

## Post-Educational Journey Private Eilat & Petra | November 14-17, 2019

### COST:

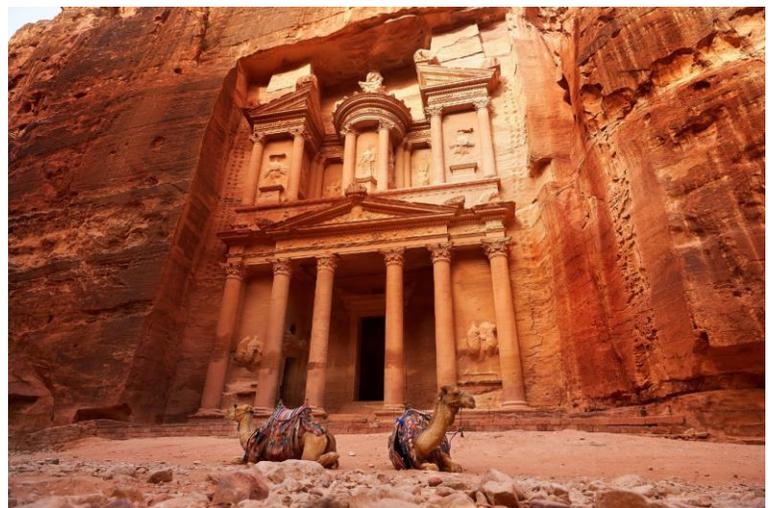
Occupancy	Price (per person)
Double Occupancy	\$2,049
Single Occupancy	\$2,476

**WHERE:** Eilat & Petra

**WHEN:** November 14-17, 2019

### ITINERARY:

- Thursday, November 14
  - Arrival Transfer to Beit Guvrin
  - Tour Eilat
- Friday, November 15
  - Full-day tour of Eilat
- Saturday, November 16
  - Full-day day tour Eilat and Petra
- Sunday, November 17
  - Departure Transfer to Airport



## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 3 Overnight stays at the above-mentioned hotel on HB Basis
- 2 Local Lunches
- 2 Touring days with Private Guide & Driver
- Entrance fees as per itinerary: Beit Guvrin national Park, Ben Gurion House, Jeep Tour (2Hour Jeep Tour), Timna
- Transport in an A/C -35 Seater Bus
- 1-day Tour to Petra (Including Border tax/Visa/Tips)

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Any airline tickets, tax
- Tips & Gratuities- it is common to give tips to the staff: Guide- USD5-8 p.p/per day; Driver- USD3-6 p.p/per day; Porters- USD 1p.p/per hotel; Hotels staff- USD1-2 p.p/per day
- Personal expenses e.g. tel., laundry, etc.
- Meals not stated in the program.
- Any items, services or beverages not specifically mentioned in the program

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- This FAM tour will operate with a minimum of 10 participants.
- Your registration is non-refundable unless the FAM is cancelled by ASTA or the Supplier.
- Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended.
- Have questions? Contact [meetings@asta.org](mailto:meetings@asta.org)

## FULL ITINERARY:

### DAY 1: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

After breakfast drive to Beit Guvrin an important archaeological site in southern Israel. Beit Guvrin National Park encompasses the remains of the ancient city of Tel- Maresha. The site has history from the 1st Temple Period through to modern times. Yet it is the amazing caves which is the main attraction for many of the visitors who come here.



Drive via Beer Sheva to Ben Gurion Hut- David Ben Gurion lived in Sde Boker for the remainder of his life apart from a brief spell in which he returned to politics. He hosted world- leaders and many others in his home there, and as a member of the community worked like the other members.



Afterwards, drive via Mitzpe Ramon to Eilat.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch  
Hotel: Leonardo Plaza Hotel Eilat

DAY 2: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

After Breakfast enjoy a Jeep Tour in Eilat, one of the most popular sights of the Negev desert.

This tour drives through Wadi Solomon to meet the Acacia trees, and the Ibexes, and the great Granite Mountains that rise over 700 meters above sea level. Along the path of Rechavam dry riverbed, we will see the beautiful geological combination of limestone, clay, sandstone and Granite.



Continue to the Old Eilat ascent, pilgrims known as "Dard El hadj" – the Routh of pilgrims to Mecca. On this ascent at the end of the independence war, the Negev brigade descended to Um Rash= Rash – today Eilat.

From the top of Mount Yoash you will see a fantastic observation point for a panoramic view of Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



Continue to Timna Park -an outstanding in its variety of scenic, geological and archaeological sites of global significance. Its acacia trees and other arid-land vegetation, its herds of wild ibex looking out at you from the cliff tops, and its evidence of human activity from antiquity to the present all make Timna Park an incomparable visitor magnet.



