

TBH-BE Celebration Tour of

ISRAEL

**Featuring Some of Rabbi Neil and Lori Cooper's
Favorite Places in Eretz Yisrael!**

March 22 – April 3, 2022

(As of 8/11/21)

*Israel is a land of connections and reconnections, a place of memory and 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 celebrate the rabbinate of **Rabbi Neil Cooper** through visits to some of Rabbi and Lori's favorite sites and memories in Israel as well as new and exciting encounters. As we share these experiences, we enhance our understanding of culture and archaeology, religion and politics, the ancient and the modern and Israel's millennia-old legacy as heart of the Jewish People.*



Day 1: Tuesday, March 22, 2022: DEPARTURE

- We depart on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Wednesday, March 23, 2022: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- **Shalom and Bruchim Habaim**—welcome to Israel! Our time in this incredible land has officially started and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead. Just beyond passport control, an Ayelet representative will meet us in the baggage claim area and assist us through customs.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping at the **Haas Promenade** to say *Shehecheyanu* as we together enjoy our first glimpse of the **City of Gold**.
- After checking in to our hotel, we have time to refresh before departing for a **welcome dinner at Eucalyptus**, one of Jerusalem's finest restaurants.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Thursday, March 24, 2022: THE FLAVORS OF JERUSALEM

- Enjoy our first sumptuous Israeli Breakfast at our hotel.
- Discover the **Old City of Jerusalem** on a walking tour of the different quarters. We enter the Ottoman walls via the **Jaffa Gate** and ascend to the **rooftops** of the Old City where the beauty and complexity of Jerusalem become apparent from this incredible vantage point. We continue into the **Jewish Quarter**, filled with synagogues, shops and history, stopping at the **Cardo Market** and passing by the ancient **Broad Wall**. Our path takes through the bustling **Arab shuk**, through the bustling alleys of **Via Dolorosa** and into the shops of the **Muslim Quarter**.
- It is time for a stop at the **Kotel, or Western Wall**, built 2,000 years ago by King Herod to dignify and support the Second Temple. At this silent monument, a witness to triumph and tragedy, to hope and despair throughout the generations, we take time to reflect and pray, perhaps wedging a sacred note into a stone crevice and enveloping ourselves in the sense of holiness pervading the plaza.
- We step back in time 2,000 years to the glory of King Herod's Second Temple and its majestic supporting structures at the **Southern Wall Excavations**. We will stand on the **Southern Steps**, where hundreds of thousands of pilgrims ascended to the Holy Temple every year, walk under the remains of the enormous **Robinson's Arch** and visit the egalitarian Wall beneath Robinson's Arch. Walk along the **Herodian Market Street**, where enormous fallen ashlar attest to the immense destruction wrought by the Romans in 70 CE.
- Time to refresh at our hotel. Free evening for dinner on own.
- Late night extra: We follow the delicious scent of **challah baking** in late-night preparation for Shabbat, through the ultra-Orthodox **Geula neighborhood of Jerusalem** for a glimpse into their unique way of life, intimately depicted in the television series *Shtisel*.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Friday, March 25, 2022: STEPPING INTO THE PAST, EXPLORING THE PRESENT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Visit ***Ir David, the City of David***, where the stories of King David come to life through the palace excavations, underground passageways and monumental fortifications. For those with a spirit for adventure, descend with a flashlight into **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, a 2,700-year-old pitch-black water-filled tunnel—a marvel of engineering—that brought water into the ancient city.
- Delve in-depth into the successes, challenges and complexities of Israel's relationship with the Palestinians as we **tour the Separation Barrier with Col. (res.) Miri Eisen**.
- Free time along the **Mamila Mall**, filled with shops and restaurants before we return to our hotel to refresh for the coming Shabbat. Or join our guide for a walk through the nearby **Machane Yehuda** marketplace, filled with noise and scents as people busily prepare for the coming shabbat.
- We enjoy a **musical Kabbalat Shabbat at HaTachana**, the rejuvenated **Jerusalem Train Station**, an urban meeting place where Israelis and visitors from around the world come together to mark the beginning of Shabbat.
- Tonight, we have a traditional **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

