

Interfaith Israel

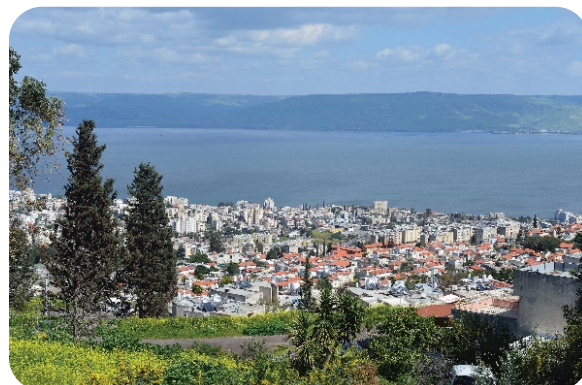
Led by Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, Beth El Ft. Worth
and

Pastor Mark Stephenson, Harmony – Toluca Lake

January 15-26, 2020

(As of 7/5/18)

*Together we will experience sites of importance to
Jews and Christians throughout the region.*



Day 1: Wednesday, January 15, 2020: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Thursday, January 16, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We drive to **Tel Aviv** and check into our hotel with time to refresh.
- Tonight, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** together.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Friday, January 17, 2020: THE JEWISH SABBATH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Independence Hall**, the sight of the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence, establishing Jewish sovereignty in 1948.
- We travel to **Old Jaffa** and stop at the **Jaffa overlook** for an introduction to the area.
- Next, we visit the **Orchard of Abraham's Children**, an educational and co-existence initiative.
- We travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, where we see the ruins, including the Roman theater and the aqueduct.
- We continue to the **Galilee** and check into our kibbutz.
- This evening, we enjoy **Kabbalat Shabbat services** with **Rabbi Or Zohar** of the Progressive community of **Mitzpeh Har Halutz**, including a discussion of progressive Jewish values and how they are acted upon in the Galilee, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the community.

Overnight in the Galilee



Day 4: Saturday, January 18, 2020: NATURE AND THEOLOGY

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Our day begins with a guided tour through **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught during the days of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, including the ancient synagogue and church, with time for personal worship.
- We continue to **Tabgha**, a traditional site of multiplication of loaves and fish. We conclude the visit around the **Sea of Galilee** with an overlook of the gleaming water from atop the **Mount of Beatitudes**, where the Sermon of the Mount took place.
- Lunch on own en route.
- We ascend by **off-road jeep** into the **Golan Heights** and visit **Bukata**, a **Druze village**, where we meet with students and teachers at the local school for dialogue on their relationship with Israel and Syria.
- Our next stop is atop **Har Bental**, where we gain a better understanding of the events of Israel's wars in 1967 and 1973, and the current realities facing Israel in the wake of the Syrian Civil War.
- We return to our kibbutz for time to relax, followed by **dinner**, and a group processing session this evening entitled "*Living Together in a Fractured Land*," with **Rabbi Mark Rosenstein** of the Galilee Center for Values Education and **Elias Jabbour**, an Arab Christian and founder of the House of Hope Peace Center.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Sunday, January 19, 2020: THEOLOGY AND SECURITY

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Our morning begins with a **Christian worship service**.
- We visit **Hiram Rehabilitation Center at Kibbutz Harduf**, whose work is directly supported by Beth El Ft. Worth. We discuss their achievements with founder **Ron Hiram**.
- "*A Mosque and a Church*." We take a guided visit through **Nazareth**, including stops at the **Church of the Annunciation** and **Jacob's Well**. We also participate in a dialogue with Muslim and Christian leaders involved in resolving the dispute between their communities over the construction of a mosque in front of the Church of Annunciation.
- This afternoon, we travel to **Safed**, center of Kabbalah study and practice, where we view the Ha'ari and Caro synagogues and have a chance to shop in the the artist colony.
- We continue to **Tzipori**, where we see the floor mosaic known as the "Mona Lisa of the Galilee".
- This evening, we return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee



