

Temple Beth Israel – Longboat Key, Florida

## ISRAEL YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

ישראל אתמול, היום ומחר

Y'srael etmol ha'yom ve'machar

October 19 – November 4, 2022

(As of 2/3/2022)

*Traveling together in Israel is an opportunity to connect – with the people and history of Israel, with the land itself, and with each other. As a community, we will bond through our shared experiences and enhance our understanding of history as we delve in-depth into Israel's millennia-old religious and cultural legacy.*



*The Old City and the Western Wall*



## Day 1: Wednesday, October 19, 2022: DEPARTURE

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

### Overnight flight

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## Day 2: Thursday, October 20, 2022: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Welcome to Israel! Our time in this incredible land has officially started, and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead. For those of us on the group arrival: just beyond passport control, an Ayelet representative will meet us in the baggage claim area and assist us through customs.
- We begin by ascending to **Jerusalem** and pausing at the **Haas Promenade** to say *Shehecheyanu* as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time together.
- We check in to our hotel and have a chance to refresh before a **welcome orientation** and **dinner** this evening.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 3: Friday, October 21, 2022: JERUSALEM OF OLD AND NEW

- Breakfast at our hotel
- We begin our day with a meeting 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, and take part in their Olim (immigrant) program.
- We continue to the **Old City** to see the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Western Wall**.
- **Optional:** Explore the famed **Machane Yehuda** open-air market, filled with fresh produce, meats, cheeses, and delicious treats.
- Lunch on own.
- Next, we head below ground for a tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- We return to our hotel to prepare for **Shabbat**.
- As the sun begins to set, we gather to welcome **Shabbat** at **Kehilat Har-El**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the community.



*City of David Tunnels*

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 4: Saturday, October 22, 2022: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Enjoy breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we travel we see the different ethnicities of Jerusalem through the Shabbat morning services, beginning at the **Jerusalem High synagogue** and continuing through the **Moroccan, Italian, and Sephardic synagogues**. As we travel between the communities, we discuss the origins of their arrival in Jerusalem and the diversity in this fantastic city.
- Following services, we enjoy **lunch** at the **Hebrew Union College (HUC)** campus.
- We head to the Old City to walk along the **Via Dolorosa**. The final station of the Via Dolorosa is the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the place where Jesus is believed to have been crucified. This church is one of Christianity's great pilgrimage sites and a testament to the remarkable diversity of the Christian world. It includes an empty tomb where it is said that Jesus was buried and resurrected.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

#### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 5: Sunday, October 23, 2022: DIALOGUE FOR CHANGE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, scholar **Rachel Korazim** joins us at our hotel to share her story and lead us in a discussion entitled *"Preparing for Change."*
  - Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
    - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted and plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
    - The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
    - The **Children's Memorial**, where candles shine like stars in the sky to commemorate the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
    - A memorial service where we will pay tribute to those who were lost.
    - Personal reflections: At the end of our visit, we'll come together to share feelings and thoughts and discuss what we have experienced and learned at Yad Vashem.
- Lunch on own.
- This afternoon, we travel to **Gush Etzion** to dialogue with **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Shaul Yudelman**, founders of **Shorashim/Roots**. This program fosters a grassroots movement of understanding, non-violence, and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.
- Dinner on own.



*Yad Vashem Train Car*



- **Optional:** Sign up for dinner at **Machneyudah** (reservation made nine months in advance; pay on own between \$120-\$250 per person).

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 6: Monday, October 24, 2022: THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIVIDE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the current capital of the **Palestinian Authority, Ramallah**, to discuss the current status of the area with local representatives and meet with young start-up entrepreneurs (pending security clearance).
- Next, we visit the settlement of **Psagot** for **lunch** together and a meeting with a local resident to discuss the centrality of the settlement enterprise to their being an Israeli.
- We travel to **Rawabi**, Palestine's first planned city, for a glimpse at this unique project; a synthesis between private enterprise and public resources to create a new urban reality in Palestinian society. We meet with developer **Bashar el Masri**, founder and Chairman of Massar International (pending security clearance).
- We travel to the **Galilee** to check in to our kibbutz and refresh before dinner together this evening.

### Overnight in Galilee

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#### Day 7: Tuesday, October 25, 2022: THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- We start our day with an exciting **jeep tour** through **Golan Heights**, stopping in **Katzrin** to view the ruins then ascending to the top of **Mount Bental**, a former Israeli bunker overlooking the ruins of **Quneitra** and the **Valley of Tears**. As the entire vista comes into view, we reach a deeper understanding of both the past and present complexities facing Israel in the Middle East.
- We continue to the **Druze village of Buq'ata**, where we meet **Naseeba** and hear her story while enjoying a traditional **Druze hospitality lunch**.
- We continue to **Kibbutz Malkia**, located along the Israel-Lebanon border. We meet with an IDF unit and security personnel to learn about the steps they take to protect this frontier community.
- We complete our day with dinner together at our kibbutz.



