



Explore Israel with

The Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island

Led by Rabbi Michael Jay

October 7 - 18, 2018

(Subject to change as the group and or ITC may deem appropriate)

Sunday, 7 October – Depart USA

Monday, 8 October – Going up into the Land

- Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (*today's program depends on arrival time*).
- Tour the alleys of **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as the *Gate of Zion*. **Shekhiyanu**-Welcome ceremony on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Visit the **Palmach Museum** in **Ramat Aviv** to learn about the elite underground organization which played a critical role in founding the State of Israel.
- Check-in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** or **Metropolitan Hotel** on Tel Aviv's **Mediterranean Coast**.
- Welcome Dinner at **Maganda Yemenite Restaurant**
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 9 October – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State

- Walking tour of historic "**Little Tel Aviv**" - Discover the quaint **Neve Tzedek** neighbourhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years".
- At **Independence Hall** relive David Ben Gurion declaring the new State of Israel.
- Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv standing at the **Founders' Monument** on **Rothschild Boulevard** and see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin Crafts Fair**. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** and bohemian **Sheinkin Street** – All three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the "**Magen David Junction**".
- Travel to **Rehovot** for a guided tour of the **Ayalon Institute** – An underground bullet factory used by Jewish forces before the founding of the State of Israel.
- **Free time to swim** in the **Mediterranean Sea** and enjoy **beachside promenade**.
- Free evening - Information will be provided about **local culture** and **entertainment** venues.
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, 10 October – *Cradles of Jewish Civilization in the Galilee*

- Depart for northern Israel.
- Tour the ruins of **Caesarea**, including its **Roman Theater, Promontory Palace, Hippodrome and Amphitheater**.
- **ITC Touch:** Learn about a rabbinic debate over Jews attending gladiator games.
- **OR:** Guided tour of the former **Atlit Illegal Immigrant Detention Camp** where the British held Holocaust refugees, who tried to enter the country "illegally". Then board an "illegal immigration ship" to watch a multimedia presentation about the heroic pre-State immigration.
- Lunch on own.
- Tour mystical **Tzfat's** old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Tzfat was the cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Judaism's Friday night service, Kabbalat Shabbat, and the hymn **Lecha Dodi** originated in Tzfat a that time.
- **ITC Touch:** Visit the studio of a **Kabbalistic artist** and hear how Jewish spirituality influences his work.
- **Boat ride** on the **Sea of Galilee** followed by a lakeside dinner at **Decks Restaurant**.
- Check-in to the **Kibbutz Lavi Hotel** on **Kibbutz Lavi** in the **Galilee**.
- Overnight: Lavi

Thursday, 11 October – *Ancient and Modern Geopolitics and Israel's Finest*

- Learn about **kibbutz life** on a walking tour of **Lavi** led by a local kibbutznik.
- Walk in the lush **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, one of the sources of the **Jordan River**, where you'll discover biblical intrigue and one of the oldest arches in the world.
- Lunch on own.
- Tour to the **Golan Heights** for a perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we visit former Syrian bunkers overlooking Israel and strategic **Mt. Bental**.
- Wine tasting at the boutique **Bahat Winery** on **Kibbutz Ein Zivan**.
- **ITC Touch:** Barbeque dinner with young Israeli soldiers who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel.
- Overnight: Lavi

Friday, 12 October – *Across Israel: A Multicultural Jewish Society*

- **Plant a tree** in Israel in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- **ITC Touch:** Discover **Ethiopian Jewish culture** at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Hear a personal account of this community's modern day Exodus story and about the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today.
- Lunch on own
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Shekhiyanu/Welcome ceremony overlooking the **Old City of Jerusalem**.
- Explore the bustling **Machane Yehuda Market** and take in a slice of local life as you see Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat. On the way, see the nearby picturesque **Nachlaot** neighborhoods.
- Check-in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** or **Prima Kings Hotel** in **Jerusalem**.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.

