



# VIP Israel – Bar / Bat Mitzvah

Monday, May 09, 2011 - Wednesday, May 18, 2011

1

Monday, May 09, 2011 (VIP & Transfer)

Welcome

- Touchdown at **Ben Gurion International Airport**.
- Before clearing passport control a **VIP Israel** representative will be waiting to welcome you. He will facilitate passport control, luggage identification and handling; then escort you through customs and to your awaiting guide and deluxe vehicle.
- Ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Transfer to Hotel, for check-in.
- Enjoy the rest of the evening in leisure.
- You may like to take a walk down **Ben Yehuda Street**. Ben Yehuda Street is one of the favorite gathering places for many young Jerusalemites. There are many artists displaying their jewelry and crafts, as well as many wonderful sidewalk cafes.

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv

## 2

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Center

- After breakfast, visit the **Science Garden** at the **Weizmann Institute in Rechovot**. The green lawns of the **Clore Garden of Science** are filled with exhibits large and small. Designed to demonstrate the laws of physics, solar energy, water power and other natural phenomena that we take for granted every day, enjoy a hands-on experience and become a part of it.
- Travel to the **Ayalon Institute Museum**. Situated north of the city of **Rechovot**, this was the first clandestine bullet production factory operated by members of the **Hatzofim Aleph**, **Palmach**, and **Habonim** pioneer groups during the British Mandate rule.
- Cross the **Ayalon Valley**, a major battlefield throughout history. **The Latrun Police Station** located here was the scene of much bloodshed during the **War of Liberation** in 1948 and was liberated from Jordanian rule in 1967. Visit the Memorial Wall and view a short, moving audio-visual documentary offering a more in-depth explanation of the battles fought here.
- Tour the **Armored Brigade Museum** housing an impressive exhibit of armored vehicles.
- Return to Jerusalem for dinner