*Golan Heights*

### Overnight in Galilee

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## Day 8: Wednesday, October 26, 2022: THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, or maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city - entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:
  - Visit the **Ari Synagogue** and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
  - See the **Caro Synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari, in the 16th century. It is where Rabbi Joseph Caro, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited by a maggid, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
  - Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the **Artists' Colony** with its galleries, shops, and studios.
- Our next stop is **Haifa**, where we drive to the top of **Mount Carmel** to take in the panoramic views overlooking the beautiful **Bahai Gardens**.
- We enjoy lunch on own before we head to **Beit Hagefen**, where Jews and Arabs co-exist.
- We continue along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, to view the ancient Roman theater and aqueduct.
- We travel to **Tel Aviv** to check in to our hotel and refresh before dinner on own this evening.



*Bahai Gardens*

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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## Day 9: Thursday, October 27, 2022: ALIYAH AND TEL MOND

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart Tel Aviv and travel north to meet with **Smadar Dromi**, the **Head of Matnasim in Netanya**, and also with the local teens of the **Polium Music Project** to discuss the difficulties of being olim and olah in the modern age.
- Continue to **lunch** with the locals at a **Tripolitanian restaurant** and hear about the diversities within Netanya with the different Aliyot.
- Next, we travel to **Herzliya** to visit one of Israel's leading academic institutes, **Reichman University** (formerly known as IDC Herzliya). Here we meet with students participating in their unique Israel at Heart Scholarship Program, which provides an opportunity for Ethiopian candidates with high leadership potential to earn an undergraduate degree at the university (time permitting).
- This afternoon we travel to our sister city, **Tel Mond**. Here we will enjoy a short tour after which we will see a dance performance and have **dinner** together.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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## Day 10: Friday, October 28, 2022: MODERNISM IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We start our day with a tour of **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People** (formerly the **Diaspora Museum**), recently renovated and featuring interactive audio-visual exhibits that bring life and color to the vibrant history of the Jewish people outside the land of Israel following the destruction of the Second Temple. The exhibit focuses on the unique music, melodies, art, and food of the different communities.
- Lunch on own.
- Next, stroll through the charming **Nachalat Binyamin Craft Fair**, a biweekly market featuring Israeli artisans and entertainers who bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure, relaxing on the beach or exploring on own.
- As day turns to night, we welcome **Shabbat** with the **Beit Daniel community**, including **Shabbat dinner** together.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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## Day 11: Saturday, October 29, 2022: SHABBAT SHALOM WITH BEIT DANIEL!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Explore the **Agam Museum** in **Rishon LeZion**, showcasing six decades of the groundbreaking artist's kinetic art and sculpture.
- Stroll through Tel Aviv's **White City**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to see one of the largest concentrations of **Bauhaus-style architecture** in the world.
- Lunch on own.
- We meet with Jerusalem Post Palestinian Affairs correspondent, **Khaled Abu Toameh**, for a lecture entitled "*A Snapshot of Palestinian Society.*"
- Dinner on own or sign up for **Dinner in the Dark** at the **Nalagaat Center** for an experience that will tantalize your senses followed by a performance of *Not by Bread Alone*, featuring actors who are both visually- and hearing-impaired (*additional cost*).



Agam Museum

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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## Day 12: Sunday, October 30, 2022: INNOVATION IN ESHKOL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins with a drive to **Netafim** to learn about their innovations in drip irrigation, and to learn about life on a Kibbutz.
- We make our way through the **Salad Trail** on a very hands-and-mouths-on agricultural tour of this innovative farm specializing in growing delicacies in the desert sand. We will **pick and taste fruits and vegetables** from the hothouses, dodge hanging strawberries (in season), release homing pigeons and sample herbs in their gardens.
- Head south to **Moshav Nativ HaAsara** and learn about the **Path to Peace**, a community-created mosaic along the border wall separating Israel from the Gaza Strip. We have an opportunity to **add a piece to the mosaic** and put our own imprint on this project of hope.
- In nearby **Sderot** we tour the **Protected Playground**, the police station, and the storage depot containing rockets launched from Gaza into Israel.
- We return to Tel Aviv for evening at leisure before dinner on own.
- **Optional:** Experience dinner at **Manta Ray** this evening (pay on own).



