



Travel to
Israel
broadens
one!

Jim Gold International Folk Tours

Israel

Folk Dancing, Music, History, Culture, Adventure !

November 2-13, 2025

**Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv,
Galilee, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed,
Golan Heights, and more!**

**Led by Lee Friedman
Guided by Dr. Joe Freedman**



- ★ See the new-old, multi-faceted culture of Israel!
- ★ Meet the Israeli people, learn their songs and dances, visit historic sites!
- ★ For dancers, non-dancers, and anyone with a love of travel and culture
- ★ Folk dance with Israeli choreographers
Balkan dance with Dunav
- ★ Meet Circassian, Bedouin, and Druze cultural groups
- ★ Price includes city tours, folk dance workshops, entrance fees, professional tour guide, breakfasts, most dinners
- ★ Note: Our tour is appropriate for people who keep kosher and observe Shabbat

Our itinerary:

Day 0: Sunday, November 2: Depart on airline of your choice.

Day 1: Monday, November 3: Arrive in Israel: Land transfer on your own to the Dan Panorama Hotel. In the afternoon, an optional guided walking tour of the nearby, quaint neighborhood of Neve Tzedek. Dinner provided at the hotel. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Day 2: Tuesday, November 4: TEL AVIV: Following breakfast and an orientation meeting we explore the **Independence Trail**,

focusing on the founding and growth of Tel Aviv. Enjoy walking through the **arts and crafts fair** on **Nahalat Binyamin** street. On the campus of Tel Aviv University we visit the **ANUMuseum of**



the Jewish People, a state-of-the-art museum which tells the story of the Jewish people, including music, dance and the arts. Late afternoon/evening enjoy **Israeli dancing** at Dizengoff Centre with **Yaron Meishar**. Free for dinner. Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv.

Day 3: Wednesday, November 5: Northern Exposure: We head north along the coast to explore the amazing ruins of the ancient city of **Caesarea**. In **Haifa** we stop for a breathtaking view of Haifa Bay and the **Bahai Gardens**. After a lunch break we travel to **Deir el-Asad**, an Arab village in the Western Galilee, where we will tour and have a dance workshop with the inimitable **Yihye Abu-Juma**, a world-renowned instructor in **Debka** dances. We continue crossing the Galilee to check in to our hotel. Dinner and overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel on the Kinneret Sea (Sea of Galilee).



Day 4: Thursday, November 6: To the Heights: In the mystical city of **Zfat (Safed)** we visit one of the colorful, historical synagogues and meet with a **Kabbalistic** (mystical) **artist**. Free time for shopping and lunch, followed by wine tasting at the **Old Zfat Winery**. Ascending to the Golan Heights we arrive at the **Druze village of Majdal Shams** and hear from a resident, Fauzia, about the life of the Druze religio-ethnic group, followed by a unique view into Syria. Return to the hotel. **Dinner and**

Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz Hotel on the Kinneret Sea.

Day 5: Friday, November 7: From the Galilee to Jerusalem: Driving along the shore of the Kinneret Sea we pause to sing and dance to the songs of the poetess **Rahel** and of the song writer **Naomi Shemer**. In the charming village of **Kafr Kama** we learn **Circassian dances** and hear about the history of the local ethnic Moslems whose origins are in the Caucasus mountains. Traveling down the Jordan River Valley we arrive in **Jerusalem**. After checking into the hotel, we will be transported to the Western Wall (the Kotel) to observe Shabbat (Sabbath) services there. **“Shabbat” dinner provided at the hotel**. Overnight: Cassia Hotel (formerly, the King Solomon hotel), Jerusalem.



Day 6: Saturday (“Shabbat”), November 8: Day of leisure. **Optional tour to Bethlehem** (at Additional details and cost, TBA). On your own for lunch and dinner. Evening: optional **Israeli dancing** at one of a variety of folk dance clubs. Overnight: Cassia Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 7: Sunday, November 9: The Old City of Jerusalem: Introduction to the walls around the Old City at the Jaffa Gate. In the **Christian Quarter** we briefly visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and other sites, as time permits. Moving on to the **Jewish Quarter** we tour ancient remains as well as the rebuilt **Hurva Synagogue**. Following a lunch break we descend to the **Kotel (Western Wall)** and participate in a tour of the **Kotel Tunnel**. Return to the hotel. Dinner on one’s own. Evening: optional **Israeli dancing** with **Mimi Cogan** (see also tomorrow). Overnight: Cassia Hotel, Jerusalem.



