

# Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Congregation Beth Shalom  
of The Woodlands  
Adventure in

# ISRAEL

Led by Rabbi Edwin & Melanie Goldberg  
June 16-26, 2024



# Congregation Beth Shalom of The Woodlands Adventure in Israel June 16-26, 2024



## DAY 1

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024**  
OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

- We depart the United States on your overnight flight to Israel.  
(Contact Ayelet Tours for assistance booking flights.)

## DAY 2

**MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024**  
WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Shalom and Bruchim Habaim - welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, we are met by an Ayelet Tours representative who assists us through customs and baggage claim.
- Our adventure begins in **Old Jaffa** with a **welcome ceremony**, including a special Shehecheyanu blessing at the top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv from the site of its ancient foundation. While here, we meander through the cobblestone alleyways and peer into the windows of the galleries as we take in the beautiful views of the sea.
- We continue to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to check in and have a chance to refresh after our long journey.
- This evening, we come together for a delicious **welcome dinner** at Maganda to kick off the beginning of our adventure together.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

## DAY 3

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024**  
TEL AVIV PAST TO PRESENT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we follow **Independence Trail** through the **Ahuzat Bayit neighborhood**, where the city of Tel Aviv was originally developed.
- Our guide leads us through **Neve Tzedek**, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Tel Aviv, then on to the **"White City"** to view the **Bauhaus architecture** and complete our morning in the **Florentin neighborhood** to view the **artistic graffiti** painted on the walls and buildings of the community.
- We continue into the bustling **Carmel Market** and take in the colorful array of spices, fresh produce and other delicious treats during a **tasting tour**.
- Nearby at the **Nachalat Binyamin craft fair**, we stroll through the biweekly market featuring Israeli artisans and entertainers who bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- This evening, set out to enjoy dinner on own at the Tel Aviv port or at Sarona Market.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv



## DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we drive north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area. Here, we view the ancient theater restored as a concert venue, the aqueduct, the ancient port as well as the impressive excavations of the Crusaders' city.
- Next, we visit the Crusader port of **Akko**, touring the massive **Hospitaller Fortress** and **Knights' Hall** that stood here.
- We enjoy a falafel lunch on own.
- Our final stop today is at **Kfar Kedem** for a hands-on family experience, exploring Jewish life from 2,000 years ago, including donkey rides, costumes, pita baking and more.
  - We continue to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz, where we enjoy a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.

### Overnight in the Galilee

## DAY 5 THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we tour the mystical city of **Safed**, center of Kabbalistic practice and one of the four holy cities in Israel, where we explore the narrow alleyways lined with ancient synagogues and artists' galleries.
- Next, we set out on an adventurous **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, riding along ancient Roman roads, passing through Syrian ruins and admiring the stark beauty of this windswept plateau. We ascend to the top of **Mount Bental**, a former Israeli bunker overlooking the ruins of **Quneitra** and the **Valley of Tears**. As the full vista comes into view, we reach a deeper understanding of both the past and present complexities facing Israel in a hostile Middle East.
- Our adventure continues this afternoon at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory** with a hands-on **chocolate workshop**, learning from the experts in a fun and delicious way as we make our own confections. Adults may choose to enjoy a **wine tasting** at the adjacent **Pelter Winery**.
- Later this afternoon, we set out on a **rafting adventure** along the **Jordan River**. We enjoy the refreshing water and occasional rapid as we make our way down stream.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together tonight.

