

Ohavi Zedek Synagogue Israel Tour Led by Rabbi Amy Small

November 3- 13, 2019

Jordan Extension: November 13-14/15, 2019

Version #2: October 10, 2018

Sunday, November 3, 2019

- Departure from the United States.

Day 1: Monday, November 4, 2019

Note: The first day's itinerary may change depending on the time of arrival.

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport and meet your Makor guide.
- Tour **Neot Kedumim**, the Biblical Landscape Reserve, a living museum of Israel's "green archeology" as an expression of the heritage tied to the Land and the People of Israel.
- Proceed to Tel Aviv.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Welcome ceremony at the **Jaffa Promontory**, with a view of the Jaffa Port that was the gateway to Israel and the Middle East for the past three thousand years. Brief orientation to the lay of the land and a chance to hear the story of Jaffa, one of the oldest cities in the world, featuring, among others, Jonah the Prophet.
- *Tel Aviv as a Jewish City, Tel Aviv as an Israeli City... Tel Aviv as a City of the World*, with **Dr. Rachel Korazim** in her home in Jaffa.
- Welcome dinner at a Jaffa restaurant and **trip orientation**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv



Day 2: Tuesday, November 5, 2019

THE SHIFTING SANDS OF TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided tour in south Tel Aviv for an encounter/exploration of the situation of **African Refugees/Asylum-Seekers**.
- Visit **Independence House**, where the State of Israel was proclaimed, and take in a re-enactment with the actual sound track of this historic event.
- Lunch on own.
- The bi-weekly **Nachalat Binyamin Market** is comprised of over 100 stands representing specialty crafts and folk art in virtually every medium imaginable.
- Tour **Florentine**, Tel Aviv's most bohemian and upbeat neighborhood, and learn about contemporary Israeli culture through the writing on the wall, graffiti, bumper stickers, and even painted garbage bins.
- Visit the **Palmach Museum** for a multi-media journey back to the days before the founding of the state and a chance to follow a small platoon of teenage fighters fending for their country and laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Israel Defense Forces.
- Dinner on your own.
- Possible meeting with **Ehud Banai**, one of Israel's greatest composers and singers.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

Day 3: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

GALILEE BOUND

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive north to **Caesarea** for a guided visit, with its excavated Roman Theater, Hippodrome and Bath House, including a walk on the shores of the Mediterranean to the renovated Crusader City.
- Leisure time on own in **Zichron Yaakov** to explore one of the most charming small towns in Israel.
- Home hospitality lunch in the Druze village of **Isifiya or Daliyat el-Karmel** to learn about this Arab minority, whose religion remains secret to all but a select elite. Discover also the complexity of their loyalty to Israel, the sacrifices of young Druze men who serve as soldiers and officers in the IDF and their struggle to maintain ties with relatives in neighboring Arab countries.
- Guided visit through **Tzippori**, the most important city in the Galilee in the first four centuries CE, a spiritual center, seat of the Hebrew academies, and home of Talmudic scholars.
- Drive to Kibbutz Lavi and check in to the hotel.
- Dinner at the kibbutz.

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Guesthouse



Day 4: Thursday, November 7, 2019

NORTHERN EXPOSURES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided exploration through **Tsfat**, the city of mysticism and secrets, including a dialogue with Kabbalistic artist **Abraham Lowenthal** or writer and artist **Gita Zohara Barel**.
- Proceed to the **Golan Heights**.
- Visit the ancient village and synagogue in **Katzrin**.
- Lunch on own in modern Katzrin.
- Ascend to the top of **Mt. Bental** for a view into Syria and a short security update on the latest developments in Syria.
- **Wine tasting** in a boutique winery in the Golan.
- Return to Kibbutz Lavi.
- Dinner at the kibbutz.

