Westchester Jewish Center

Family Adventure in Israel

Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz

February 10-20, 2022

updated February 4, 2021

Thursday, February 10: ***BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME!***

- Land in Israel
- Meet and greet service; meet your tour guide and travel south
- Welcome dinner in a restaurant

Overnight: *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv – Premium Sea View Rooms*

Friday, February 11: ***STARTUP NATION***

- Start your tour where Israel got its official start – at the **Independence Hall**; relive David Ben Gurion's announcement despite the challenges that were surely to come
- Discuss the founding of the first Hebrew city – Tel Aviv – on a walking tour of trendy **Neve Tzedek**
- See the lovely crafts and enjoy the street performers at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and taste the street food at the adjacent **Carmel Market**
- Return to Jerusalem and prepare for Shabbat
- Join the spectrum of secular and religious Israelis as they bring in the Shabbat with **Beit Tefilla Yisraeli**, wish combines traditional prayer with Israeli songs and poetry
- Shabbat dinner in the hotel

Overnight: *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Saturday, February 12: ***SHABBAT SHALOM***

- You may want to attend one of the local Shabbat services in town
- Shabbat lunch in the hotel
- Tour the **Reuben Rubin Art Museum** with a docent
- Musical havdallah followed by a night in town

Overnight: *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Sunday, February 13: ***GOING DOWN!***

- Enter the subterranean munitions factory in which Jews produced bullets literally under the noses of the ruling British leading up to the War of Independence at the **Ayalon Institute**

- Pick vegetable grown in the desert sand and hear one man's (successful) modern-day Zionist dream at the **Salad Trail**
- At the **desert home of David Ben Gurion**, learn about the ideals of Israel's first prime minister and about his vision of making the desert bloom
- Continue to your hotel and check in, followed by dinner

Overnight: *Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon*

Monday, February 14: ***THE CRATER AND THE CREATOR***

- Get acquainted with the desert through **Desert Archery**
- At the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center**, learn about the creation of the Ramon Crater and about Israel's first astronaut in space who took his name from the crater
- **Jeep ride and rappelling** into the crater to see some out of the way geological phenomena
- Return to the hotel, followed by dinner there
- In the evening, go **star gazing** in what is known as one of the best star gazing parks in the world

Overnight: *Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon*

Tuesday, February 15: ***THE DESERT FOR DESSERT***

- Optional **sunrise hike** to **Camel Mountain**
- Return to the hotel for breakfast
- Participate in an actual **archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
- Travel up to Jerusalem and check into your hotel
- Nighttime **rooftop tour of the Old City**, culminating in a visit to the **Western Wall**

Overnight: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

Wednesday, February 16: ***THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM!***

- Begin our exploration of the Jewish "love affair" with Jerusalem from the **Haas Promenade** with its magnificent views and powerful Biblical, historical and contemporary narratives
- Continue to the **City of David** - the original Jerusalem of King David and First Temple times - for a guided visit with Bible in hand; then descend Warren's shaft a splash through the water tunnel that King Hezakiya dug to save Jerusalem from the Assyrians 2,700 years ago
- Lunch and shopping in the **Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo**
- See just how incredible King Herod's Temple project must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels**
- In the evening, take a culinary tour of the **Machane Yehuda Shuk**

Overnight: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

Thursday, February 17: ***MAZAL TOV!***

- Celebrate the **Bnai Mitzvah** of the congregation's youth at the pluralistic section of the Western Wall
- Participate in a **hesed project** TBD

- **Ride camels** to Abraham's (of Biblical fame) tent; hear his stories and participate in a celebratory *hafla* dinner

Overnight: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

Friday, February 18: ***FROM HOLOCAUST TO REDEMPTION***

- Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**
- Free time to peruse Jerusalem before Shabbat
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
- In the evening, join the thousands of Israelis and Jews from around the world as they bring in the **Shabbat at the Western Wall**
- Shabbat dinner in the hotel

Overnight: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

Saturday, February 19: ***SHABBAT SHALOM***

- You may want to attend one of the local Shabbat services in town
- Shabbat lunch in the hotel
- Walking tour of the Christian Quarter of the Old City, including a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Musical havdallah
- In the evening, review the history of Jerusalem at the **Tower of David Nighttime Spectacular** as it is projected on the walls of this ancient citadel
- Night in town

Overnight: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

Sunday, February 20: ***WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?***

- Early departure down south to **Masada**, the fortress built by King Herod and used by Jewish zealots defending themselves from the Roman army; hear one of the most dramatic stories in Jewish history
- **Hike the Waterfall Trail** in the desert oasis of Ein Gedi and hear the Biblical stories of King Saul and David which took place here
- **Float in the Dead Sea**
- Return to the hotel, freshen up and finish packing
- Farewell dinner
- Travel to the airport for your flight home
- !Start planning your next trip to Israel

Late check out: *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

- ➢ Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- ➢ Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator.
- ➢ All breakfasts plus 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

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