

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: August 27, 2018

**CONGREGATION OHEV SHALOM
TRIP TO ISRAEL
LED BY RABBI DAVID KAY
July 28-August 6, 2019**

Day One: Sunday, July 28, 2019

DEPARTURE

- Depart the USA.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, July 29, 2019

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Meet your tour educator, depart the airport and enter **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps,” with its centers of culture, recreation and national history, great beaches and fine stores.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Welcome dinner** and opening remarks with your **tour educator** and **Rabbi Kay** at **Maganda**, serving a varied menu of traditional salads and grilled meats in Tel Aviv’s Yemenite Quarter.

Overnight: Tel Aviv



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Day Three: Tuesday, July 30, 2019

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart the hotel for the **Old City of Jaffa**; ascend from the old port through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began and walk through the famous **Jaffa Flea Market – “Shuk Hapishpeshim.”**
- Explore the **Hagana Museum** on Rothschild Boulevard;
OR
- **A State Against the Odds:** Learn about the establishment of the State of Israel and consider whether David Ben-Gurion’s proclamation of a Jewish state based on equality and justice was a miracle, madness or both. Stand outside **Independence Hall** (the interior is currently being refurbished) before moving to their nearby temporary exhibition, and then discuss the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence, and sing, as they did on May 14, 1948, **Hatikva (The Hope)**, Israel’s national anthem.
- Lunch on own.
- **Start-Up Nation:** Delve into the world of renowned Israeli inventions and creations at the **State of Mind Innovation Center** and meet with an up-and-coming start-up entrepreneur.
- Stroll down the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly craft fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market.
- **Challenge, Question, Engage and Enlighten:** Visit **Bina**, the Secular Yeshiva, which represents the Secular Jewish Renaissance and Yahadut Hevratit (Jewish Social Activism) in Israel.
- Dinner on own and a **free evening** for an opportunity to:
 - Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard**, with its many cafés and bars.
 - Experience **Tel Aviv Port**, with its restaurants and clubs.
 - Explore the colorful **Neve Zedek** neighborhood.
 - Saunter down the Tel Aviv **Beach Promenade**.
 - Wander through the **Tachana**, Tel Aviv’s renovated old train station, now a center of boutiques and good food.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Four: Wednesday, July 31, 2019

A MOSAIC OF ISRAELI LIFE

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Depart Tel Aviv and drive along the coast to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel’s most important landmarks, built during the Roman Period. Explore the Herodian Theater and the excavations along the Mediterranean shore, concluding with the ruined 900-year-old Crusader town.
- Continue to **Kiryat Motzkin** and participate in a program with the sister community.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Proceed to the **Kishor Winery** overlooking the vineyards and the beautiful Galilean scenery, taste some wine and learn about the process of wine-making and about special inclusive community supported by the winery.
- Continue to the village of **Peki’in** in the Upper Galilee, home to Muslims, Christians, Druze and – until recently – the remnants of an ancient Jewish community. Tradition identifies a small local cave as the refuge of the 2nd-century Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, supposed author of the Zohar, the book of Jewish mysticism.
- Head north to the Upper Galilee and check into the kibbutz hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee



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Day Five: Thursday, August 1, 2019

NATURE & SECURITY IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River, and explore the ruins of the great biblical city of Dan;
OR
- Take a nature hike to the Suspended Trail above the spectacular canyon of the **Banias Stream**, at the foot of Mount Hermon.
- Take a **jeep tour** off-road up the **Golan Heights**, following the footsteps of Israeli soldiers and their battles in the Six-Day War.
- Watch the panoramic views from **Mt. Bental** (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) and gain sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights** and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Drive to **Tsfat**, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years and a contemporary artists' colony, including:
 - The **Ari, Caro or Abuhav Synagogues**, each with its great stories and mystical messages, including a text study with **Rabbi Kay**.
 - The quaint **Artists' Colony**, its craft shops, and galleries; meet with **Sheva Chaya**, an **artist** inspired by Kabbalistic messages.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

