

## MAY 2011 SETS NEW RECORD FOR TOURISM TO ISRAEL

Travel to Israel reached a new all-time high last month with the arrival of 268,000 international tourists--a 5% increase compared to May 2010. Also, approximately 1,168,000 travelers arrived for one-day visits between January and May 2011--4% more than the same period last year.

## ISRAEL ANNOUNCES *CARMEN* AT MASADA IN JUNE 2012

Following this year's successful Masada Opera Festival in which more than 55,000 tourists and Israelis alike gathered around Masada and in Jerusalem for a collection of operatic performances, including Verdi's *Aida*, the lineup for next year's Masada Opera Festival was announced this week, including several presentations of Georges Bizet's *Carmen*; concerts featuring tenor Roberto Alagna and mezzo soprano Elina Garanca; and a performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and Ravel's "Concerto in G" by renowned pianist Fazil Say accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - London. [www.carmen-at-masada.com](http://www.carmen-at-masada.com)



## TENS OF THOUSANDS GATHER FOR TEL AVIV'S ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE



More than 70,000 locals and travelers from around the world gathered in Tel Aviv last week for the annual Gay Pride Parade. The parade was part of a week-long celebration that also featured the festival's first-ever LGBT Film Festival, as well as various festivals, events and parties.

## ISRAEL TO HOST NEW SERIES OF SUMMER MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Israel has added new performances to its long list of musical concerts this summer, including Bob Dylan at Ramat Gan Stadium (June 20) and American experimental musician Moby at the Tel Aviv Fairground (July 12). Additional performances will include Paul Simon at Ramat Gan Stadium (July 21); Jamaican reggae star Ziggy Marley (pictured, right) at Jerusalem's Gan Sacher (July 20-21); Brazilian singer Roberto Carlos at the Sultan's Pool in Jerusalem (September 7-8); and Swedish band Roxette at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds (October 22).



## SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES AT THE CITY OF DAVID IN JERUSALEM



Travelers to Israel this summer will experience a myriad of new specially designed tours taking place at the historic City of David in Jerusalem, including: a biblical tour of the City of David; an archeological tour that traces the footsteps of the architects and builders of the City of David; a multimedia nighttime tour depicting the history of the City of David; and a tour of the Hasmonean Aqueduct, among others.

## TRAVELERS AND ATHLETES READY FOR 2ND JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL MARATHON, MARCH 16, 2012

Travelers and athletes from around the world will travel to Jerusalem next year to compete in the city's 2nd Annual International Marathon, March 16, 2012. The competition will feature a full and half-marathon, as well as a 6.2-mile run, bringing travelers through Jerusalem's historic sites including the Old City, Sultan's Pool, Mount Zion and Jerusalem Promenade and the Mount of Olives. [www.jerusalem-marathon.com](http://www.jerusalem-marathon.com)



### DONA GRACIA FESTIVAL FEATURES WEEKEND OF MUSICAL PERFORMANCES IN TIBERIAS, SEPTEMBER 12-15

The 2nd annual Dona Gracia Festival, celebrating 500 years since the birth of Dona Gracia Mendes, one of the wealthiest and most influential Jewish women of Renaissance Europe, will feature cultural events and musical performances in Tiberias, September 12-25. The festival will include performances by Israeli singers Miri Mesika, Keren Peles and Anat Atzmon at Barko Park (September 13); Israeli pop stars Maya Bouskila, Shiri Maimon and Shimon Bouskila performing at the Tiberias Promenade (September 14); and a concert headlined by Sarit Hadad at Barko Park (September 15). <http://festival-donagracia.info>



### EASYJET ADDS NEW FLIGHTS FROM BASEL TO TEL AVIV

British budget airline easyJet has announced a new weekly flight from Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport on Mondays beginning October 31, 2011. The flight is in addition to the current three weekly easyJet flights from Basel, Switzerland to Tel Aviv, which have been available to travelers every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday since the route was inaugurated in December 2010.



### AMERICAN COMEDIAN SARAH SILVERMAN TO PRESENT STAND-UP PERFORMANCE IN ISRAEL

Popular American comedian Sarah Silverman has announced a one-off performance at Tel Aviv's Wahl Amphitheater, June 25. Silverman will also take part in the third annual Israeli Presidential Conference at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, June 21.



### NEW EXHIBITION FEATURING WORK OF MICHA ULLMAN OPENS AT ISRAEL MUSEUM IN JERUSALEM

A new exhibition showcasing the complete oeuvre of renowned Israeli artist Micha Ullman, entitled "Sands of Time," will open at the redesigned Israel Museum in Jerusalem, June 22. The exhibition will feature a collection of works by Ullman spanning his 50-year career, including sculptures, drawings and a specially commissioned 650-square-foot installation based on his own unique sand-throwing technique.

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