



Seders and Sun

Jessica Prupas highlights the top places across Israel to spend the Passover holiday

Passover isn't just matzah and Moses. Israel comes alive during the Passover holiday – with countless festivals, exhibitions, and cultural events going on around the country. So make like the Hebrews and wander our fair country.

Passover in the City

For those staying in the city, Tel Aviv is your oyster – or, rather, your gefilte fish. White City Shabbat, one of the largest communities for expats in Tel Aviv, will be hosting a Passover Seder a giant Passover Seder at the Goren Synagogue (20 Mogdiliani St, Tel Aviv; whitecityshabbat.com). Complete your stay-cation with a luxurious Passover package at one of Tel Aviv's stylish hotels, such as the Dan Hotel. Located right on the beach, this colorful hotel offers Pesach deals with two Seder meals included. The hotel has a Jerusalem location, as well

(danhotels.com). If the Holy City is your destination, you have a plethora of options. The Mamilla Hotel, located at the heart of the Old City, offers a similar Passover package (**11 King Solomon St, Jerusalem; mamillahotel.com**). As does the Inbal Hotel, a stunning architectural gem in the Talbiya neighborhood. (**3 Liberty Bell Park, Jabotinsky St, Jerusalem; inbalhotel.com**)

An urban holiday wouldn't be complete without a few museum trips. Good news for culture vultures: every year on Passover, Bank Hapoalim sponsors free entrance to over 40 museums in Israel – including behemoths like the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, the Design Museum Holon, and many more. There is indisputably no better place to be alone on Passover than in Israel – because you are never truly alone, as synagogues and community



centers open their doors for communal seders all over the country. One of which will take place at the Tel Aviv International Synagogue, a Modern Orthodox Synagogue in the heart of Tel Aviv. The program will include a fully catered meal accented with traditional Passover songs and prayers. **23 Frishman St, Tel Aviv (03-5236629/metzion.org)**



Photo by Noga Wise

Emek Israel



Photo by Anat Levy

Derech Ha'Tavlinim



Let's Get Biblical

Passover in the Jezreel Valley

Ancient history and Biblical stories come to life in the Jezreel valley – a region in the Lower Galilee that has epitomized Israel's role as a passage linking Asia, Africa, and Europe for thousands of years. This Passover, however, the focus is a bit more modern, as the valley throws open its figurative doors with special activities and attractions to honor the holiday. On the dizzying roster: the Four Senses Festival, a family experience that promises to ignite – you guessed it – the senses, with perfume creation workshops, cooking classes, children's shows, and more.

For the adults – partake in some traditional Passover festivities at the Tulip Winery. Sample specialty wine and cheeses, set to quality live music. Try something new: pick raspberries and mulberries in the full bloom of spring, go fishing for juicy red fish, or take an electric bike tour through the stunning green landscape of the Valley. If history is your thing, take a guided tour to discover the special honeycomb materials that were used to preserve mummies, and chow down on honeycomb matzo to make it all the more sweet. These are just a sampling of activities. With such a diverse schedule, the Jezreel Valley is sure to please all types of vacationers.

(emek-tour.org.il)

Day Trips

The Passover holiday is the perfect time to take a road trip and explore our pint-sized nation. First stop: the Golan, a mountainous region in the North with breathtaking scenery. Climb to the peak of Mount Bental for panoramic views of this magical region – or, for something a little different, don your cowboy hat and explore on horseback at Ramot Ranch (**Golan Heights; ramotranch.com**) Next, take your Passover to new heights in Safed, the mystical city in the Galilee that stands 900 meters above ground. The city is thought to be the center of Jewish mysticism, and offers plenty of spiritual activities over the course of the Pesach holiday. Join a

public Seder at the Carlebach Synagogue, complete with traditional rabbinical teachings and lots of singing (**77**

Yerushalayim St, Safed; Contact Miri at 054-9103-046 for info).

Or, for a less traditional Passover experience, join the three-day festivities at the Ascent Institute of Safed, which include meditation sessions, art workshops, live concerts, and much more. (**2 Haari St, Safed; myascent.org**) While you're in the Galilee, hop on over to the Stone in the Galilee Symposium, an annual sculpting event that hosts top Israeli

artists as they create new artworks that will be placed around the country. The event raises questions about the relation between art and its environment, and

includes workshops that are open to the public. (**maltar.org.il**).

Now for the kids: partake in fun for the whole family in Haifa. Check out the Haifa International Children's Theater Festival, an annual celebration of young people's theater that includes open-air performances and special activities for the kinder. (**haifakids.com**).

Passover at the David Hotel & Spa Get low this Passover at the lowest spot on Earth – the Dead Sea. Our pick for accommodation is the David Hotel & Spa, a swanky spot right on the Sea. The hotel will be offering a jam-packed Pesach program including two Seder meals, a nightly entertainment program, lectures with in-house scholar Rabbi Aaron Adler, and much more. Bonus: the David is the only hotel in Israel with bowling alleys, making your Passover a strike. **Ein Bokek, Dead Sea (02-6730721/david-deadsea.com)**



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