

**Temple Sinai's
Memorable Adventure to
ISRAEL**

**Led by Cantor Rebecca Robins
June 25 - July 3, 2023**

(As of 1/4/23)

Israel is a land of connections and reconnections, of first-time discovery and returning for nostalgia and new adventure. Traveling together as a community, we will bond through engaging and fun shared experiences and enhance our understanding of culture and archaeology, religion and politics, the ancient and the modern, as we delve in-depth into Israel's millennia-old legacy as the heart of the Jewish people.



Day 1: Sunday, June 25, 2023: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Monday, June 26, 2023: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Shalom and Bruchim Habaim - welcome home! We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met with assistance by an Ayelet Tours representative. Our time in this incredible land has officially started and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead.
- We begin at **Neot Kedumim**, a large interactive Biblical landscape reserve dedicated to the flora and lifestyle of ancient times. Here, we enjoy a first-hand experience of **sheep herding**, the occupation of our Biblical ancestors, concluding with **tree planting**, connecting us physically to the land.
- Next, we enjoy a tour of **Armored Corps Memorial** at **Latrun** – the outdoor tanks are both Israeli and from enemy armies – this is a hands-on way to consider Israel’s standing as the world’s only Jewish state.
- Check into our Tel Aviv hotel with time to refresh.
- This evening, we join together for a **welcome dinner** to kick off our Israel adventure.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Tuesday, June 27, 2023: ISRAEL’S INDEPENDENCE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day following the **Independence Trail** through the **Rothschild District**, discovering the architectural, cultural and intellectual foundations of this great city along the way.
- We enjoy time at leisure to browse among the street vendors and artisans at **Nachalat Binyamin**, Tel Aviv’s arts and crafts fair.
- Next, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the secrets of the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel’s fight for independence.
- Early this evening, we experience a **co-existence tour in Old Jaffa**, as a Jewish and Arab tour guide lead us side by side to trace the different historical narratives and explore the possibility of creating a common future and shared society. (Children are invited to join an excursion into Jaffa’s Flea Market to search the bazaar for fascinating and colorful memorabilia.)
- Enjoy the evening exploring this metropolitan city and having dinner on own. We suggest a visit to Saron Market for a world-class dining experience with something for everyone.



Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 4: Wednesday, June 28, 2023: NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea Maritima**, once the Roman capital of the region, to see the excavations of the crusaders' city, the aqueduct and the ancient theater that has been restored as a concert venue.
- Next, we enjoy a fun and adventurous water hike at **Mei Kedem** in the Alona Valley.
- We continue to **Kfar Kedem** for a hands-on family friendly experience exploring Jewish life of 2,000 years ago, including donkey rides, costumes, pita baking and more!
- We conclude our day with a visit to **Tzippori** to see the ruins and the mosaic known as the **Mona Lisa of the Galilee**.
- We drive to the **Galilee**, where we check into our kibbutz and enjoy a relaxing evening, including **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Thursday, June 29, 2023: GOLAN/GALILEE ROOTS

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Our morning begins with a **short hike** through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, source of the Jordan River and site of ancient archeological finds.
- Following time for lunch on own, we set out on an exciting **jeep ride** through the **Golan Heights**, passing former Syrian bunkers on our way to the top of Har Bental for panoramic views stretching far into neighboring Syria.
- We continue to **DeKarina Chocolate Factory** and get hands on creating our own **chocolate confections** in an expert led workshop.
- Later this afternoon, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the beautiful ancient synagogues and admire the galleries in the artist's quarter.
- Our final adventure today is a **kayaking excursion** down the Jordan River; a fun experience for everyone and a chance to cool off.
- We return to our kibbutz for a relaxing evening and **dinner** together.



Overnight in the Galilee



Day 6: Friday, June 30, 2023: JERUSALEM OF GOLD

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We drive south through the Jordan Valley Rift.
- Along the way, we stop at a **Bedouin encampment** for desert hospitality and a **camel ride**.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time.
- We continue to the **Old City**, where we enjoy a hummus lunch on our own at Lina or Abu Shukri.
- Next, we set out on a walking tour through the different neighborhoods of the Old City, exploring the **Jewish quarter** and the **Arab market (shuk)**.
- We conclude below ground with a fascinating tour of the famed **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- In the late afternoon, we check into our hotel and have time to freshen up for the evening.
- As the sun begins to set, we participate in **Kabbalat Shabbat services** with Cantor Robbins and members of **Kol Haneshama**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** atop the **Notre Dame Rooftop restaurant**.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Saturday, July 1, 2023: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we join together to celebrate our **B’nai Mitzvah** in the beautiful Feinsein gardens at **Hebrew Union College (HUC)**. Mazel tov!
- This afternoon, we enjoy **Shabbat lunch** together at **Beit Shmuel**.
- We return to the **Old City** for a fun and engaging **scavenger hunt** through the winding cobblestone alleyways.
- Free evening for exploring and dinner in Jerusalem. We suggest a stroll along Ben Yehuda Street or Emek Refaim.
- **Optional (\$18 – pre-register)**: After dinner, we walk to the **Tower of David** to watch the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 8: Sunday, July 2, 2023: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart early and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** to view the remains of King Herod's fortresses, including the synagogue, walls and bathhouses, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- This evening, we return to Jerusalem and enjoy a festive **farewell dinner**, recalling 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 9: Monday, July 3, 2023: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive home back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itineraries subject to change*

