Israel is 50.

In human terms, fifty years is a considerable span of time. But reflected against 4,000 years of history, a half-century is a mere blink of the eyelid.

Yet, for us, lucky enough to be alive at the close of the 20th century, we are privileged to have witnessed one of the most extraordinary epics in the history of man — the rebirth of Israel in our ancient homeland.

If you've never visited Israel, 1998 is the year to go. And if you haven't visited Israel for 5 or 10 years or more, it's the year to come back. Because the changes are magical and unbelievably impressive.

Come celebrate with the people of Israel. We know you'll agree with the Israelis who say, "After 40 centuries, it's great to be 50."

Early Zionist tourism poster

Welcome to AJCongress' Israel

Our Tour Managers

To be a guide in Israel is to be an academic and a professional. And to be an Israel Lecturer-Tour Manager for the American Jewish Congress signifies the guide has reached the pinnacle of his or her career.

Special Visits, Special Services

- *Each and every tour group receives privileged, behind-the-scenes glimpses of Israeli life...perhaps you'll meet soldiers, immigrants, kindergartners, farmers, artists!*
- *We can put you in touch with an Israeli counterpart who shares your profession or your hobby!*
- *And our ISRAEL WELCOME SERVICE is your private Israeli concierge — ready to trouble-shoot, ready to assist with special needs while you're in Israel, ready to help trace your brother-in-law's cousin's first husband named Cohen who left Milwaukee in 1951 and moved to Israel. Well, we'll try.*

Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs

We take care of all the arrangements for anyone — young, elderly, old — to celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvah during an AJCongress tour. And our BAR/BAT MITZVAH FAMILY CELEBRATION automatically includes Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies atop Masada!

Limited Group Size!

We limit the size of all our Israel groups. We restrict most tours to no more than 39...on that same 55-seater bus. And we keep many groups to just 20 or 25.

In Israel, We Always Include...

The cost of every American Jewish Congress tour to Israel automatically includes:

- *AJCongress Lecturer-Tour Manager at your service throughout the tour — even on free evenings and leisure days...*
- *AJCongress — selected hotels: always Israel's finest...*
- *Delicious meals! With lunch we include mineral water or soft drinks.* With dinner we include wine*, coffee or tea*
- *Roundtrip flights from New York aboard El Al Israel Airlines*
- *Opportunities to upgrade to Business Class — or to fly El Al direct from other U.S. cities...*
- *Extensive, comprehensive and unique-to-AJCongress touring program*
- *Leisure time for relaxation and shopping...*
- *AJCongress Special Visits and Special Services in Israel...*
- *Deluxe, designer flight bag, ticket wallet and inflatable neck pillow...*
- *Personal Travel Journal...*
  - *BONUSE Shopping Coupon Booklet (worth up to $3,000)*
  - *Documents portfolio: luggage tags, hotel information and helpful hints...*
  - *Touring buses, travel tickets, museum guides, all entrance fees, transfers, luggage handling, hotel and meal taxes, airline taxes* and all tips to porters and waiters.**

Israel's Weather

Israel's tourist season is 12 months long. Just pack for the weather you'll likely experience and you'll have a ball. Of course, there are always exceptions. And, of course, seasons overlap. But here are general guidelines:

Summer Season

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, EARLY SEPTEMBER

Temperatures will be in the high 80s and 90s. Tel Aviv, the Mediterranean coast and Tiberias are humid (like New York or Miami). Jerusalem is dryer and cooler, particularly at night: even in July you might need a cotton sweater. Masada and Eilat are extremely hot, often reaching 110° or more... but dry. There won't be a drop of rain.

Shoulder Season

LATE MARCH, APRIL, MAY, LATE SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

In most of Israel, daytime temperatures will be very pleasant... in the 70s, but, in Jerusalem, can drop down to the 60s, even the 50s. Temperatures remain pleasant in the evenings, except in Jerusalem where it can be quite cool. There'll be some rain showers... nothing torrential.

Winter Season

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, EARLY MARCH

Winter weather can fluctuate. Some winters are mild and sunny, some severe and overcast: it's pot luck! There's usually substantial rain and, in January and February, even snow. Most daytime temperatures will be in the 50s or 60s, but, in Jerusalem and the Galilee hills, it will average 40°, and be very cold at night.

**Except where indicated.*