

**Temple Har Shalom's
Family Hannukah Tour to
ISRAEL**

**Led by Rabbi Randi Musnitsky
December 21, 2022 – January 2, 2023**

(As of 10/20/21)

Israel is a land of connections and reconnections, of first-time discovery and returning for nostalgia and new adventure. Traveling together as a community, we will bond through engaging and fun 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 the heart of the Jewish People.



Day 1: Wednesday, December 21, 2022: DEPART USA

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

Day 2: Thursday, December 22, 2022: THE ASCENT TO JERUSALEM

- We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport and are met and assisted by an Ayelet representative.
- We begin our journey **planting trees**, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- As we enter **Jerusalem**, we stop atop **Mt. Scopus** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu!” blessing overlooking the City of Gold.
- We check into our hotel with time to refresh before we light the fifth Hannukah candle together and then enjoy a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Friday, December 23, 2022: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND CONTINUITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we explore **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, to explore the **Valley of the Lost Communities and Children's Memorial**.
- We continue to **Mt. Herzl Cemetery** to discover chapters in the history of Israel at the graves of Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl, Hannah Senesh and Shimon Peres.
- We take a group photo at the menorah outside the **Knesset** before exploring the raucous **Machane Yehuda Market**, Jerusalem's outdoor marketplace, filled with foods of every variety.
- We visit the picturesque **Nachalaot** neighborhoods along the way back to our hotel.
- Time to freshen up and light the sixth Hannukah candle before Shabbat.
- We come together to welcome **Shabbat** with the people of Jerusalem at the **Western Wall**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 4: Saturday, December 24, 2022: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Morning at leisure. You may choose to attend **Shabbat services** at **Hebrew Union College**, or perhaps explore the **Israel Museum** on own!
- This afternoon, we gather together for a walking tour of the **Old City** including the **Jewish, Christian and Arab quarters**.
- We join together for **Havdalah** and to light the seventh Hannukah candle before enjoying an early **dinner** together at **Bulghorji**.
- After dinner, we walk to the **Tower of David** to see the spectacular **Sound and Light show!**



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 5: Sunday, December 25, 2022: JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we begin with a meaningful visit to **Yad L’Kashish**, the “Lifeline for the Aged”.
- We continue to tour **Ir David (City of David)**, and the new excavations, ending at **Robinson’s Arch**.
- This afternoon, we view the amazing **Chagall windows** at **Hadassah Hospital**.
- We gather to light the eighth Hannukah candle before we enjoy dinner on our own in one of the many cafes along the Mamilla Mall.
- Later tonight, we gather together and head underground for a tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 6: Monday, December 26, 2022: HEADING SOUTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Before heading south, we engage in an unforgettable 90-minute hands-on experience of packing food staples included in monthly food baskets, delivered to Israel’s neediest families at **Pantry Packers**.
- Next, we continue South and look out over the stunning **Makhtesh Ramon** (“Ramon Crater”) from its northern rim and stop to see the **Visitor’s Center** to learn about the crater and take in the views.
- We check into our hotel and light the final Hannukah candle before enjoying **dinner** together.
- Later tonight, we experience **stargazing** in the desert, marveling at pinpricks of light in the black night sky along with a night walk to the cliffs of the Ramon Crater with our guide.

Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon

Day 7: Tuesday, December 27, 2022: B’NAI MITZVAH ON THE EDGE OF THE CRATER

- Today, we set out on a **sunrise jeep tour** through the heart of the **Ramon Crater**, meandering through canyons and unique geological phenomenon.
- At the crater’s edge, we participate in a beautiful **B’nai Mitzvah** service – Mazel tov!
- We return to our hotel for a late breakfast.
- We board the bus and head to the **Salad Trail**, where we will participate in a unique hands-on agricultural tour and witness how Israeli innovation is literally making the desert bloom with crops grown out of some of the most inhospitable sands imaginable. We will pick and taste fruits and vegetables straight from the kibbutz’s self-picking farm. We enjoy **lunch** together while here.
- This afternoon, we continue to **Sde Boker** to visit the gravesite and hut of David Ben Gurion deep in the heart of the Negev Desert.
- We continue to the oasis of **Ein Avdat** for a nature walk along the canyon bed, see the freshwater pools, the beautiful natural surroundings and tour the archeological site.
- We return to Mitzpe Ramon for a celebratory **dinner** together at our hotel.



Overnight in Mitzpe Ramon



Day 8: Wednesday, December 28, 2022: MASADA, THE DEAD SEA AND THE GALILEE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we set out across the desert and ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's fortress and the last outpost of Jewish independence.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for an unsinkable swim in the luxuriating, salty and mineral-rich waters of the **Dead Sea**, where we can cover ourselves in silky, healing mud and float at the lowest place on Earth. Enjoy time at the spa on own. **Lunch** is included at the resort.
- As we head north, we stop for a **camel ride** through the desert at **Eretz Beresheet!**
- We continue to the **Galilee** and check into our kibbutz with time to freshen up before **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 9: Thursday, December 29, 2022: THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- This morning, we visit the mystical city of **Safed**, one of the four holy cities of Judaism. We stroll through the cobblestone streets to view the ancient synagogues and shop in the artist's quarter.
- This afternoon, we choose between a **chocolate making workshop** at **DeKarina Chocolate Factory** OR stop at the **Golan Heights Winery** for a tour and a tasting!
- Next, we drive through the **Golan Heights**, riding along ancient Roman roads, passing through Syrian ruins and admiring the stark beauty of this windswept plateau. We ascend to the top of **Mount Bental**, a former Israeli bunker overlooking the ruins of **Quneitra** and the **Valley of Tears**. As the full vista comes into view, we reach a deeper understanding of both the past and present complexities facing Israel in a hostile Middle East.
- We enjoy **dinner** together this evening at our kibbutz.



Overnight in the Galilee

Day 10: Friday, December 30, 2022: COASTAL ISRAEL

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning, we depart the Galilee and travel down the coast to **Akko**, where we explore the Crusader-era fortifications and **Templar tunnels**, as we learn about this historically important port.
- We travel to **Hedera** to visit the **Technoda Science and Technology Center**, where our community has a personal connection!
- We continue to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** for check in and time to freshen up before Shabbat.
- This evening, we gather for **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together.

Overnight in Tel Aviv



Day 11: Saturday, December 31, 2022: TEL AVIV AT LEISURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the day at leisure. Options abound, from attending Shabbat services, to visiting Old Jaffa, strolling along the beachfront promenade, or taking in a museum. It's a wonderful chance to experience all this metropolitan Mediterranean city has to offer!
- We gather for **Havdalah** this evening before we enjoy an evening on our own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 12: Sunday, January 1, 2023: DIGGING THROUGH HISTORY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Beit Guvrin** and participate in a hands-on archaeological dig to unearth remnants from Israel's ancient past.
- Next, we enjoy a guided tour of the **Ayalon Institute**, an underground bullet factory used by Jewish forces before the founding of the State of Israel.
- We return to Tel Aviv and enjoy lunch (on our own) at the open-air **Carmel Market** before touring the newly renovated **Independence Hall**, followed by a **walking tour Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's oldest neighborhoods and where the colorful and edgy street art brings the fringe into the forefront.
- Tonight, we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** as we recount all we have experienced together!
- After dinner, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States.

Day 13: Monday, January 2, 2023: DEPARTURE

- We arrive home this morning.



THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

