

Temple Beth Elohim Presents...

Israel at its Best:

A Trip for New and
Nearly Empty Nesters

Led By Rabbi Joel Sisenwine

July 8 – 17, 2018

(as of 3/29/18)



Day 1: Sunday, July 8, 2018: BEGIN OUR JOURNEY

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

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 2: Monday, July 9, 2018: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We begin at **Independence Hall**, the site of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948. (time permitting – if flight is delayed, will reschedule to visit tomorrow).
- We visit a viewpoint along the coast for a **welcome ceremony** overlooking the Mediterranean.
- Transfer to our hotel for check in.
- **Welcome dinner** together this evening at a gourmet Tel Aviv restaurant.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Tuesday, July 10, 2018: ENCOUNTERING THE MANY FACES OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Visit the **Rabin Center**, where we learn about the life and work of Yitzhak Rabin. The center's spiraling exhibits lead us through the history of the modern state and broader world history, through the prism of the life of one of Israel's most beloved leaders.
- Continue to the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the paramilitary forces from Israel's pre-statehood days.
- This afternoon, our guide leads us through **Neve Tzedek** and explains about the graffiti art gracing Israel's oldest neighborhood.
- Next, we head to **Old Jaffa**, an ancient port city, for an introduction to the area, including a stroll through the ancient cobblestone alleyways, see the amazing artists in residence here, taste the delicious local flavors, and enjoy a chance to take in the stunning views of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Return to our hotel for time to relax or go to the beach to cool off in the Mediterranean!
- Free evening for dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 4: Wednesday, July 11, 2018: ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
This morning, we travel north along the Mediterranean coast. Our first stop is in **Caesarea**, where we see the Roman Theater and the aqueduct.
- Continue to **Atlit** to visit and learn the history of this former detention camp from the time of the British Mandate.
- We continue traveling north, stopping in a **Druze village** for **home hospitality lunch** atop **Mt. Carmel**, as we learn about their unique way of life.
- Next, we visit **Kibbutz Malkia**, where we meet members of the kibbutz and IDF soldiers stationed there and learn about life in this small border community.
- We continue to the **Galilee** to check in to our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Thursday, July 12, 2018: NORTHERN BORDERS & BEAUTY

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we venture out on a **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, passing by old Syrian bunkers along the way.
- We stop atop **Har Bental** to take in the views stretching far into Syria and discuss the geopolitical situation in the region.
- We continue to the **Golan winery** for a **tour and wine tasting**.
- In **Katzrin**, we see an ancient wine press and olive press, and explore the day to day lives of those living in the time of the Talmud.
- Continue to the **Banias Springs**, for a short **hike** to the sources of the Jordan River, and even a chance to refresh in the waterfalls.
- Return to our kibbutz for a relaxing afternoon.
- This evening, we enjoy a sunset surrey (or bicycle) rental ride through the lovely **Hula Valley Nature Reserve**, major migratory route for millions of birds.
- **Dinner** at the outstanding Restaurant Roberg in Livnim.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 6: Friday, July 13, 2018: THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we view the beautiful ancient synagogues and walk through the artists quarter.
- We continue to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop the **Haas Promenade** upon arrival, for a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing with challah and wine as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- Continue to our hotel for check in and a chance to refresh.



- As the sun begins to set over Jerusalem, we join together for Jerusalem's progressive, communitywide **Kabbalat Shabbat services** at the **Tachana Harishnona (The First Station)**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at the home of **Rabbi Susan Silberman**. (pending confirmation)

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Saturday, July 14, 2018: DEAD SEA & MASADA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early this morning for the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path, to the remains of King Herod's fortress. Here we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for an "unsinkable" swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- We enjoy a **camel ride** through the desert.
- Return to Jerusalem for a relaxing evening at leisure and dinner on own as Jerusalem returns to life as Shabbat comes to an end.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Sunday, July 15, 2018: A TASTE OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We start this morning with an eye-opening experience at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. Here, we see the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
- Our next stop, is at **Mt. Herzl**, Jerusalem's military cemetery, where we pay our respects at the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. We also visit the **Herzl Museum**, tracing the life of Zionist visionary, Theodore Herzl.
- We 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.
- After time to refresh, we continue to **Machane Yehuda** for a **chef-led tour**, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of the market and concluding in a **cooking class and dinner** made from our purchases. At the end of the day as the market stalls close, we can view the art that was painted on the store shutters and see how the night comes to life here, as bars and restaurants open.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 9: Monday, July 16, 2018: ANCIENT CITY, MODERN CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel, where we meet with **Anat Hoffman** of the **Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC)** for an in-depth discussion of religious tension and issues of church and state currently confronting Israel. We learn about the struggles for equality, pluralism and social justice in Israel
- Join us for a **geopolitical VIP tour** with **Col. Dr. Dany Tirza**, the chief designer of Israel's security fence who headed the Strategic Planning Unit of the IDF's Central command, as he takes us on a one of a kind tour exploring the security fence. Learn about the various aspects and complexities behind the decision to build this fence, the operational concept and humanitarian and legal dilemmas.
- Visit the foundation stone of the city – **Ir David, the City of David**. Explore the amazing archaeological wonder of this meticulously preserved site dating back to the time of King David, including a walk through the dry section of the **Hezekiah water tunnels**.
- Our next stop is in the **Old City**, where we tour the **Western Wall tunnels**, discovering archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries, followed by a visit to the **Davidson Center**.
- Nearby, at **Mt. Zion**, we visit **Oskar Schindler's grave**.
- This evening, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** at Brothers for Life, as we remember all that we have experienced together.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States.



Day 10: Tuesday, July 17, 2018: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive home this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