OVERNIGHT: Tel Aviv

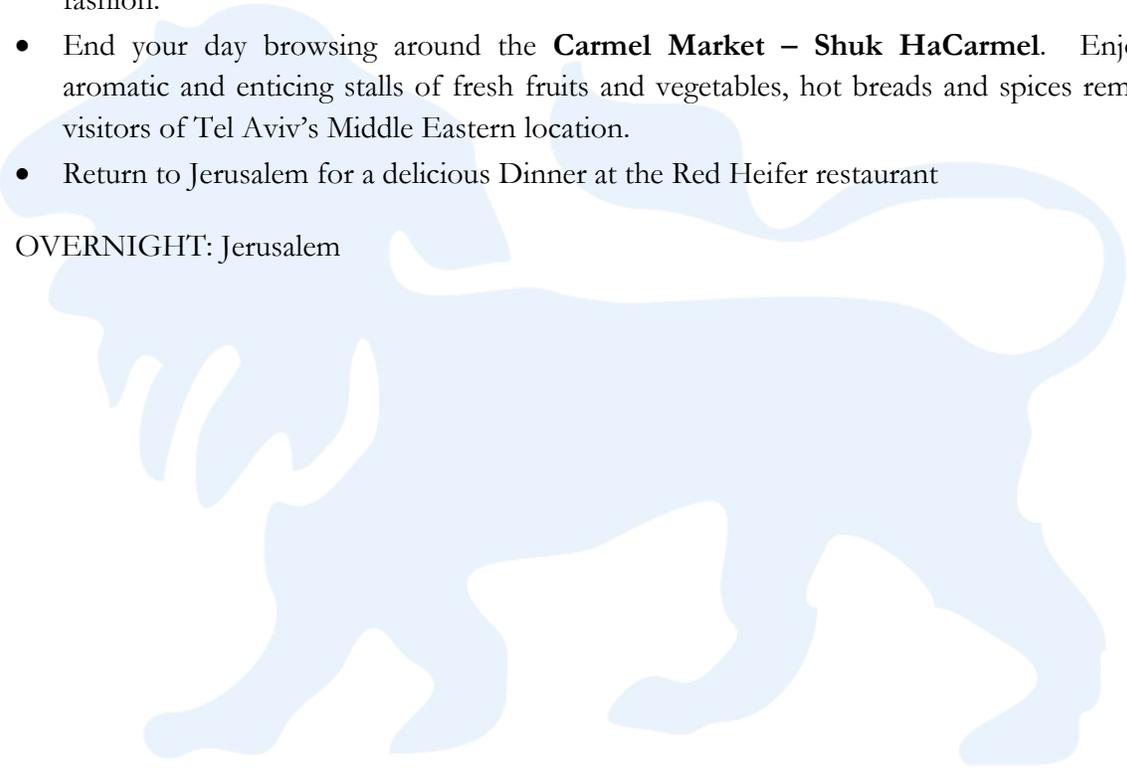
### 3

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Coastal

- After breakfast, depart to **Cholon** and visit the **Children's Museum** and experience how it would feel to be Blind or Deaf for a short period and gain an appreciation for G-D's great gift of Seeing and hearing.
- Visit the spectacular "**Palmach Museum**". Through a modern multi-media presentation, view the history of the **Palmach** from 1941 to the **War of Independence** and the establishment of the **State of Israel**.
- Support the Israeli economy by doing some shopping at the **Azrieli Center Mall**, the largest mall in Israel.
- Take a **Segway tour from the Tel Aviv promenade** to see Tel Aviv in a truly unique fashion.
- End your day browsing around the **Carmel Market – Shuk HaCarmel**. Enjoy the aromatic and enticing stalls of fresh fruits and vegetables, hot breads and spices reminding visitors of Tel Aviv's Middle Eastern location.
- Return to Jerusalem for a delicious Dinner at the Red Heifer restaurant

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem



# 4

Thursday, May 12, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

Mazal Tov!

- This morning, let your heart glow with pride as you celebrate your family **Bar Mitzvah** service at the world's holiest place, the Kotel. Professional photographers and videographers will record this special event.
- Enjoy a Bar Mitzvah celebratory brunch with live musical entertainment, together with your invited guests, at Between the Arches Restaurant, set in an original 800-year-old building near the Kotel.
- Tour the amazing **City of King David**. Begin with a breathtaking observation overlooking Biblical Jerusalem and observe 3,800 years of history dating back in time to the days of Abraham, when the first foundations of the city were laid. The journey quickly heads underground to some of the **newest archaeological excavations** at the site. **Relive King David's conquest of the Jebusite city** as described in the 2nd Book of Samuel.
- Continue with a guided tour of the archaeological discoveries excavated in the **Western Wall Tunnels**. Inside, a most interesting model shows the different dwelling periods and history of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Stand on the site believed to be the nearest spot to the “Holy of Holies”.
- You may wish to visit the **Alrov Mamilla Avenue shopping mall** with over 140 businesses, including international names like Rolex, MAC, H. Stern, Nike, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nautica, bebe, and Tommy Hilfiger, as well as local chains like Castro, Ronen Chen, Steimatzky Books, and Cafe Rimon

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem

# 5

Friday, May 13, 2011 (Guide & Armored Vehicle)

Chevron

- After breakfast, depart in an armored vehicle and stop for ***Tehillim*** and supplication at the very special site of **Rachel's Tomb**.
- Learn about the history of the struggle for **Gush Eztion** in a moving multimedia sound a light presentation at **Kfar Etzion**.
- Onto the holy city of **Chevron**, visit ***Ma'arat Hamachpela*** where our patriarchs and matriarchs are buried: Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov and their wives. Tradition also holds this to be the burial place of 'Adam & Eve.' Meet some of the very special families who live in this special neighborhood & **Rabbi Danni Cohen** the Chabad Rabbi of Chevron.
- Let's get ready to get down and dirty as we are going to bake fresh **Challah** from scratch for the soldiers protecting our holy city.
- Return to **Jerusalem** and enjoy a walk & test your "Israeli bargaining skills" at the **Machne Yehuda Shuk (open market)**.

## Towards evening.....WELCOME SHABBAT AT THE KOTEL (WESTERN WALL)

- As the sun sets preparations will be made for welcoming the **Shabbat**
- Upon reaching the steps leading down to the **Kotel**, look around and notice people from all corners of the world converging together with one purpose in mind; to welcome the **Shabbat** at the holiest place on earth. Singing & dancing with true spirit.
- Enjoy **Shabbat Dinner & Chassidic Farbrengen at the Tzemach Tzedek Shul in Jerusalem's Old City**; this is a VIP exclusive experience.

