



Congregation Ner Tamid's

Adventure in Israel

Led by

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad & Cantor Jessica Hutchings

JUNE 2022

with optional Eilat/Petra Extension

(As of 7/22/2021)

Israel is a land of connections and reconnections. It is a place that both holds nostalgia and awaits rediscovery. Over the decades, so much in Israel has changed dramatically, yet the essence that draws us remains the same. Traveling together as a community we will bond through our shared experiences and enhance our understanding of culture and archaeology, religion and politics, the ancient and the modern, as we delve in-depth into Israel's millennia-old legacy as heart of the Jewish People.



Day 1: Sunday, June 5, 2022: BEGIN OUR JOURNEY

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

Day 2: Monday, June 6, 2022: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel this evening and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We transfer to our hotel for check in and enjoy a **welcome dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Tuesday, June 7, 2022: DIGGING ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the settlement of **Netiv HaAsara**, located on the Gaza border, to see the **Peace Wall** and meet with local residents to better understand their experience living here.
- Next, we tour the **Ayalon Institute**, the underground manufacturer of bullets that saved the State of Israel during the War of Independence.
- We continue to **Beit Guvrin**, where we participate in a hands-on archaeological dig, allowing us the opportunity to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past.
- Later this afternoon, we visit **Nachalat Binyamin**, where entertainers, artists, and craftspeople bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Wednesday, June 8, 2022: TRAVELING NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we start our day by taking part in *tikkun olam* at **Project Leket**, where we will collect leftover fruits and vegetables for those in need, fulfilling the mitzvah of gleaning the fields.
- Next, we drive north along the Mediterranean coast 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.
- 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, June 9, 2022: 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.
- Next, we take a short hike through **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**.
- We continue to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we view the beautiful ancient synagogues and stroll through the artist's quarter.
- This afternoon we enjoy a special **kayaking** trip down the Jordan River.
- We return to our kibbutz this evening for **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 6: Friday, June 10, 2022: 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 into our hotel and have time to refresh.
- This evening, we gather for **Shabbat services** at **Kol Haneshama**, followed by **home hospitality Shabbat dinner** with members of the congregation.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Saturday, June 11, 2022: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Join us for optional Shabbat services this morning.
- We enjoy **Shabbat lunch** together at **Beit Shmuel**.
- 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**.
- Enjoy dinner on own as Jerusalem returns to life after the calm of Shabbat. We suggest a visit to the Mamilla Pedestrian mall with its varied assortment of cafes and restaurants.
- Later this evening, we walk together to the **Tower of David**, where we enjoy the spectacular **Sound and Light show!**



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 8: Sunday, June 12, 2022: HISTORY OF 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 including a headset guided tour by a site guide through the museum (younger children will visit the **Biblical Zoo** to see the wildlife with Cantor Jessica).
- Enjoy the afternoon and evening to explore Jerusalem and have dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Monday, June 13, 2022: B'NAI MITZVAH AT MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car for our memorable **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony** atop this historic mountain. *Mazel Tov!*
- We 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 stop at the **Dead Sea** at the Hod Hotel, where we **celebrate our B'nai Mitzvah with a festive lunch**, enjoy the mud baths and an unsinkable swim in the healing, salty waters.
- Later this afternoon, we enjoy a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
- We pass the **Qumran caves**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, as we return to Jerusalem later this evening.
- Dinner on own tonight.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10: Tuesday, June 14, 2022: ANCIENT AND MODERN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we tour the **Western Wall Tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- Next, 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.
- This afternoon, we visit **Hadassah Hospital** to view the amazing **Chagall windows**.
- Next, we tour the renovated **Israel Museum**. The galleries range from pop and modern art, back through the Renaissance and Classical periods, with a strong emphasis on Jewish and Israeli archeological history with evidence going back thousands of years. We walk through the iconic **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, and see the impressive miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was during the Second Temple period.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 11: Wednesday, June 15, 2022: THE ORIGINS OF A MODERN NATION

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We return to Tel Aviv to discover the origins of a modern nation.
- We visit the cutting-edge **Taglit Innovation Center**, where we catch our first glimpse into Israel's high-tech world. We visit the interactive exhibition to learn about Israel's advances in the fields of science, medicine, security and space.
- Tour **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People** (formerly the **Diaspora Museum**), recently renovated and featuring engaging interactive audio-visual exhibits that bring life and color to the vibrant history of the Jewish people outside the land of Israel following the destruction of the Second Temple.
- We continue to **Beit Daniel**, the Progressive congregation in Tel Aviv, for a discussion about Reform Judaism in Israel.
- We return to Jerusalem for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 12: Thursday, June 16, 2022: MITZVAH PROJECT! AND FAREWELL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we engage in an unforgettable hands-on experience of packing food staples included in monthly food baskets delivered to Israel's neediest families at **Pantry Packers**.
- We enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore this beautiful city and do last-minute shopping.
- Tonight, we check out of our hotel and enjoy a special **farewell dinner**, recalling all that we have experienced together on this journey.
- 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 13: Friday, June 17, 2022: 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.
- Dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 14: Saturday, June 18, 2022: PETRA - THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, 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 this Eighth Wonder of the World.
- Later this afternoon, we return to Israel and enjoy **Shabbat dinner** together.



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

Overnight in Eilat

Day 15: Sunday, June 19, 2022: EXPLORE EILAT/DEPARTURE

- 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.
 - 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 16: Monday, June 20, 2022: ARRIVE HOME

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

