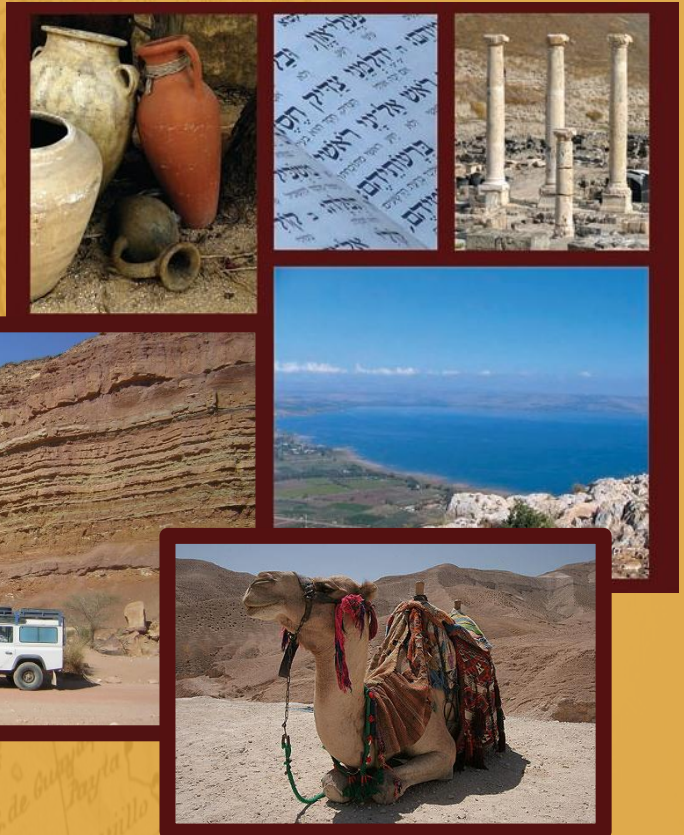


# ISRAEL

## *THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED*

*Led by Dr. Mitchell Parker*

*March 21 - April 3, 2016*



# *ISRAEL.....A Road Less Travelled*

## *Led by Dr. Mitchell Parker*

### **Sunday, March 20**

**Depart USA.** Transfer from Detroit, Michigan to Pearson International Airport, Toronto via a Luxury, air conditioned Motor Coach.

**3: 45 PM** Check in for your EL AL flight to Tel Aviv.

**6:45 PM** Depart Toronto, Pearson International Airport on EL AL #LY30.

### **Monday, March 21**

**"Welcome to Israel."**

**11:55 AM** Arrive Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport. Our representative will meet the group and assist you with luggage identification, then escort you through customs to your awaiting **guide**. Proceed to Tel Aviv and check into your hotel. Freshen up and take a short tour of Tel Aviv's classic neighborhood, **Neve Zedek**, a historic nineteenth century district, which is going through a fabulous renewal process. In the evening, drive to the Yemenite Quarter in Tel Aviv, to you enjoy an authentic Middle Eastern **Welcome Dinner** at the **Maganda Restaurant**. Following dinner there will be an **orientation session (Q&A)** led by your guide.

**Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv.**

**Meals: Dinner**

### **Tuesday, March 22**

**"Touring in and about Tel Aviv."** This morning head to the **Diaspora Museum (Beit Hatfutsot)** located on the campus of Tel Aviv University. Here you will be **met by a local guide** for a private tour. The Museum displays the entire history of the Jewish people outside of Israel which is visually and dramatically portrayed and described. Many multi-media systems are available to make your visit more enjoyable, including the Genealogy Center. Then visit the **Independence Hall** where Ben Gurion declared the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948. Sit in the very same room where our founding fathers sat on that historic day! On to view the **White City of Tel Aviv**, which is a synthesis of outstanding significance of the various trends of the Modern Movement in architecture and town planning in the early part of the 20th century. Continue to **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. Jaffa has much to offer in the way of art galleries, gift-shops and restaurants found tucked away amongst the winding, cobblestone streets. Return to your hotel.

**Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv.**

**Meals: Breakfast**



### Wednesday, March 23 (Eve of Purim)

Following breakfast, head for the **Ayalon Institute** ("the bullet factory") in Rechovot, a clandestine operation that manufactured armaments right under the noses of the British!