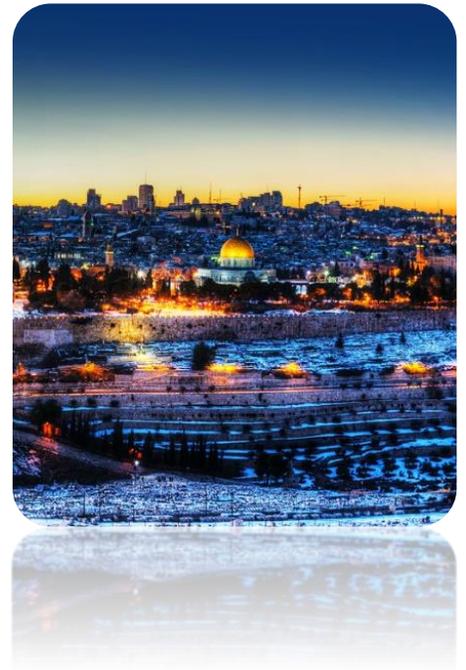
Day 5: Saturday, March 26, 2022: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Join Rabbi & Lori Cooper this morning for **Shabbat t'fillah** (optional)
 - Spend the afternoon at leisure, resting or exploring the Shabbat atmosphere in Jerusalem.
- OR**
- Travel (on own) to the **Israel Museum**, Israel's premier cultural institution, featuring ancient archaeology, modern Israeli art and everything in between. We suggest spending time in **the Modern Israeli Art wing** and afterward, discovering some of the many temporary exhibitions.
 - Later this afternoon, we meet at our hotel with Talmud scholar and author **Ilana Kurshan**, and enjoy a delicious **Seudah Shlesheet**.
 - Take in the **Tower of David Night Spectacular**, a sound and light show that transforms the walls of David's Citadel into the living story of Jerusalem.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Sunday, March 27, 2022: TO THE SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We travel to the **Dead Sea basin** and enjoy a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where the up-and-coming David hid from King Saul.
- Enjoy **lunch** at a local hotel. After lunch, select among the following optional activities: an unsinkable swim in the luxuriating, salty and mineral-rich waters of the **Dead Sea**, or visit **Masada**, or remain at the hotel for a little relaxation.



- Continue into the Negev to **Mitzpe Ramon**.
- Hotel check in and time to refresh before **dinner**.
- This evening, we enjoy a guided **stargazing experience**, marveling at the desert night sky.

Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Day 7: Monday, March 28, 2022: THE DESERT EXPERIENCE

- Set out on a **sunrise jeep tour** into *Machtesh Ramon*, watching from a majestic overlook as the sun rises and bathes the primordial landscape in light. We continue our journey through the hills and valleys of the *machtesh*, learning about its creation and history.
- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the day at leisure, enjoying the hotel spa facilities (treatments on own) and infinity pool.
- This afternoon, we visit **Nana Farm winery** to learn about desert winemaking, take a tour and sample some of their delicious wines.
- We continue with a **nature walk** into the beautiful desert surrounding the *Machtesh* to enjoy the evening air as day turns to dusk.
- We return for **dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Day 8: Tuesday, March 29, 2022: INVITING LANDSCAPES

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Visit at the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitor's Center** for an audio-visual exploration of its geology, flora and fauna and to learn about its connection to the Israeli hero and astronaut, Ilan Ramon.
- We set out on our journey south to **Eilat**, stopping at the unique **Neot Smadar artists colony** nestled in the lower Negev. Here, we will **meet with an artist** and have time to browse the fascinating wares.
- We travel to **Timna Park**, a desert valley combining majestic scenery with history and antiquities. Surrounded by steep cliffs, Timna holds the world's earliest **copper mining** operation, in addition to spectacular **geologic formations**, a temple to the Egyptian goddess Hathor and ancient cave carvings.
- We arrive in **Eilat** and check in to our hotel before an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 9: Wednesday, March 30, 2022: EILAT, OR PETRA – WONDER OF THE WORLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the day at leisure in Eilat, perhaps snorkeling at the famed Coral Reef, hiking into the stunning mountains overlooking the Red Sea or strolling along the lively seaside boardwalk, or...

