

PROGRAM

Congregation Sha'are Shalom – Rebuilding Volunteer Trip to Israel

Led by Rabbi Neil Tow

December 22-28, 2025

(Draft itinerary as of July 10th, 2025; subject to change)

DAY ONE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- **Welcome to Israel!** Afternoon group **arrival** at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport. Upon arrival, our VIP representative will meet you and assist with all airport procedures, as well as escort you to your awaiting tour educator and transportation.
- Transfer to **Tel Aviv**.
- Hotel check-in. Have a chance to refresh following the journey.
- This evening, gather for a **welcome dinner** with **Dan Feferman** to discuss the current reality on the ground in Israel, the impact of Israel's current affairs on global Jewry, and what's coming ahead.

Dan Feferman is a speaker, thought leader, activist, and researcher on Israel, the Jewish world, and the Middle East. Known for presenting complex issues with clarity and depth, Dan has published widely, appeared in major media, and speaks globally. From 2021 to 2024, he served as Executive Director of Sharaka, advancing public diplomacy between Israel and the Arab world and promoting the Abraham Accords; he now serves as its Chairman while launching a new Middle East media initiative and writing his third book. Previously, Dan was a fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute, authoring key studies on Jewish identity in Israel and the U.S. A Major (res.) in the IDF, he served as a foreign policy and national security analyst and intelligence officer specializing in Middle East affairs.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

CONTACT US


8 Menorat HaMaor St.
Tel Aviv 6744831

T +1-888-887-1706
E info@kenes-tours.com
W kenes-tours.com


VIRTUOSO
PREFERRED


Internova
TRAVEL GROUP

2020
Travelers'
Choice

Tripadvisor

DAY TWO: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

FEEDING BODY AND SOUL: ACTS OF COMPASSION ROOTED IN THE LAND

- After enjoying a sumptuous Israeli breakfast at the hotel, gather in the lobby and, together with your tour educator, depart Tel Aviv.
- Step into the heart of Israel's fight against food insecurity with **Leket Israel**, the national food rescue organization. At this agricultural project in Ra'anana, you'll roll up your sleeves and spend the morning gleaning fresh produce for distribution to families in need. This hands-on mitzvah connects us directly to the land and people of Israel, embodying the Torah's call to leave the corners of our fields for the hungry. It's *tikkun olam* in action - impactful, meaningful, and deeply rooted in Jewish values.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- Meet with a representative from the **Tel Aviv Municipality** for a firsthand look at the aftermath of the Iranian missile strikes. Gain insight into how the attacks have impacted the city's infrastructure, daily life, and the resilience of its residents.
- Return to the hotel.
- Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

LO TISHKACH: REMEMBER, REBUILD, RETURN

- After enjoying a sumptuous Israeli breakfast at the hotel, gather in the lobby and, together with your tour educator, depart Tel Aviv.
- Drive south to the "**Otef Azza**" (Gaza Envelope) region, an area deeply impacted by Israel's ongoing conflict with Hamas and other terror groups in the adjacent Gaza Strip. Its residents and industry have often fallen victim to the onslaught of incoming rocket and mortar fire launched from Gaza into Israel. The region suffered immense devastation on October 7, 2023, when terrorists infiltrated Israel, murdering over 1,100 people and kidnapping 251. To this day, 55 hostages, both dead and alive, remain in captivity.
- Proceed to the **Balhat junction**, adjacent to **Moshav Shuva** - located just over a kilometer from the Gaza border. Originally a field hospital and evacuation point after October 7th, 2023, the **Shuva Achim** rest stop continues to serve as a 24/7 volunteer hub offering hot meals, drinks, clothing, hygiene items, showers, laundry, and a place to rest for soldiers rotating out of combat zones.
- There, join forces with **Shuva Achim**, a grassroots volunteer network founded in the aftermath of October 7 to provide direct support to displaced families, soldiers, and communities under stress. Whether packing essential supplies, organizing donations, or simply offering a listening ear, you'll be standing shoulder to shoulder with Israelis in a time of rebuilding and resilience. This is a chance to embody *areivut* - the deep responsibility we share for one another - as you help bring comfort, strength, and hope to those carrying the burdens of war.
- Proceed to the **Tkuma Car Site**, where the vehicles burned and bullet-ridden during the October 7 attacks have been gathered—offering a stark and powerful visual testimony to the horrors of that day.
- Visit the **Nova music festival site**, now a sacred space of remembrance. Here, 364 young lives were cut short, and 44 were taken hostage - some still in captivity, others who perished there. Together with a **survivor**, walk the grounds where joy turned to horror on

October 7, and bear witness to a profound story of loss, resilience, and the enduring spirit of a generation determined to dance again.

