

Congregation Beth Ohr Adventure to

ISRAEL

Led by Rabbi Dahlia Bernstein

February 2020

(As of 4/4/19)



Traveling together in Israel is an opportunity to connect – with the people of Israel, with the land itself, and with each other. As a traveling community, we will bond through our shared experiences, from the fun and adventurous to the historical and spiritual.

Day 1: Thursday, February 13, 2020: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Friday, February 14, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We travel to **Tel Aviv** and time permitting, we stroll along **Nachalat Binyamin**, where the artists and entertainers bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- We check into our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- As the sun sets, we join together for **Kabbalat Shabbat** with the innovators at **Beit Tefila Yisraeli**, including a discussion with founder, **Rabbi Estaban Gottfried**.
- Following the service, we enjoy **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Saturday, February 15, 2020: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we have the option of attending **Shabbat services** nearby at (among many other options!) the **Tel Aviv International Synagogue** OR set out to explore **Bialik Street**, including the chance to visit one of the excellent (if often overlooked!) small museums in the area, such as the Gutman Museum, Bialik House and the Reuven Rubin house.
- We enjoy **Shabbat lunch** together at our hotel.



- This afternoon, through **Beit Daniel**, the progressive congregation in Tel Aviv, we'll visit **Old Jaffa** for a **co-existence tour**. This experience brings together a Jewish and an 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.
- Free evening for dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Sunday, February 16, 2020: HIGH-TECH ISRAEL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we meet with young entrepreneur and current Google employee, **Rony Rozen**, to hear her story and learn about high-tech innovations in this start-up nation.
- Our next stop is at 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.
- We depart Tel Aviv and travel north to **Ramat Aviv**, where we meet with members of **HaKehila Hahadasha**, the young and vibrant new Masorti congregation.
- We continue along the Mediterranean coast to **Atlit**, a former detention compound for Jewish immigrants who arrived in Israel during the British Mandate period, including a dialogue with **Murray Greenfield**, who was detained here.
- We continue to our kibbutz in the **Galilee** to check in and refresh, followed by **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Monday, February 17, 2020: NORTHERN ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- We begin our day by taking part in tikkun olam at **Project Leket**, where we will collect fruits and vegetables for those in need, fulfilling the mitzvah of gleaning the fields.
- Next, we explore **Nimrod's Castle**, an impressive hilltop fortress in the Golan Heights.
- We continue to the **Golan Winery** for an enjoyable **tour and wine tasting**.
- We travel to the top of **Har Bental** to take in the panoramic views of Syria and discuss the current geopolitical situation with our guide.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together this evening.



Overnight in the Galilee



Day 6: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 MYSTICAL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- Enjoy the morning at leisure to relax and refresh.
- We travel to the mystical city of **Safed**. After time for lunch on own, we stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter. We also stop to learn about the spiritual impact of immersion at the **Safed Mikveh Education Center**.
- We continue to the **Galilean Hills** for a special private concert at the home of composer and concert pianist, **Yitzhak Tavior**.
- We return to our kibbutz for **dinner** together tonight.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 7: Wednesday, February 19, 2020: TO THE CITY OF GOLD

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- We begin our day volunteering at **Kfar Ahava**, a foster village for at-risk youth outside Haifa. It will be a fulfilling and meaningful morning!
- After a **light lunch** with leaders from Kfar Ahava, we travel south and ascend to **Jerusalem** and stop at the **Haas Promenade** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we take in the panoramic views of the **City of Gold**.
- We check into our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- This afternoon, we meet 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.
- Dinner on own.
- Tonight, we have the option to enjoy a nighttime tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archeological wonders that remained untouched for centuries, including exciting new finds.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 8: Thursday, February 20, 2020: CELEBRATING OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!

- Breakfast and at our hotel.
- This morning, Rabbi Bernstein leads us as we celebrate our **B'nai Mitzvah** at the egalitarian platform Ezrat Yisrael, adjacent to the Western Wall. Mazel tov!
- Next, we mark this momentous day with tikkun olam, visiting **Yad L'Kashish**, the Lifeline for the Aged. This is an artisan workshop which empowers and supports hundreds of elderly and disabled Jerusalem residents.
- This afternoon, we set out on a **walking tour** beginning at the **Tower of David Museum** and continuing through history in the **Old City**, exploring the **Jewish quarter**, followed by a stroll along the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in the **Christian quarter**. We exit through the **Jaffa Gate**.
- We enjoy free time to explore the city or relax.
- **OPTIONAL (Add \$150):** Visit the famed **Machane Yehuda shuk** for a very special culinary experience. We begin with a **chef-led tour** of this bustling marketplace. We'll browse through the stalls of fresh produce, meats, cheeses, olives, nuts and spices and collect the needed ingredients. Our chef will then guide us through creating and eating a delicious gourmet **dinner** made with our purchases.
- For those not participating in the chef experience, enjoy free time for dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Friday, February 21, 2020: ADVENTURES IN ISRAEL (Choose one track)

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **MASADA & THE DEAD SEA TRACK:**
 - 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 synagogues, 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 an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
 - We pass by the **Qumran caves** to see the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by a local shepherd.
- **JERUSALEM ADVENTURES TRACK:**
 - This morning, we visit **Hadassah Hospital** for a VIP tour and to see the amazing **Chagall windows**.
 - We continue to **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust.
- **ALL:** This evening, we join together for **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner**.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 10: Saturday, February 22, 2020: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we have the option of attending Shabbat services at one of the various synagogues in Jerusalem (options will be provided).
- We come together for **Shabbat lunch** at the **Fuchsberg Center**, the center of the Conservative movement in Israel, where we hear an update on Masorti life in Israel today.
- Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the peace and calm of Shabbat in Jerusalem.
- After **Havdalah** this evening, meet with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli-Arab journalist, lecturer and documentary filmmaker, to hear about the current state of Israeli-Palestinian relations.
- This evening, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner**, as we recall all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- After dinner, we walk together to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the spectacular **Sound and Light show**, a fitting way to end our incredible time together!



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 11: Sunday, February 23, 2020: ARRIVAL HOME

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, landing later today.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

