

Beth Am Family Friendly Adventure in ISRAEL

Led by Rabbi Matthew Earne

June 2019

(As of 12/24/18)



Traveling together in Israel is an opportunity to connect – with the people, with the land itself, and with each other. As a traveling community, we will bond through our shared experiences, from the fun and adventurous to the historical and spiritual.

DAY 1: Sunday, June 16, 2019: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

DAY 2: Monday, June 17, 2019: BRUCHIM HABAIM!

- We arrive in Israel this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We stop for a welcome ceremony overlooking Tel Aviv from the **Jaffa promenade**, marking our arrival in Israel!
- We transfer to our hotel to check in, then enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local gourmet restaurant.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 3: Tuesday, June 18, 2019: EXPLORING TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we experience the **Palmach Museum**, where we “join up” with the paramilitary forces from Israel’s pre-statehood days.
- Next, we visit the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center** for a glimpse into Israel’s high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space. We visit the interactive exhibition and continue with a fascinating **meeting with one of the Start-Up Nation’s young entrepreneurs**.



- Spend the remainder of the afternoon among the artists and entertainers that bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life at **Nachalat Binyamin** OR choose to enjoy a fun and informative guided **bicycle ride** through Tel Aviv.
- This evening, a chef leads us through the popular **Levinsky Market**, for a sensual immersion, engaging with the vibrant colors, smells and flavors that will be found in this bustling marketplace. We wander through the pyramids of spices, bright-colored exotic vegetables, nuts, olives, and delicious halva creations. Our chef will introduce us to the most characteristic ingredients of the local cuisine and to the Israeli food habits, while we prepare **dinner** together with our purchases.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 4: Wednesday, June 19, 2019: THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart Tel Aviv and travel along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, where we see the ancient theater and the seaside aqueduct.
- Next, we visit a **Druze village** for **home hospitality lunch**, including the chance to learn about their unique culture.
- We stop at **Kfar Kedem** for the opportunity to learn about life as it was during the Mishnaic times. We'll learn to **press olive oil** as it was done centuries ago and **taste fresh goat cheese** among other treats.
- This afternoon, we enjoy an adventurous and fun **kayaking** trip down the Jordan River.
- We travel to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Thursday, June 20, 2019: NORTHERN BEAUTY

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- We begin our day with a refreshing hike through the beautiful **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, stopping to cool off in the natural springs along the way.
- We set out on a **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, passing old Syrian bunkers along the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views stretching far into Syria. Our guide engages us in a compelling geopolitical discussion about the region and its strategic importance to the state of Israel.
- This afternoon, we participate in a **chocolate workshop**, learning from the experts at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory**. Adults may choose to enjoy **wine tasting** at the **Pelter Winery** next door.
- Our adventure continues with an exciting **hummus making competition** at **Dubrovin Farms**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee



DAY 6: Friday, June 21, 2019: SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Today, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, focusing on the 15th century heroes who gave the Jewish people new hope, new songs, and who revived the dream of a Jewish return to our land. We explore the alleyways and the artist's quarter that frame the heart of Kaballah, Jewish mysticism.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**. Upon our arrival, we stop at the **Haas Promenade** to recite a special "Shehecheyanu" blessing as we overlook the **City of Gold**.
- We stroll through the **Nachlaot** neighborhood, considered by many to be Jerusalem's most pluralistic community, mixing various streams of Orthodox Judaism with secular residents.
- We continue to the famous **Machane Yehuda**, Jerusalem's outdoor marketplace, filled with foods of every variety. Together we will take part in the **shuk bites** program, allowing us to enjoy a varied taste of the market in a fun and new way.
- As the sun begins to set, we walk along the **Old City ramparts** on the way to the **Kotel** to welcome **Shabbat** with the people of Jerusalem.