- Join hundreds of other Jews from around the world to ***Greet the Sabbath*** at the **Western Wall**. Option to pray together as a congregation at the **egalitarian "Masorati Kotel"**, where men and women can stand together.
- **OR:** Attend **Friday night services** at a local Jerusalem synagogue.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, 13 October – *And on the Seventh Day... in Jerusalem*

- **Shabbat morning services** at a local Conservative/Masorati synagogue, followed by Kiddush and an update about the Conservative/Masorati movement in Israel.
- **Shabbat Lunch** at the **Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism**.

Shabbat afternoon options:

- Walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City. Then continue to **Ketef Hinnom**, a First Temple period burial site where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found.
- **OR:** Walking tour along the "**Urban Line**" the former Israeli-Jordanian ceasefire lines to hear about Jerusalem as a divided city between 1948-1967.
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Jay.
- Free evening - Information will be provided about **local culture** and **entertainment** venues.
- Dinner on own.
- **Recommendation for the evening:** Visit the **First Station Compound**, Jerusalem's restored Ottoman railway station turned restaurant - cafe area.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 14 October – *The Old City of Jerusalem – An Ancient Jewish Legacy*

Please choose one of the following ancient Jerusalem touring options for the group:

- Explore the **City of David**, including its **ancient water systems** (without getting wet!), as we use the Bible and archaeology to decipher Jerusalem's ruins and uncover chapters in the city's past.
- **AND/OR:** Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes from rabbinic texts while standing where Jewish pilgrims walked 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
- Visit the traditional prayer area of the **Western Wall**.
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own in the **Jewish Quarter**
- Tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Herodian Mansions, Broad Wall, Rooftops** and **Cardo** followed by free time to shop and explore on own.
- Dinner on own in **Mamilla Quarter**
- Watch the **Night Spectacular** – Sound and light show at the **Tower of David**.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 15 October – *Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?*

- Set out across the **Judean Desert** to the **Dead Sea region**, passing en route **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were found.
- Ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence.
- Celebrate an adult **Bat Mitzvah** ceremony with a Torah reading on top of **Masada**.
- **Swim** in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense.
- Lunch at Dead Sea resort.
- *Time permitting:* Walk in **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul.
- Free evening - Information will be provided about **local culture** and **entertainment** venues.
- Dinner on own.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 16 October – *Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity*

- Guided tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Holocaust History Museum** and **Children's Memorial**.
- Lunch on own.
- See the world renown **Chagall Windows** at **Hadassah Hospital**.
- Meaningful visit to **Mt Herzl Cemetery** to discover chapters in the history of Israel while visiting the graves of Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl and Hannah Senesch.
- Multimedia tour of the new **Six Day War Heritage Museum** at **Ammunition Hill**, the site of the fiercest battle in the Six Day War.
- Free evening - Information will be provided about **local culture** and **entertainment** venues.
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 17 October – *Wrapping Up and Departure*

- Visit **Yad Lakashish**, a unique employment project helping Jerusalem's elderly, including a stop in its shop "*where shopping is a mitzvah!*"

- Tour the **Israel Museum** to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the **Shrine of the Book** and the **Model of Jerusalem** in the first century. Free time to explore additional exhibitions on own – **Recommendations: Modern Israeli art, Synagogue interiors in the Judaica section and the Archaeology Wing.**
- Remainder of afternoon free to explore on own and get in last minute shopping.
- **Late check out**
- Farewell Dinner at **Olive and Fish Restaurant**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – *See you again soon!*

Thursday, 18 October – Arrive in USA

- *Begin planning your next Israel trip with Rabbi Jay and ITC Tours!*

PRICES FOR THE ABOVE TOUR (All Prices USD)

“Land Only” Packages based on number of travelers, according to two different hotel options:

Dan Panorama Hotel - Tel Aviv, Kibbutz Lavi Hotel - North, Dan Panorama - Jerusalem

| 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| \$3595 | 3355 | 3255 | 3225 | 3155 | 3095 | 3055 |

Single Supplement: \$1095

Third person adult in triple room: *subtract* \$310

Metropolitan Hotel - Tel Aviv, Kibbutz Lavi Hotel - North, Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

| 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| \$3295 | 3095 | 3055 | 2955 | 2895 | 2855 | 2835 |

Single Supplement: 995

Third person adult in triple room: *subtract* \$200

Please Note: Rates are based on attached itinerary and are valid only for the dates specified in this itinerary.

