

Temple Beth Elohim's Family

ISRAEL ADVENTURE

Led by Rabbi Rachel Saphire

February 2023

(As of 8/1/22)

Israel is a land of connections and reconnections, of first-time discovery and returning for new adventure. 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 our B'nai Mitzvot, bond through our 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: Thursday, February 9, 2023: DEPARTURE

- We depart Boston on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2: Friday, February 10, 2023: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Shalom and Bruchim Habaim - Welcome to Israel! Upon arrival, we are met by an Ayelet Tours representative who will assist us through customs and baggage claim. Our time in this incredible land has officially started and our excitement mounts as we set off on the adventure ahead.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping at the **Haas Promenade** to recite a special “Shehecheyanu” blessing as we look out over the **City of Gold** for the first time together.
- We check into our hotel and have time to refresh.
- As the sun sets, we join together to welcome **Shabbat** at the **Kotel** with the people of Jerusalem, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 3: Saturday, February 11, 2023: SHABBAT AT THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We depart early and travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path to view the remains of King Herod's fortresses, including the walls, palaces, synagogue and the bathhouses, while learning about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
- We descend the mountain and head to the beach for **lunch** and 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.
- We conclude our day of adventure at **Metzoke Dragot** for an authentic desert experience, including a **jeep tour** and **hike**.
- We return to Jerusalem for a relaxing evening and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 4: Sunday, February 12, 2023: JEWISH HISTORY IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions, including the Hall of Names and the Avenue of the Righteous among the Nations. (Children under 10 will visit the Biblical Zoo).
- At **Mt. Herzl**, we visit the **Herzl Museum** to learn about the life and work of the great Zionist visionary Theodore Herzl. We also visit the newly constructed national **Remembrance Hall** dedicated to fallen Israeli soldiers.
- After time to refresh, we venture outside Jerusalem to **Eretz Beresheet**, where we are welcomed by **Avraham Avinu** into his desert tent. Our time will include a **camel ride**, a biblical tent **dinner** and more!
- We return to Jerusalem later this evening.



Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 5: Monday, February 13, 2023: JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we take part in tikkun olam at **Yad L'Kashish**, the Lifeline for the Aged, an artisan workshop which empowers and supports hundreds of elderly and disabled Jerusalem residents.
- Next, we enter the **Old City** via the **Jaffa Gate** and ascend to the **rooftops**, where the beauty and complexity of Jerusalem becomes apparent from this incredible vantage point. We continue into the **Jewish quarter**, filled with synagogues, shops and history and pass by the ancient **Broad Wall**. Our path takes us into the **Christian quarter** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, where Jesus was crucified, and through the bustling alleys of **Via Dolorosa** and into the **Muslim quarter** and the colorful **Arab shuk**.
- This afternoon, we head underground and enjoy a fascinating tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover the archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.
- Our next stop is at the **Davidson Center**, where we see the 3D model of the Second Temple in action.
- We continue to the famed **Machane Yehuda**, where we take in the sights, smells and sounds of the bustling marketplace as the locals do their daily shopping. Choose to stay in the market for dinner on own or enjoy dinner at another delicious Jerusalem restaurant.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6: Tuesday, February 14, 2023: DIGGING INTO ISRAEL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Neot Kedumim** to **plant trees**, connecting us physically and spiritually to the land of Israel.
- Next, we drive to **Beit Guvrin** and take part in a real, live **archaeological expedition!** Through our digging and sifting, we will uncover the ancient past, hidden for over 2,200 years, and turn their trash into our treasure.
- We discover the secrets of the **Ayalon Institute**, where the underground ammunition factory played a pivotal role in Israel's fight for independence
- We continue to **Tel Aviv** where we check into our hotel and refresh, before setting out for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 7: Wednesday, February 15, 2023: TEL AVIV TO THE MYSTICAL NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day with a walking tour of **Old Jaffa**, as we stroll along the cobblestone streets to see the artist's colony and take in the views of the sea in this ancient port.
- Next, we volunteer to support one of Israel's amazing **tikkun olam projects**, lending our hands to help repair the world (details TBD).
- Lunch on own in Jaffa.
- We travel to the **Galilee** and step into history at **Kfar Kedem**, where we experience life as it was in the time of the Mishna, including hands-on pita baking, goat milking and more!
- This evening, we check into our hotel, where we have time to explore and relax, followed by **dinner** together tonight.

Overnight in the Galilee



Day 8: Thursday, February 16, 2023: THE BEAUTY OF THE GALILEE & THE GOLAN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where we view Kabbalah founder Isaac Luria's beautiful **H'Ari synagogue** and have time for shopping in the artist's quarter.
- Free time for lunch on own.
- Following lunch, we set out on an adventurous **jeep tour** through the **Golan Heights**, riding along ancient Roman roads, passing through Syrian ruins and admiring the stark beauty of this windswept plateau. 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.
- Next, we try our hand at **chocolate making** and learn from the experts in a delicious and fun experience at the **DeKarina Chocolate Factory** at Ein Zivan.
- We return to our hotel for **dinner** together this evening, followed by **dessert with IDF soldiers** (pending confirmation).

Overnight in the Galilee

Day 9: Friday, February 17, 2023: THE MED COAST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel west to **Rosh Hanikra**, where we discover the chalk-cliff grottoes carved out by the Mediterranean waters over time.
- We continue south along the coast to **Haifa**, where we check into our hotel and refresh.
- This afternoon will feature programming created just for us by our partners at **Or Chadash** and will offer the opportunity for us to connect on a personal and community level with members of their community!
- As the sun begins to set, we join the members of **Or Chadash** for **Shabbat services**, followed by a community **Shabbat dinner** together.



Overnight in Haifa



Day 10: Saturday, February 18, 2023: SHABBAT SHALOM! / DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we celebrate our **B'nai Mitzvot** led by Rabbi Saphire. Mazel tov!
- We join together for **Shabbat partnership programming** with members of Or Chadash.
- Later, we stop atop **Mt. Carmel**, where we take in the beautiful views overlooking the **Bahai Gardens**.
- Mid-afternoon, we continue to a **Druze village**, where community representatives will offer us insight into their unique culture and how they fit into the Israeli mosaic.
- Along the way, we stop for a light lunch on own.
- We travel to **Tel Aviv** for free time and last-minute exploring.
- This evening, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner**, recalling all that we have experienced on this journey.
- After dinner, we transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.

Day 11: Sunday, February 19, 2023: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in Boston this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