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem

- Shabbat services at the **Great Synagogue** of Jerusalem or a synagogue of your choice.
- Enjoy Shabbat lunch buffet at the hotel dining room.
- Shabbat afternoon take some time to orientate yourself with Jerusalem; spend the afternoon walking the neighborhood streets of **Meah Shearim, Yemin Moshe,** or the **German Colony** to see **Jerusalem's** oldest & most unique neighborhoods.
- As Shabbat comes to an end, we perform the traditional Havdalah service.
- In the evening, enjoy shopping and dinner at Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda Outdoor Mall where the young Jerusalem comes to life

OVERNIGHT: Jerusalem



# 7

Sunday, May 15, 2011 (Guide & Vehicle)

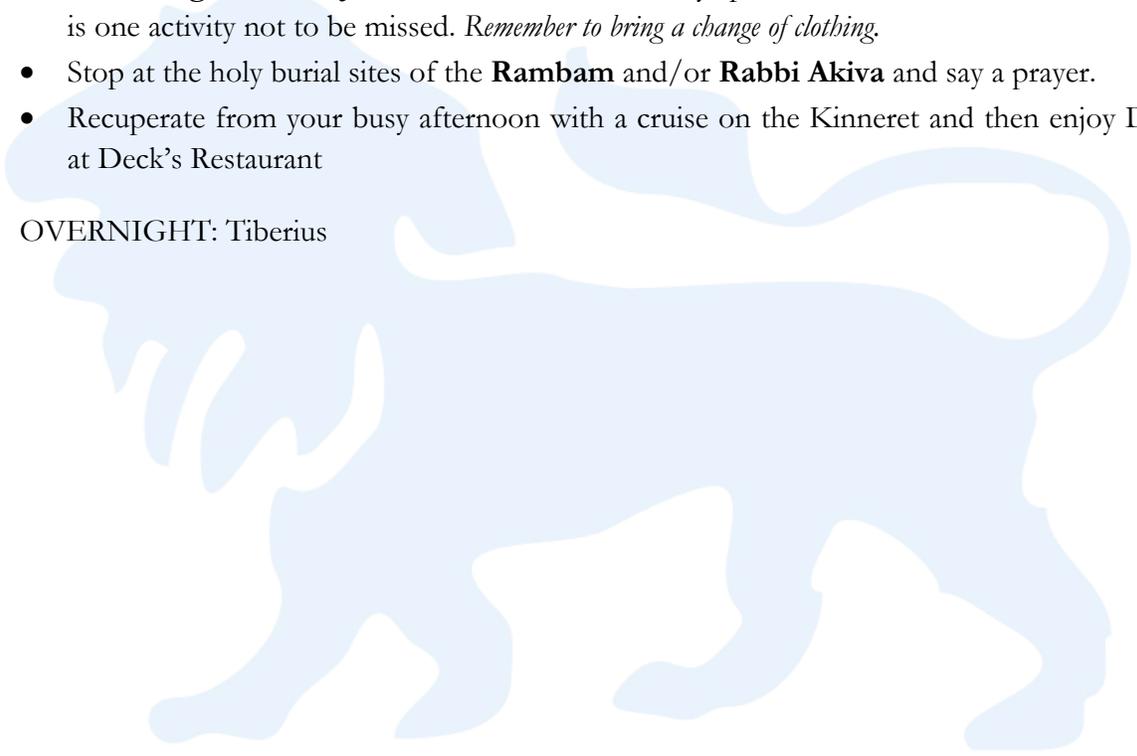
Dead Sea

- After breakfast, check out of hotel.
- Early morning departure to the **Dead Sea** area, traveling south through the Judean Wilderness.
- Drive **Dune Buggies** deep into the Judean desert.
- Arrive at Masada & ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car. Explore the ancient remains of fortifications, King Herod's palaces, storerooms and baths. Descend by cable car. It is also possible to ascend or descend on foot via the old Roman Ramp or snake path.
- Take in the beauty of the natural **Ein Gedi Waterfall**. Enjoy a small slice of heaven as you hike along a waterfall oasis, whose beauty exudes vibrant colorful hues.
- Continue along to the **Dead Sea**, the lowest point on earth, and a rich source of minerals for export. Let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else, but the sea and the salt all around you.
- Toward the evening, visit **'Eretz Beresheit' / Genesis Land**; to enjoy **camel tour & traditional desert dinner**.
- Travel to Tiberius and check in to hotel

