Israel Symphony

Duration: 15 Days / 13 Nights

Day	Location	Details	Meal
1	En Route	**Sunday** Depart Canada on your way to Israel.	
2	Tel Aviv	**Monday** Welcome to Israel! Arrive Ben Gurion Airport; Special meeting, assistance and transfer to your hotel in trendy Tel Aviv's Mediterranean beach. Balance of the afternoon and evening at leisure in the "city that never sleeps".	
3	Tel Aviv	**Tuesday** Begin the day with a visit to the ANU Museum on the campus of the Tel Aviv University. Here, your private guide will present you with the unique and ongoing story of the Jewish People throughout the generations, using murals, dioramas, three dimensional reconstructions, films and interactive multimedia presentations. Drive to the town of Zichron Yaacov; the magnificent gardens are dedicated to Baron Rothschild, one of Israel's great benefactors. Then, on to Atlit, the detention camp where "illegal" Jewish immigrants fleeing from Nazi persecution in Europe were incarcerated during the British Mandate. The JNF helped to restore this site. See the replica of a ship (*when available for visits*) illustrating the conditions that the thousands of survivors endured during their transport to Israel. Visit Ein Hod, *when daylight hours permit*, the only artists' village in Israel, and one of the few of its kind in the entire world. Return to Tel Aviv for overnight. (B)	Breakfast Dinner
4	Tel Aviv	**Wednesday** Begin the day with a visit to Ben Gurion House in Tel Aviv, which served as one of the residences of the First Prime Minister of Israel; see his personal belongings and expansive library. Continue to the Palmach Museum (*subject to appointment confirmation*), for a virtual tour of the history of the underground organization. We'll then have a great discovery of Tel Aviv as we drive through the main streets of this city known as the "White City". Tel Aviv has been proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid Bauhaus Architecture and has the largest number of buildings in this unique style of any city in the world! Continue past the Charles Bronfman Auditorium, (Israeli Philharmonic), Habimah Theatre, the impressive Opera House and Yitzhak Rabin Square, dedicated to the late Prime Minister. We'll visit the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel's largest art museum and award winner for its unique structural design. Onward to charming and quaint Neve Tzedek (Tel Aviv's "Soho"), the first neighborhood constructed outside Old Jaffa; the old buildings are amazing! Just down the road is the newly developed open-air pedestrian mall—the "Tachana" converted from an old railroad station. You'll have some time to stroll through the shops here and perhaps enjoy coffee or an ice cream in one of the many cafes before we head back to your hotel (those wishing to spend some more time here can taxi back to the hotel, just	Breakfast

		minutes away). (B)	
5	Tel Aviv	**Thursday** Begin the day with a visit to Weizmann House, the recently restored unique and grand home of Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel and founder of the Weizmann Institute of Science. The house is presented in a living way, as if its residents are still living on the premises. Continue to the pre-state underground Ammunitions Factory at Machon Ayalon (restored by JNF) to learn about the activities of the Hagannah. Then, on to the military junction at Latrun, once the border with Jordan; visit the Tank Division Memorial. Continue to Sarona, a former Templar settlement restored to perfection with beautifully landscaped gardens and upscale restaurants. You may wish to return in the evening when Sarona looks and feels magical. On to your hotel in Tel Aviv. (B)	Breakfast Dinner
6	Tel Aviv	**Friday** Today, a great adventure! Spend the morning digging and excavating at the Tel Maresha Dig at Beit Guvrin National Park (*weather permitting*). Continue to the 4,000-year-old port city of Jaffa. Explore the magnificently reconstructed Artists' Quarter with its galleries and boutiques. Afterwards, on to Tel Aviv's bustling Carmel Market and lively Nachlat Benjamin Street with its delightful craft stalls. Adjacent is Sheinkin Street one of the most popular streets in Tel Aviv, for the trendiest boutiques or just some coffee and people watching — definitely the place to be on Friday afternoon! Tonight, Get Together Dinner. (B.D)	Breakfast Dinner
7	Tel Aviv	**Saturday** Morning walking tour through the city's well known streets including Dizengoff Square. Remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy all of the delights of this Mediterranean paradise. Tel Aviv's museums and restaurants are world-class. Don't miss Tel Aviv's hip port neighborhood, with its yachts, eateries and café-filled boardwalk. (B)	Breakfast Lunch
8	Tel Aviv / Haifa	**Sunday** Depart Tel Aviv. Drive to the extraordinary Israeli Museum at the Yitzhak Rabin Center chronicling the life of the late Prime Minister and the development of the State of Israel. Continue to ancient Caesarea; explore the Roman and Crusader ruins including the impressive 2,000-year-old theater (still in use!) and aqueduct. Arrive in Nazareth, the sacred town where Jesus spent part of his youth; visit the Church and view Mary's Well. On to the sparkling port city of Haifa; check into your hotel atop Mt. Carmel. Evening: Enjoy Dinner and a special cultural presentation (*subject to minimum 10 tour participants*). (B.D)	Breakfast Dinner
9	Haifa	**Monday** View the golden-domed **Baha'i Shrine** and visit the breathtaking **"hanging gardens,"** – a UNESCO World Heritage site. Drive along the coast to Rosh Hanikra; descend by cable car to see the magnificent underwater grottoes. Continue through the picturesque seaside town of Nahariya to the timeless Crusader city of Acre; walk through the subterranean city and bazaars that recall the colorful middle Ages. Then, to Safed, one of Judaism's holiest cities, where the Kabbalah was developed in the 16th-century; visit the ancient	Breakfast

