



Congregation Beth Israel

Family Trip to Israel

Wednesday, December 22



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

The Old City of 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.



Return to your hotel to freshen up. In the early evening, head with your bus to the colorful **Mahane Yehuda Market**. Feel free to meander about the stalls and have a taste of the bustling Jerusalem nightlife. You may wish to have dinner (on own account). **Optional (not included; quoted separately) OR Meet with a *culinary expert* who will take you on a special tour by introducing you to some of the shop keepers to see their wonderful produce, hear their stories and **sample** some of their delicacies (including earphones, requires a minimum of 20 participants).** Make your **own way** back to the hotel (transportation not included).



Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem



Friday, December 24

The New City of Jerusalem

Start the day with a visit to **Yad Vashem**, where, accompanied by a **local curator** (suitable for children above 10 years old), tour the central memorial and museum dedicated to the Holocaust. While you are at Yad Vashem, your guide will take the **children** under 10 (accompanied by a parent) for a visit to the **Tisch Family Zoological Garden** to see many animals that are referred to in the Bible. Following the visits, meet up and enjoy lunch on your own (not included). Then, your **guide** will take you on a **Geo-Political Tour** of Jerusalem. Hear a summary of security and political issues in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. Return to your hotel to freshen up. 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 25

The Bnai/Bnot-Mitzvah Day
No transportation services are provided today

This morning, make your own way to the Old City of Jerusalem to celebrate the **Bnai/Bnot Mitzvah Ceremony** at the **Southern Wall/Robinson's Arch** (Ezrat Israel area) adjacent to the Western Wall. Make your own way back to the hotel and freshen up. **Lunch** is included for you at your hotel. In the afternoon, meet your **guide** and take a **walking tour** of **Mishkenot Shananeem**, the first Jewish neighborhood outside of the Old City walls, developed by Moshe Montefiore. Enjoy the special atmosphere of this lovely neighborhood.



Overnight – Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, December 26

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.



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 27

The Judean Hills

This morning, depart Jerusalem and drive through the hills of Judah to the **Beit Guvrin** region for the opportunity to participate in an **archaeological excavation** and tour the caves (*closed shoes should be worn at this site*). Proceed to **Latrun** to visit the Memorial Wall and tour the outdoor Armored Brigade Museum housing an impressive exhibit of **armored vehicles and tanks**.



Monday, December 27th continued...

Finish the day with a visit to the ideological settlement of **Neve Shalom** where a mixed society of Jews and Moslems live together (pending confirmation, donation not included). Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight –Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, December 28

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 29

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 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. Following dinner, meet up in a **private room** to enjoy a **drum circle** activity.

Overnight – Hagoshrim Hotel, Galilee

Thursday, December 30

The Hills of the Galilee

Check out of your hotel and head to the Biblical-style camp of **Kfar Kedem**. Accompanied by a **local guide**, **don 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! Drive on through the Galilee to the coastal city of **Haifa**, stopping at **Haifa's Panoramic Road** from where you will be able to see the golden dome of the Bahai Shrine that is set amid beautiful gardens, and serves as a significant landmark of the city. Travel south along the coast 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. Proceed to **Tel Aviv** and check in to your hotel.

Overnight – David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, December 31

Touring in and around Tel Aviv

This morning, depart Tel Aviv and 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 to visit **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.





Friday, December 31 continued...

Continue to Tel Aviv's popular **Nachalat Benjamin Pedestrian Arts and Craft Fair**. 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. Nearby is the lively **Carmel Market**, a bustling open-air bazaar filled with spicy and mysterious aromas and lots of colorful wares for sale. Return to your hotel to freshen up. This evening, **dinner** is included for you at your hotel.



Overnight – David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, January 1

See you soon

No transportation services are provided today (only departure transfer)

This morning, participate in **Shabbat Morning Service** at a **local synagogue**. Then, return to the hotel for **Shabbat lunch** (included). In the afternoon, meet your **guide** and enjoy a **walking tour** of **Neve Zedek**, one of the first neighborhoods of Tel Aviv, to see the meticulously restored historic homes. Proceed along the **Rothschild Boulevard**, where you can see excellent examples of **Bauhaus Architecture** from the 1930's, some of which have been recently beautifully restored. As well, stop outside **Independence Hall** to see where Ben Gurion declared the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948. Return to your hotel where **late checkout until 6 PM** is included for you. Check out of your hotel and head for a **farewell dinner** at **Maganda restaurant** (or similar) 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.