Day 8: Monday, November 10: Remembering and Celebrating Life: Drive through Jerusalem’s Cultural Mile to the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** for a thorough visit. Afternoon: Enjoy lunch on your own, and walking around the colorful **Machaneh Yehuda Open-Air Market**. After returning to the hotel, an **Israeli folk dance seminar** with **Mimi Cogan** – choreographer and folk dance teacher par excellence! Dinner on one’s own. Overnight:

Cassia Hotel, Jerusalem.

Day 9: Tuesday, November 11: To The Lowest Place on Earth: We check-out of the hotel and descend to the area of the **Judean Desert**, with a brief stop at the beautiful oasis of the **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve**. We visit iconic **Masada** (ascending and descending via cable car) to admire its incredible remains and to learn about its controversial history. Afternoon: transfer to the **Dead Sea** hotel for use of the spa facilities and to float on the Dead Sea. Group dinner and overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Ein Boqeq, Dead Sea.



Day 10: Wednesday, November 12: Life in the Desert: After checking out of the hotel we make our way to the Negev desert where we visit with **Khalil Alamour** in the (unrecognized) **Bedouin village of Khan alSira**. He will show us how his home is self-sustaining and over traditional coffee and tea will talk about the challenges of the Bedouin community. Other sites in the Negev desert as time permits. Travel to **Tel Aviv**. Check-in to the Dan Panorama hotel (for those not flying late this night). Final dinner at a Mediterranean style restaurant. Return to the hotel or drop-off at Ben Gurion Airport. Overnight (for those who are staying) at the Dan Panorama hotel.

Day 11: Thursday, November 13: Transfer to airport on your own. Depart on airline of your choice.

About Joe Freedman: Joe's interest in international folk dancing and folk guitar began at 12 years old in St. Louis. He holds undergraduate degrees from Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in education from Columbia Teachers College. In New York he studied Israeli dance instruction with the legendary Fred Berk. In 1980 he and his wife moved to Israel where he organized educational tours as director of the Ramah Programs in Israel. A licensed Israeli tour guide and certified Israeli folk dance instructor, Joe loves connecting Israeli music and dance to sites in Israel and sharing his enthusiasm about the country with tourists. www.joefreedman.co.il



About Lee Friedman

Lee Friedman has been dancing for over 40 years. She first started doing International Dancing with Lenny Johnson on the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum. The 70's and 80's were the golden years of dancing in Philadelphia and she would do International dancing 4 nights a week. From there she discovered Israeli, Contras, Swing, Scandinavian, Cajun, and Zydeco dancing. Over the years she has taught International and Israeli Dancing at a variety of venues, including The Old Songs Festival, The Philadelphia Folk Song Society and, for Temples, Bat Mitzvahs, and adult groups. Since retiring from the Philadelphia School System, she has been traveling a lot with Jim Gold, Yves Moreau, and Steve Kotansky to learn dancing in some of the countries where they originated and to see the countries and meet the people who live there.



Visit www.jimgold.com to see YOUTUBE tour videos!

Israel: Land Only: \$4995

REGISTRATION FORM:

Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$995. Additional charges: \$185 hotel taxes and service. Gratuities and drinks during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. All tours have a professional guide. Over 10 participants, and tour will have an additional leader. Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund. Less than 90 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended. **Total balance due August 1, 2025.**

Name/s _____
Address _____
No. of people _____ Phone(_____) _____ Email _____

Make checks payable to: **Jim Gold International, Inc.**, 497 Cumberland Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666
(201) 836-0362 Email: www.jimgold.com



JIM GOLD INTERNATIONAL: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Air Transportation: International air not included except as noted.

Rates: Tour rates are subject to change in the event of currency fluctuations or increase in costs. Inclusive tour rates are per person in double occupancy. In case of computer or human billing errors, we reserve the right to reinvoice clients with corrected billing.

Reservations: Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

Changes: Prices and program subject to change without notice

Baggage: One baggage per person and a carry on is allowed.

Cancellations: Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund. Less than 90 days: No refund.

Additionally, any cancellation fees imposed by the respective hotels, airlines, tour companies and cruise lines

will be charged. Travel Insurance is non-refundable as are unused services.

Gratuities: Tipping to guides, drivers, transfer personnel and hotel staff is left to the discretion of the participants and is not included.

Insurance: Tour participants are **strongly recommended to purchase insurance** for trip cancellation, trip interruption, accident, sickness and/or loss of baggage and personal effects.

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Jim Gold International, Inc. 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A.

Phone: (201) 836-0362 www.jimgold.com e-mail: jimgold@jimgold.com