



Congregation Beth Israel

Family Trip to Israel

Wednesday, December 23



Welcome to Israel

"Welcome to Israel." Afternoon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. After passing through Passport Control and collecting your luggage, depart the Terminal and meet your **guide, driver and touring bus. Ascend to Jerusalem.** Stop at **Mount of Scopus**, an observation point offering a magnificent view of the city and from where you will hear about the area's historical and geographical importance. As you overlook the eternal Holy City stop for a moment's reflection and prayer by saying the "*Shehecheyanu*" and "*Borei Pri Hagefen*" blessing as pilgrims did when approaching Jerusalem throughout history. Arrive at your hotel and check in. This evening participate in a **welcome dinner** at the **Olive and Fish restaurant in Jerusalem or similar.** Return to your hotel.

Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Thursday, December 24

An Introduction to Jerusalem

Start the day with an introduction to the Old City and see its surrounding areas as you enjoy a **walk on the walls** of Jerusalem, starting from the **Jaffa Gate**. From this unique viewpoint, you will see the different gates that adorn the circumventing walls, each with its own fascinating story and history. Enter the Old City to take an in-depth tour of the **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo**. Continue to the **Western Wall** (Kotel) where you can take time for a moment's reflection and prayer at this holy place, follow the tradition of many from around the world that placed their prayers in the cracks of the wall. On to the **Western Wall Tunnels** for a tour and to see the archaeological discoveries excavated in a vast concealed tunnel along the Western Wall (*pending confirmation*). Conclude the visit, winding through the narrow, busy streets, and colorful **Bazaars** filled with small shops. Continue to the **City of David**, a small hill just outside of the Ottoman Walls of the Old City that was the site of Biblical Jerusalem and the capital of King David. Tour this fascinating location and also visit the Canaanite **dry tunnel** which is 3,400 years old.



Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, December 25

The Bnai Mitzvah Day

This morning, head to the Old City of Jerusalem to celebrate the **Bnai Mitzvah Ceremony** at the **Southern Wall/Robinson's Arch** (Ezrat Israel area) adjacent to the Western Wall; (*men and women sit together*). Afterwards, proceed to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda** open air market of Jerusalem to see how the locals do their shopping in preparation for Shabbat. Take in the sites, smells and noises of the market. **Optional food tour will be available at an additional cost per person.**





Friday, December 25 continued...

Onwards to **Nachlaot**, one of the neighborhoods of Jerusalem, where there are quaint small synagogues pressed up against newly restored residences and colorful alleyways. Towards sunset, participate in **Shabbat service** at the **Western Wall** or at a local **Conservative Synagogue**. **Shabbat dinner** is included for you tonight at your hotel.



Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, December 26

Shabbat at leisure in Jerusalem No transportation services are provided today

The **morning** is at **leisure** to perhaps participate in a **Shabbat service** at a **local Synagogue**. This afternoon, **lunch** is included for you at your hotel. In the afternoon, we suggest a **walking tour** of the areas nearby to your hotel. Gather together for havdalah followed by a fun Saturday evening in Jerusalem!

Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, December 27

Masada and The Dead Sea Area

After breakfast, depart Jerusalem. Travel through the **Judean Desert** to the Dead Sea area. Continue along the shore of the **Dead Sea** to stop at one of the **private beaches** to experience floating in the buoyant waters of the Dead Sea.



Shower and freshen up in the facilities provided. Proceed to the mountain-top fortress of **Masada** for an in-depth tour of the site and ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car. From the top of Masada, the outlines of the Roman encampments are still visible below.



the Roman encampments are still visible below.

Sunday, December 27 continued...

Continue to the **Bedouin Encampment** of **Kfar Hanokdim**. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity of taking a **short camel ride**. Enjoy the desert scenery as local Bedouins in their tents host you for **lunch**. Be enchanted by their warm hospitality and lifestyle, which is quickly disappearing from the modern world, is unveiled. Conclude the day by driving to the city of **Arad**, located on the border of the Negev and Judean Deserts. Return to your hotel in Jerusalem.



Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, December 28

The Judean Hills

In the morning, depart Jerusalem and drive through the hills of Judah to the **Beit Guvrin** region and the land of a thousand caves. While here you will have a chance to



participate in an **archaeological excavation** and tour the caves (closed shoes should be worn at this site). Return to Jerusalem and proceed to **Yad Vashem**, where, accompanied by a **local curator**, tour the central memorial and museum dedicated to the Holocaust. Return to your hotel.



