



Hillel's Sample Trip Itinerary

This sample itinerary provides a taste of the trip. Actual details and dates of your trip may vary.

Departure: Sunday

- Depart U.S.A.
- Overnight: Flight

Day 1: Monday

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International airport.
- Festive welcoming at airport with music and food.
- Drive along the Coastal Highway towards the northern part of Israel.
- Lunch on route.
- Visit Caesarea - ancient Roman amphitheater on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Orientation/ice breakers/security briefing/expectation session on the beach.
- Transfer to Kibbutz hotel in Northern Israel.
- Festive Opening Dinner at Kibbutz.
- Opening conversation: My connection to Jewish Memory.
- Moonlight walk around Kibbutz.
- Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel.

Day 2: Tuesday

- Opening lecture about the current situation in Israel with Middle East expert from Kibbutz Tuval.
- Jeep ride in Golan heights in the footsteps of IDF soldiers and their battles in Israeli wars, for an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- Walk through the Banias Nature Reserve; cool off underneath a refreshing waterfall.
- Lunch on route.
- Explore Israel's security situation in the Golan Heights. View Hula Valley, Border with Syria, UN Outpost.
- Raft down the Jordan River.
- Seminar on Arab Israeli relations - speak with people on both sides of the Israeli-Arab conflict.
- Evening activity on Kibbutz.
- Overnight at Kibbutz Guest House.

Day 3: Wednesday

- Hike Mount Arbel - beautiful Cliffs in Northern Israel.
- Visit Tzfat - Center of Jewish Mysticism for centuries and a contemporary artist's colony.
- Visit the many synagogues and explore the origins of Kabbalah.
- Lunch on promenade in Tzfat.
- Visit Tzippori- a city where Jews and Romans lived together after the destruction of the Second Temple.
- Conversation at Tzippori: Jews and Gentiles.
- Dinner at Decks- restaurant in Tiberias.
- Disco boat on Sea of Galilee.
- Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel.

Day 4: Thursday

- Drive to Tel Aviv- Israel's most modern city.
- Visit Independence hall - spot where the Declaration of Independence of Israel was signed.
- Visit Rabin Square and the Yitzchak Rabin Memorial.
- Walk around Neve Tzedek, one of Tel Aviv's first neighborhoods and now home to galleries, quaint restaurants and shops.
- Lunch in Neve Tzedek.
- Conversation Special vs. Normal: You choose.
- Drive South.
- Camel Riding.
- Dinner at Bedouin Tent - learn about Bedouin culture & customs.
- Star gazing in the desert.
- Overnight: Bedouin tent.

Day 5: Friday

- Climb Masada by sunrise via the Roman Ramp, site of the Jewish Zealots's last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Explore Herod's mountain palace, synagogue and bathhouse.
- Conversation: Spirituality/Wresting with God.
- Descend Masada via the snake path.
- Hike in Ein Gedi - a fresh water spring and waterfall in the desert.
- Enjoy the Dead Sea - cover yourself in mud, float in the Dead Sea and enjoy the natural sulfur springs.
- BBQ lunch at the Dead Sea.
- Drive to Jerusalem.
- Welcome to Jerusalem ceremony overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Welcome Shabbat with your group.
- Festive Shabbat Dinner.
- Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 6: Saturday

- Service options.
- Kiddush Luncheon at Hotel.
- Free time.
- Optional Shabbat activities.
 - Guided walks through Jerusalem.
 - Discussions with Israeli peers.
 - Program with Israeli artists and poets.
- Group Havdallah service to mark the end of Shabbat.
- Jerusalem Gala - gathering of 3,000 students for a celebration and gala entertainment at the Jerusalem Convention Center.
- Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 7: Sunday

- Take part in the birthright Israel Expo.
- Explore the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem.
- Visit the Western Wall and the tunnels under the Western Wall.
- Enjoy lunch in the Jewish Quarter.
- Experience David's Citadel, a Jerusalem landmark.
- Dine in the Roman fashion in the Cardo - center of the Roman city of Jerusalem.
- Evening lecture with Avraham Infeld, Hillel's Consul for Jewish Affairs.

- Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 8: Monday

- Visit Yad Vashem - Israel's national museum and memorial to the Holocaust.
- Visit the graves of Theodore Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, and Yitzhak Rabin, late Prime Minister of Israel; hear personal stories from Israelis about their fallen comrades.
- Depart for nature walk in Sataf.Tzedek/social justice project.
- Go on a night Archeological dig at Beit Guvrin.
- Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 9: Tuesday

- Full day mifgash (encounter) with Israeli soldiers on Hazor Air Force base.
- Conversation about relationship to Israel.
- Travel to Ashkelon, a town on the Mediterranean coast.
- Explore the promenade in Ashkelon.
- Overnight in Ashkelon.

Day 10: Wednesday

- Morning at the Beach in Ashkelon.
- Final conversation/evaluation.
- Farewell lunch at restaurant in Tel Aviv.
- Depart for Airport.