Overnight: Kibbutz Lavi Guesthouse

Day 5: Friday, November 8, 2019

TOWARDS SHABBAT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of hotel and proceed south.
- Drive to **Tiberias** to the **Kinneret Cemetery**, where Zionist pioneer poet laureate **Rachel** (*There are the Golan Hills...*) is buried, as well as modern Israel's **Naomi Shemer** (*Jerusalem of Gold*).
- Drive down the Syrian-African Rift Valley towards **Jerusalem**.
- Continue to Shuk **Machane Yehudah** and witness Jerusalemites shopping for Shabbat, enjoying the sights and sounds and smells of this historic market. Lunch on your own in the shuk.
- Check in to the Dan Panorama Hotel.
- Guided walk through the **Old City of Jerusalem**, beginning on the rooftops of the Old City and continuing into the Jewish Quarter.
- Visit the **Kotel**, for a moment of reflection and prayer at the site of the retaining wall of the Second Temple.
- Drive to Kabbalat Shabbat services at **Kol Haneshama** or **Kehilat Tzion**, two of Jerusalem's most famous liberal synagogues.
- **Shabbat of a Lifetime** Shabbat dinner at the home of Rabbi Bill and Batya Berk.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Day 6: Saturday (Shabbat), November 9, 2019

A JERUSALEM SHABBAT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Morning:** Choice of free time, synagogue hopping, attending services in one of Jerusalem's synagogues, or meandering through Jerusalem on this most special of days.
- Meet with **Rabbi Dr. Uri Regev** to talk about the work of **Hiddush – For Religious Freedom and Equality**.
- Shabbat lunch at the hotel.
- **Afternoon:** Personalized walking tour through some of the Jerusalem “Ginot Ha’Ir” (City Gardens) neighborhoods (Rehavia & the German Colony), with **Dr. Elan Ezrachi**.
- Havdallah overlooking the walls of the Old City.
- Experience the **Jerusalem Night Spectacular** sound and light show on the walls of the Old City at the David Citadel Museum, narrating 3,000+ years of Jerusalem's history.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, November 10, 2019

ONE LAND – MANY NARRATIVES

- Early morning visit to the **Temple Mount – Haram al Sharif**, the most highly contested real estate in the world and the place where King Solomon built the first Temple.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Israelis and Palestinians: Two Narratives, One Land:* Framing the day with a journalist or scholar.
 - *Possibilities include:* Dr. Tal Becker, Avi Melamed, Hirsch Goodman, Miri Eisin.
- Depart Jerusalem for the northern West Bank.
- *My Home in Palestine – I am Here to Stay:* Visit **Rawabi**, the new Palestinian city north of Ramallah, for a glimpse into one man’s vision for translating the Palestinian hope for statehood in to a concrete reality on the ground, including a possible meeting with developer **Bashar El Masri** to discuss the driving vision behind one of the more significant Palestinian responses to a new sense of peoplehood and desire for statehood.
- *My Home in Judea and Samaria – I am Here to Stay:* Dialogue with residents of the settlement of **Psagot**, overlooking the Palestinian town of El Bira, and meet with a local resident for an understanding of the fervently-held opinion to settle all parts of the Land of Israel.
- Lunch and wine tasting at the **Psagot Winery**.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner and evening on own at the **Tachana**, the old refurbished Turkish Railroad Station.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Day 8: Monday, November 11, 2019

SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Preparing for a visit to Yad Vashem, hear **Rabbi Bill Berk**, "What You Need to Know About the Holocaust to Understand Israel."
- Visit **Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center**, the national Holocaust memorial.
 - **First-timers:** Visit the Holocaust History Museum, the Children's Memorial, and the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations.
 - **Returns:** Visit the visit the Art Museum and Center for Major Questions.
- Conclude with a special ceremony at the **Valley of the Communities**.
- Visit the **Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery** and pay respects to Israel's fallen, with reflections on heroism and the role of the military in Israeli society.
- Lunch on own.
- Visit the **Knesset** and speak with one of the members about current issues and challenges facing Israel's government, including a tour of the Knesset.
- **Rabbi Amy Small** and a Hartman colleague lead a tour of the **Hartman Institute**, followed by a learning session with **Dr. Tal Becker** or one of his colleagues at this most important think tank and leadership training institute.
- Dinner and evening on own.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday, November 12 2019