*Hanging Strawberries at the Salad Trail*

## Overnight in Tel Aviv

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## Day 13: Monday, October 31, 2022: TOURING TEL AVIV / FAREWELL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today we delve deep with **Elifelet**, an organization dedicated to supporting refugee children in South Tel Aviv. Elifelet's vision is to save refugee children from the suffering in which they are entrapped, by ensuring their physical and emotional well-being, advancing their development, and facilitating their adjustment to the Israeli school system.
- Lunch on own.
- Next, we tour the **Israeli Innovation Center** at the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**, founded by President Shimon Peres. The center is a non-political, non-governmental organization focused on building a more prosperous Israel and a more peaceful the Middle East, through innovation, technology, and cutting-edge coexistence programs.
- We return to our hotel to check out.
- Enjoy a festive **farewell dinner**, prepared by **“Women Who Cook,”** featuring women from a variety of culinary traditions - Moroccan, Tunisian, Ethiopian, and many more. This initiative was created to empower women and allow them to be economically independent and preserve their rich cultural traditions.
- We transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to the United States, arriving tomorrow morning.

## Overnight flight

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# OR JOIN OUR DUBAI EXTENSION

## Day 14: Tuesday, November 1, 2022: WELCOME TO DUBAI!

- **Ahlan wa Sahlan** (أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا)—Welcome to the United Arab Emirates! Our journey through this enchanted land has officially begun and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead. An Ayelet representative will meet us at the airport and assist us to our hotel transfer.
- We check in to our hotel and have time to refresh before rejoining for a delicious **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant with the opportunity to sample traditional delicacies, meet our local guide and orient ourselves to our new land and travel companions.

### Overnight in Dubai

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## Day 15: Wednesday, November 2, 2022: DISCOVERING DUBAI

- Breakfast at our hotel before departing on a guided tour through the expansive *suks* (markets) of Dubai. Beginning in the shimmering **Gold Suk**, we walk in awe past the wall-to-wall storefronts selling endless variations of gold jewelry. We continue to the **Spice Suk** where the dazzling hues of spices and incense carry the eye into the distance.
- Board an **abra** (a traditional wooden boat) to cross the Dubai Creek to the **al Fahidi District**. Here, we visit the **Sheikh Mohammad Center for Cultural Understanding** for a delicious **Emerati Fuala** lunch featuring traditional dishes such as *aseed* (porridge), *balalit* (Emirati pancakes), *lugaymat* (dumplings served with date syrup), and more. The fuala (deriving from the Arabic word for “good omen”) represents the authentic generosity of greeting family, neighbors, and guests.
- Filled with fascinating artifacts from over 5,000 years of history, we tour the **Crossroads of Civilization Museum** and discover Dubai’s legacy as a hub of trade. Our visit includes a stop at the “**We Remember**” exhibition, the only **Holocaust museum** in the Arab world.
- Our evening is at leisure with time for dinner on own.



Crossroads of Civilization Museum

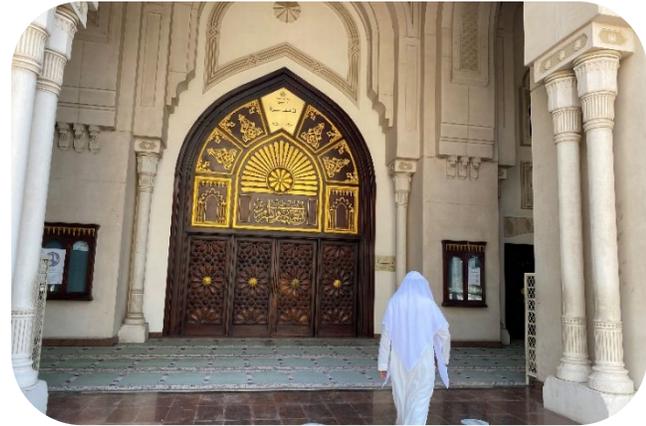
### Overnight in Dubai

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## Day 16: Thursday, November 3, 2022: ISLAM IN-DEPTH

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We explore the beautiful **Sarjah Museum of Islamic Civilization**, containing exhibits focused on the world through an Islamic point of view: faith, science and technology, art and more.
- Continue to the **Blue Suk**, an expansive and authentic gallery of traditional shops selling all sorts of wares, from metals to fabrics to jewelry to antiques.
- Tour **Al Noor Mosque**, a spectacular building of white stone built in the Ottoman style that overlooks **Khalid Lake** in the Sharjah section of the city.
- Lunch on own.
- Visit Dubai's **Frame**, a huge square arch built for Expo 2020 that frames picturesque views of Old and New Dubai. **Ascend to the Sky Deck** towering 48 floors over the city and stroll through the glass walkway revealing Dubai from above.
- We return to our hotel for free time before dinner.
- We enjoy a sumptuous **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant and recall the amazing sights, tastes, smells and sounds that accompanied us on our journey through this distant land.
- We transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



*Al Noor Mosque*

## Overnight flight

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## Day 17: Friday, November 4, 2022: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.





Caesarea

