



Westchester Jewish Center
Family Adventure in Israel
Led by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz
December 22, 2022 – January 1, 2023

updated April 12

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 UP!

- Depart from Jerusalem and travel north via the Jordan River Valley
- On **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu**, learn about the effect the kibbutz movement had on the beginnings of modern Israel and how they have become world leaders of organic agriculture with their production of...bugs!
- Ascend the Golan Heights
- View into **Syria** from the bunker in Tel as Saki and get an update on what is happening with our neighbors to the northeast by **Major (res.) Yaakov Selavan**; then participate in an **Escape Room** activity in the bunker
- **Chocolate lovers**: get your hands dirty at a chocolate-making workshop at the DeKarina Chocolatier
- **Wine lovers**: taste some of Israel's finest wines at the adjacent **Pelter Winery**
- Continue to your hotel and check in, followed by *dinner*

Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel, Golan – Deluxe Chalet Cabins

Wednesday, December 28: MYSTICS AND MOUNTAINS

- In **Tzfat**, explore the alleyways and synagogues of mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th Century

- Meet with **Kabbalistic artist** Avraham Lowenthal and see how he incorporates his mystical studies into his artwork
- On the border of Lebanon, **meet soldiers in action** understand the burden of Israel's security on the shoulders of 20-year-olds
- **Rappel** down one of the Golan's cliffs
- Dinner in the hotel

Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel, Golan

Thursday, December 29: **THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST**

- In **Caesarea**, see the incredible ruins of King Herod's ancient port city, once the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine periods
- Continue to Tel Aviv
- 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
- Check into your hotel
- Group dinner at the **Na Lagaat** (Please Touch) **Center** where all of the waiters are deaf, followed by a show "Not on Bread Alone", in which all actors are deaf and blind

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

Friday, December 30: **UNDERGROUND**

- Participate in an actual **archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
- 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
- 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**
- 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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