

WELCOME

ברוכים הבאים

12 DAY | MY REFORM COMMUNITY
AN ISRAEL EXPEDITION

12-DAYS | 10-NIGHTS

DAY ONE: Saturday

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Sunday

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- 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 your hotel.
- *Building a Community* Dinner and Dialogue with **Rabbi Meir Azari** of the **Beit Daniel Synagogue** in Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Monday

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
 - Visit to **Independence Hall**, site of David Ben Gurion's monumental proclamation of the State of Israel in May 1948.
 - Dialogue with members of the **Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism** (IMPJ) pre-army academy (mehina), a special social justice project in Jaffa.
- OR**
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute**, near Rehovot, for an eye opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
 - Lunch on your own and take a walking tour through the trendy area where the colorful **Carmel Market**, **Nahalat Binyamin Pedestrian Mall**, and **Shenkin Street** meet in downtown Tel Aviv.
 - **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.
 - Ethnic Tasting Tour through Tel Aviv's famous **Levinsky Market**, with a combination of foods and sweets from all over the world.
 - Visit the **Old City of Jaffa** and stroll through the renovated artists' colony and the ancient port.
 - Visit the **Tachana**, Tel Aviv's renovated first train station complex, now a site of numerous restaurants, with dinner on own.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Tuesday

COMMUNITIES OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Depart Tel Aviv and drive along the Trans-Israel Highway for a close up view of the '**Security Barrier**' along the seam-zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.
- 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 a visit to the 900-year-old crusader city built on the same site.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Walk through the 2,000 year old underground water tunnels at **Park Alona**, which once brought water to Caesarea. (*Season Pending*)
- Visit a **Druse** village in the Carmel Mountains for a window into the unique world of the Israeli Druse community, including home hospitality.
- Drive to the Upper Galilee and check into the kibbutz guesthouse.
- Dinner at the guesthouse.
- ***Where Is My Kibbutz Going?*** Dialogue with kibbutz members on the ever-changing nature of kibbutz life today.

Overnight: Upper Galilee

DAY FIVE: Wednesday

SPIRITUALITY AND SECURITY IN THE GALILEE

- Breakfast at the kibbutz guesthouse.
- Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River and the Biblical settlement of Dan.

OR

- Short hike along the **Banias River** at the base of the Golan Heights.
- *The Balance of Power on Israel's Northern Border* Dialogue with **Colonel (Res) Kobi Marom**, former Northern Brigade Commander.
- **Jeep** tour climbing to the **Golan Heights** in the footsteps of IDF soldiers and their battles in the Six Day War, to enjoy the beautiful natural scenery and gain an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- 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.
- Enjoy **Kayaking** on the Jordan River. (*Seasonal*)

- Dinner at the **Dubrovin Farm**, the site of one of the first attempts at draining the northern swamps and settling in the Hula Valley in the early 1900s.
- Return to the kibbutz.

Overnight: Upper Galilee

DAY SIX: Thursday

THE ALLURE OF MYSTICISM

- Breakfast at the guesthouse.
- Check out of the guesthouse and depart the kibbutz.
- **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.
- Visit the innovative **Zippori National Park**, site of Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi's codification of the Mishna and a renowned mosaic collection with a special mosaic-making program for children and youth.

OR

- Visit the **Beit Shean National Park**, one of the largest archaeological sites in Israel with its Biblical Tel and ongoing excavations exposing the vast Roman-Byzantine City.
- Continue towards Jerusalem, driving southwards along the **Jordan Rift Valley**.
- **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 “shehechyanu” blessing, recited upon entering Jerusalem.
- **The Hills around Jerusalem - ירושלים הרים סביב לה**: Drive around **Jerusalem** while viewing the city from many of its overlooks and promenades.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on your own.
- **Free Evening in Jerusalem** on Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall or on Emek Refaim Street in the German Colony.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN: Friday

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Walking tour through the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, for guided visits to some of the sites excavated over the past 30 years, including:
 - The **Cardo**, a Byzantine street that is now the oldest shopping arcade in the world.
 - The **Hurva Square**, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
 - Guided visit through the 2,000-year old **Herodian Mansions** in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.
 - 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.
 - The **Kotel** (Western Wall).
 - Visit the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall along the Temple Mount.
- **Lunch** on your own in the Old City or at the **Machaneh Yehuda** Market.
- **LaDa'at Machaneh Yehuda - אל השוק**: Explore the colorful and ethnically rich Nachlaot neighborhood of Jerusalem while participating in an experiential family scavenger hunt.
- Free time to prepare for Shabbat.
- **DA'AT MIFGASH** Kabbalat Shabbat services with one of the following Israeli Reform Congregations:
 - **Kehillat Kol Haneshema** with Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman.
 - **Kehillat Yozma** in Modi'in.
 - **Birkat Shalom Synagogue at Kibbutz Gezer** with Rabbi Miri Gold.
 - **Congregation Mevasseret Zion** led by Rabbi Maya Leibovitz.
 - **Home Hospitality Shabbat Dinner/Communal Shabbat Dinner** with local congregants OR **Festive Shabbat Dinner at the hotel.**

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY EIGHT: Saturday

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Shabbat Services at Hebrew Union College** or with an alternative congregation.
- **Free Shabbat in Jerusalem** with optional visits to:
 - The Museum of the History of Jerusalem at **David's Citadel**, for a walk through the history of Jerusalem from the time of Abraham 4,000 years ago to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine.
 - The **Tisch Family Zoological Gardens**, a beautifully landscaped habitat with a special focus on preserving Biblical fauna, geared to children of all ages (2-80)
 - The **Old City Ramparts** for a walk along the ancient walls of the city.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol* **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- **Free Evening in Jerusalem** on Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall or on Emek Refaim Street in the German Colony.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Sunday

MEMORIES AND RENEWAL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Adults**
- 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**

Children

- **LaDa'at** **Yad Vashem for Kids** - **ליזכור 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.

All Participants

- Lunch on your own.
 - Visit **Mt. Herzl**, including the new center dedicated to the life and achievements of the founder of Political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, followed by a visit to his grave and the graves of Yitzhak Rabin and other leaders of the nation.
 - Late afternoon at leisure.
- OR**
- Hike in the Jerusalem Forest to the **Sataf Spring**.

- Walk through the picturesque neighbourhood of **Ein Karem**, nestled on the slopes of the Jerusalem forest and explore the art galleries, coffee shops and hidden corners of beauty.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Monday

STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart for the **Dead Sea Basin**.
- 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.
- Ascend Masada by cable car to visit **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Explore the many archaeological remains from the Roman and Byzantine Eras.
- Lunch on your own.
- Bathe in the relaxing and healthy sulphur springs at a **Dead Sea Resort Hotel** and float in the Dead Sea.
- Return to Jerusalem and rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Tuesday

AT LEISURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **DA'AT MIFGASH** *Challenges and Triumphs of Religious Pluralism and Social Justice in Israel* Dialogue with **Anat Hoffman**, the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC).
- **Zedek Project** in the field.
- Rest of the day at leisure.

OR

- 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.
- Stop at the **Scrolls of Fire** Monument, depicting the Jewish people's determination throughout the ages, located in the Judean Hills.
- **Festive Farewell Dinner** and wrap-up discussion.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Wednesday

RETURN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out and transfer to Ben Gurion Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.