



Temple Beth El of Stamford
Family Israel Adventure
Led by Rabbi Josh & Mara Hammerman
July 26-August 9, 2015

Sunday July 26 **DEPARTURE**

- Departure from NY

Monday July 27 **ARRIVAL-BRUCHIM HABA'IM!**

- Arrival at Ben Gurion airport
- Airport Snack
- Opening Tree Planting ceremony at Neot Kedumim
- Outlook over the port of Old Jaffa
- Welcome Dinner in Tel Aviv's Yemenite Quarter
- Check-in at hotel

Overnight: *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Tuesday July 28 **KIBBUTZ GALUYOT**

- Visit the new multi-media Rabin Museum which traces the life of the former Prime Minister with the history of the State of Israel (or the Palmach Museum or Machon Ayalon)
- Rabin Square Memorial
- Lunch break (on own)
- Meeting with the inspiring Rabbi Sharon Shalom, an Ethiopian rabbi whose congregation is made up of Holocaust survivors and Russian immigrants in Kiryat Gat.
- Continue to the Judean Desert. Sunset camel ride.
- Enjoy a Bedouin "hafla" dinner.

Overnight: *Inbar Hotel, Arad*

Wednesday July 29 **WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?**

- Ascend Herod's mountain fortress of Masada by the Roman Ramp in time for sunrise.
- Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. (Parallel programming for adults & kids).
- Descend by the cable car. Breakfast in the visitor's center.
- Hike to the Nahal David waterfall at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve
- Lunch and float in the Dead Sea at the Ein Gedi Private Beach.
- Outlook over Jerusalem from Mt. Scopus.
- Check-in.
- Dinner and overnight at leisure

Overnight: *Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem*

Thursday July 30 **MITZVAH DAY**

- Bnei Mitzvah ceremony at Ezrat Yisrael, the Masorti Kotel.
- Explore the Southern Wall excavations to gain a better understanding of the centrality of the Temple in ancient times
- Celebratory Lunch
- Participate hands-on at a unique dig, sifting through unexcavated archaeological remains from the Temple Mount.
- Explore the Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market as the city gears up for Shabbat
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday July 31 **THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM**

- Begin the day at the City of David, where Jerusalem was founded.
- Adults-Discussion on Jewish Political Morality in light of the story of David and Bathsheeba.
- Kids-Parallel Program
- We all grab flashlights and walk through Hezekiah's water tunnel, built 2700 years ago to protect Jerusalem's water supply from invading armies.
- Ascend to the Jewish Quarter
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Cardo
- Adults-Walking tour through the Christian Quarter and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Kids-Jewish Quarter Scavenger Hunt
- Kabbalat Shabbat at Kol Haneshama or the Kotel (or at the Tachana at 17:00-18:00)
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat August 1 **SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM**

- From the Four Corners of the Earth: "Shul hopping" to a variety of synagogues representing different ethnic and liturgical traditions. OR Join the conservative community of Moreshet Israel for services.
- Afternoon at leisure to explore Jerusalem.
- (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 last afternoon for a Seudah Shlishit picnic in nearby park and study session with Rabbi Bill Perk. (Parallel activity for kids).
- Group Havdalah
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday August 2 **DAY THEME / TITLE**

- We learn and remember at Yad Vashem including visits to the historical museum, Children's Memorial, and Sculpture garden. (Young children will visit the Biblical Zoo).
- Lunch break (on own)

- Learn more about the father of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl at the multi-media Herzl Museum.
- Visit the graves of Michael Levin z"l and Max Steinberg z"l in the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery
- Dinner break (on own)
- Evening: Kotel Tunnel Tour

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday August 3 DAY THEME / TITLE

- Visit Yad L'Kashish-Lifeline for the Elderly, where shopping is a true mitzvah!
- Visit the Yemin Orde youth village, a boarding school for many immigrant children. Program with the inspirational faculty and students.
- Lunch at Yemin Orde
- Outlook over the magnificent Bahai Gardens and the port of Haifa.
- Check-in
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Overnight: Dan Carmel, Haifa

Tuesday August 4 NORTHERN EXPOSURE

- Explore the Crusader Knights' Halls in Old Acco
- Visit the Tunisian Synagogue, decorated with hundreds of mosaics from Biblical and Jewish history
- Visit the beautiful Rosh Hanikrah sea grottoes
- Lunch stop (on own) en route
- Continue to the mystical city of Zefat
- Explore the synagogues of the mystics (parallel programming for adults & kids) and shopping time
- Check-in, dinner and overnight

Overnight: Kfar Blum Pastorate

Wednesday August 5 MYSTICS AND MOUNTAINS

- Kayaking adventure on "the mighty Jordan" (assuming it's mighty next summer)
- Lunch stop (on own) in Kiryat Shemona
- Meet young IDF soldiers defending Israel's northern border
- Ascend the Golan Heights.
- Continue to Kibbutz Ein Zivan.
- Chocolate Lovers' Option-Hands-on workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory
- Wine Lovers' Option-Tour and tasting at the Bahat Winery
- Outlook over Syria from the bunkers at Mt. Bental.
- Dinner (on own) in Tiberias

Overnight: Kfar Blum Pastorate

Thursday August 6 ALTRUISM IN ACTION

- Volunteer with Project Leket at Nahalal, picking left over fruits & vegetables to be donated to local soup kitchens.

- Lunch break (on own) in the charming pioneering town of Zichron Yaakov
- Visit the ancient port city of Caesarea. See the ancient theater, hippodrome, and bathhouse complex.
- Travel south along the Mediterranean Coast to Tel Aviv
- Check-in
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Overnight: *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Friday August 7

- 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 in the Nahalat Binyamin neighborhood.
- Lunch (on own) and free time
- Join Beit Tefilah Yisraeli for a lively Kabbalat Shabbat service outside at the “Namal” (port). Beit Tefilah Israeli is a liberal, independent, and egalitarian community in Tel Aviv, which is committed to Jewish spirit, culture, and social action.
- Return to the hotel for a festive Shabbat dinner.
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Shabbat August 8 TEL AVIV SHABBAT

- Learning program for adults & kids with the Bina Secular Yeshiva at the hotel.
- Day at leisure to enjoy the city’s museums and café culture or the pool or beach.
- (The Tel Aviv Museum of Art is open 10-4, The Eretz Israel Museum is open 10-2, Bet Bialik is open 10-2, Rubin Museum 11-2, Nahum Gutman Museum of Art 10-3).
- We rendezvous in the late afternoon for a summary discussion.
- Farewell Dinner at the hotel
- Havdalah and check-out.
- Transfer to airport for departing flight

Sunday August 9 DEPARTURE

- Departure from Tel Aviv. Arrival in NY in the early morning.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and a Keshet Youth Counselor.
- There will be parallel educational programming for adults and youth throughout the trip to allow for age-appropriate learning.
- All breakfasts plus underlined 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