—OPTIONAL TOUR TO PETRA, JORDAN— *

Supplemental Fee Applies

- We cross the border into Jordan and begin our full day tour of **Petra**, the Red Rose City.



- Explore the Nabatean City (*as seen in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*).
- Walk through the **Siq** and view the ancient temples.
- Discover the famous **Treasury, Roman theater**, and more at the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- Pass **Wadi Rum**, a protected desert wilderness with sandstone mountains and natural arches on our way back to the border.

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

Overnight in Eilat

Day 10: Thursday, March 31, 2022: RELAXING ON THE RED SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the day at leisure in Eilat, visiting one of the many museums, relaxing on the beach or partaking in water sports on the Red Sea.
- This afternoon, visit **Eilat's Underwater Observatory**, a unique aquarium with oceanic exhibits unique to the Red Sea.
- We return to our hotel and have the evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Eilat

Day 11: Friday, April 1, 2022: VISIONS OF TOMORROW

- Early breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We travel north through the Negev Desert to **Sde Boker, the burial monument to Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion**. We will see how his vision of making the desert bloom is becoming a reality and learn why his gravesite has become a site of modern pilgrimage for Israelis.
- Travel to **Segev Shalom** and visit **Amal Abu Alkom**, an inspirational Bedouin woman. We will hear about her struggle to empower Bedouin women in a traditional, patriarchal society and learn how women are transforming the landscape of Be'er Sheva.
- Arriving in **Be'er Sheva, Capital of the Negev**, we visit **the JNF sponsored River Park** and learn about the role JNF is playing in improving quality of life for those in the region.
- We continue to Tel Aviv and check in to our hotel.
- After time to refresh, we join together for **Kabbalat Shabbat** either at the hotel or on the beach nearby, weather permitting.
- Tonight, we will have a special Shabbat dinner at our hotel honoring **Rabbi Neil & Lori Cooper**.



Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 12: Saturday, April 2, 2022: SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We spend this Shabbat at rest. You may join Rabbi and Lori for **Shabbat t'fillah** at a local congregation, and later, explore the city or stroll along the beautiful Mediterranean coastline.
- You may choose to visit (on own) the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art** focusing on Israeli Art. The museum, Israel's first art museum, has a stunning collection of Israeli and world modern art and works to stimulate cultural and artistic dialogue between the past and the present.
- Dinner on own and an evening at leisure.



Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 13: Sunday, April 3, 2022: MODERN FOUNDATIONS/DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
 - Study with noted **scholar and educator Rachel Korazim**, specializing in Holocaust and modern Israeli poetry and literature. Together, we will open a window into Israeli society as we engage with Israel and its history in new and meaningful ways.
 - Stroll through the beautiful alleyways of Old Jaffa.
 - Walk along **Independence Trail** through the **Rothschild District** to discover the architectural, cultural and intellectual foundations of this great city, including a stop by the famed site of **Israel's Independence Hall**. (Independence Hall is currently closed for renovations.)
 - Walk the **Levinsky Spice Market** and enjoy a lunch-time **tasting tour!** This colorful market features a variety of vendors selling produce, spices, nuts and sweets, inspired by Israel's diverse ethnic communities.
 - We enjoy a stroll through **Tel Aviv's White City**, a UNESCO Heritage Site, to see one of the largest concentrations of **Bauhaus-style** architecture in the world, followed by a **graffiti tour** in **Neve Tzedek** with our guide. This is one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods, where the colorful and edgy street art brings the fringe into the forefront.
 - Check out of our hotel (late check out included today).
 - We enjoy a **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant before our transfer to the Ben Gurion Airport for our flight home.
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Day 14: Monday, April 4, 2022: ARRIVAL HOME

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

(Itinerary subject to change)

