost all of the Jewish defenders had killed themselves rather than be captured and enslaved by the Romans. Only two women and five children survived to tell of the Zealots' last action. Large-scale archaeological excavations were also conducted at the site in the 1950s.

**The Dead Sea** is located in the Syro-African Rift, a 4000-mile fault line in the earth's crust. The lowest point of dry land on earth is the shoreline of the Dead Sea at 1300 feet below sea level. That the lake is at the lowest point means that water does not drain from this lake. Daily 7 million tons of water evaporates but the minerals remain, causing the salt content to increase. Figures for the Dead Sea's salinity today range from 26-35%

Known in the Bible as the "Salt Sea" or the "Sea of the Arabah," this inland body of water is appropriately named because its high mineral content allows nothing to live in its waters. Other post-biblical names for the Dead Sea include the "Sea of Sodom," the "Sea of Lot," the "Sea of Asphalt" and the "Stinking Sea." In the Crusader period, it was sometimes called the "Devil's Sea." All of these names reflect something of the nature of this lake

At the lowest spot on earth, nature has created thermo-mineral springs with healing properties found nowhere else. The Ein Gedi hot springs a rare natural phenomenon existing only in Israel and, a pilgrimage site for the health conscious and bon vivants of the world.

Nature has provided the springs at Ein Gedi with all the essentials; we have simply packaged a little luxury to ensure your enjoyment. You can choose between the six covered pools thermo-mineral spring water, mud baths and a variety of massages.

Personal expenses at the spa are not included.