

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Timers Trip Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman

# ISRAEL

See it in a whole new light,

**Panim Al Panim**

**February 14-24, 2019**

(As of 4/23/18)



*Every day will be a face-to-face experience with an Israeli builder or hero—an innovator or pioneer. Our journey will be hands-on, encountering off-the-beaten path people and places, learning from ancient artifacts and new age discoveries, a cultural, socio-historical, spiritual unearthing of Israel from inside-out!*

### Day 1: Thursday February 14, 2019: DEPARTURE

- We depart New York on our overnight flight to Israel.

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### Day 2: Friday, February 15, 2019: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to relax and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set, we join the innovative **Beit Tefila Yisraeli** for **Kabbalat Shabbat**, including a short discussion with **Rabbi Estaban Gottfried**, followed by a **welcome Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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### Day 3: Saturday, February 16, 2019: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out to explore **Bialik Street**, including the chance to visit some of the excellent (if often overlooked!) small museums in the area, such as the Gutman Museum, Bialik House and the Reuven Rubin house.
- We continue to **Sarona Market** for lunch on own and a world-class dining experience.
- This afternoon, through **Beit Daniel**, the progressive congregation in Tel Aviv, we'll visit **Old Jaffa** for a **co-existence tour**. This experience brings together a Jewish and an Arab tour guide to explore the mixed city of Jaffa, where Arabs and Jews live side by side. Tracing the different historical narratives, we explore the possibility of creating a common future and shared society.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure to discover this bustling metropolis.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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#### Day 4: Sunday, February 17, 2019: MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, where we visit the **Ralli Museum**, filled with Latin American and Spanish paintings and sculptures as well as 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings depicting biblical themes.
- We continue to the **Tishbi Winery** in **Zichron Yaakov** for a **tour and tasting**.
- Next, we visit **Atlit**, site of the British Internment camp for thousands of Jewish refugees, who were caught attempting to immigrate to Israel during the British Mandatory period, followed by a dialogue with **Murray Greenfield**, who was detained there.
- Later this afternoon, we return to Tel Aviv for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

#### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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#### Day 5: Monday, February 18, 2019: HEADING SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart Tel Aviv and travel south to the **Negev Desert**.
- We meet **Shosh** and hear her story at **Café Gotha** in **Sderot**, a social café that employs young people with disabilities and at-risk youth.
- Next, we drive to the Bedouin city of **Rahat** for a meeting at the Municipal Communal Center (Matnas) of Rahat. Here, we meet **Dr. Sarab Abu Rabia-Quieder** of Ben Gurion University for a discussion entitled “Bedouin Women in the Negev: Transition and Empowerment”.
- We visit **Saroka Medical Center** with a chance to perform the mitzvah of bikur cholim and learn about how this hospital handles war related trauma issues.
- We continue south to **Mitzpe Ramon** to check in to our hotel and refresh.
- Tonight, we enjoy **dinner** together at our hotel.

#### Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

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#### Day 6: Tuesday, February 19, 2019: SOUTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we set out for a delicious adventure at the “**Salad Trail**”, where we will participate in a unique hands-on agricultural tour, and witness how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable. We will pick and taste fruits and vegetables straight from the kibbutz’s self-picking farm, and encounter flying strawberries, tiny orange orchards, racing pigeons and herbal gardens.
- We meet **Yaron Bob** at his workshop. Struck by the terror of shell attacks, Yaron decided to transform something horrible into something beautiful – and so began his artwork, known as “**Rockets to Roses**”.
- We continue with a hike at **Ein Avdat**, a spectacular natural canyon where springs descend in a series of breathtaking waterfalls.
- We return to our hotel later this afternoon for a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.



#### Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

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## Day 7: Wednesday, February 20, 2019: RELAXATION & THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Enjoy the morning to relax by the pool or get pampered at the hotel's spa.
- We check out of our hotel and travel north to tour the ancient and modern agriculture surrounding the **Sataf Forest**, including a visit to **Shai Seltzer's cheese farm**.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** to take in the panoramic view and say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold**.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 8: Thursday, February 21, 2019: YEARNING FOR PEACE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with **Alec Isaacs**, who shares his story and his project Siach Shalom, a possible game-changer in the seemingly endless struggle for peace.
- We enter the **Old City** for "*The Three Faiths Tour of Jerusalem*" with **Hanna Bendkowsky**. We spend the morning seeing the incredible patchwork of religious life in one of the most interesting and complex cities in the world. Along the way, we visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Stations of the Cross, the Dome of the Rock, and the Kotel (Western Wall)**.
- **Lunch** at the **Harutzim Café** in Talpiot run by **Shekel**, providing community services for 8,000 people with special needs from every sector of Israeli society: Jews, Arabs, Christians, religious and secular.
- After lunch, we visit **Yad B'Yad**, a cutting edge, unique Jewish-Arab School, to meet faculty and students.
- Evening at leisure to discover Jerusalem and enjoy dinner on own.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 9: Friday, February 22, 2019: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day touring the newly renovated **Israel Museum**, where we visit the famous **Shrine of the Book** to see the Dead Sea Scrolls and view the miniature scale replica of ancient Jerusalem.
- We explore the power of Jewish ideas, texts and values during a hands-on **art workshop** with **Rabbi Matt Berkowitz** of **Kol HaOt**.
- We return to our hotel to freshen up.
- Tonight, we join together for **Shabbat services** at **Shir Hadash**, a warm and welcoming Modern Orthodox community catering to the English-speaking population of Jerusalem. We'll hear the story of Rabbi Ian Pear, who grew up secular and ended up making aliyah from North America.
- Following services, we enjoy **Shabbat dinner** hosted by members of this inviting congregation.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 10: Saturday, February 23, 2019: A JERUSALEM SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we attend **Shabbat services** at **Hebrew Union College**, the epicenter of Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem.
- This afternoon, we return to the Old City for a **walking tour** and political discussion with **Professor Paul Liptz** of HUC entitled: "*The Interaction of War and Politics: 1948 to the Present*," beginning at Beit Shmuel.
- We will stop along the way for **lunch** at Bulghourji.
- Free time to enjoy the hotel, spa, and finish packing before we check out of our hotel.
- We join together for **Havdalah** and a festive **farewell dinner**, as we recall all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



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## Day 11: Sunday, February 24, 2019: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in New York this morning. L'hitraot!

**The Memories Last Forever!!!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

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