Flights (NB: Rates are *estimates* and depend on when booked and contract received from the airline; fuel surcharges are subject to fluctuation; ITC can only hold group space up until 90 days before departure, after which air prices are subject to change; tour companies have only very limited control over group seating on flights.)

- Estimated Roundtrip Airfare \$1050 - \$1150

Please book directly with Tami in ITC's NJ office: 800-2-ISRAEL, 973-535-2575.

Terms & Conditions

- The above rates are per person based on double occupancy.
- Prices are per bus and are based on number of full-paying travelers.
- The tour selling price is based on a minimum number of passengers, as per above chart, and the above itinerary. If the total number of participants falls below the minimum number used for the selling price, the selling price can be recalculated to accommodate a smaller number of tour participants. If the total number of participants should be fewer than 15, group rates may not be available through hotels, airlines, and tourist sites, resulting in additional expenses.
- Offer is for indicated or similar hotels, depending on availability; prices subject to dollar fluctuation.
- ITC pricing reflects a 4% discount for cash and checks. For credit card usage please add 4%.
- Single supplement applies only when a passenger is allocated a single occupancy room.
- **ITC offers 1 free "Land+Air" packages for Rabbi in a double room with a minimum of 15 full paying tour participants; 2 free "Land+Air" packages starting from 30 full paying participants; 3 free "Land+Air" packages starting from 45 full paying participants.**
- Airline utilization & deposit requirements will be advised at time of confirmation.
- Price for airline seats are not guaranteed until airline receives seat deposits.
- To confirm your land and air arrangements, please forward a **deposit of \$1000.00** with the attached **signed contract** to ITC Tours. This deposit is refundable less \$500.00 handling fee up to 90 days prior to departure if trip is cancelled.
- For itineraries offering choices, the numbers of travelers choosing each alternative must be submitted by the tour leader to the ITC office at least three months before departure.

All of this is Included in Your Tour

- Deluxe accommodation, as per your itinerary
- Touring and entrance fees, as per your itinerary
- Meeting & assistance by your ITC representative within the arrivals terminal at Ben Gurion Airport
- One of Israel's finest English-speaking licensed tour educators (guides), to be with you for the duration of the tour and give insight into this beautiful, spiritual land
- Deluxe air-conditioned, comfortable modern motor coach, featuring large panoramic windows, reclining seats, and foot rests

- Professional, safety conscious bus driver
- Professional ITC education director, to ensure an extraordinary Israel experience
- Professional ITC tour manager
- Snack and 1 small bottle of mineral water upon arrival in Israel
- Hostess at Jerusalem hotel, based on a minimum of 25 travelers
- Informative Israel sourcebook
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Daily buffet breakfasts, five weekday dinners (welcome dinner, Decks dinner, IDF dinner, Shabbat dinner at hotel, farewell dinner) and two lunches (Shabbat lunch at Fuchsberg Center, Dead Sea lunch), as per itinerary.
- Late check out on October 17, 2018.

Not Included in Package

- Visa & border fees (not relevant for U.S. citizens entering Israel).
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Private rooms for group meetings/at the hotel, unless specified in this offer
- Meals and beverages not specifically mentioned in this offer.
- Bus service on Shabbat (Saturday)
- Tips (\$180 per person)*
- Insurance

* Please note that this amount covers a basic recommended *minimum* tip for the guide, bus driver, and meal service staff at restaurants for the number of days the group will be in Israel. Travelers should feel free to add to this amount when in Israel, if they are so moved.

Important Information For All Travelers:

Please be aware that you may not fly to a foreign country if your passport has fewer than 6 months remaining. **Be sure that your passport, and those of all members of your traveling group, has an expiration date that is at least six months later than your day of departure.** If this is not the case, please take immediate steps to renew your passport!

Your Friends at ITC