Da'at
EDUCATIONAL
EXPEDITIONS

WELCOME

ברוכים הבאים

11 DAY | MY KEHILLAH & ISRAEL
AN ISRAEL TOUR
FOR THE CONSERVATIVE COMMUNITY

11-DAYS | 9-NIGHTS

DAY ONE: Sunday

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Monday

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Transfer to Tel Aviv.
- Drive through **Tel Aviv**, known as the "city that never sleeps" and pass by centers of culture and recreation such as the Habima Theater, sprawling beaches, Dizengoff Street and Rabin Square.
- Check into the hotel.
- Orientation discussion with the tour educator.
- Enjoy a middle-eastern style **Welcome Dinner** with a Yemenite touch at **Maganda** with a varied selection of salads and grilled meats, located in the Yemenite Quarter of Tel Aviv.
- Free Evening in Tel Aviv with an opportunity to explore the Neve Zedek Neighborhood.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Tuesday

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Follow the story of Israel's pre-state elite fighting force, the Palmach, while walking through a state of the art multimedia experience that allows a glimpse into the lives of extraordinary people at **Beit Hapalmach**.

OR

- Visit to **Independence Hall**, site of David Ben Gurion's monumental proclamation of the State of Israel in May 1948, including a special family program.
- Visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its restored buildings and sidewalk artists, and continue onto the colorful Carmel Market and then to Shenkin, one of Israel's most avant-garde streets.
- Lunch on own at the Carmel Market.
- ***LaDa'at*** ***Scavenger Hunt in Tel Aviv*** **- מתחת לפני השטח בתל אביב**: Explore the city of Tel Aviv while participating in a special family scavenger hunt, walk the walk, talk the talk and imagine the unimaginable.
- *Possible* **Study Session** at **Midreshet Iyon** with **Rabbi Roberto Arbiv**.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure in **Tel Aviv** with an opportunity to:
  - Meander through the **Old City of Jaffa**
  - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** with its many cafes and bars
  - Experience the **Tel Aviv Port** with its restaurants and clubs
  - Explore the newly gentrified **Neve Zedek Neighborhood**
  - Saunter down the **Tel Aviv Beach Promenade**

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Wednesday

ALONG THE COAST

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and depart Tel Aviv.
- Guided visit to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period; visit the Herodian Theater and new excavations along the Mediterranean shore concluding with the new interactive audio-visual program *'The Stars of Caesarea,'* located in the 900-year-old crusader city built on the same site.
- Visit a **Druse** village in the Carmel Mountains for a window into the unique world of the Israeli Druse community.
- LaDa'at ***Jewish Family Life in Zippori - אל המקורות***: Delve into the origins of modern Jewish life, while participating in an experiential family program, using Jewish sources, mosaics of Zippori and family team spirit and ingenuity.
- Visit **Kibbutz Hanaton**, the Masorti Movement Kibbutz in Israel, meet with founders and discuss some of the challenges and triumphs of modern Zionist pioneering.
- Drive to the kibbutz in the **Upper Galilee**, and check into the hotel.
- Dinner at the kibbutz hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY FIVE: Thursday

NATURE, SECURITY & THE ALLURE OF MYSTICISM

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the kibbutz hotel.
- *Optional* **B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony** at **Bar-Am** or **Novoriah**, ancient synagogues in the Biriya Forest.
- LaDa'at ***Families in Safed - משפחות מטיילות בצפת***: Using stories and synagogues, mystics and alleyways, take part in a family exploration of Safed, where yesterday becomes tomorrow and the treasure's never too far away.
- **Jeep** tour in the Birya Forest, with lunch.
- Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River and the Biblical settlement of Dan.
- Explore Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights** while overlooking the Hula Valley from former Syrian fortifications. Cross the Golan Plateau to the border with Syria and observe the abandoned city of Kuneitra and the United Nations outpost located nearby.
- Visit Emek Habecha, the Valley of Tears, on the Eastern edge of the Golan Heights, site of one of Israel's fiercest battles during the Yom Kippur War and view an audiovisual program, depicting the battle of the 77th Battalion – **OZ77**.
- Dinner at the kibbutz hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SIX: Friday