OR

- We walk to the "**First Station**", formerly Jerusalem's main train station, now renovated and filled with shops, bars and more. On Friday evening in the summer, it plays host to a progressive, inclusive, outdoor **Kabbalat Shabbat**, and we will join in this uplifting service.
- We walk back to our hotel for **Shabbat dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 7: Saturday, June 22, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Join Rabbi Earne for Shabbat services at a local congregation (optional) or choose to relax and take in the peaceful calm of Shabbat in Jerusalem.
- We join together for **Shabbat lunch** at the **Fuchsberg Center**, the Conservative movement's home in Jerusalem. Here, we meet Masorti leaders, including a meeting with the inimitable **Rabbi Paul** who tells the story of Masada (subject to health/availability).
- Next, we enjoy a fun-filled **scavenger hunt** through the **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood, the first built outside the Old City walls – a great way to get to know the area!
- As day turns to night, we join together for **Havdallah** marking the end of Shabbat and the start of a new week.
- Enjoy the evening and dinner on own on Ben Yehuda Street.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 8: Sunday, June 23, 2019: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we tour **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. Option for kids (accompanied by a chaperone) to visit the nearby **Biblical Zoo** instead.
- Next, we have an inspiring visit to **Yad L'Kashish**, the Lifeline for the Aged. This is an artisan workshop which empowers and supports hundreds of elderly and disabled Jerusalem residents.
- At **Mt. Herzl**, Jerusalem's military cemetery, we pay our respects at the gravesites of Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, then walk to the multi-media **Herzl Museum** to "walk through" the life and work of the great Zionist visionary.
- Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to shop (or take in an Israeli basketball game – scheduled TBD).
- This evening, we enjoy a group **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Monday, June 24, 2019: REACHING OUT

- Breakfast and time to relax at our hotel.
- This afternoon, we set out to tour the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- We continue to **Ir David, the City of David** and wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David. We also walk through **Hezekiah's tunnel** (water or dry tunnel option – for water tunnel, bring water shoes).
- Next, we set out on a **walking tour** through history in the **Old City**, exploring the **Jewish quarter, Arab market (shuk)** and the **Christian quarter**, where we stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** and end at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- Tonight, we enjoy a group **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10: Tuesday, June 25, 2019: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- We ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the walls, synagogue and bathhouses, and learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and enjoy a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- This afternoon, we head to the beach for an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.



- Later this afternoon, we travel to **Eretz Beresheet** for an authentic Bedouin experience, including a **camel ride**.
- We return to Jerusalem for dinner on our own, then walk to the **Tower of David** to see the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

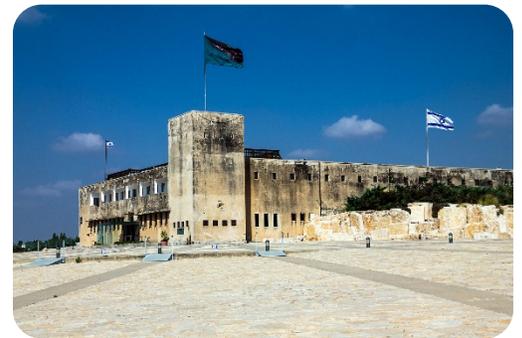
Day 11: Wednesday, June 26, 2019: SHA'AR HANEDEV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We travel south to San Diego's sister region, **Sha'ar HaNegev** to visit with residents, see the local shelter and learn about life on the Gaza border. Our visit will bring emotional support to the local community, living under consistently stressful conditions.
- Next, we visit a **JNF bomb shelter** to explore how security concerns have been integrated into the mindset of the region, as well as architectural design.
- We enjoy a **banquet lunch** at the Golden Goose Restaurant.
- This afternoon, we **plant trees**, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- Following the powerful and emotionally moving day, we return to Jerusalem.
- This evening, we enjoy a group **dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 12: Thursday, June 27, 2019: DIGGING ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Latrun**, Israel's outdoor armed corps museum, where we explore the tanks and artillery used by the Israeli Defense Forces and enemy forces throughout the country's history. The site was crucial for controlling the road to Jerusalem, and our guide shares with us some of the stories of heroism that took place here.
- We travel to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in a fun hands-on archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past.
- We visit to the **Ayalon Institute**, the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- This evening, we check out of our hotel and join for a festive **farewell dinner** at Eucalyptus Restaurant. Chef Moshe Basson is well known for using biblical herbs and spices to create a "slow food" experience here at Eucalyptus. We recount all that we have experienced together on our adventure.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



Day 13: Friday, June 28, 2019: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.
THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!
**itinerary subject to change*