Then onto **Yad Lashiryon (Latrun)** to visit the Armored Corps Museum; an open-air exhibition of more than 200 tanks and other armored vehicles.

Return to Tel Aviv to enjoy a Guided 3 hour bicycle tour conducted on comfortable cycling trails along Tel Aviv's exciting beaches, the bohemian Neve Tzedek neighborhood, Tel Aviv "white City" and its boulevards, the Yarkon Park & more...

This evening, attend **Purim services and Megilla reading** at a synagogue near your hotel (*details to be advised closer*)

**Overnight: Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem.**

**Meals: Breakfast**

### Thursday, March 24 (Purim and eve of Shushan Purim)

**"From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."** Following breakfast, check out of your hotel. This morning for those who wish, attend **Purim services and Megilla reading** at a synagogue near your hotel (*details to be advised closer to the time*). Drive to Holon for the **Adeloyada**, the largest Purim **parade** in the country that takes place every year in the city and is the climax of communal and organizational activity throughout the year. Thousands of marchers participate in the parade, which has a different theme every year, consisting of schoolchildren, students in various classes at the city's community centers and sports and cultural centers; groups of gymnasts, acrobats and jugglers; dance troupes and musical ensembles; street theater groups, and, of course, the enormous colorful floats, which are the most exciting and impressive part of the event. **There is a possibility for guests from abroad to march in the Adeloyada** (*pending Holon municipality's confirmation*). Then onto the beautiful biblical landscape reserve of **Neot Kedumim** for a tour and to learn about biblical lifestyle and a unique opportunity of **planting a small tree sapling**, the symbol of life, with your own hands.

Continue to **Jerusalem**. Upon your first view of 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. Proceed to your hotel and check in.

Enjoy the evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem.**

**Meals: Breakfast**



### Friday, March 25

" **An introduction to Jerusalem.**" This morning for those who wish, attend **Purim services and Megilla reading** at a synagogue near your hotel (*details to be advised closer to the time*). Then onto 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 see the new discoveries from recent excavations. Also visit **King Hezekiah's water tunnel** engineered some 2,700 years ago (Please bring water shoes and a change of clothes as you will get wet). This afternoon head to the **Mahane Yehuda** open air market of Jerusalem to see how the locals do their shopping in preparation for the Shabbat. Take in the sites, smells and noises of the market. And don't forget to pick up some chocolate rugelach! This evening make your way to the **Old City to welcome the Shabbat at the Kotel (Western Wall)** and notice how people from all corners of the world gather together with one purpose in mind, to welcome the Shabbat Bride at the holiest place on earth for Judaism. Enjoy "**Shabbat of a Lifetime**" dinner with a local family.



**Overnight: Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem.**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Saturday, March 26

"**A walking tour of Jerusalem.**" *No driver or bus services provided today.* Accompanied by your **guide**, walk over to **Mishkenot Shananeem**, the first Jewish neighborhood outside of the Old City walls developed by Moshe Montefiore. Enjoy the special atmosphere of this lovely neighborhood. Return to your hotel for **lunch**. Take part in a **Kol HaOt** program for a fun interactive afternoon of hands on programs especially for Federation Missions. Return to your hotel.

**Overnight: Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem.**

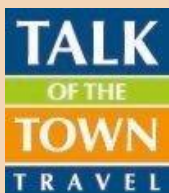
**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

### Sunday, March 27

" **The New City of Jerusalem.**" This morning for those who wish, attend **Purim services and Megilla reading** at a synagogue near your hotel (*details to be advised closer to the time*). Start the day with a visit to the Government Center and **Knesset**, Israel's parliament, to learn about the Israeli legislation process firsthand. This tour will be led by a **local guide (passports must be presented)**. Also catch a glimpse of the **Menorah** (Candelabra), symbol of Israel, portraying important events in Jewish history that stands proudly outside. Onto **Mount Herzl** Israel's "Arlington Cemetery", to pay homage to those who gave their lives defending Israel. Enter the Old City through the Zion Gate to take an in depth tour of the **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo**. Nearby are the ruins of the 19th century Ashkenazi Synagogue of **Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi** known as the **Hurva Synagogue**, destroyed by the Arab Legions during the war of 1948. Return to your hotel.

