

Har Sinai Congregation Celebrates their 175th Anniversary in **NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA**

With Optional visit to
AYERS ROCK

Led by Rabbi Linda Joseph

February 2018

(as of 8/10/2017)



Days 1 & 2: Friday, February 2 - Saturday, February 3, 2018: DEPARTURE

- We depart on our flight to New Zealand (due to traveling over the international dateline, we will take off on February 2nd and land on February 4th).

Day 3: Sunday, February 4, 2018: WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND!

- Welcome to **Auckland, New Zealand!** We arrive early this morning and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel for check in.
- Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to explore on our own and adjust to the time change.
- Later this evening, we enjoy a 3 course **welcome dinner** at Orbit Revolving Restaurant in **Sky Tower** for a panoramic view of the city.

Overnight in Auckland

Day 4: Monday, February 5, 2018: THE CITY OF SAILS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **sightseeing tour** of Auckland city including **Queen Street**, **Americas Cup Viaduct**, and the **Parnell shops**.
- We take a short walk through the University of Auckland to **Aotea Square**, used for open-air concerts, markets and public rallies. We see the **statue of Jewish Mayor Sir Dove-Myer "Robbie" Robinson**, standing as the centerpiece of the square, as well as the beautiful rose garden.



- We stop at **Beth Shalom Progressive Synagogue** to meet with community leadership and learn about Jewish life half way around the world.
- Time for lunch on our own at the nearby kosher deli.
- Nearby, we take in the view atop **One Tree Hill**, a volcanic peak and a memorial for the Maori people and other New Zealanders. We will be able to see across Auckland and its two harbors.
- Our final stop of the day is at the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**, for a stroll through the natural beauty in the many gardens, including the **Edible Garden**, filled with a range of native productive plants, including a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- After a fulfilling day, the evening is spent at leisure with dinner on our own.

Overnight in Auckland

Day 5: Tuesday, February 6, 2018: TOWARDS THE PACIFIC RING OF FIRE



- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Depart hotel for **Waitomo** (3 hours).
- Upon arrival, our guided tour will take us through over 250 meters of stunning underground scenery commencing with the impressive Cathedral. The highlight of our visit is an unrivalled boat trip through the spectacular **Glowworm grotto**. Marvel at Mother Nature's light display as we glide silently through the starry wonderland of the grotto.
 - Depart for **Hobbiton** (Matamata), where we experience the real middle-earth, the bucolic setting for The Shire that is featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, *The Lord of the Rings*. We will see hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films.
 - Continue to **Rotorua**, which sits squarely on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, so volcanic activity is part of the city's past and present. We explore the geothermal areas and discover the unique culture of New Zealand's Maori people.
 - Check in to our hotel and enjoy a 3 course **dinner** this evening.

Overnight in Rotorua

Day 6: Wednesday, February 7, 2018: MAORI CULTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We enjoy a 90 minute guided tour at **Te Puia** including a Maori cultural performance, and also view the **New Zealand Maori Arts & Crafts Institute** where masters and students share their art and their stories about the carving and weaving schools. Step into the ancient valley where geysers, mud pools and boiling waters still play after 40,000 years at **Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley**.
- Continue to **Rainbow Springs**, a stunning kiwi wildlife park where you get a guided, up close and personal encounter with all of New Zealand's favorite native birds and lizards, including the kiwi and tuatara. Learn about the kiwi conservation project and visit the kiwi enclosures.



- Travel by gondola up to **Skyline Skyrides** on **Mt. Ngongotaha** for panoramic views of Rotorua and the lake.
- After lunch on own, we return to Auckland this afternoon (3 hours).
- This evening, we set out for Harbourside Restaurant on the waterfront for a delightful 3 course **dinner** with views over the water and harbor.

Overnight in Auckland

Day 7: Thursday, February 8, 2018: AUCKLAND TO SYDNEY

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart Auckland on our flight to **Sydney, Australia**, the vibrant city built around one of the world's most beautiful harbors and many sparkling beaches.
- Upon arrival in Sydney, we transfer to our hotel for check in.
- This afternoon, we meet with community leader **Steve Dennenberg** for an introduction to the Progressive Jewish community in Australia.
- We stop at **Katzy's Food Factory**, a kosher deli, where we can grab a **light lunch** before walking from **Circular Quay** to the **Sydney Opera House** for a one hour guided tour of this magnificent building. This tour offers the opportunity to experience the Sydney Opera House in its daily operation. Our guide will bring to life the stories and secrets behind the theatres, and give a fascinating account of the history and architecture of this international landmark.
- Evening at leisure to discover Sydney and have dinner on our own.



Overnight in Sydney

Day 8: Friday, February 9, 2018: EXPLORING SYDNEY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart our hotel this morning for the **northern beaches**. We cross the **Sydney Harbour Bridge** and travel to see magnificent views from the **Seaforth lookout** over Middle Head and Pearl Bay marinas.
- We continue with a visit to the **Arabanoo lookout** for a superb panoramic view of the rugged headlands and Manly.
- We enjoy some time in the cosmopolitan suburb of **Manly**, nestled between a tranquil, inner harbour beach on one side and a popular surf beach on the Pacific Ocean. Relax at the beach, visit the **Manly Art Gallery & Museum** or rent a bike to explore the area on two wheels.
- We return to our hotel to relax and refresh.
- Early this evening we join Shabbat services at **Emanuel Synagogue**, the largest congregation in Australia, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the community.

