

Beth El Synagogue Israel Family Tour

July 9-20, 2023

(Meals Included: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

Sunday July 9

Depart from Newark for Israel on El Al #26 at 9:00 p.m.

Monday July 10

Land at Ben Gurion Airport at 2:25 p.m. Meet guide and drive to Tel Aviv. Opening ceremony in *Gan HaPisgah*, the park in Old Jaffa offering a wonderful panoramic view of Jaffa and the Tel Aviv coastline. Go on short walking tour in Old Jaffa. Drive to hotel and check in. Free time to swim in hotel pool or beach. Dinner in local restaurant. Overnight: Tel Aviv (D)

Tuesday July 11

After breakfast, drive to *Rehovot* to visit the Ayalon Institute, the pre-state underground bullet factory. Return to Tel Aviv to visit the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation, a fascinating experience focusing on Israel's challenges and how Israeli innovation is striving to deal with them. Continue to the arts & crafts fair on *Nachalat Binyamin* Street; free time and lunch on own at fair and in the Carmel Market. Visit the *Palmach* Museum, telling the story of the strike force of the *Haganah*, the major fighting force of the *Yishuv* (pre-state Jewish community in Palestine). Younger participants will visit the adjacent campus of the *Eretz* Museum for age-appropriate exhibitions and activities. Then, go into nearby *HaYarkon* Park for diverse, challenging individual and group activities at Sky Town Tel Aviv (<https://www.skytown.co.il/english>). Return to hotel for free time to swim in the sea or in the hotel pool. Free evening; dinner on own. Overnight: Tel Aviv (B)

Wednesday July 12

After breakfast, check out of hotel. Visit Caesarea National Park, including reconstructed Roman amphitheater, Herod's palace hippodrome and aqueduct. Drive to *Atlit* to tour the *Ma'apilim* Detention Camp set up by the British during the pre-state mandate period. Drive to Akko for lunch followed by tour of the Hospitaller Crusader fortress and the Templar Tunnel. Drive to west to Kibbutz *Malkiya* to meet with soldiers guarding the border with Lebanon (security conditions permitting). Check in to kibbutz hotel in north followed by dinner. Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel (B/L/D)

Thursday July 13

After breakfast, visit *Tel Dan* National Park, with archaeological remains dating back over 3,000 years and with springs whose water serves as one the main sources of the Jordan River. Continue to Mt *Bental*, overlooking the site of a crucial tank battle

in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Go on jeep tour in the Golan Heights. Lunch on own in area. Go on tour of Golan Heights Winery. Then, go kayaking on Jordan River. Drive to Safed, center of *Kabbalah* (Jewish mysticism). Visit fortress offering spectacular view of entire area. Then, tour synagogues followed by free time to visit galleries. Return to hotel for dinner. Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel (B/D)

Friday July 14

After breakfast, check out of hotel. Drive to the Germachin Center in *Beit She'an* to learn about Ethiopian Jewish culture and the situation of the Ethiopian community in Israel. Continue to Haas Promenade in Jerusalem for *Shehecheyanu* ceremony celebrating arrival to Jerusalem. Lunch on own at the *Tachana*, the First Train Station in Jerusalem, with several restaurants, cafes and fast food in the area. Check in to hotel. In late afternoon drive to Old City for *Kabbalat Shabbat* at *Ezrat Yisrael*, egalitarian section along the Western Wall. Then, return to hotel for Shabbat dinner. Overnight: Jerusalem (B/D)

Saturday July 15

Opportunity to worship at local congregation in Jerusalem. Then, go to Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of Conservative Judaism for Shabbat lunch. Return to hotel to rest and swim in pool. In late afternoon optional walking tour of Jerusalem neighborhood. Gather for *Havdalah*. Free evening; dinner on own. Overnight: Jerusalem (B/L)

Sunday July 16

After breakfast, drive to *Yad Vashem*, the National Holocaust Memorial and Museum. At *Yad Vashem*, the group will be divided into three tracks: *inei/bnot mitzvah*, 1st timers and those who have been to *Yad Vashem* before. From *Yad Vashem*, the group will walk up the path to Mt Herzl to pay respects at Herzl's tomb as well as at the graves of many of the state's leaders such as Golda Meir, Yitzchak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Lunch on own in *Machane Yehudah*, Jerusalem's open-air market. Drive to *Neot Kedumim*, Israel's Biblical Landscape Reserve, for special program and tree-planting. Return to Jerusalem. Dinner on own. Then, meet at Tower of David Museum for sound and light show. Overnight: Jerusalem (B)

Monday July 17

After breakfast, drive to Old City for bar/bat mitzvah ceremony at *Ezrat Yisrael* egalitarian prayer section along the Western Wall. After ceremony tour the *Kotel* Tunnels. Then, tour Davidson Archaeological Park, containing significant archaeological finds from the First and Second Temple, including the steps that pilgrims ascended to the Temple Mount. Lunch in restaurant in Jewish Quarter. Continue to City of David, where Jerusalem began 3,000 years ago, Opportunity to go on water hike in Hezekiah's Tunnel. After lunch, free time to shop. Then, participate in mitzvah project, preparing food packages for the needy. Return to hotel. Free evening and dinner on own. Overnight: Jerusalem (B/L)

Tuesday July 18

Depart Jerusalem early and drive down to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. Arrive at the base of Masada, site of Herod's winter palace and where the Zealots took their own lives rather than become Roman slaves. Ascend the mountain via cable car and then tour one of the most famous sites in Israel. Descend via cable car and drive south to hotel along Dead Sea for opportunity to float on the Dead Sea, swim in the hotel pool and enjoy lunch. On way back to Jerusalem stop at *Ein Gedi* National Park for short walk in desert oasis and where David fled from Saul. Continue to Genesis Land for camel ride and dinner. Overnight: Jerusalem (B/L/D)

Wednesday July 19

After breakfast, tour the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Free afternoon. Meet back at hotel for late check out. Then, gather to summarize trip. Festive, final group dinner in local restaurant. Transfer to airport for flight back to US (B/D)

Thursday July 20

Fly back to US on El Al #025 at 1:00 a.m. landing back in Newark at 5:45 a.m.