

Rabbi David Locketz
Bet Shalom Congregation
Israel Adventure
December 18 – 30, 2016

Optional Eilat/Petra Extension
Dec. 30, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017
(As of 10/23/15)



Day 1, Sunday, December 18, 2016: DEPARTURE

- We depart the U.S on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2, Monday, December 19, 2016: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Afternoon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, with assistance by an Ayelet representative.
- Transfer to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** for check-in.
- **Welcome dinner** together this evening.

O/N Tel Aviv

Day 3, Tuesday, December 20, 2016: TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we begin with a visit to **Independence Hall** where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared.
- We next travel to nearby **Rehovot**, our sister city. Here, through our Federation partnership, we will enjoy a very special afternoon of programming, including VIP meetings, and a chance to see firsthand the amazing work being supported by our federation dollars here. We'll enjoy lunch, joined by local leadership.
- Continue to the ancient port city of Jaffa, just south of Tel Aviv. Here we enjoy a special **Co-Existence tour** of this mixed city, planned in conjunction with Progressive congregation Beit Daniel, led jointly by an Arab and a Jewish guide.
- Return to Tel Aviv, where time permitting, we'll take a walk through the **Carmel Market/Shuk**.
- Free evening.

O/N Tel Aviv





Day 4, Wednesday, December 21, 2016: GALILEE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Check out of our hotel.
 - We "join up" with the paramilitary forces at the **Palmach Museum**.
 - Drive north to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region. See the excavations of the crusaders' city, the aqueduct and the Roman Theatre that has been restored as a concert venue.
- Meet **Lydia Aisenberg**, who takes us to a lookout point to help illustrate the challenges of the Security Wall. We'll be able to see **Barta'a**, an Arab village literally cut in half by the security fence, and hear from Lydia the impact its construction has had on residents.
 - Continue to our kibbutz in the Galilee.
 - This evening enjoy **dinner at our Kibbutz**.

O/N in the Galilee

Day 5, Thursday, December 22, 2016: GOLAN HEIGHTS

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Morning visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we view the beautiful ancient synagogues and walk through the Artists Quarter.
- Take a hike along **Tel Dan**, ancient source of the Jordan River.
- Re-live the decisive tank battles of the 1973 war at the **Oz 77** memorial, including the chance to view the powerful documentary film at nearby **Kibbutz El Rom**. On the kibbutz we'll also hear the stories of the northern settlers who so often lived in shelters when Syrians controlled this crucial military high ground.
- Enjoy **dinner at our Kibbutz**.

O/N in the Galilee



Day 6, Friday, December 23, 2016: TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Check out of our kibbutz.
- We visit **Beit Alpha**, where we see the beautiful mosaics.
- This morning, we enjoy an **ATV/Ranger Ride** in the Judean Hills, concluding with a pre-Shabbat creative workshop.
- Continue into the heart of Jerusalem.
- Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we stop atop the **Haas Promenade** to recite a special “Sh’hekiyanu” blessing as we overlook the **City of Gold**.
- Check into our hotel.
- Shabbat services at a local Reform Congregation this evening, followed by **home hospitality Shabbat dinner hosted by community members**.



O/N Jerusalem

Day 7, Saturday, December 24, 2016: SHABBAT SHALOM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy Shabbat services this morning. Options abound, all within a short walk of our hotel.
- **OPTIONAL:** Travel south to the **Dead Sea Basin**. Here we ascend the desert plateau of **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod’s palace and fortifications, and hear the story of the Jewish Zealot’s last stand against the approaching Roman armies. We have time to enjoy the mud baths and an unsinkable swim in the salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.

OR

- Enjoy a **Jerusalem walk and political discussion with Prof. Paul Liptz** (Hebrew Union College) entitled: "The Interaction of War and Politics: 1948 to the Present," beginning at Beit Sh'mu'el.
- Evening free for dinner on own as Jerusalem returns to life.

O/N Jerusalem





Day 8, Sunday, December 25, 2016: THE NEW CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we visit **Ir David**, the original City of David, located just outside the Old City. Here, we explore together the archeological excavations dating back to the time of King David.
- Continue to **Emek Tzurim**, where we participate in the dig that is sifting the Temple Mount rubble – new and important finds are made here every day.
- Travel to nearby **Mevasseret Tzion** to visit a Federation supported Ethiopian Absorption Center
- Free time for dinner along the Mamilla Pedestrian

Mall.

