

## From the Midwest to the Mideast An unforgettable journey to **ISRAEL**

with Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha, WI  
& Temple Israel of Duluth, MN  
Led by Cantor Deborah Martin  
& Rabbi David Steinberg  
October 27 - November 7, 2019

with optional Eilat/Petra Extension

November 6 - 8, 2019

(As of 8/20/18)



*Join us on an interfaith journey to Israel. Together we'll experience sights and encounter the people - from the North to the South, East to West!*

### Day 1: Sunday, October 27, 2019: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to the Holy Land – Israel!

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### Day 2: Monday, October 28, 2019: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We drive through the Judean Hills to **Jerusalem**.
- Enjoy an inspirational view from the **Haas Promenade** overlooking the Old City, where we offer a prayer of welcome as we look out over the Holy City for the first time.
- Check in to our hotel with time to refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** together at our hotel.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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### Day 3: Tuesday, October 29, 2019: JERUSALEM – SACRED TO THREE FAITHS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enter the **Old City** to join **Women of the Wall** for Rosh Hodesh services, supporting their struggle for an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall.
- We visit the archeological excavation at the **Davidson Center**, built directly into the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
- This afternoon, we tour the **Western wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- After free time for lunch on own in the Old City, we travel to **Hadassah Hospital** to see the beautiful **Chagall windows**.



- This evening, we enjoy a fascinating program coordinated by **Rabbi Yonathan Shefa** of the **ICCI (The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel)**. We will meet local Jewish, Muslim, and Christian alumni and current students of ICCI Youth & Young Adult programs for informal **discussions and dialogue**. Students will share experiences and personal stories of what it means to be involved in interreligious dialogue in a conflict situation.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 4: Wednesday, October 30, 2019: ESHKOL REGION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we depart for the **Eshkol region**.
- Our first stop is at the “**Salad Trail**”, where we will participate in a hands-on agricultural tour, and witness how Israeli innovation is 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 speak with students and teachers about their lives as we tour the **Eshkol Region’s Protected School**. We will witness their bravery and hope, as we view the buildings that are used for both learning and shelter.
- We meet artist **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 return to Jerusalem for a free evening and dinner on own.



### Overnight in Jerusalem

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#### Day 5: Thursday, October 31, 2019: THE OLD CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We enjoy a walking tour of Jerusalem’s **Old City**, where we stroll through the **Jewish quarter**, including the **Cardo market**, as well as the colorful **Arab shuk**. We also visit the **Christian quarter** and see parts of the **Via Dolorosa**, ending at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.
- From under the streets, to above the roof tops we **walk the ramparts** of the Old City, giving us a birds’ eye view of this beautiful place.
- We continue to the **Tower of David Museum** for a guided tour of the Citadel moat and the “**Kishle**”, one of the most fascinating hidden spaces in the museum compound.
- Time to explore and shop in the Old City or the Mamilla pedestrian mall just outside the Jaffa Gate, including free time for lunch on own.
- We tour the original foundations of Jerusalem at **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David.
- Free time for dinner on your own along the Mamilla pedestrian promenade.
- Later this evening, we walk to the **Tower of David** for the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

### Overnight in Jerusalem



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## Day 6: Friday, November 1, 2019: THE NEW CITY & THE JORDAN VALLEY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **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. Cantor Martin leads us in a moving **memorial service**.
- We take part in a hands-on archaeological sifting project at **Emek Tzurim**, where new and important finds are made every day.
- We walk through the bustling marketplace at **Machane Yehuda**, taking in the sights, sounds and smells, as the locals busily prepare for Shabbat.
- Return to our hotel to relax and refresh.
- Optional **Shabbat services** at **Tzur Hadassah** led by **Rabbi Stacey Blank**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** home hospitality hosted by members of the congregation.

### Overnight in Jerusalem

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## Day 7: Saturday, November 2, 2019: THE DEAD SEA BASIN OR DAY IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Option 1:** We depart for the **Dead Sea basin**, driving past the **Qumran Caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered along the way.
- Ascend **Masada** by cable car for a guided visit of the fortress remains built by the great King Herod and later used as refuge by Jewish Zealots after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and later as home to some of the world's first monks.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach to enjoy an "unsinkable" swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea** before we return to Jerusalem. We also stop in the **Ahava factory outlet**.
- Time permitting, we stop for a short hike at **Ein Gedi**, where David hid from Saul before returning to Jerusalem.
- **Option 2:** Visit the **Israel Museum** (on own) to view its extensive collections, iconic Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Billy Rose sculpture garden. Also visit the **Museum on the Seam** (on own), a unique museum displaying contemporary art dealing with different aspects of socio-political reality.
- **Option 3:** Attend Shabbat services at a local congregation (options to be provided).
- **ALL:** We join together to hear a lecture entitled "*A Snapshot of Palestinian Society*", by Jerusalem Post Palestinian Affairs correspondent, **Khaled Abu Toameh**.
- Dinner on own.



