

Israel Encounter

Led by Rabbi Marc D. Rudolph

October 11 – 22, 2020

Itinerary Proposal

(As of November 6 - Subject to Change)

Sunday October 11 DEPARTURE TO ISRAEL

- 7:15 PM departure from Chicago on El Al flight #24

Monday October 12 WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- 2:35 PM arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel.
- Head to Israel's modern metropolis **Tel Aviv** for check-in at our hotel on the shores of the **Mediterranean Sea** ("The Great Sea")
- **Welcome to Israel Dinner**

Overnight: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday October 13 ROOTED IN THE PAST, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Session with **Professor Paul Liptz** "The Complexities of Israeli Society"
- Examine the struggles leading up to the birth of the State of Israel, with a dramatic reenactment of **David Ben Gurion** declaring the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948
- Explore, shop & have lunch on own at the **Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Market & Shuk HaCarmel**.
- Guided tour at the **Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot**
- Time on your own to explore Tel Aviv
- Evening and dinner on your own in Tel Aviv

Overnight: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday October 14 TEL AVIV – THE FIRST "HEBREW" CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Volunteer activity helping to feed the hungry of Tel Aviv
- Visit **Save A Childs Heart** whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries suffering from heart disease and who cannot get adequate medical care in their home countries.
- Lunch on your own in Jaffa
- Walking tour of **Old Jaffa** with its artist's galleries and thousands of years of history. Consider the role of St. Peter's vision in Jaffa in the separation between Judaism and Christianity
- See examples of **Tel Aviv's unique Bauhaus Architecture**. Tel Aviv's collection of Bauhaus/International style buildings is the largest in the world, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- Dinner and **music or dance performance** or **art exhibit**

Overnight: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday October 15 JERUSALEM THE HOLY THROUGH THE AGES

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Ascend to **Jerusalem**; celebrate our arrival with **Shehechyanu** & the magnificent views of the city from **Mt. Scopus**

- On the slopes of **Mt. Scopus** we'll participate in an **archeological salvage dig**, sifting through earth and artifacts from all over Jerusalem.
- Packed Lunch
- Enter the Old City. Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and the Christian Quarter in the Old City *where we will learn about the Christian connection to and presence in Jerusalem over the centuries*
- Explore the restored **Jewish Quarter** together and examine the life of the city through the ages including the rooftops, the Cardo and the Kotel overlook.
- Private prayer and contemplation time at the **Kotel (Western Wall)**
- Check-in at our hotel in Jerusalem - evening and dinner on your own

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Friday October 16 FROM OUT OF THE CRUCIBLE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Stand in solemn memory at the **Yad Vashem** Holocaust Memorial Center. Our visit will include the historical museum, Avenue of the Righteous of the Nations and the Children's Memorial.
- After Yad Vashem, we'll celebrate the vibrancy of life in Israel by exploring and having lunch on your own at the famous bustling open-air **Machaneh Yehuda Market**.
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat
- Shabbat candle lighting 5:25 PM
- Join thousands welcoming **Shabbat at the Kotel** with song, dance and prayer
- Walk back to the hotel for Shabbat dinner.

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Saturday October 17 SHABBAT SHALOM IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Enjoy the special atmosphere of Shabbat in Jerusalem by participating in Shabbat services at one of Jerusalem's many synagogues...or explore the city on your own.
- Lunch on your own
- Afternoon walking tour to the Old City. **Walk the Ramparts from Jaffa Gate to Zion Gate**.
- 6:42 PM - **Havdallah** ceremony marking the end of Shabbat
- Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Sunday October 18 WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Head down to the Dead Sea area - the "lowest place on earth".
- Cable car or climb the Snake Path up to the fortress of **Masada** where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the mighty Roman Empire 2,000 years ago. *Tour atop the mountain as we address the troubling issues presented by the Masada story.*
- Have a float and lunch at the **Dead Sea**
- Head north through the Jordan River Valley for check-in and dinner at our Kibbutz hotel

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, *Kibbutz Kfar Blum*

Monday October 19 GALILEE OF FAITH

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Ascend to **Tzfat**, city of the Jewish mystics. Meet a **Kabalistic artist** in his studio to learn about Kabbalah through the lens of art. *Explore the narrow alleyways, synagogues and ancient cemetery of Tzfat and learn how the mystical traditions that emerged here 500 years ago continue to impact the Jewish world .*
- Browse the galleries and shops of Tzfat - shopping and lunch on your own

- Visit **Capernaum** the home base of Jesus' ministry including the site of the synagogue where Jesus taught and the home church at what might have been Peter's house.
- Continue to **Tiberias** – boat ride on the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and dinner.

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum

Tuesday October 20 **LAND OF BORDERS**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart hotel to delve into the complex security and water issues on the **Golan Heights**, starting with a **nature hike** at the beautiful **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** incorporating the headwaters of the Jordan River & ancient Biblical City Dan.
- Stand at Israel's border with **Syria** with views of **Mt. Hermon**. *Gain a deeper understanding of the political and security situation.*
- Lunch on your own
- Tour and taste at the award winning **Golan Heights Winery**
- Meet **IDF soldiers guarding** Israel's border with **Lebanon**. *Learn about life on a border **Kibbutz***
- Dinner at the hotel
- Session with a **Kibbutz member** to learn about changes in Kibbutz life

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum

Wednesday October 21 **LAND OF MANY CULTURES**

- Breakfast at the guest house
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Explore the dramatic white cliffs and sea grottos at Israel's border with Lebanon at **Rosh Hanikrah**.
- Visit the **Crusader Halls** built in Acco nearly 900 years ago by Crusader knights.
- Lunch on your own
- Head to the top of **Mt. Carmel** for dramatic **views** of Haifa and the **Bahai Gardens**. *Haifa is the world center of the Bahai faith.*
- Visit a **mosque** and meet an **Ahmadi Muslim Imam**. *Gain insight to the complex nature of Israeli Arab identity.*
- Dinner with the **Israeli Arab Druze community**
- Check in at hotel

Overnight: Sharon Hotel, Herzliyah

Thursday October 22

- Breakfast at the guest house
- 8:00 AM - Pack bus and depart hotel to Ben Gurion International Airport for El Al flight #23 departing at 12:00 Noon and arriving Chicago 4:30 PM.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator
- All underlined meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



Keshet Educational Journeys

PO Box 8540 Jerusalem 91084 Israel
 Phone: 972-2-671-3518 | Fax: 972-2-671-3624
 keshet@keshetisrael.co.il | www.keshetisrael.co.il