**Overnight: Dan Boutique Hotel Jerusalem.**

**Meals: Breakfast**



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### Monday, March 28 "Kings and Rebels in the Desert of Judah."

Early this morning after breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart Jerusalem and drive east via the caves of **Qumran** where the Essenes lived 2000 years ago and where the original Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Visit the ruins of this ancient desert village. Drive through the Judean Desert to the oasis of **Ein Gedi** for a **hike** through the cascading waterfalls, where you may even get to see wild animals roaming freely in the desert. Nearby enjoy some **R & R** at the **Ein Gedi Spa and Wellness Center** along the shores of the Dead Sea. The spa has hot pools that are filled with sulphur water. Also take a **dip in the Dead Sea** and let the buoyant waters support you as you relax on your back and think of nothing else but the sea and the salt all around you! This is something you will not be able to experience anywhere else in the world! If you want to smother yourself in mud, then please do so, and by the way, this is an excellent beauty treatment (not included). Arrive at the mountain-top fortress of **Masada** for an in-depth tour of the site. Ascend the cliff top fortress by cable car. From the top of Masada, the outlines of the Roman encampments are still visible below. Continue via the Negev and **Beer Sheva** to **Sde Boker** established in 1952 to visit the **grave** of **David Ben Gurion**. Continue to **Sfinat Hamidbar Bedouin encampment**. Upon arrival, you will have the opportunity of taking a **camel ride** through the desert to enjoy the scenery. Then local Bedouins will host you in the encampment for a traditional **Hafla Dinner**. Proceed to your hotel located on the edge of the Ramon Crater and check in.

**Overnight: Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon, Negev.**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



### Tuesday, March 29

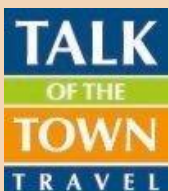
**"The Negev Desert."** After breakfast check out of your hotel. Meet one of the country's **experts** on deserts and explore one of the most amazing places on the Planet Earth. He will descend with you by jeep in to the heart of the **Ramon Crater** to study the botany, zoology, paleontology and geology of the region. Drive to **Gamal Mountain** for a hike along the Crater cliff to a hill with a unique hump form (that looks like a Camel) hence the name '**Camel Mountain**'. Continue to a **local winery** for a tour and wine tasting. Proceed on to the southern most town in Israel, **Eilat**. Check in to your hotel.

**Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat.**

**Meals: Breakfast**

### Wednesday, March 30

**"A one day tour to Petra."** **Very early** this morning, **your guide and driver** will meet you at the hotel and **transfer** you to the **Arava** border to cross over into **Jordan**. You will be assisted with passport control and border procedures. After crossing into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, your Jordanian guide and air conditioned vehicle will await you. Arrive at the **"Rose Red City" of Petra**, which is sometimes identified as the site of Sela, the biblical city mentioned in the book of Exodus. There is only one entrance to Petra, through a dramatic, narrow canyon.



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You can walk through, travel on horseback part of the way or use a horse-drawn carriage through the awesome “**Siq**”, an immense, winding, one kilometer long fissure between overhanging cliffs. At the end of the passage, as it makes a last turn, appears one of Petra’s most impressive monuments, **El Khazneh – The Treasury**, one of the most elegant remains of antiquity, carved out of the solid rock of the side of the mountain. Beyond El Khazneh, as you enter deeper into the city, you will be surrounded on both sides by hundreds of carved and built structures, soaring temples, elaborate royal tombs, a carved Roman theatre, banquet halls, water channels, public buildings and much more.



**Lunch** is included. Head south and return to the Arava border checkpoint and cross over into Israel. Our representative will await you on the Israeli side to transfer you to your hotel in Eilat.

**Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat.**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

### Thursday, March 31

**"A day at leisure in Eilat."** *You guide and touring bus are at your disposal today.* Today, is a day of leisure – any entrance fees and / or activities at own expense.

Enjoy the hotel and all that Eilat has to offer. Visit the town of **Eilat**, see the **Underwater Sea Observatory** and **Aquarium** and the **Oceanarium**. Shop or relax in the sun on the Red Sea. A range of **water sports** are available from a paddle-boat to scuba diving, underwater snorkeling, water-skiing and windsurfing. Sail on one of the **glass-bottomed boats** or take an exciting trip into the desert with special **desert vehicles**. Visit the **Dolphin Reef** where dolphins are cared for in an enclosure within the Red Sea. In the evening stroll along Eilat’s lively **promenade** or perhaps stop for a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants.

**Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat.**

**Meals: Breakfast**

### Friday, April 1

**"Hiking in Eilat."** This morning head to the Eilat Mountain range. One of the many natural wonders that surround Eilat is the **Red Canyon**. This is aptly named because of the red sandstone deposited for millions of years by annual floods. **Hike** through the winding canyon and see the many layers of deposits and notice the unusual fact that it is wider at the bottom than at the top. Continue to the Nature Reserve of **Timna**, which in ancient times was the source of copper. See the special systems implemented to extract and produce this metal. Then pass through the Visitors Center located next to the man-made lake "Lake Timna". Return to your hotel. (bid farewell to your guide, driver and touring vehicle).

Enjoy Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight – Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat.**

**Meals" Breakfast, Dinner**

## Saturday, April 2

"**See you soon.** . . ". Enjoy the day at leisure at your hotel or exploring Eilat on your own. Return to your hotel to freshen up.

After Shabbat, following **dinner**, check out of your hotel and transfer to the Eilat domestic airport for your flight to Tel Aviv to connect to your international flight to Toronto.

**9:50 PM** Check in for your EL AL flight to Toronto

## Saturday, April 2

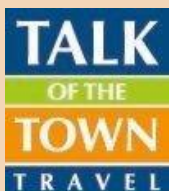
**12:50 AM** Depart Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport on EL AL #LY29

**6:15 AM** Arrive Toronto, Pearson International Airport.

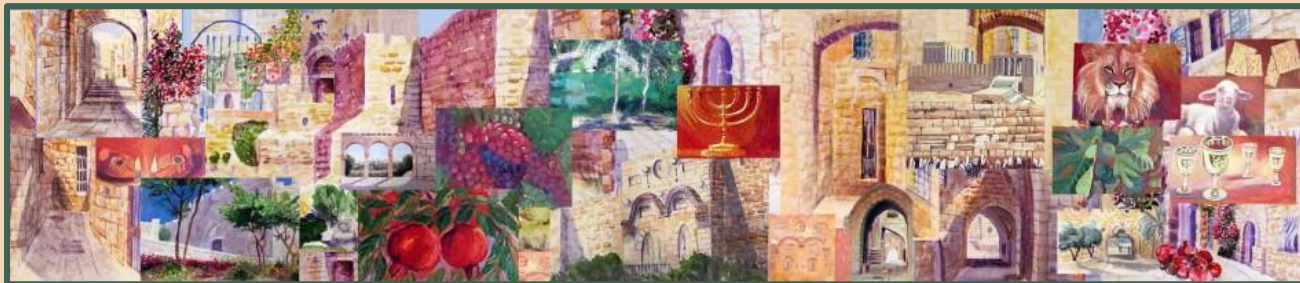
On arrival in Toronto, transfer to Detroit, Michigan via a Luxury, air conditioned Motor Coach.

*The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Tour Company and/or the Tour Leader.  
This program may be further tweaked as seen necessary.*

# SHALOM



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***Led by Dr. Mitchell Parker***  
***March 21 – April 2, 2016***

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$4,199.00  
 Single supplement: \$1,155.00

Price based on a minimum of 22 Participants

**ALL PRICES SHOWN ABOVE ARE PER PERSON IN US DOLLARS**

**Air Fare:** Via EL AL Israel Airlines (Ex Toronto): \$1,016.00  
 Tax, per person: Subject to change \$ 170.00

**AIR FARE QUOTED IS PER PERSON IN CANADIAN DOLLARS**

Ag. 10.15

**Your Tour includes:**

11 nights accommodation at the following hotels or similar:

March 22 – 24 (2 nights): Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv (deluxe sea view rooms)  
 March 24 – 28 (4 nights): Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem (Superior rooms)  
 March 28 – 29 (1 night): Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon (desert rooms)  
 March 29 – April 2 (4 nights): Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat (lagoon view rooms)

- One group meeting/assistance upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.
- Twelve days of touring with a professional English speaking tour guide.
- Twelve days services of a driver in a vehicle licensed/ insured for tourism.
- Entrance fees to the various parks and sites as per the itinerary.
- Local guide at the Diaspora Museum (Beit Hatfusot).
- Special jeep expedition in the Ramon Crater.
- Bottled mineral water on touring vehicle throughout.
- Porterage at hotels.
- Domestic flight tickets from Eilat to Tel Aviv.
- One group meeting/assistance upon departure in the Terminal at Ben Gurion Airport.
- All overmileage per the above program.
- All tour coordination services.
- Transfer from hotel in Eilat to Eilat domestic airport.
- Transfer from domestic airport to Ben Gurion Airport for departure flight.



