



Westchester Jewish

Center

Family Adventure in Israel
Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz
December 22, 2022 – January 1, 2023
updated March 1

Thursday, December 22: BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME!

- Land in Israel ■
- Meet and greet service; meet your tour guide and travel to Jerusalem ■
- Welcome to Israel ceremony and Channukah candle lighting (5th night) ■
- Welcome dinner in a restaurant ■
- For those up for it, nighttime **rooftop tour of the Old City** with a chance to see the lit ■
- Channukah candles, culminating in a visit to the **Western Wall**
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

Friday, December 23: 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 Hezekiya dug to save Jerusalem from the Assyrians 2,700 years ago ■
- Lunch and shopping in the **Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo** ■
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat ■
- In the evening, light the Channukah candles (6th night); then 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, December 24: 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 and light the Channukah candles (7th night) ■
- 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, December 25: FROM HOLOCAUST TO REDEMPTION

- See just how incredible King Herod's Temple project must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels** ■
 - Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** ■
 - As a contrast to the morning, take musical Channukah tour of Nahalaot lead by local resident and singer Rika Razel of the well-known Razel Family; then take a culinary tour of the vibrant **Machane Yehuda Shuk** ■
 - Light candles for the 8th night of Channukah ■
- Overnight:** Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, December 26: 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** ■
 - Ride camels** to Abraham's (of Biblical fame) tent; hear his stories and participate in a *hafla dinner* ■
- Overnight:** Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, December 27: GOING DOWN!

- Hear about the incredible journey of **Rabbi Sharon Shalom**, who left Ethiopia as a child and has become a leading Israeli figure in bringing together the spectrum of local Jews ■
 - 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

Wednesday, December 28: 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

Thursday, December 29: 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 ■
 - 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** ■
 - Continue to Tel Aviv and check into your hotel followed by a night out on town ■
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv – Premium Sea View Rooms**

Friday, December 30: STARTUP NATION

- Start your day where Israel got its official start – outside of **Independence Hall**; walk along ■
the **Independence Trail** and 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, which combines traditional prayer with Israeli songs and poetry ■
 - Shabbat dinner in the hotel ■
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

Saturday, December 31: 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 ■
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

Sunday, January 1: THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Depart from the hotel ■
- On the **Gaza border**, meet with a local resident and hear what it is like to raise children ■
under the shadow of Hamas rockets
- At **Save a Child’s Heart**, learn about this institution which brings children from Africa and ■
across the Middle East to Israel for life-saving heart surgery; then interact with the children ■
as they prepare for or recover from their surgery
- Farewell dinner ■
- Travel to the airport for your flight home ■
- !Start planning your next trip to Israel ■

- 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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