

Dragon Boat Israel: 10-Day Package Tour

Thursday, May 10, 2012 - Arrival

Shalom and welcome to Israel!

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, where you will be met by an Amiel representative who will assist in your arrival and bring you to your driver.

Travel to Jerusalem and check in to your hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Friday, May 11, 2012 – Jerusalem, Old City

Start the day with a breathtaking view of Jerusalem from the mountains surrounding the city.

Enter the **Old City** and follow the **Stations of the Cross** as you walk through the Arab Bazaar. Tour the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**.

Enjoy **lunch** in the Old City.

Explore the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Cardo**, an ancient Byzantine marketplace where you can still shop today.

Visit the **Western Wall**, the holiest place on earth for the Jewish People and see the preparation for Shabbat.

Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Saturday, May 12, 2012 - Dead Sea and Masada

Descend to the lowest place on earth as you drive along the shores of the **Dead Sea**.

At the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi** enjoy a nature walk to the waterfall.

Continue to **Masada**. Explore this mountaintop stronghold built by Herod the Great and hear about the Jews who chose death over slavery at the hands of the Romans.

To a Dead Sea resort for lunch and a chance to **swim** (float) in the Dead Sea. Spa treatments are available (cost is extra and needs to be booked in advance).

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Sunday, May 13, 2012 - Archeological Dig and Ein Kerem

Have a hands-on experience with the past as you participate in an **archeological dig** at **Tel Maresha**. This is the real thing! You may find remains from the times of Bar Kochba and before.

Later, head underground to visit the **Absalom Caves**. Only here can you see stalactites and stalagmites named after biblical heroes like Samson and Moses.

Explore quaint **Ein Kerem**, visiting the Church of the Visitation and the Church of St John the Baptist.

Overnight in Jerusalem.

Monday, May 14, 2012- Jerusalem, Old & New City

Return to the **Old City** and witness Bar Mitzvah Ceremonies at the Western Wall.

Explore the **Southern Wall Excavations** and the ancient steps that lead up to the **Temple Mount**. See the unique virtual reconstruction of the area at the **Davidson Center**.

Discover the past as you head under the Old City at the **Western Wall Tunnels**.

Continue to the "original" Jerusalem – **The City of David**. See the audio-visual presentation, explore Jerusalem from the time of Bible and, weather permitting, walk through **Hezekiah's tunnel** – built to bring water into Jerusalem. It still works, so prepare to get wet.

Tour the **Israel Museum** to see the model of Jerusalem as it was in the Second Temple Period and the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, housed in the dramatic **Shrine of the Book**.

Visit **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust Memorial. Tour the museum and visit the Children's Memorial and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Tuesday, May 15, 2012- Ammunition Hill & Adventure in the Desert

Drive to **Ammunition Hill**, site of a difficult battle during the liberation of Jerusalem.

Pause at the **Menorah** by the Knesset for a photo-op!

Travel south to a **Bedouin camp**. Enjoy an optional camel trek

(cost is extra) deep into the desert and experience a traditional **Bedouin Hafla (feast) for lunch**.

More desert delights await you with a **jeep safari** and a **rappelling** adventure.

Overnight in Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012 – Tel Aviv and Up North

Start the day at **Independence Hall** and relive the birth of the State of Israel.

Depart Tel Aviv and head north to **Caesarea**. We will explore the ancient Roman theater, where performances are still held today, and the **Crusader Fortress** complete with its mysterious dry moat.

Enjoy and authentic lunch in a **Druze Village**, and learn about the Druze way of life.

Onward to **Galilee** and **Nazareth** to visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well.

Plant a tree with your own hands to commemorate your visit to Israel. Optional and time permitting, visit **Kfar Kedem** and step back to Biblical Times and prepare bread or olive oil using ancient methods and ride donkeys on the hills of Galilee. (Cost is extra)

Check into your Kibbutz or hotel.

Dinner and overnight in the Galilee.

Thursday, May 17, 2012 - Dragon Boat Practice

Today the Dragon boat festival begins! Travel to the festival site, see and participate in the contests and challenges and enjoy the festival. There will be activities, events and music and stalls.

After a chance to refresh at the hotel, enjoy a **festive dinner** celebration with DBI groups

Overnight in the Galilee.

Friday, May 18, 2012 - Dragon Boat Competition

The Dragon boat festival continues!

In the early afternoon, participate in the closing ceremony and return to your hotel.

Shabbat dinner.

Overnight in the Galilee.

Saturday, May 19, 2012 – Zfat, Golan Heights and Tel Dan

Head to **Zfat**, city of Mystical Judaism (Kabbalah). Explore the narrow alleyways lined with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries. Pause in the quaint town of **Rosh Pina** to learn about the pioneers who settled the land.

Drive to **Agmon Ha'Hula**, a unique wetland on the migratory path of birds between Europe and Africa.

Rent a bicycle or golf cart and explore the area.

Ascend the **Golan Heights** and peer deep into Syria from atop **Mt. Bental**.

Watch the **Oz 77 presentation** about a crucial battle during the Yom Kippur War.

Enjoy nature walks at the **Banias** and **Tel Dan**, sources of the Jordan River.

Dinner and overnight in the Galilee.

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Check out of your hotel.

A driver will bring you to the airport for your flight.

Shalom!

*Itinerary is subject to changes

Our rate includes:

- Meeting & assistance on arrival and departure at Ben-Gurion Airport by Amiel representative.
- Arrival Kit (Including a detailed map of Israel, cap, and a carry bag).
- Porterage at airport and hotels.
- 10 overnights at hotels offered or similar.
- 7 days sightseeing as per your program above.
- 7 tour days and 2 transfer days with an English speaking tour guide.
- Entrance fees for any sites: All churches in Jerusalem, Ein Gedi National Park, Massada National Park including 2-way cable car, archeological dig at Tel Merasha, Stalactite Cave, Israel Museum, City of David Entrance & Shiloa Tunnel, Ammunition Hill Entrance & guided group tour in the museum, camel ride in a Bedouin camp, 2-hour jeep tour/ rappelling experience in the desert, Caesarea National Park, Group Tree planting in the Golan, Agamon Ahula Park Entrance including 2-hour Cart/Bike hire, Oz 77 movie, Banias National Park, Dan National Park.
- Air-conditioned vehicle throughout tour.
(number of seats depending on group size)
- **Meal arrangements: Bed & Breakfast**, including full Israeli buffet breakfast at hotels daily in Jerusalem; full Israeli buffet breakfast and dinners at your hotel in the Galilee or Tiberias daily.
 - Falafel lunch in the old city on **May 11**.
 - Lunch & Swim in a hotel at the Dead sea on **May 12**.
 - Lunch in a Druze Village on **May 16**.
 - Festive dinner on **May 17** (will take place near the festival area).

Our rate excludes:

- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Meals throughout the entire tour other than mentioned.
- Tips to driver, guide, hotel and restaurant staff.
- Any other item not mentioned above.