



TEMPLE BETH-EL



Temple Beth-El of Providence
Adult Israel Exploration
Led by Rabbi Sarah Mack

April 7-18, 2019
(rev 16 May 18)

Sunday April 7: DEPARTURE

- Departure from Boston on El Al flight 016 at 9:00pm.

Monday April 8: BRUCHIM HA'BAIM-WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Arrival at Ben Gurion airport at 14:45.
- (*Assistance upon arrival by Keshet representatives*).
- We proceed directly to the port of Old Jaffa for an opening ceremony where pilgrims and *olim* have entered the Holy Land for centuries.
- Welcome Dinner at Café Yafo in Jaffa
- Check-in at the hotel, located on the beach promenade.

Overnight: *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

Tuesday April 9: EXILE AND RETURN

- Reenact the moving moment when David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel at Independence Hall.
- Stroll through the weekly arts & crafts fair at Nahalat Binyamin.
- Lunch break (on own) and free time explore Tel Aviv.
- Docent tour of the Reuven Rubin Museum, focusing on the rebirth of Hebrew culture and art in Tel Aviv's early years.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

Wednesday April 10 A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

- Visit "Save A Child's Heart"- a project of the Wolfson Hospital, in which Israeli pediatric surgeons provide pro-bono cardiac surgery for children from all over Africa and the Middle East.
- Explore the Israeli hi-tech sector. Visit the Weizmann Institute of Science interactive visitor's center.
- Lunch break (on own) and break.
- Study session with one of Israel's finest teachers, Dr. Rachel Korazim, in her home in Jaffa (group size permitting). Using texts she takes us on through "A Tale of Two Cities— Contrasting Zionist Narratives."
- Enjoy Dinner at Café Kapiche, whose wait-staff are deaf. Café Kapiche is part of the Na Laga'at Theater, the only blind-deaf theater group in the world.
- Then enjoy a performance of the Na Lagaat theater group.

Overnight: *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

Thursday April 11 **WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?**

- Early morning departure from hotel for the Dead Sea Region, lowest point on earth.
- Ascend Herod's mountain fortress of Masada by cable-car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Descend by cable-car to the visitor's center.
- Lunch break (on own) at Masada Visitor's Center.
- Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at one of the Hotel Spas at Ein Bokek.
- En route to Jerusalem, meet Ethiopian families who crossed the desert to Sudan to wait for months in refugee camps before being airlifted to Israel by the Mossad.
- Check-in at hotel.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday April 12: **THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM**

- Begin the day with a spectacular outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade. Text study and discussion on the Binding of Isaac and whether Abraham passed the test.
- Descend to the Old City and enter the Jewish Quarter from the Zion Gate.
- See how Jerusalem's elite lived 2000 years ago at the Herodian Mansions and discuss the background to the Great Revolt.
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Cardo and Jewish Quarter.
- Descend to the Kotel Plaza.
- Explore the Southern Wall Excavations to gain a better understanding of the centrality of the Temple and the role of pilgrimage in ancient times.
- Return to hotel and time to prepare for Shabbat.
- 18:26 Candle lighting
- Kabbalat Shabbat with the Reform community of Kehillat Har El or Kol Haneshama.
- Home Hospitality Shabbat dinner or at the hotel.

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat April 13: **SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM**

- Optional Shabbat morning services at Hebrew Union College.
- Day at leisure to explore on your own.
- (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
- We reconvene in the late afternoon for a meeting with Issam Sa'ad, a former Gaza resident who fled Hamas and is now involved in a unique Jewish-Palestinian dialogue project OR with Arab-Israeli journalist, Khaled Abu Toameh
- 19:44 Group Havdalah
- *Evening: Optional Tower of David "Night Spectacular" sound & light show, projected on the walls of the museum. (dress warmly as we will be sitting outside)*
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday April 14: **CREATING A JEWISH DEMOCRATIC STATE**

- We learn and mourn together at Yad Vashem, including visits to the historical museum, Children's Memorial, and Sculpture Garden. **OR** Tour the Israeli Supreme Court, whose

architecture reflects the Biblical tenets of “Justice and Righteousness”. Then meet former Israeli Supreme Court justice Yitzhak Englard for a “hot topic” discussion.

- Lunch break (on own)
- Meet Ali Abu Awad and Rav Schlesinger, the founders of “Shorashim”, a grassroots movement of understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians.
- “Shuk & Cook” program in Machaneh Yehuda. Tour the market with a local chef to buy ingredients that you will then cook together for dinner.

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday April 15: “TO BE A FREE PEOPLE IN OUR OWN LAND”

- Meeting with Noa Sattah, the director of IRAC (Israel Religious Affairs Council) for an update on issues regarding Jewish Pluralism in the Jewish State.
- Depart for the north. En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
- Travel along the Jordan River Valley to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu.
- Lunch at Café Basadeh, the kibbutz’s organic dairy cafe.
- Learn how this religious kibbutz led the “Green Revolution” in organic farming in Israel. “Bio Bee” tour of the fields and their “bug factory”.
- Continue to the Upper Galilee, passing the Kinneret and Hula Valley.
- Check-in at hotel
- Dinner at hotel

Overnight: Kibbutz Hagosherim Hotel

Tuesday April 16: GOLAN HEIGHTS 360°

- Ascend the Golan Heights.
- Outlook over Syria from the bunkers of Mt. Bental. Learn about the fateful battles here in 1967 and 1973 as well as an update on current security situation with Capt. Yaakov Selavan
- Meet young IDF soldiers defending the northern border.
- Continue to Kibbutz Ein Zivan. Picnic Lunch.
 - Chocolate Lover’s Option: Hands-on workshop at the De Karina Boutique Chocolate Factory.
 - Wine Lover’s Option: Wine tasting at the Bahat Winery.
- Return to hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hagosherim Hotel

Wednesday April 17: MYSTICS AND MOUNTAINS

- Drive to Tzfat, the heart of Jewish mysticism, to explore the alleyways and synagogues of the mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th century.
- Art & Kabbalah program with local artist, David Friedman, in his studio.
- Lunch stop (on own) in Zefat
- Shopping time in the Jewish Quarter
- Travel to the ancient aqueduct of Caesarea.
- Summary and conclusion session and Farewell dinner at Aresto in Caesarea’s “Namal” port area.
- Transfer to airport for departing flight

Thursday April 18: BASHANAH HABA'AH!

- Departure on El Al 015 at 12:30am.
- Arrival in Boston at 5:30am.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and security escort for touring days in the Old City.
- All breakfasts plus 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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