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### **JORDANIAN PORTION:**

- Transfer from hotel in Eilat to the Arava border.
- Assistance at the Arava Border.
- Full day touring to Petra with an English speaking Jordanian guide and driver in an air conditioned vehicle.
- All entrance fees to sites, visited with Jordanian guide, as per itinerary.
- Israeli and Jordanian Border Tax.
- Guide as escort in Jordan
- Bottled Mineral Water on vehicle.
- Lunch in Petra.
- Transfer to the Arava Border.
- Transfer from the Arava Border to hotel in Eilat.

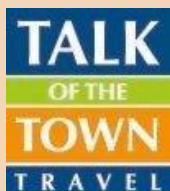
### **MEALS:**

- Israeli buffet breakfast daily
- Monday March 21: Welcome Dinner at Maganda Restaurant, Tel Aviv.
- Friday, March 25: "Shabbat of a Lifetime Dinner" with a local family, Jerusalem.
- Saturday, March 26: Shabbat lunch at Dan Boutique Hotel, Jerusalem
- Monday, March 28: Dinner at Sfinat Hamidbar, Negev.
- Wednesday, March 30: Lunch in Petra, Jordan.
- Friday, April 1: Shabbat dinner at the Dan Panorama, Eilat.
- Saturday, April 2: Farewell dinner at the Dan Panorama, Eilat.

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- International Airfare, quoted separately above in Canadian Dollars.
- Any expenses of a personal nature.
- Meals other than those indicated.
- Tips to the guide, driver and hotel personnel.
- Spa treatments.
- Beverages with meals.
- Early check in and late check out.
- Carriages in Petra.
- Activities in Eilat.
- Night outings.
- Overtime or over mileage beyond what has been allotted.
- Guests at meals other than the participants of the group.
- Insurance of any kind.

**MEDICAL AND/OR CANCELLATION INSURANCE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.  
PLEASE ASK FOR DETAILS.**



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### TERMS OF PAYMENT FOR THE LAND PORTION:

A non refundable deposit of US\$500 per person is required at time of booking.

Second Deposit: January 11th, 2016 - US\$500.

Final and full payment: February 11th, 2016

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

Written cancellation to be received by our office as per the dates outlined below:

1. Up to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – \$500.00 USD per person is Non Refundable
2. Between January 11<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – US\$1,000.00 per person is Non Refundable
3. Between February 11<sup>th</sup> and day of departure – 100% per person, Non Refundable.
4. Cancellation of various elements in the program less than 48 hours prior to the event may well result in a full cancellation charge.

ALL FUNDS ARE 100% NON REFUNDABLE.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMEND.

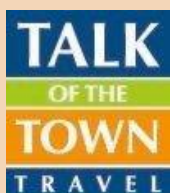
FOR BOTH CANCELLATION AND MEDICAL INSURANCE PLEASE ASK FOR DETAILS.

### NEW VAT TAX REGULATIONS

Please note that according to **the new Israeli tax laws** being strictly enforced by all hotels, guests holding **Israeli citizenship**, even those with **dual citizenship/passports** both for individual travelers and guests, part of a group or invited local guests **will be charged VAT tax**. We need to receive this information in advance in order to finalize your individual bill. Should we not receive this information in advance, you will be charged this extra amount retroactively. Should the Israeli government change the VAT tax law for tourists holding foreign citizenship, a VAT tax will apply to all touring services.

### PASSPORT / VISA INFORMATION:

All passports need to be valid for at least six months from the date of departure from the USA. Note that upon entering Israel, your passports are no longer stamped. Instead you will receive a formal stamped form with a visa valid for 3 months. Please keep this form as you will need it for hotel check in, car rental, bank affairs, entry to the Knesset, etc.



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