DRIVING THE RIFT

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the kibbutz hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and depart the kibbutz.
- Visit the **Hula Nature Reserve** and the Ophoria Interactive Experience, connecting birds, water and the Zionist endeavor.
- Visit the **Kinneret Cemetery** and hear about the dreams of the early Zionist pioneers.
- Swim in the warm waters and natural springs at the **Gan Hashlosha Nature Reserve** (**Sachne**) situated at the foot of Mt. Gilboa.
- Continue through the **Jordan Rift Valley** towards Jerusalem.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem – ברוכים הבאים**: Enter the vibrant and colourful 3,000 year old city of Jerusalem and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Stop at **Mount Scopus** to say the traditional "**shehechiyanu**" blessing, recited upon entering Jerusalem.
- ***LaDa'at Jerusalem Erev Shabbat* - ברוכה הבאה שבת המלכה**: Experience the unique atmosphere as Jerusalemites hurriedly prepare for Shabbat as you drive through the city, exploring the numerous traditions Jews have brought with them from the world over.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at a Masorti synagogue, the Southern Wall or at a synagogue of your choice.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN: Saturday

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Shabbat Services** at a Masorti congregation or another Jerusalem synagogue.
- **Shabbat Lunch** at the **Fuchsberg Center**.

Adults

- LaDa'at ***Agnon - 'תמול שלשום'*** Guided walk through the streets of Jerusalem using the writings of Israel's Nobel laureate in literature, S. Y Agnon as a guide.

Youth

- *Shabbat Afternoon with King David* Special program at the **Tower of David Museum**, exploring the past and creating the future.

OR

- Possible afternoon program with the **Noam** Youth Movement.

All

- *Ben Kodesh Lechol* **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- Dinner on own.
- **Free Evening in Jerusalem** on Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall or on Emek Refaim Street in the German Colony.
- **The Night Spectacular** at the **Tower of David Museum** – The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night time show which is a celebration of sight and sound, depicting the story of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY EIGHT: Sunday

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Shacharit Services at **Robinson's Arch**.
- *The Battle for a Pluralistic Israel* Dialogue with **Rabbi Einat Ramon** or **Rabbi Yzhar Hess** from the **Masorti Movment.**
- Guided visit to the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park** with a special visit to the Davidson Center, to view the new three-dimensional computer generated presentation of *Life During the Time of the Temple,* followed by a guided visit to the Southern Wall Excavations and the Conservative Kotel.
- Visit the **Kotel** (Western Wall).
- Visit the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall along the Temple Mount.
- Lunch on own in the Old City.
- Guided visit through the **City of David**'s new excavations, which have redefined the origins of Jerusalem; wade through the 2,600 year old **Hezekiah's Water Tunnel** in the Kidron Valley. *(Weather Permitting)*
- Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
- Enjoy dinner on your own in **Jerusalem**, at a choice of a wide array of restaurants.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Monday

MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *The Memory of the Holocaust in Contemporary Israeli Society* Dialogue with Holocaust scholar, **Dr. Rachel Korazim.**
- Guided visit through the newly renovated **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
  - The **Avenue of the Righteous**
  - The new **Historical Museum**
  - The **Children's Memorial**
  - A concluding **Memorial Service**

OR

- LaDa'at ***Yad Vashem for Kids - לזכור ולחיות***: Special children/youth program at the Yad Vashem complex the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, including guided visits to the Holocaust Toy Exhibit, the Children's Memorial and the Sculpture Garden, using interactive programming, arts & crafts and children's stories and diaries from the time of the Holocaust.

OR

- Study Session with the **Schechter Institute** or the **Hartman Institute**.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Take part in an active dig at the **Beit Guvrin Caves** and prepare to get your hands dirty as you uncover pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago, followed by a crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Tuesday

JEWISH STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Descend to the **Dead Sea Basin**.
- Ascend the cable car or walk up the snake path to **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Experience the weightlessness of the **Dead Sea** as you float in its waters.
- Short hike to **Nahal David** the freshwater spring at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, a lush oasis in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- **Farewell Dinner** and wrap-up discussion.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Wednesday

RETURN

- Shacharit Services.
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.