### Overnight in the Galilee

## DAY 6 FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we travel through the Jordan Valley to see the extensive Roman ruins of **Beit Shean**, destroyed over 1,300 years ago by an earthquake and recently excavated and reconstructed on a massive and impressive scale.
- We drive west to the quaint European style village of **Zichron Yaakov**. While here, we visit the **Aharonson House** to discover how the **Nili spy ring** helped the British conquer Palestine in World War I.
- Next, we enjoy a fun and adventurous **water hike** at **Mei Kedem** in the Alona Valley.
- Later this afternoon, we ascend to **Jerusalem** stopping atop **Mt. Scopus** for another special opportunity to say the "Shehecheyanu" as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We check into our hotel and have time to relax and freshen up.
- As evening falls, we come together to welcome **Shabbat** led by **Cantor Evan Cohen** at **Kehilat Har-El**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the community.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

## DAY 7 SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024 SHABBAT IN THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early this morning and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon arrival, we ascend the imposing mountain of **Masada** to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouse as we learn about the Jewish Zealot's last stand against the approaching Roman armies.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the **Dead Sea**, where we can cover ourselves with silky, healing mud and float at the lowest place on Earth.
- The adventure continues with a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- We return to Jerusalem later this afternoon.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own. We suggest exploring Ben Yehuda Street, Emek Refaim or the Mamilla promenade.

### Overnight in Jerusalem





## DAY 8

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024  
THE CITY OF GOLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Yad L'Kashish**, a creative community destination supporting Jerusalem's senior residents through artistic workshop opportunities and more.
- Next, we discover the **Old City of Jerusalem** through a walking tour of the different quarters. We enter the Ottoman walls via the **Jaffa Gate** and begin in the **Jewish Quarter**, filled with synagogues, shops and history, stopping at the **Cardo Market** and passing by the ancient **Broad Wall**. Our path takes us through the bustling **Arab shuk** and into the **Christian Quarter** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, where Jesus was crucified, along the alleys of **Via Dolorosa** and into the shops of the **Muslim Quarter**.
- We head below ground for a tour of the **Western Wall tunnels** and an opportunity to discover the many layers of Jerusalem's history, passing through grand building projects from ancient Rome to the present.
- We continue to the **Kotel (Western Wall)**, built 2,000 years ago by King Herod to dignify and support the Second Temple. At this silent monument, a witness to triumph and tragedy, to hope and despair throughout the generations, we take time to reflect and pray, perhaps wedging a sacred note into a stone crevice and enveloping ourselves in the sense of holiness pervading the plaza.
- This afternoon, we visit **Ir David, the City of David**, where the stories of the Biblical King David come to life through the palace excavations, underground passageways and monumental fortifications. For the fearless, descend with a flashlight into **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, a 2,700-year-old pitch-black water-filled tunnel, a marvel of engineering, that brought water into the ancient city.
- This evening, set out to explore and enjoy dinner on own.
- Later this evening, we walk to watch the **Tower of David Night Spectacular**, a sound and light show that transforms the walls of David's Citadel into the living story of Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

## DAY 9

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024  
WE REMEMBER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **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**. Our time here will conclude with a **memorial service** in memory of all who lost their lives to the Nazis. Children under the age of 12 will enjoy an alternative visit to the **Biblical Zoo**.
- We continue to **Mount Herzl**, Israel's national cemetery, where we pay our respects by the gravesites of some of Israel's most prominent leaders, including Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, in addition to hearing about the many lesser-known heroes of Israel's wars buried here.
- This afternoon, we experience the sights, smells and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through **Machane Yehuda**. We have time for lunch on own here.
- We continue to **Ammunition Hill**, site of one of the greatest battles of the Six Day War. We will hear the incredible stories of heroism and salute the soldiers who fell in the battle to liberate Jerusalem.
- We return to our hotel in Jerusalem later this afternoon for time to refresh before an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem



## DAY 10

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

### DIGGING INTO ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Beit Guvrin** for a hands-on archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past. Those who wish can participate in **cave crawling** through the underground tunnel.
- Next, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, to discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- We return to Jerusalem for time to finish packing and last-minute shopping or exploring on own.
- This evening, we check out of our hotel and join together one last time for a festive **farewell dinner** and the opportunity to reminisce about our adventures together in Israel.
- Following dinner, we transfer to Ben Gurion Aieport for our overnight flights back to the United States.

## DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

### WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

**THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!**

*\*itinerary subject to change*

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