Day Six: Friday, August 2, 2019

ALL ROADS LEAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Drive to the **Hula Nature Reserve** and view Ophoria, a 3D interactive film about Israel's enormous bird migrations. Stroll the swamp trail for beautiful views of the fauna and flora, connecting birds, water and the Zionist endeavor;
OR
- Passing through **Tiberias** on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, continue to **Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu** for an interactive family tour of the Bio-Bee fields and facilities. Gain insight into a local, world leader tackling the challenge of environmental improvement using flies, bees, and owls and experience a real, working and ideological kibbutz.
- Continue south along the Jordan Valley Rift, stopping for lunch on own, en route.
- Get a close view of Jordan at **Kasser Al Yahud**, the narrow part of the Jordan River, and stand at the spot traditionally believed as the place of where the baptism of Jesus took place, and the place where the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River entering Israel.
- Upon entering Jerusalem stop atop of **Mount Scopus** for an overlook of the Old and New City of Jerusalem and to recite the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing.
- Check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services overlooking the Old City walls.
- **Festive Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with **lone soldiers**.

Overnight: Jerusalem



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Day Seven: Saturday, August 3, 2019

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- **Lunch at Fuchsberg Center.**
- Proceed to the Old City for a walk along its ancient **Ramparts.**
- Discover more pathways and passages in the Jewish Quarter and take a **Shabbat Walk** through unexpected paths to **Mt. Zion**, the Temple Mount overlook, and King David's Tomb.
- Explore the archaeological treasures and other highlights of the **Jewish Quarter**:
 - Ascend to the **rooftops** of the Old City for a behind-the-scenes look at the various communities in Jerusalem and how they live alongside each other.
 - Walk through the **Cardo** - the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th century, King Hezekiah's First Temple-period "**Broad Wall**" and **Hurva Square** - the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
- Walk through the Arab shuk (bazaar).
- Return to the hotel.
- *The Labyrinth of Israeli Politics*: Meet with **Prof. Reuven Hazan** of the Political Science Department at Hebrew University.
- *Ben Kodesh Lechol*: **Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- Free time in the **Mamilla pedestrian arcade**, a contemporary shopping area with a whiff of the past, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City; dinner on own.
- Watch the **Night Spectacular** at the **Tower of David Museum**: The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night-time show – a celebration of sight and sound depicting the story of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Eight: Sunday, August 4, 2019

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Descend to the **Dead Sea Basin.**
- Climb the Snake Path or take the cable car 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 defense and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Descend via the cable car.
- Lunch on own at the base of Masada.
- Experience the weightlessness of the **Dead Sea** as you float in its waters.
- Return to Jerusalem, stopping first to ride **camels** through the desert in biblical-style.
- Free time to explore **Downtown Jerusalem**, including the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall and the Nachalat Shiva neighborhood, with dinner on own.

Overnight: Jerusalem



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Day Nine: Monday, August 5, 2019

MEMORY NEAR AND FAR

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check out.
- Return to the Old City of Jerusalem and explore the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Temple Mount's Western Wall, exposed in recent years.

Option 1 (with a local guide)

- Visit **Yad Vashem**, the Jewish National Memorial of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including the **Avenue of the Righteous**, the **Historical Museum**, the **Children's Memorial**, and a concluding **Memorial Service**.

Option 2 (with your tour educator)

- Visit the **National Military Cemetery** on **Mt. Herzl** to recall landmark events in modern Israeli history in which soldiers gave their lives, and continue to the graves of Theodor Herzl, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres in the section for **Leaders of the Nation**.

All

- Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Machaneh Yehuda** open-air market, with lunch on own.
- Free time for last minute shopping and exploring.
- Festive **farewell dinner**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport to check in for the departure flight to the USA.

Overnight: flight

Day Ten: August 6, 2019

ARRIVAL HOME

- Arrive in the USA.



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