- Later this evening we walk to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the new **Sound & Light show spectacular!**

O/N Jerusalem

Day 9, Monday, December 26, 2016: JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Workshop with **Siach Shalom**, a new innovation in creating dialogue between disparate parts of Israeli society, facilitated by Alec Isaacs.
- Visit **Susan's House**, a Federation sponsored project helping teens at risk learn skills, particularly creating unique glass, jewelry and house wares.
- We continue with a visit to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations **OR** Option for Children (accompanied by adults) to visit the nearby **Biblical Zoo**.
- Free time for dinner on own.
- Late Night Tour the famed **Western Wall Tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that remained untouched for centuries.

O/N Jerusalem





Day 10, Tuesday, December 27, 2016: MITZPE RAMON

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel and depart south into the Negev desert.
- Enjoy a fascinating afternoon program at **Soroka Hospital and Ben Gurion University Medical School**, focusing on the synthesis of medicine and social innovation in new methods for treating the Bedouin Dispersion.
- Stop at **Sde Boker** where we visit the gravesite and original hut of Ben Gurion deep in the heart of the

Negev Desert.

- We continue to the boutique **Carmey Avdat farm & winery** for a delightful tour and tasting.
- Check into our hotel and have time to relax and enjoy this beautiful and awe inspiring location.
- **Dinner** together this evening at our hotel.

O/N Mitzpe Ramon

Day 11, Wednesday, December 28, 2016: ESHKOL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Sunrise **Jeep tour of the Ramon Crater**, watching the sun reflect on the golden and red rock.
- Return to our hotel for breakfast.
- Today we explore the southern frontier region of **Eshkol in the Negev**.
- We'll speak with students and teachers about their lives as we tour the **Eshkol Region's Protected School**. We'll witness their bravery and hope, as we view the buildings which are used for both learning and shelter.
- We visit blacksmith, **Yaron Bob**. Struck by the terror of shell attacks, Yaron decided to transform something horrible into something beautiful – and so began "**Rockets to Roses**".
- **Dinner** together this evening at our hotel.

O/N Mitzpe Ramon



Day 12, Thursday, December 29, 2016: AT LEISURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the remainder of the morning at leisure to rest and relax by the infinity pool overlooking the crater or make a spa appointment (on own – reservations in advance recommended), rent a bike or enjoy one of the other options available at our beautiful resort.
- Continue to Tel Aviv.
- **Farewell dinner** together this evening at the **Port of Tel Aviv**.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States OR drive south to Eilat.

O/N Eilat for those continuing on Eilat Extension.

Day 13, Friday, December 30, 2016: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive in the United States.

CONTINUE ON AN EILAT/PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION

Day 12, Thursday, December 29, 2016: AT LEISURE

- Transfer to Eilat this afternoon.

O/N Eilat

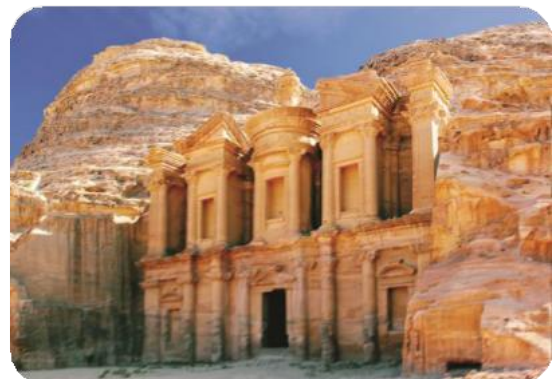
Day 13, Friday, December 30, 2016: PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We cross the border into Jordan and begin our full day tour of **Petra, the Red Rose City**. Explore the Nabatean City (as seen in Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade).
- Walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temples.
- Discover the famous **Treasury**, the **Roman Theater**, and more at this, the Eighth Wonder of the World.

O/N Eilat

(Note border taxes and visa fees are due in USD at the border crossing – currently \$60 per person)

Day 14, Saturday, December 31, 2016: DEPARTURE



- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel.
- We enjoy a day of leisure at our hotel on the shores of the Red Sea.
- **OPTIONAL (on own)**: Visit the Underwater Aquarium, OR taking a barbecue lunch and snorkeling cruise on the Red Sea, OR just relaxing poolside or seaside.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight to Tel Aviv, meeting our return flight to the United States.

Day 15, Sunday, January 1, 2017: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive home.

The Memories Last Forever!!!

**Itineraries subject to change*

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