OVERNIGHT: Dead Sea

- After breakfast, Check out of hotel.
- Travel to the ancient remains of **Beit Shean** – one of the oldest settled sites in the country with excavations dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. This is where, in biblical times, the bodies of **King Saul and his sons** were nailed to the city walls by the Philistines. There are many highlights to see, including the **1st-century 7,000+ seat amphitheater**, the western bathhouse and the 150-meter long 'Palladius Street'.
- Visit **Gan Guru Australian Park** in **Nir David**. This is one of the few places outside of Australia which hosts pet-able Koalas and Kangaroos. This park also includes a 1,500 square meter **garden/landscape maze**.
- Go **rafting** down the **Jordan River**. With its many spectacular views, and fast currents, this is one activity not to be missed. *Remember to bring a change of clothing.*
- Stop at the holy burial sites of the **Rambam** and/or **Rabbi Akiva** and say a prayer.
- Recuperate from your busy afternoon with a cruise on the Kinneret and then enjoy Dinner at Deck's Restaurant

OVERNIGHT: Tiberius



- After a light breakfast, have the very special privilege of being guests of an **Armored Brigade** at their **IDF base**. (Pending military approval).
- Drive to a **shooting range**, a place where some of the secret forces of Israel are trained and we will practice shooting from an automatic **Uzi gun**, an **AK47 (Kalashnikov)**.
- Go **jeeping** to the observation point on **Mount Bental**, an abandoned Israeli bunker overlooking the entire **Golan Heights**. From here you can see the mountains of the **Galilee** and **Lebanon**, and eastward into Syria.
- Continue on to **Tzfat's** restored Old City. **Tzfat** has much to offer in the way of art galleries, gift-shops and restaurants found tucked away amongst the winding, cobblestone streets and take a dip in the famous **Mikveh of the AriZal** in the mystical city. Visit the **unique synagogues** such as the Ari Sephardi, Ari Ashkenazi, Ari Beit Midrash, Caro Synagogue, Abuhav synagogue (built in 1490) and many more.
- You may like to stop and say a prayer at the holy burial sites of some of our **Great Kabbalistic** leaders, such as the **AriZal** and **Rabbi Yosef Cairo** (author of the Shulchan Aruch – Code of Jewish Law).
- Stop by **Tzfat's famous candle shop** and visit art and sculpture galleries.
- On **Mount Canaan**, overlooking scenic **Tzfat**, visit the exciting new visitors' center – **Otzar HaStam**. The center, the only one of its kind in the world, opens a window to the fascinating world of "**Stam**" – the ancient art and tradition of the Jewish Scribes, writing Sifrei Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzot.
- **Enjoy Dinner, Farbrengen and evening of events** led by your guide & Rabbi at Ascent of Tzfat with **Live Klezmer Music & entertainment**

OVERNIGHT: Tiberius

- After breakfast, enjoy your very last day with a trip down the coast.
- Visit **Rosh Hanikrah**, the northernmost point on the Mediterranean shore of Israel, where a chalk mountain range meets the sea. Ride from the mountain top down to sea level via **cable car** to explore the Grotto's formed over thousands of years-truly a wonder of creation.
- Visit the **ancient city of Acco** (Acre) 14 miles above Haifa, once known as the Crusaders capital of the north. This city is almost 4,000 years old. Walk on the city walls & **Ramparts** to the harbor, then through the colorful markets to visit the huge, cool yet spooky **Subterranean Crusader Halls**.
- Explore gates, towers, tunnels, and secret passageways and next explore the notorious **Acco Prison** that was built by the Turks and later used by the British to imprison **Jewish underground fighters** during their struggle against British rule.
- Take a hike through **Nachal Kziv**, the longest stream in the Galilee. See the remains of a Crusader Castle, as well as other smaller streams you can take a dip in.
- Farwell Dinner at **The Wine and Meat Co.** in Hertzliyah.
- **Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport** for the departure flight home where you will be met by a VIPISRAEL representative will be waiting to assist you in your temporary departure from Israel.