Afterwards, transfer back to Eilat.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch  
Hotel: Leonardo Plaza Hotel Eilat

### DAY 3: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

After Breakfast Drive to Arava Border for a day Tour in Petra.

Your guide and bus driver will meet you inside the border with full assistance and driving through the unique desert landscape on the way to Petra. On arrival to Petra, you will enjoy a magical site of Petra which is considered as the second wonder of the world. You will Walk through the Siq, a narrow gorge one kilometer long filled with interesting niches, shrines, and carvings. Running alongside the length of the Siq are water channels carved by the Nabateans to provide water supply for their people. From here, the ancient city awaits. Sites you will discover along the way include The Obelisk Tomb, Treasury, Tombs, Theater and Mountaintop Tombs. Then enjoy some free time to explore at your own pace.



In the afternoon, return to the border for crossing back to Israel.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Hotel: Leonardo Plaza Hotel Eilat

### DAY 4: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

This morning is at your leisure to explore Eilat on your own. You will transfer out from the hotel at 11am and drive to DriveTel Aviv - 1 central Point or Ben Gurion Airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: -



### **HOTEL:**

**Leonardo Plaza Hotel Eilat | November 14th – 17th**

8 Tarshish Eilat 88100, Israel

Tel: +972 8-636-1111

## This Educational Journey is hosted by



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## **ISRAEL GUIDE**

Below is some useful information to help prepare for your trip to Israel.

*\*The information in this guide is subject to change without prior notice; please reconfirm necessary details prior to your trip*

### **Geography**

Israel is a small country in the Middle East about the size of the state of New Jersey. The country has a diverse climate with snowy mountains in the north and the hot desert in the south. Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinian Authority all border Israel to the east. Lebanon serves as the northern border and Egypt borders in the south.

### **Climate**

Israel is located, between 29°-33° north of the equator, which is characterized as a subtropical region, between the temperate zone and the tropical zone. The northern and coastal regions of Israel show Mediterranean climate characterized by hot and dry summers and cool rainy winters. Whereas the southern and eastern areas of Israel are characterized by an arid climate.

The rainy season extends from October to early May, and rainfall peaks in December through February. Rainfall varies considerably by regions from the North to the South. Highest rainfall is observed in the North and center parts of the country and decreases in the southern part of Israel, from the Negev Desert to Eilat where rainfall is negligible.

Heavy snow falls only in the northernmost part of Golan Heights where the Mount Hermon summit (2,224 m above sea level) remains generally snow covered from December to March. In other parts of the country snow is observed rarely.

The city of Eilat, located at the southernmost point of Israel and at the northern tip of Red Sea, has a good climate for beach holidays all year round.

### **Greeting**

Shalom is the Hebrew word for Hello. It is also used to say goodbye. It also means peace. Shalom (person's name) is also a nice salutation to use in business letter writing where "Dear" is not really appropriate.

When greeting someone for the first time a handshake is appropriate, both in business and social settings.

According to Jewish law it is forbidden for any Jewish man (i.e a boy over the age of thirteen) to touch a woman - except his wife. Similarly, it is forbidden for any woman to touch a man other than her own husband. This law is mostly practiced in religious households only. If you have just met a religious person and are unsure of their level of observance, wait a moment. If it is okay, the man or woman will extend their hand.

In the secular community you can greet a close friend by touching their arm or shoulder lightly and kissing them on both cheeks. It is not uncommon for men to greet other men in this way.

## **Language**

Modern Hebrew, which is a dialect of ancient Hebrew, is one of the two official languages used in Israel. Also known as New Hebrew, Modern Hebrew is the most popular language used in Israel with over 5 million native speakers and more than 9 million overall speakers.

Approximately 20% of Israeli citizens are Arab and they generally do not speak Hebrew at home. Due to the fact that Arab citizens often live in their own communities and have governmental services available to them in their native Arabic language, many of them never learn Hebrew at a very high level. This changes for Arabs who choose to go the universities in Israel, at which point they must reach a certain level of proficiency in Hebrew in order to continue in their studies.

Many official documents are also available in the Russian language. Approximately one million Russian immigrants have come to Israel in the last 20 years or so, and while most of them have learned Hebrew and their children have grown up learning and speaking Hebrew, Russian will remain the first language for many of them. Amharic, an Ethiopian language, is also a very common sight, as many Ethiopians have immigrated to Israel since the 1970s and 1980s.

## **Currency**

The Israeli national currency is the new Israeli Shekel (NIS or ILS), more commonly known as the shekel. The shekel is divided into 100 agurot (agura in singular). Israeli bank notes come in four denominations: 20, 50, 100 and 200 NIS and coins come in five denominations: 10, 5 and 1 NIS; 50 agurot and 10 agurot.