Overnight in Sydney



Day 9: Saturday, February 10, 2018: SHABBAT IN SYDNEY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Option to attend Shabbat morning services at **North Shore Temple Emanuel**, led by Rabbi Nicole Roberts, (similar name, different place!).
- Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure, exploring Sydney on your own or relax at the famous **Bondi Beach**.
- This evening, we join up and head out to the **King Street Wharf** to have **dinner** at one of the many restaurants lining this waterside neighborhood. After dinner, find a bar to sip a cocktail or stroll along the water and enjoy the surroundings of this beautiful place on your own.

Overnight in Sydney

Day 10: Sunday, February 11, 2018: SITESEEING IN SYDNEY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we drive through **Sydney's city center**. We will see many contrasts - from the traditional Victorian architecture of the **Town Hall** and the **Queen Victoria Building** to the modern skyscrapers of the business district; from the sweeping design of the **Opera House** to the modern developments of **Darling Harbour**.
- We visit the **Sydney Jewish Museum** for a multi-sensory engagement with exhibitions, including **Culture & Continuity: Journey Through Judaism, and The Holocaust**, among other rotating exhibits.
- Drive through the **Royal Botanic Garden** to **Lady Macquarie's Chair** (for views of the harbour and the Opera House and bridge) and then head out to the exclusive eastern suburbs, passing **Kings Cross** en route to **Vaucluse and Double Bay**.
- We return to our hotel after a fulfilling day of sightseeing to refresh and enjoy dinner on our own this evening.

Overnight in Sydney

Day 11: Monday, February 12, 2018: FUN AND RELAXATION IN SYDNEY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free morning, or choose to visit the **Art Gallery of New South Wales** (on own).
- **OPTIONAL** (additional cost): We put on our aprons and delight in a **cooking class** and **lunch**, a chance to learn or sharpen our kitchen skills, and discover Australian cuisine together.
- We spend the rest of the day at **The Rocks**, shopping at the various retailers, visiting a gallery or checking out a museum on our own.
- Evening and dinner at leisure.

Overnight in Sydney



Day 12: Tuesday, February 13, 2018: SYDNEY TO CAIRNS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we transfer to the airport for our 3 hour flight to **Cairns** in Northern Australia. Charming Cairns is the gateway to two of the world's greatest natural wonders – tropical rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef.
- We travel a short distance to our hotel to check in.
- We meet this afternoon at our hotel with members of the **small progressive Chavurah** in the area to learn more about their community and lovely city.
- Spend the remainder of the day and evening at leisure, discovering the beauty of Cairns on our own.

Overnight in Cairns

Day 13: Wednesday, February 14, 2018: EXPLORING CAIRNS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we embark on an exciting experience at the **Skyrail Rainforest Cableway** for a ride over Australia's pristine tropical rainforests before descending into them for the ultimate experience, including stops at **Red Peak Station** and **Barron Falls Station**.
- We continue to **Baron Gorge National Park**. Here, we have the chance to take a short hike, enjoy the beautiful views and visit the **Barron Gorge Hydro-Power Station**.
- We return to our hotel for relaxation before enjoying **dinner** together later this evening at **Red Ochre Grill**.

Overnight in Cairns

Day 14: Thursday, February 15, 2018: CAIRNS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we drive north along the scenic **Cook's Highway**, enjoying views of some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. We arrive at **Port Douglas**, where we embark on the **Quicksilver Wavepiercer catamaran** and journey to the outer edge of the **Great Barrier Reef**, the most spectacular undersea garden in the world. At the reef, we float atop a large platform or raft where we can view the coral in a number of ways. There is a semi-submarine, an underwater viewing platform, an optional helicopter ride or the chance to try scuba diving. A **buffet lunch** will be served during the time we are at the reef.
- On our arrival back at Port Douglas, we spend a short amount of time at the marina before travelling back down the coast.
- This evening, we head to the **Cairns Night Market**, one of the most popular attractions in town. Boasting 130 stalls and a full food court, this is a perfect place to eat, drink and shop on our last night in Cairns.

Overnight in Cairns



Day 15: Friday, February 16, 2018: CAIRNS TO MELBOURNE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We spend a leisurely morning in Cairns with time for last minute shopping or just relaxing.
- Transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to **Melbourne**, known as the sporting capital of Australia and the second largest metropolis in the country.
- We land later this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for check in.
- As the sun begins to set, we meet representatives of **Beth Weizmann Community Center** and **Temple Beth Israel**, the first progressive congregation of Melbourne, as we enjoy **Shabbat services** and **Shabbat dinner** together.

Overnight in Melbourne

Day 16: Saturday, February 17, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Option to join Kedem, a local lay-led minyan for Shabbat morning service about 20 minutes from our hotel.
- Enjoy the balance of the day at leisure in Melbourne for browsing along the **Bourke Street Mall** and tree-lined **Collins Street**.
- This evening, we meet for **dinner** together at one of Melbourne's local restaurants.

