

Congregation Ohav Shalom Adventure in Israel Led by Rabbi Dan Ornstein February 12-23, 2020 with optional Eilat/Petra extension



Ayelet's Israel experiences are designed to provide a fun, interactive, hands-on Israel adventure for participants of every age. Generation bond together as they experience the magic of Israel! Our handpicked guides will bring heritage and history to life as you explore and celebrate in this amazing land!

Day 1: Wednesday, February 12, 2020: DEPARTURE

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

Day 2: Thursday, February 13, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- Our first stop is at **Neot Kedumim** to **plant trees**, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- We enjoy lunch on own along the way.
- This afternoon, we stop at the **Kastel** to participate in outdoor training and group bonding exercises, such as rope courses and games.
- Upon entering **Jerusalem**, we stop at the **Haas Promenade** to say the “Shehecheyanu” as we look out over the **City of Gold**.
- We check into our hotel and join together for our **welcome dinner** this evening.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Friday, February 14, 2020: THE ROOTS OF OUR PAST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we have a moving experience at **Yad Vashem**, Israel’s memorial to the Holocaust, where we visit several exhibits, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations (options for children available). We conclude our visit with a **memorial service**.
- This afternoon, we visit **Machane Yehuda** to watch the locals busily preparing for Shabbat and split into groups for a **tasting tour** at the restaurants and food stalls.
- This evening, we attend **Shabbat services** at various Jerusalem synagogues with community members, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Saturday, February 15, 2020: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free time to attend Shabbat services or explore the city.
- We enjoy **Shabbat lunch** together at our hotel.
- **Choose one option for your afternoon adventure:**
 - This afternoon, we set out on a walking tour of charming **Yemin Moshe**, one of Jerusalem's historic neighborhoods established in the late 1800s outside the Old City.
- **OR**
 - We participate in a **scavenger hunt** through the **Old City**.
- We gather together to enjoy a special **Havdalah** overlooking the Old City.
- Dinner on own tonight.
- **Optional:** We join together later this evening and walk to the **Tower of David** to see the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Sunday, February 16, 2020: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Just outside the Old City walls, we visit **Ir David, the City of David**, where we wander through the carefully preserved archaeological excavations dating back to the time of King David. We head underground and travel through the tunnel to the **Davidson Center**.
- We enter the **Old City** and walk through the alleyways of the **Jewish quarter** while hearing the stories of those who have lived here throughout the ages.
- Lunch on own in the Old City.
- **Choose one option for your afternoon adventure:**
 - This afternoon, we have the option to take a ride on the **zipline** at **Deer Land Park**, Israel's largest zipline.
- **OR**
 - We visit **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.
- We return to Jerusalem and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6: Monday, February 17, 2020: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon arrival, those who wish may climb the snake path to the top of **Masada** while the rest of the group will ascend by cable car to celebrate our **B'nai Mitzvah**, view the remains of King Herod's palace and hear the story of 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**.
- We begin traveling north, passing through the Jordan Valley and see the amazing cliffs of the desert.
- We arrive in the **Galilee** and check into our kibbutz with time to refresh before **dinner** together.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 7: Tuesday, February 18, 2020: THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we take a short hike in the **Banias Nature Reserve**.
- Next, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, stopping in **Katzrin** to view the ruins, then passing former Syrian bunkers on the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views reaching into Syria.
 - **Youth Track:** This afternoon, we try our hands at **chocolate making** and learn from the experts in a delicious and fun experience at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory**.
 - **Adult Track:** This afternoon, we enjoy a **wine tasting** at the **Pelter Winery** adjacent to the chocolate factory.
- We continue to **Kibbutz Malkia** located along the Israel-Lebanon border, where we meet with IDF unit on the border and security personnel to learn about the steps they take to protect a small frontier community.
- Our next stop is at **Dubrovin Farms**, where we participate in a **hummus making challenge**.
- We complete our day with a **celebratory dinner** in honor of our b'nai mitzvah.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 8: Wednesday, February 19, 2020: THE MYSTICAL NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- Today, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we explore the ancient synagogues and the artist's quarter. We also have the chance to take part in a hands-on **glass blowing workshop**.
- We begin traveling south and stop to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Akko**, where we walk through the old port and colorful bazaar.
- We continue to the European style village of **Zichron Yaakov** to visit the **Nili Spy Museum**.
- Upon our arrival in **Tel Aviv**, we check into our hotel, then set out for an evening at leisure to explore this metropolitan city and enjoy dinner on our own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 9: Thursday, February 20, 2020: DIGGING ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- Next, we travel to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in 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.
- We continue to **Latrun**, Israel's outdoor armored corps museum, where we explore the tanks and artillery used by the Israeli Defense Forces throughout the country's history (*time permitting*).
- We return to our hotel to relax and refresh before dinner on our own.
- **Optional:** Enjoy a moving performance of "*Not by Bread Alone*" at the **Nalagaat Center** for the deaf and blind.



Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 10: Friday, February 21, 2020: FIGHTING OUR WAY TO TODAY

- Breakfast of our hotel.
- We begin our day at the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the paramilitary forces from Israel's pre-statehood days.
- Next, we follow **Independence Trail**, a historical walking tour through the **Ahuzat Bayit** neighborhood, where the city was originally developed.
- This afternoon, we stroll along **Nachalat Binyamin**, where the artists and entertainers bring the streets to life and the local busily prepare for Shabbat.
- As the sun sets, we join together for informal **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 11: Saturday, February 22, 2020: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Free time to attend Shabbat services or explore the city on our own.
- Tonight, we check out of our hotel and enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** together, remembering all that we have experienced on our journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States, arriving tomorrow morning.



OR JOIN US ON AN **EILAT/PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION**

- We transfer to the airport for our short flight to **Eilat**.
- Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel to check in.

Overnight in Eilat



Day 12: Sunday, February 23, 2020: PETRA – THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we cross the border into Jordan for our day tour of **Petra**, the Red Rose City and Eighth Wonder of the World.
- We explore the **Nabatean City** (as seen in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*) and walk through the **Siq**, view the ancient temple, the famous **Treasury**, the **Roman theater** and more.
- As we return to the border, we view **Wadi Rum**, a protected desert wilderness with sandstone mountains and natural arches.
- We return to our hotel for a relaxing evening and dinner on our own.

(Note, border taxes are due in USD at the border crossing – currently \$65 per person)

Overnight in Eilat

Day 13: Monday, February 24, 2020: LEISURE IN EILAT/DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Enjoy the day at leisure in Eilat. Optional on own activity suggestions include:
 - Visit the Underwater Aquarium
 - Barbeque lunch and snorkeling cruise on the Red Sea
 - Swimming with the dolphins
 - Scuba diving
 - We check out of our hotel later this afternoon and transfer to the airport for our short flight back to Tel Aviv to connect with our overnight flight back to the United States.
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Day 14: Tuesday, February 25, 2020: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