Overnight –Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, December 29

Along the Jordan Valley to the Galilee

Check out of your hotel this morning. Travel along the Jordan Valley to **Sde Eliyahu**, situated in the fertile Beit Shean valley. Meet an **expert** who will take you on a tour of this unique Kibbutz which specializes in **organic agriculture**. Learn about the biological pesticides that are produced as natural enemies for pest control. Also see how Barn Owls are used and hear how bumblebees help form natural pollen in green houses and open fields, all to protect the environment. Drive along the shores of Lake Kinneret, stopping to pay your respects to famous



Israeli artists and poets buried at the **Kinneret Cemetery** on the waters' edge. Conclude the day in **Safed**, city of the mystics, to visit the synagogues of Rabbi Isaac Luria and Rabbi Joseph Karo. There will also be time to wander about the alleys, lanes and art galleries of the Old City of Safed. Drive on to your hotel in the Galilee and check in. **Dinner** is included for you tonight at your hotel.



Overnight – HaGoshrim Hotel, Galilee

Wednesday, December 30

The Golan Heights

Start the day by heading to one of the sources of the Jordan River, for a nature walk at the **Dan Nature Reserve**. On to board a **jeep** and ascend the Golan Heights. During the course of the expedition, you will pass former Syrian army headquarters and positions overlooking the Galilee. Continue to one of the highest mountains on the Golan Heights, the **Bental Volcano**, which will give you a terrific view of the



Wednesday, December 30 continued...

Israeli/ Syria lines as you hear of the importance of this area. Then while the **adults** enjoy a visit to a **boutique winery** for a chance to **sample** some of their wines, the children will visit a **chocolate**



factory in Ein Zivan that makes handmade chocolates. Here, they can take part in a fun workshop making and tasting chocolate. They will also meet with the chocolatiers that use the finest quality ingredients for their product.



All join up to return to your hotel. **Dinner** is included for you at the hotel.

Overnight – Hagoshrim Hotel, Galilee

Thursday, December 31

The Hills of the Galilee

Check out of your hotel and depart for the Biblical-style camp of **Kfar Kedem**. Accompanied by a **local guide**, **traditional Israelite dress** and **take a donkey ride** through the countryside which has hardly changed since days of old. Afterwards,



enjoy a family-fun activity **baking fresh pita bread** in true Talmudic-style! Next, visit **Neve Michael Youth Village**. Walk around the village which assists and supports children from underprivileged and broken homes and also participate in a **Mitzvah Charity project at the Children's Center**. Travel

along the northern coastline to **Caesarea** and its Roman and Crusader antiquities to see the excavated **Roman Theater** echoing theatrical performances of long ago. Visit the hippodrome and port, as well as the Crusader City. While here,



see the Caesarea **Harbor project** also known as the cinematic exhibition and audiovisual experience that will take you on a majestic virtual tour of the site. Drive to **Tel Aviv** and check in to your hotel.

Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, January 1

Touring in and around Tel Aviv

This morning head to Rehovot to visit the **Ayalon Institute** ("the bullet factory"), a clandestine operation that manufactured armaments right under the noses of the British. Return to Tel Aviv for a visit to **Jaffa**, one of the oldest biblical cities in the world and an important seaport since antiquity. Visit the restored Old City including the



artists' colony and the quaint harbor. Continue to Tel Aviv's popular **Nachlat Benjamin Pedestrian Arts and Craft Fair**. On



On Fridays, the street is transformed into an artisan's paradise with performing street entertainers, music and an array of handmade crafts and jewelry stalls. Onwards to the **Carmel Market**, a bustling open-air bazaar filled with spicy and mysterious aromas and lots of colorful wares for sale. This evening, **dinner** is also included for you at your hotel tonight.

Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, January 2

See you soon

This morning, participate in **Shabbat Morning Service** at a **local synagogue**. Afterwards, return to the hotel for **Shabbat lunch**. In the afternoon, **enjoy a walking tour of Neve Zedek**, one of the first neighborhoods of Tel Aviv, to see the meticulously restored historic homes. Continue along **Rothschild Boulevard** to stop outside **Independence Hall** to see where Ben Gurion declared the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948. Return to your hotel. In the evening, check out of your hotel. Enjoy a **farewell dinner at the Maganda restaurant in Tel Aviv** before the **transfer** to Ben Gurion Airport for your departure flight. A member of our staff will **assist** you at the airport with departure procedures.

