

Temple Etz Chaim Celebrates

ISRAEL

including Yom Ha'Atzmaut

(Israeli Independence Day)

Led by Rabbi Tom Alpert

April 2020

(As of 2/19/19)



Traveling in Israel is an opportunity to encounter the wonders of this ancient land. We'll grow through our shared experiences, from the fun and adventurous, to the historical and spiritual, as we explore Israel together!

Day 1: Tuesday, April 21, 2020: DEPARTURE

- We depart Boston on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Wednesday, April 22, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to **Jerusalem**, stopping atop the **Haas Promenade** 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 refresh before our **welcome dinner** this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Thursday, April 23, 2020: THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DIVIDE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the **Hartman Institute** and meet with a scholar for a program entitled “*Israel and the Challenge of Power*”.
- We travel to **Gush Etzion** for a dialogue with **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Shaul Yudelman**, the founders of the **Shorashim/Roots** program. Shorashim fosters a grassroots movement of understanding, non-violence and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.
- This evening, we visit the famed **Machane Yehuda** for a chance to explore the market and enjoy dinner on our own, then stroll through to discover the artistic graffiti painted on the closed shutter doors.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Friday, April 24, 2020: JERUSALEM THEN AND NOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day at **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.
- Lunch on own en route.
- We continue to **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David, including the new excavations leading us to **Robinson's Arch**.
- This afternoon, we enter the **Old City** for a walking tour through the different neighborhoods. We begin in the **Jewish quarter** with a chance for personal reflection at the **Western Wall**, continue through the **Arab market (shuk)**, then stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in the **Christian quarter**.
- As the sun sets, we join together with a Progressive community **Shabbat dinner and home hospitality** with local residents (likely Kehilat Mevaseret Zion).

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Saturday, April 25, 2020: 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 **Masada** by cable car or snake path to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, 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 beach to enjoy lunch (on own) and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
- We continue on a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- We return to Jerusalem, passing the **Qumran caves**, the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered, along the way.
- Enjoy dinner on own tonight.
- After dinner, we walk to the **Tower of David** to watch the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.



Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 6: Sunday, April 26, 2020: CAESAREA AND HAIFA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart Jerusalem and travel north to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area, to view the ancient theater and aqueduct.
- Next, we travel to **Haifa** to visit the **Leo Baeck Institute** to learn from their leadership about the innovative programming taking place here, as well as meet faculty and students throughout the afternoon. We enjoy **lunch** with Leo Baeck representatives.
- Early this evening, we travel to the **Galilee** to check into our kibbutz and refresh for **dinner** together tonight.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 7: Monday, April 27, 2020: MYSTICISM IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Today, we visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we wander through the cobblestone alleyways to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter. Time for lunch on own here.
- Next, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights** passing former Syrian bunkers on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the panoramic views leading into Syria.
- We continue to the **Golan Winery** for a **tour and wine tasting**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together. A siren will sound marking the beginning of **Yom HaZikaron**, Israel's Memorial Day. If possible, we will join a local memorial event, either this evening or tomorrow morning.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 8: Tuesday, April 28, 2020: THE ROAD TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we depart the Galilee and travel west to the Mediterranean coast and begin traveling south. Along the way, we stop to hear the **siren** blast and take a moment of silence in honor of **Yom Hazikaron**.
- We visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- Our next stop is at the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center** for a glimpse into Israel's high-tech advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space. We visit the interactive exhibition and meet with one of Israel's up and coming entrepreneurs.
- We continue to **Tel Aviv** and the **Sarona Market** for lunch on own in this world-class dining establishment with foods of every variety.



- This afternoon, we visit **Rabin Square**, the place where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.
- We check into our hotel and refresh.
- Enjoy dinner on own, then join the people of Tel Aviv in the streets as **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** (Israel's birthday) begins.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 9: Wednesday, April 29, 2020: HIGH-TECH ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day at **Independence Hall**, the site where David Ben Gurion declared Israel a state in 1948.
- We continue with a walking tour through **Neve Tzedek**, discovering the artistic graffiti painted on the buildings throughout the neighborhood. Lunch on own along the way.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to discover this metropolitan city on own.
- **Optional:** Enjoy a night out at **Dinner in the Dark**, an experience that will tantalize all of your senses, followed by a performance of *Not by Bread Alone*, at the **Nalagaat Center**, whose actors are both visually and hearing impaired (separate cost).

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 10: Thursday, April 30, 2020: OLD JAFFA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Old Jaffa**, where we meet scholar **Rachel Korazim** at her home for a discussion on Israeli art and poetry.
- After, we stroll through the cobblestone alleyways to view the galleries and take in the views of the sea in this ancient port city. We stop at **Abulafia Bakery** along the way for a treat.
- Continue to the **Diaspora Museum**, where we learn about the history of Jewish emigration since the destruction of the Second Temple, see the scale models of synagogues from around the world, and view some of their excellent temporary exhibitions with a museum docent.
- We return to our hotel to check out, then enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** as we recall all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



DAY 11: Friday, May 1, 2020: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in Boston this morning.

The Memories Last Forever!!

**itinerary subject to change*