### Overnight in Jerusalem

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### Day 8: Sunday, November 3, 2019: THE GALILEE AND SAFED

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Jerusalem and head north through the Jordan Valley rift towards the **Galilee**.
- We visit the city of **Safed**, center of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah. We view the beautiful ancient synagogues and walk through the artists' quarter. Free time for lunch in Safed.
- We travel to the northern shores of the **Sea of Galilee** and visit **Capernaum**, where Jesus taught and healed. We see the ruins of several synagogues and the octagonal **Church of St. Peter**.
- We continue to **Tzippori**, where we see the ancient mosaic known as the Mona Lisa of the Galilee.
- We check in to our kibbutz and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy a **Kinneret cruise**, followed by **dinner** at our kibbutz.



### Overnight in the Galilee

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### Day 9: Monday, November 4, 2019: THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we visit **Kibbutz Malkia** located along the Israel-Lebanon border, where we meet with the IDF unit on the border and kibbutz security personnel to learn about the steps they take to protect a small frontier community.
- We travel up to the Golan, where we visit a **Druze village** for **home hospitality lunch** and to learn about their unique culture.
- We continue with an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights** passing former Syrian bunker on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views stretching far into Syria and our guide briefs us on the current geo-political situation in the region.
- Visit an area **winery** for a **tour and tasting** of Israel's excellent wines!
- Spend the remainder of the day relaxing at our kibbutz.
- **Dinner** together this evening at our kibbutz.

### Overnight in the Galilee

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### Day 10: Tuesday, November 5, 2019: THE COAST/CAESAREA MARITIMA

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We begin our day in **Akko**, where we discover the Crusader-era fortifications and British prison as we learn about this historically important port.
- We visit **Or Torah**, a Tunisian synagogue. This stunningly unique synagogue is covered in mosaics inside and out, made from millions of natural stone fragments from around Israel, and also boasts seven Torah arks.
- Drive south along the Mediterranean coast to see the remains of the ancient city of **Caesarea**.
- Continue along the coast to **Tel Aviv**, where we check in to our hotel and have time to refresh.



- We visit **Old Jaffa**, where the prophet Jonah set sail, where Simon the Tanner lived and where Tabitha was resurrected. Through **Beit Daniel**, the progressive congregation in Tel Aviv, we will enjoy a **co-existence tour**. This experience brings together a Jewish and 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.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy a free evening for dinner on own in bustling Tel Aviv.

### Overnight in Tel Aviv

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#### Day 11: Wednesday, November 6, 2019: FOUNDATIONS OF A MODERN NATION

- Breakfast at our hotel. We check out and store our luggage.
- **Option 1:** We begin our tour today by marking the foundation of the modern state at the place where it happened in 1948, **Independence Hall**.
- **Option 2:** We visit the **Rabin Center**, where the spiraling exhibits lead us through the history of the modern state and broader world history, through the prism of the life of one of Israel's most beloved leaders, Yitzhak Rabin.
- **ALL:** We visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- This evening, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** together at our hotel.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our flight back to the United States, arriving home tomorrow morning.

## OR...JOIN US ON OUR EILAT/PETRA EXTENSION

#### Day 11: Wednesday, November 6, 2019: FLY TO EILAT

- After bidding farewell to the main tour, we board our short flight to **Eilat**.
- Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel.

### Overnight in Eilat

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#### Day 12: Thursday, November 7, 2019: PETRA DAY TOUR

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we cross the Israeli border into **Jordan**.
- Upon crossing the border, we travel to **Petra**, the Red Rose City and Eighth Wonder of the World, where we explore the **Nabatean City** (as seen in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*). We walk through the **Ciq** and ancient temples, and discover the amazing **Treasury** and **Roman theater**.
- On our way back to the border, we view **Wadi Rum**, a protected desert wilderness with sandstone mountains and natural arches.
- We return to our hotel in Eilat for a relaxing evening and enjoy **dinner** together at our hotel.

### Overnight in Eilat



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**Day 13: Friday, November 8, 2019: DEPARTURE**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport to fly back to Tel Aviv, then change to the international terminal for our flight back to the United States, landing later today (or tomorrow depending on your flight time)  
OR Choose to add an extra night or two and relax in Eilat!

**THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change.*

