

Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein
Temple Shalom of Central Florida
Tour to
Israel

March 15-25, 2020
with optional Eilat/Petra Extension

March 25-29, 2020

(As of 5/1/19)



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: Sunday, March 15, 2020: BEGIN OUR JOURNEY

- We depart the United States from Miami on our non-stop overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Monday, March 16, 2020: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to **Tel Aviv** and begin with a walking tour of **Jaffa**, an ancient port city, where we stroll through the cobblestone alleyways admiring the art galleries and taking in the views of the sea.
- We transfer to our hotel for check in.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** at **Maganda** in the Yemenite quarter.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Tuesday, March 17, 2020: THE ORIGINS OF A MODERN NATION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our first stop is at **Shalom Tower** where we see the new exhibition about **Independence Hall** and the founding of the State of Israel.
- Next, we visit the **Palmach Museum**, where we "join up" with the paramilitary forces from Israel's pre-statehood days.
- We meet with young entrepreneur and current Google employee, **Rony Rozen**, to discuss her story as well as high-tech innovation in this start-up nation.
- We continue our tour of Israel's high-tech advances at the **Taglit Innovation Center**. This cutting-edge center allows us to learn about the new advancements Israeli start-ups are making in the fields of science, medicine, security and space through their interactive exhibitions.
- We visit **Nachalat Binyamin** where entertainers, artists, and craftspeople bring the streets of Tel Aviv life.



- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Wednesday, March 18, 2020: TRAVELING NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we drive north to **Caesarea**, 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.
- We travel to **Akko**, where we explore the Crusader-era fortifications and British prison as we learn about this historically important port.
- Next, we visit a **Druze village**, where we will enjoy **home hospitality and lunch** as we learn about this unique community.
- We continue with a visit to **Rosh Hanikra**, where we view the amazing chalk cliff grottoes that have been carved out by the Mediterranean waters over time.
- We travel to the **Galilee** to check in to our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 5: Thursday, March 19, 2020: MYSTICISM AND THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we set out on an exciting **jeep tour** of the **Golan Heights**, passing by old Syrian bunkers along the way to the top of **Har Bental**, where we take in the views stretching far into Syria.
- We continue to the **Golan Winery** for a tour and select **wine tasting**.
- Next, we visit the mystical city of **Safed**, where we view the beautiful ancient synagogues and stroll through the artist's quarter.
- We return to our kibbutz this evening for **dinner** together.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 6: Friday, March 20, 2020: THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we drive south, stopping at **Beit Shean** and **Beit Alpha** to view the ancient ruins and intricate mosaics.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem** and stop at the **Haas Promenade** for a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing with challah and wine as we look out over the City of Gold.
- We check in to our hotel and have time to refresh.
- This evening, we gather for **Shabbat services** at **Kol Haneshama**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 7: Saturday, March 21, 2020: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning at leisure to attend Shabbat services (options provided).
- We enjoy **Shabbat lunch** at **Beit Shmuel**.
- This afternoon, we join together for a tour of the **Old City's Jewish, Christian and Arab quarters**.
- Enjoy a free evening for dinner on own as Jerusalem returns to life after the calm of Shabbat.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 8: Sunday, March 22, 2020: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the military cemetery of **Mt. Herzl**, where our guide shares personal reflections of Israel's military history and beloved leaders Theodore Herzl, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, who are all buried here.
- Next, we stop for an in-depth exploration of **Yad Vashem's** Holocaust memorial.
- We drive by Israel's parliament, the **Knesset**, where we have a photo opportunity by the outdoor bronze menorah sculpture.
- We continue to the nearby **Supreme Court**, where we see the ancient mosaics, recovered from the synagogue at Hamat Gadar.
- Later this afternoon, we visit **Hadassah Hospital** to view the amazing **Chagall windows**.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Monday, March 23, 2020: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon our arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path to view the remains of King Herod's fortress, and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots' rebellion against the approaching Roman armies.
- We stop at the **Dead Sea**, where we have time to enjoy **lunch** and the mud baths as well as an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters.
- We pass the **Qumran caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, as we return to Jerusalem later this evening



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 10: Tuesday, March 24, 2020: DIGGING INTO HISTORY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we stroll through **Machane Yehuda**, and take in the sights, smells and sounds of this bustling marketplace, watching as the locals busily do their daily shopping.
- We continue with a visit to the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover the underground ammunition factory that played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence.
- This afternoon, we tour the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- Tonight, we check out of our hotel and enjoy a special **farewell dinner** together this evening.
- We transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to the United States, arriving tomorrow morning.

Overnight in Jerusalem for those continuing to Eilat

OR CONTINUE ON AN EILAT/PETRA, JORDAN EXTENSION

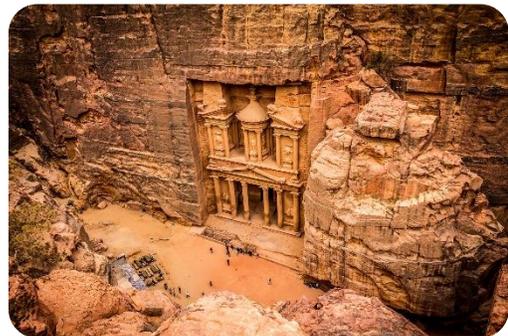
Day 11: Wednesday, March 25, 2020: TO EILAT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we transfer to the airport for our short flight to **Eilat**.
- Upon arrival, we are transferred to our hotel to check in.
- Enjoy a day of leisure in Eilat relaxing by the pool, at the beach or discovering the aquarium.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 12: Thursday, March 26, 2020: PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We cross the border into Jordan and begin our full day tour of **Petra, the Red Rose City**. Along the way, we explore the **Nabatean City** (as seen in *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*).
- We walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temple, then discover the famous **Treasury**, the **Roman theater** and more in the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- Later this afternoon, we return to Israel and enjoy dinner on own.



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

Overnight in Eilat



Day 13: Friday, March 27, 2020: EXPLORING EILAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the day at leisure in Eilat. Optional on own activity suggestions include visiting the Underwater Aquarium, enjoying a barbecue lunch and snorkeling cruise on the Red Sea or just relaxing poolside or seaside.
- Tonight, we enjoy **Shabbat dinner** together.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 14: Saturday, March 28, 2020: LEISURE DAY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Enjoy the day at leisure in Eilat.
 - We check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Tel Aviv to connect with our overnight flight back to the United States.
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Day 15: Sunday, March 29, 2020: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

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