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS; ISRAELI-PALESTINIANS

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to the northern edge of the Gaza Strip.
- Visit the **Erez Border Crossing**.
- Stop at the **Asaf Siboni Memorial Overlook** into Gaza for a geopolitical overview of the situation between Israel and Hamas.
- Continue to **Kibbutz Nahal Oz** or a nearby moshav for a dialogue with residents about resiliency and continued community building in light of their proximity to one of Israel's most volatile borders. (*pending security situation*)
- Lunch on own.
- Drive to the West Bank for an encounter with settlers and Palestinians and a special visit with **Shorashim—Roots—Judour**, a grassroots effort on the part of Palestinians and Jews to work together to build new life in this ancient land, and meet Ali Abu Awwad and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, two of the founders, and hear the story of this effort at transforming the situation on the ground.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner on your own.
- Evening program on Israeli/Palestinian co-existence with **Gershon Baskin**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem



Day 10: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

A JERUSALEM MOSAIC

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- With urban planner, **Dr. Herschel Katz**, tour Jerusalem's most northern Jewish neighborhood, Neve Ya'akov, which encapsulates all of the geopolitical, socio-economic, security, and sociological trends occurring in Jerusalem today.
- Meet with **New Spirit at Beit Alliance** and meet CEO Inbar Weiss for a tour of their historic building and explanation of the efforts of a new generation to breathe life into the old heart of ancient Jerusalem. Meet some of the artists and thinkers who are part of this initiative.
- Drive to **Ein Kerem**, one of Jerusalem's most beautiful and rarely-visited neighborhoods, and meet **Niflaot Ein Kerem**, a group of women from across the Middle East, who take you into their homes and invite you into their stories, their culture, their music, and on tours of the historical houses they call home. Enjoy their coffee and baked specialties
- Summary discussion and festive **lunch in Ein Kerem**
- **For those returning to the US**
- Free time to prepare for the trip home.
- Proceed to Ben Gurion International Airport for return flight to the United States.

Overnight: In Flight

- **For those continuing to Petra**
- Transfer to the airport for your flight to Eilat
- Arrive in Eilat Airport
- Check-in to the hotel
- Dinner and evening on own

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat



Jordan/Eilat Extension

November 13 – 14/15, 2019

Thursday, November 14, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Early morning departure for the **Yitzhak Rabin Border Crossing**.
- Cross into Jordan and drive through the Araba Desert to Petra.
- Guided visit through the Nabatean City of Petra, a 2,000- year old city carved out of stone, which once served as one of the main cities on the Nabatean Spice Route, including a walk through the Siq, a viewing of the famed **Treasury**, and a walk in to the Basin, past the **Roman Theater** and **Monastery**.
- Drive through the Araba Desert to the **Yitzhak Rabin Border Crossing** to re-enter Israel.

Option 1

- Proceed to Eilat airport for return flight to Tel Aviv.
- Dinner on own in Tel Aviv, followed by a drive to Ben Gurion Airport and departure flight to the United States.

Option 2

- Dinner on own in Eilat.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Eilat

Friday, November 15, 2019

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Day of activities in Eilat, possibilities include: (cost on own)
 - Underwater Coral Reef Observatory
 - Eilat Dolphin Reef (possible to swim with dolphins from age 8)
 - Half day on a Yacht in Eilat Bay.
 - Full range of water sports – parasailing, water skiing, banana boating, etc.
- Late morning/early afternoon flight to Tel Aviv.
- Lunch/dinner on own in Eilat and/or Tel Aviv depending on flight times.
- Drive to Ben Gurion Airport and departure flight to the United States.