## **Getting Around**

Local transportation is generally efficient. Once you're in the country, there are taxis, car rentals, buses and some limited train service between major destinations. In Tel Aviv, you can even swipe your credit card and hop on a bike. Generally, Israel is a car and bus culture.

Most tourists get around via car or bus, but a domestic flight might make sense if you're short on time and looking to visit Eilat, Israel's southernmost city. The flight from Tel Aviv takes just an hour, as compared to a four-hour bus ride. That's probably the longest distance you'll encounter in this small country. (By contrast, Tel Aviv to Haifa is only a 60-mile distance.)

To get from the airport to your hotel, the options are similar to what you might find in a European city: trains (Israel Railways), buses (Egged), car rental offices, taxis, limos and shared vans.

## **Eating & Drinking**

As a country on the Mediterranean Sea, Israel has encountered hundreds of people over the years, from the nearby Phoenicians and Persians to the far-off Romans and Spanish. Through much of the country's early history all of these groups made significant changes to Israel's diet, primarily in the form of bringing new foods to the region, including apples, oranges, and other now common foods.

Some typical dishes include:

**Bagel:** round chewy bread which is boiled, not baked

**Falafel:** the unofficial national dish is fried chickpeas (garbanzo beans) balls served with vegetables and French fries in pita bread

**Shakshouka:** fried eggs, vegetables, and bread in a spicy tomato sauce

**Shawarma:** turkey or lamb kebab seasoned and grilled, then served in pita bread with hummus and vegetables

## **Tipping**

Plan on tipping your bellman around 5 NIS per bag carried. Leave your maid around 5-10 NIS per day. It is always wise to be more generous with your maid at the start of your hotel stay in Israel – this will mean that you should come back to an even cleaner room each and every day. If you order room service, tip the servers 5% of the total bill, although check to make sure that the hotel did not automatically add a gratuity to your bill (which is the usual practice around the whole world). If they did, there is no need to leave an additional tip unless you really want to and they insisted on providing you with exceptional service.

A regular tip for a waiter in Israel is 10-15% depending on how good the service was and how much you ordered. In a bar, you should usually leave a tip of a few shekels, of course depending on what you are ordering. Occasionally (and in some 'tourist-trap' restaurants) service is automatically added to the bill, so be sure to keep an eye open for this.

Taxi drivers in Israel do not generally expect to be tipped and will generally return change to you without even asking if you would like it. Remember that any taxi you take within an Israeli city should be based on a metered fare, and between cities, there is an official price list, although different vehicle sizes and timings mean that this can vary. You also shouldn't feel the need to tip when ordering at a cafe counter, a hotel reception, or travel information, although if you receive great service, feel free to make the person who helped you extra happy!

## **Electricity**

Electricity in Israel is 230V/50 Hz

**Time**

GMT plus two hours

**Passport & Visa**

A passport is required for travel to Israel. US passport holders do not require a visa if staying in Japan less than 90 days.

If you plan to travel to Israel on a USA, Canadian, or European Union passport, you do NOT need a visa to enter Israel. If you are traveling on a passport from another country (e.g. Russia, Ukraine, etc.) you may need to obtain a visa to enter Israel. If you are traveling on a "USA Travel Document" in place of a passport, you will need a visa and you should contact your local Israel Consulate immediately. For more information, please contact one of the regional Israel Consulate offices listed below.

All visitors to Israel must arrive with a passport that does not expire within six months from the date that you depart Israel. If your passport expires less than six months after your last day in Israel, you will need to renew your passport immediately or you may not be allowed entry into Israel.

**Etiquette & Local Customs**

Men tend to shake hands warmly when greeting one another and maintain direct eye contact. Handshakes are often combined with slight touches on the arms and/or elbows. Good friends and family may engage in light hugs. Some men greet men with a handshake in a business setting and a cheek kiss (first right cheek, then left cheek) in a social setting. Always use the right hand when greeting Muslims.

Men tend to greet women with a handshake in a business setting and a cheek kiss (first right cheek, then left cheek) in a social setting. If you are addressing a person who is religiously observant (men would be wearing a kippah, women would be in a skirt covering her knees, a shirt that covers her chest and arms below the elbows, and perhaps a head covering if she is married) follow their cue as to whether or not to shake hands or simply exchange verbal greetings.

Israelis are known to be very direct and to the point. Many foreigners feel they are blunt. Israelis tend to speak quite loudly and at a fast pace. It may appear as if they are yelling and annoyed, but it is most likely a normal tone of voice. Israelis favor direct eye contact over indirect. Maintaining eye contact is viewed as a sense of respect and interest in the person who is speaking.