

Larchmont Temple's Family Friendly **ISRAEL ADVENTURE**

Led by
**Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman
& Cantor Tracey Scher**

February 2018

(Itinerary as of 1/17/17)



Day 1: Thursday, February 15, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Friday, February 16, 2018: 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.
- We hold a **welcome ceremony** and say a blessing as we mark our safe arrival to Israel, all as we overlook the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure – we suggest a stroll among the artists and entertainers filling the streets at **Nachalat Binyamin**, or along the **Port of Tel Aviv**.
- We join together for **Shabbat services** at Progressive congregation Beit Daniel, led by Rabbi Meir Azari.
- We return to our hotel for a **Shabbat welcome dinner** together.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 3: Saturday, February 17, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our morning with **Shabbat services** on the shorefront near our hotel (weather permitting).
- We walk with our guide to **Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year-old port city. Visit the ancient ruins and take in the views of the sea.
- Volunteer through the **Jaffa Institute's Chesed projects** (packing supplies), serving the needy. We'll learn about the huge difference the Jaffa Institute makes in the lives of children living in poverty in Israel.
- Discover the **Ayalon Institute**, a lynchpin in Israel's War of Independence.
- At sundown we participate in **Havdallah**, followed by dinner on our own.
- We meet again after dinner to attend "Not By Bread Only" at the **Nalagaat Theater**.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Sunday, February 18, 2018: THE GALILEE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we begin with a visit to **Independence Hall**, where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared.
- Pass by **Rabin Square** on our way to the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the paramilitary forces from before the foundation of the state.
- 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.
- Continue north to **Haifa** for a panoramic view from **Mt. Carmel**, including the **Bahai Temple** and **Persian Gardens**.
- Continue to our kibbutz in the Galilee and **meet with kibbutz members** to learn about the challenges of communal living in modern times and how kibbutzim have adjusted.
- **Dinner** together at our kibbutz.



Overnight in the Galilee



Day 5: Monday, February 19, 2018: MYSTICISM & THE GOLAN

- We awake early for a sunrise **jeep tour of the Golan Heights**, passing by old Syrian bunkers along the way to a beautiful viewpoint at **Kfar Haruv**, overlooking the Galilee below.
- We celebrate with a **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony** as the sun rises, followed by a delicious breakfast together.
- Try your hand at chocolate making and learn from the experts in a delicious and fun experience at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory** at Ein Zivan **OR** choose to join a wine tasting at the adjacent **Pelter Winery**.
- Continue to a **Druze Village**, where community representatives will offer us insight on their unique culture and how they fit into the Israeli mosaic. We enjoy **lunch** together.
- Next, we visit to the mystical city of **Safed**. Here we participate in a hands-on **candle making workshop**. We also view Kabbalah founder Isaac Luria's beautiful H'Ari synagogue, and have time for shopping.
- **Dinner** together at our kibbutz, followed by dessert with IDF soldiers (pending final approval).



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 6: Tuesday, February 20, 2018: TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Stop to view the ancient and intricate mosaics at **Beit Alpha**.
- Drive south through the Jordan Valley Rift to **Jerusalem**.
- Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we stop at the **Haas Promenade** to recite a special "Shehecheyanu!" blessing overlooking the **City of Gold**.
- We enter the **Old City** for the first time, and enjoy time for reflection at the **Western Wall**.
- Time to browse along the shops now lining the ancient **Cardo**.
- Check into our hotel.
- Dinner on own in Jerusalem.
- Later this evening, we walk to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the new **Sound & Light show spectacular!**

Overnight in Jerusalem





Day 7: Wednesday, February 21, 2018: THE NEW CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins at the **Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC)**, where we meet with Director Noa Sattath or founder Anat Hoffman. We learn about the struggles for equality, pluralism and social justice in Israel, and take part in their Olim (immigrant) program.
- We take part in tikun olam at **Yad L'Kashish**, the workshop known as the “lifeline for the aged”, and hear the story

behind this amazing place.

- 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.
- At **Mt. Herzl**, we visit the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin and hear the stories of those who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Jewish state.
- Continue to the **Herzl Museum**, where we learn about the life and work of the great Zionist visionary.
- We end our day with a fascinating visit through the famed **Western Wall Tunnels**.
- Dinner on own in Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Thursday, February 22, 2018: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early for King Herod's fortresses and castle atop **Masada**, ascending by cable car or snake path. Visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue, and the bathhouses, learning about the Jewish Zealots’ last stand against the Roman forces.
- Enjoy **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- Take a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- For an authentic biblical desert experience, we enjoy a **camel ride** and dinner in the wilderness at **Eretz Beresheet**.
- Pass by the **Qumran Caves**, site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.
- Return to Jerusalem for the night.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 9: Friday, February 23, 2018: REACHING OUT & DIGGING INTO HISTORY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- After breakfast, we receive a political update and briefing by Hebrew University **Professor Reuven Hazan** about the current political landscape in Israel.
- Begin our day fulfilling the mitzvah of gleaning fruits or vegetables from the fields through **Project Leket**, an organization dedicated to feeding the needy in Israel.
- We travel to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in a “hands on” archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel’s ancient past.
- Return to Jerusalem, where we walk through the outdoor market at **Machane Yehuda** to take in the sights and sounds of Jerusalemites busily shopping in preparation for Shabbat.
- We walk to the **Western Wall** to greet Shabbat with the people of Jerusalem.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel this evening.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10: Saturday, February 24, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we attend **Shabbat services** at Hebrew Union College.
- We enjoy a **walking tour** through history into the **Old City**, exploring the **Jewish Quarter**, **Arab market**, the **Christian Quarter**, the **Via Dolorosa**, and the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- Last minute time for shopping in the Shuk.
- Late check out from our hotel.
- **Farewell dinner** together this evening as we recount all we have experienced together!
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States.



Day 11: Sunday, February 25, 2018: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive home early this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

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