Day 6: Monday, January 20, 2020: TO THE DESERT, WHERE IDEAS BLOOM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Today, we drive south to the **Negev Desert**, via Route 6, Israel's main North/South highway.
- We experience **Bedouin hospitality** including a **camel ride** and traditional **“hafla” lunch**, followed by an opportunity to learn about the culture of the Negev Bedouin, their relationship to Israel, and the challenges facing their community.
- We explore **Sde Boker**, where we view David Ben Gurion's original hut and gravesite.
- Later this afternoon, we drive to the desert city of **Yerucham** to meet **Mayor Michael Biton**, known by many as the small town mayor who just might “rekindle Zionism” with his work inspiring many to acts of chesed and social justice.
- We check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Yerucham

Day 7: Tuesday, January 21, 2020: DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to the **Dead Sea basin** for a day of adventure.
- Upon our arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path, to view the remains of King Herod's fortress and learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman armies.
- We head to the beach for lunch on own and an “unsinkable” swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping at the **Haas Promenade**, where we say a special “Shehecheyanu” as we overlook the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before an evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Wednesday, January 22, 2020: BETHLEHEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Bethlehem**, where we visit the **Church of the Nativity**. We have time to shop at a Christian shop specializing in olive wood souvenirs.
- We continue to **Shepherd's field**, where the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.
- We drive to **Ein Kerem**, the birthplace of St. John the Baptist, where we visit the **Church of the Visitation** and the fascinating **Biblical Resources Scripture Garden**.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 9: Thursday, January 23, 2020: THE OLD CITY/SHORASHIM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- “*Welcome to an Interfaith Jerusalem:*” We join together in a discussion with **Rabbi Tamar Elad Applbaum**, founder of the Zion Congregation.
- We ascend to the **Mount of Olives** for an introduction to the city by our guide, while overlooking the Temple Mount.
- We enter the **Old City** through the Jaffa Gate, and walk along the marketplace rooftops, exploring the multi-ethnic weave of the city, with a birds’ eye view of the different living quarters.
- We continue to the **Jewish quarter** for a guided tour through the upper city of 2,000 years ago. Time for lunch on own here.
- After lunch, we visit the **Etzion Settlement Block** south of Jerusalem and meet Israelis and Palestinians at **Shorashim/Roots**, a grassroots project that brings together Palestinian and Jewish settlers in a realistic and unique co-existence dialogue/living project, with **Ali Abu Awad** and **Shaul Yudelman**.
- We have free time to explore Jerusalem on our own, or in organized groups, followed by a free evening and dinner on own.
- We return to the Old City to view the **Western Wall** – lit up at night and with a totally different feeling than during the day. We enjoy a late-night tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, discovering the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10: Friday, January 24, 2020: THE JEWISH SABBATH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s memorial to the Holocaust, and experience exhibits, including the Historical Museum, the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations and the Children’s Museum. We conclude our visit with an interfaith **memorial ceremony**.
- We meet with **Very Reverend Hosam E. Naoum**, Dean of **St. Georges**, for a discussion on the challenges of interfaith discussion in Jerusalem.
- We continue to **Machane Yehuda** where Jerusalemites busily prepare for the coming Shabbat.
- We take a guided tour of the **Christian quarter** in Jerusalem’s Old City, including a walk along the **Via Dolorosa**, ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- As the sun begins to set, we depart for the **Kotel (Western Wall)** as Jerusalemites and guests gather to welcome the **Sabbath**. We continue to **Azarat Yisrael** for an explanatory **Kabbalat Shabbat service**, led by Rabbi Zimmerman **OR** Join the Progressive congregation at **Har El** for services (one option for entire group – decision TBD).
- Our evening continues with a delicious **Shabbat dinner** together at a local restaurant (non-kosher).



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 11: Saturday, January 25, 2020: WORSHIP AND EXPLORATION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we have the option to attend **Shabbat services** on the campus of **HUC**, Hebrew Union College.
- We visit the newly renovated **Israel Museum**, world class in every way, to tour the famed **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed, as well as the miniature replica of Jerusalem from the Second Temple days.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to discover Jerusalem on own.
- Tonight, we check out of our hotel and head to the **Tower of David Museum** to view the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.
- Later this evening, we join together for a **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant, as we recount all we have experienced together.
- We check out of our hotel and travel to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



Day 12: Sunday, January 26, 2020: WELCOME HOME!

- We land in the United States this morning. Welcome home!

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