		synagogues and the charming Artists' Quarter. Return to your hotel for Dinner. The balance of the evening is at leisure to enjoy a stroll under the Carmel skies and the glow of this beautiful port city. (B.D)	
10	Haifa / Jerusalem	**Tuesday** We'll depart Haifa driving first to Capernaum to see the fantastic ruins of the ancient synagogue dating back to the 5th-century. Ascend the strategic Golan Heights and learn about the 20th century battles that protected Israel's future. On to Katzrin, capital of the Golan and to the Monument of the 7th Brigade. It is here, in the magnificent strip of the Golan that has become known for producing the finest wines in the world, that we will enjoy a tour of the wine making process as well as sample some of the Golan's tastiest wines. Continue for a visit to a former Syrian army bunker at Kibbutz Kfar Charuv, settled by Americans and Israelis together; view of the fertile valleys below as you tour the kibbutz and enjoy a late lunch in the communal dining room. Then drive south and rise through the mountains to "golden" Jerusalem, stopping first for a blessing and a toast to our arrival in the eternal city. Overnight in Israel's capital. (B.L)	Breakfast Dinner
11	Jerusalem	**Wednesday** Drive to Hadassah Medical Center to the see the sublime Chagall Windows. On to Yad Vashem, Israel's national Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, with its Children's Pavilion and Avenue of the Righteous. Then, to Mount Herzl to pay respects to Israel's founders and heroes. Pass the post-modern Supreme Court and the Knesset (Parliament) en route to the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Time to walk through the New Israel Museum and the Billy Rose Sculpture Garden; see the Scale Model of ancient Jerusalem. Evening: Night Tour of illuminated Jerusalem followed by a Restaurant Dinner and the "Night Spectacular" Sound & Light Show at the Citadel Museum (weather and schedule permitting). (B.D)	Breakfast
12	Jerusalem	**Thursday** Drive to Mt. Zion to visit the traditional Tomb of King David and the Room of the Last Supper. Enter the Old City to the restored Jewish Quarter; walk along the Cardo, the colonnaded main street of Byzantine Jerusalem. Walk to the Western Wall, last remnant of the Second Temple. View the Dome of the Rock. Proceed through the extraordinary Hasmonean Tunnel (*tunnel schedule permitting*) or tour the Herodian Mansions, a completely excavated residential quarter from 2000 years ago. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; stroll through the exotic bazaars with their wondrous aromas. End today with a visit to the fabulous Friends of Zion Heritage Center celebrating the Christian heroes who have contributed to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. The cutting edge technology is amazing. Or, an *optional* visit to Bethlehem may be arranged. A free night tonight. The shops are open late as it's the start of the Israeli weekend. Enjoy the many eateries along the outdoor Mamilla Mall, Ben Yehuda Street, or the "Tachana". (B)	Breakfast
13	Jerusalem	**Friday** Descend through the Judean desert to the Dead Sea, lowest point on Planet Earth. Ascend Masada by cable car and see this last stronghold of the Zealots in their struggle against the Romans. Visit the excavations,	Breakfast

		Herod the Great's palace, synagogue and bathhouse. Then, opportunity to enjoy an "unsinkable" swim in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea. Drive via the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, on your return to Jerusalem. We'll stop at the Western Wall, beautifully illuminated on this Sabbath eve before arriving to the hotel (*time permitting*). Tonight, a traditional Friday dinner together. (B.D)	
14	Jerusalem	**Saturday** Enjoy a full day at leisure for relaxation and on your own exploration. For those still craving to see and do as much as possible, your tour manager will provide entrance tickets to the Museum of the History of Jerusalem in the Old City—definitely worth a visit. Overnight in Jerusalem. (B)	Breakfast
15	En Route	**Sunday** Transfer to the Airport for your international departure flight. Enjoy our Express Check-in Service.	

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