Overnight in Melbourne

Day 17: Sunday, February 18, 2018: MELBOURNE'S JEWISH HISTORY & MORE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our Sunday at the **Jewish Museum of Australia**, where we engage, learn and connect with Judaism in Australia from past to present.
- We explore the center of Jewish life in Melbourne, through the **Caulfield** and **St. Kilda** neighborhoods of the city.
- We travel to **Sky High Mount Dandenong** for **afternoon tea**, a **hike through the scenic park** and a chance to discover the **English Gardens**, **Sky High Maze** and all the other attractions.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight in Melbourne



Day 18: Monday, February 19, 2018: GREAT OCEAN ROAD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out on a **scenic coastal drive** along **Great Ocean Road** and embark on a day full of adventures. See the **12 Apostles**, beautiful beaches and many more attractions along the way to **Otway Harvest Trail**. Spend the day indulging on fresh, local produce, sipping a glass of wine or beer, and visiting the **ostrich farm** or the **Forrest General Store** for local gifts to bring home to your friends and family. For the adventurous at heart, try the **treetop walk** or a **zip line eco-tour** through the rainforest at the nearby **Otway Fly Treetop Adventures** (additional cost).
- We return to our hotel later for a relaxing evening and dinner on our own after our day of adventure.

Overnight in Melbourne

Day 19: Tuesday, February 20, 2018: AROUND TOWN IN MELBOURNE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a **tour of Melbourne City**. We see premier examples of Melbourne Victorian architectural splendor, including **St. Paul's Cathedral, Princess and Regent Theatres, Melbourne Town Hall, Parliament House, the Treasury Building, the Royal Exhibition buildings** and the **Queen Victoria Markets**.
- We see **Captain Cook's Cottage** and **Fitzroy Garden**, which was moved stone by stone from Yorkshire, England.
- We stop at Melbourne's most famous bagel shop, not only for delicious bagels, but to read notes and messages left there by visiting Jews from around the world, and perhaps leave one of our own.
- Visit the statue of **General Monash**, one of Australia's most revered citizens, who was an active member of the Jewish community.
- Return to the hotel for relaxation.
- Tonight, we enjoy **dinner** together at one of Melbourne's wonderful restaurants.

Overnight in Melbourne

Day 20: Wednesday, February 21, 2018: MELBOURNE TO HOBART

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we take a short flight to **Hobart** on the island of Tasmania.
- We enjoy a visit and tour of **Hobart Synagogue**, the oldest synagogue still in Australia, serving the Jewish community of Tasmania since 1845.
- Later this afternoon, we continue to the 35 acre **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens** for a leisurely self-guided tour to the variety of featured sites, including the Conservatory, Tasmanian Community Food Garden, Japanese Garden and the French Memorial Garden, among many others.
- Later this afternoon, we travel to our hotel to check in and refresh.
- We join together this evening for **dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Hobart



Day 21: Thursday, February 22, 2018: DISCOVERING HOBART

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we set out on a **city tour of Hobart**.
- We spend the day at **Port Arthur**. Here, we learn about the history of the over 500 Australian convicts who operated the port and explore the mining ruins and relics among the surrounding area.
- Time for last minute shopping.
- This evening, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** as we recall all that we have experienced together.

Overnight in Hobart

Day 22: Friday, February 23, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We check out of our hotel and say goodbye to beautiful Australia. We transfer to the airport for our flight back to Melbourne and then on to the United States, landing the same day.

OR EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY WITH A VISIT TO AYERS ROCK

- We fly to Melbourne and catch our connecting flight to **Ayers Rock (Uluru)**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a weekend of relaxation.
- Upon arrival, we transfer from the airport to check in to the amazing **Sails in the Desert** hotel in Australia's Red Centre. Here, the local Anangu people's culture is interwoven into every facet of the hotel's design.
- Spend the afternoon at leisure, checking out the stunning **Mulgara Gallery's** indigenous art, relax at the **Red Ochre Spa** or by the pool or enjoy one of the complimentary activities for guests, including guided garden walks among many other options.
- Optional guided walk into **Olga Gorge**, flowing between two impressive domes.
- This evening, we meet for **dinner** at one of the hotel's restaurants.

Overnight at Ayers Rock



Day 23: Saturday, February 24, 2018: BEAUTY AT AYERS ROCK

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- If you're feeling adventurous, head out early before the summer sun heats up, to **Kata Tjuta National Park** for the **Valley of the Winds walk** or the shorter **Kata Tjuta Dune walk**, and climb to the summit for spectacular views;
OR
Stay at the hotel and lounge around, soaking up the last rays of the Australian sun.
- On our last night at Ayers Rock, we experience **Sounds of Silence**, an award-winning, all evening dining experience under the stars. Set atop a viewing platform overlooking the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, the experience begins as the sun sets and darkness falls over Ayers Rock. Listen to the sounds of a didgeridoo and join other travelers for an unforgettable evening.

Overnight at Ayers Rock

Day 24: Sunday, February 25, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Melbourne, continuing on to the United States and landing later today.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

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