- Return to the hotel in Tel Aviv.
- **Evening Reflection – From Bearing Witness to Bearing Responsibility**
After a day of volunteering near the Gaza perimeter and standing at the site of the Nova massacre, we come together in sacred conversation. This reflection offers space to process the weight of what we've seen and the work we've done - honoring memory, grief, resilience, and hope. As a community, we'll draw strength from one another, exploring how our presence here connects us to *Am Yisrael* in times of tragedy and rebuilding. This is not just about what we witnessed, it's about what we carry forward.
- Free evening at leisure; dinner on own.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

KOL YISRAEL AREIVIM ZEH BAZEH: REBUILDING THROUGH MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel accommodations.
- Depart Tel Aviv and travel north.
- Volunteer in an army base with **Sar-El**, a unique volunteer program which draws supporters globally and locally to contribute to the security of Israel by offering logistical support on IDF bases. Beyond its primary mission, Sar-El serves as a bridge, fostering friendships and cultural exchanges between volunteers from around the world and the people of Israel. Volunteers, often transformed into "goodwill ambassadors," work alongside IDF soldiers.
- Later this afternoon, proceed to your hotel for check-in.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: North

DAY FIVE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

B'YACHAD: FROM SHARED BURDEN TO SHARED BLESSING

- After breakfast, meet your tour educator in the lobby, and together, depart from the hotel.
- **Volunteering on the Northern Border – Rebuilding with Resolve:** Volunteer and engage with members **Kibbutz Dafna**. Hear from community members about what it's been like to come home post-evacuation. Following your conversation, contribute meaningfully through volunteering:
 - Community garden
 - Stream cleanup
 - Nursery or woodworking projects
 - Helping in kibbutz preschool classrooms
- Early this afternoon, return to the hotel to refresh and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Candle Lighting, Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner with Congregation Darchei Noam – Pardes Chana:** Welcome the peace of Shabbat with open arms and open hearts as we gather with our partnership community, **Congregation Darchei Noam**, in Pardes Chana-Karkur. Through soulful tefillah, heartfelt singing, and a shared **Shabbat meal**, we'll deepen the sacred bond between our communities across oceans. This evening is about connection - Jew to Jew, heart to heart - as we pause from the week's intensity to celebrate our shared heritage, our unity, and the light of Shabbat.

Overnight: North

DAY SIX: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

SHABBAT SHEL ACHVAH: PARTNERSHIP & BELONGING

- After breakfast, spend Shabbat morning at leisure.
- **Shabbat with Congregation Darchei Noam – A Shared Sanctuary in Time:** Experience the fullness of Shabbat with our cherished partners at Congregation Darchei Noam in Pardes Chana. From soulful prayer and Torah study to relaxed meals and meaningful conversation, we'll embrace this sacred day together - not just as visitors, but as extended family. In the rhythm of Shabbat, we'll find rest, renewal, and the deep joy of Jewish peoplehood - bridging communities, continents, and hearts through shared tradition and enduring connection.
- Return to the hotel.
- 5:23 p.m. Gather together to close Shabbat with **Havdalah**, marking the transition into a new week and the end of our journey together in Israel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: North

DAY SEVEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
IM ESHKACHECH YERUSHALAYIM

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel accommodations.
- Meet your tour educator in the lobby, and together, depart the hotel.
- Travel to **Jerusalem**.
- Ascend to the **Old City**.
- Shacharit at **Ezrat Yisrael** – the **Egalitarian Kotel**.
- Explore the rich tapestry of Jewish life in the **Jewish Quarter**, where history stretches back thousands of years.
- Stand before the **Western Wall**, the last remnant of the ancient Jewish Temple and the holiest site in the Jewish world. Place a note in its cracks, join others in silent prayer, and feel the spiritual heartbeat of generations echo through its stones.
- Enjoy some free time at leisure to explore the Old City at your own pace. Lunch on own.
- Head to **Mahane Yehuda Market**, Jerusalem's bustling culinary hub. Enjoy free time to explore on your own - choose from a vibrant array of local flavors, from fresh produce and baked goods to street food and gourmet specialties.
- As our trip draws to a close, we gather for a final evening of reflection, gratitude, and shared memories over a **festive dinner** at a local Jerusalem restaurant. Surrounded by the flavors, sounds, and spirit of this ancient city, we'll celebrate the bonds we've forged, the lives we've touched, and the strength we've drawn from Israel and each other. This is not goodbye, it's *l'hitraot*, a promise to carry the mission forward and remain forever connected to the people and land of Israel.
- Group transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Upon arriving at the **airport**, our representative will assist with all flight check-in formalities.

Overnight: In Flight