

# Congregation Beth Shalom's Special Hanukkah in the Land of Miracles Led by Rabbi Mark and Linda Zimmerman December 18–29, 2022

*“One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns.”*



## Tour Package Includes:

- Hotels: Crowne Plaza, Tel Aviv; Hod Hamidbar Hotel, Dead Sea; King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem; Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias
- All Breakfasts, 1 Shabbat Dinner, 4 Weekday dinners and lunches as per itinerary
- Touring with Rabbi and Linda and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled deluxe touring Motor Coach

## A Few Tour Highlights:

- Tour the amazing pre-state underground bullet factory at the Ayalon Institute
- Visit Old Jaffa, the ancient port, where today paintings and sculptures have been installed in its ancient alleys
- Shehekhianu-Welcome ceremony on top of ancient Tel Jaffa overlooking modern Tel Aviv
- Visit the new Israel Innovation Center located in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to learn how Israel became the Start Up Nation
- Explore the Nahalat Binyamin crafts fair. While there checkout the nearby Carmel Market
- Visit the Palmach Museum in Ramat Aviv to learn about the elite underground organization
- Participate in a hands on archaeological excavation with Dig for a Day in Beit Guvrin National Park
- Swim in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Ascend Masada by cable car for a B'nai Mitzvah ceremony
- Walk in Ein Gedi Nature Reserve opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul
- Discover the archaeological story of the Western Wall while standing where Jewish pilgrims walked 2,000 years ago
- Walk through the Western Wall Tunnels to discover underground Jerusalem and Tour of Jewish Quarter
- Light Shabbat and Hanukkah candles together before setting off for one of the following Friday/Shabbat evenings options: • I
- Tour of Yad Vashem Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the Holocaust History Museum
- Tasting tour of the bustling Machane Yehuda Market to discover Jerusalem's flavors from East and West.
- Plant a tree in Israel in honor or in memory of a loved one. Explore mystical Tzfat, cradle of Kabbalah
- Chocolate making workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory, then taste wines and liqueurs at the adjacent Bahat Winery
- Dinner with Israeli soldiers, who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel
- Tour the Old City of Acco: Visit the Underground Prisoners Museum in Acco Prison, featured in the film Exodus

## Trip Costs and Reductions

### Discounted price for check payment

Land Only Package – \$4385  
Air\* and Land Package \$5445  
Single Room Supplement – \$1460

### Full price for credit card payment

Land Only Package – \$4560  
Air\* and Land Package \$5662  
Single Room Supplement – \$1518

Reduction for 3<sup>rd</sup> in a room – \$650  
Adult

Reduction for 3<sup>rd</sup> in a room – \$550  
2 to 12 years old

Reduction for 3<sup>rd</sup> in a room – \$630  
Bar Mitzvah child

Reduction for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> child – \$150 per child  
Sharing room in a Quad

Added to the costs above are tips for Guide, Driver, Restaurants, and Porterage – \$220  
Tour price is based on minimum of 20 participants.  
Round trip air available through ITC Tours call Tami at 973-535-2575.  
\*Please call for competitive air prices.

View and download itinerary and application at [www.israeltour.com/rzimmerman22](http://www.israeltour.com/rzimmerman22)

For additional information please contact: Rabbi Zimmerman at 770-399-5300 or  
email Rabbi and Linda at [Linda@bethshalom.net](mailto:Linda@bethshalom.net)

Tour arranged by ITC Tours LLC – Tour manager [micky@israeltour.com](mailto:micky@israeltour.com) 800-247-7235

## Sunday, December 18

Depart U.S.A.

## Monday, December 19

### Going Up into the Land

- Morning arrival in **Israel** (*today's program depends on arrival time*).
- Climb down into the **Ayalon Institute**, amazing underground, pre-State bullet factory built by the Haganah under the noses of the British.
- Tour **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as Zion Gate through which Jonah tried to flee and where Solomon brought the Cedars of Lebanon on the way to Jerusalem. Today paintings and sculptures have been installed in its ancient alleys.
- **Shehekhianu**-Welcome ceremony on top of ancient **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Check in to the **Crowne Plaza Hotel on Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- Welcome dinner at **Goshen Restaurant** in Tel Aviv.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** together at restaurant.
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

## Tuesday, December 20

### Tel Aviv: A New City and a Nation Reborn

- Walking tour of historic "**Little Tel Aviv**" – Discover the quaint **Neve Tzedek** neighborhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years", once home to Zionist cultural pioneers Eliezer Ben Yehuda, S.Y. Agnon and Nachum Gutman.
- **ITC Touch**: Discover **City of Sand and Sea**, a mosaic fountain created by artist and writer Nachum Gutman portraying scenes from the history of Jaffa and Tel Aviv.
- Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv at the **Founders' Monument** then stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** to see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv's "**White City**" was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Visit the new **Israel Innovation Center** located in the **Tel Aviv Stock Exchange** to learn how Israel became the Start Up Nation.
- Lunch on your own and free time to explore the **Nahalat Binyamin** crafts fair. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** (great street food) and bohemian **Sheinkin Street**. All three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the "**Magen David**" junction.
- Visit the **Palmach Museum** in **Ramat Aviv** to learn about the elite underground organization which played a critical role in the founding of the State of Israel.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** at hotel together before setting out for a free evening.
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

## Wednesday, December 21

### Digging Up the Past & the Amazing Dead Sea

- Set out early to travel to the **Judean Lowlands**
- Dig up Israel's past by participating in a **hands on** archaeological excavation with **Dig for a Day** in **Beit Guvrin National Park**
- Lunch on own
- Travel to the **Dead Sea** region.
- Check-in to **Hod Hamidbar Hotel** at the **Dead Sea**.
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth. The hotel also has a fresh water pool.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** together at hotel.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Hod Hamidbar Hotel, Dead Sea

## Thursday, December 22

### Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Additional opportunity for an **early swim** in the **Dead Sea** before departure.

- Ascend **Masada** by cable car for a **B'nai Mitzvah** ceremony on top of Masada to connect a Jewish past with a Jewish future.
- Tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence. **Discussion: Which decision did our ancestors make? Masada or Yavne? What does that mean?**
- Lunch on own
- Walk in **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul.
- Check in to the **King Solomon Hotel** in Jerusalem.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** at hotel together before setting out for a free evening.
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

## Friday, December 23

### The Old City of Jerusalem: An Ancient Jewish Legacy

- Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes from rabbinic texts while standing where Jewish pilgrims walked 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
  - Visit the traditional prayer area of the **Western Wall**.
  - Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
  - Lunch on own in the **Jewish Quarter**
  - Tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Herodian Mansions, Broad Wall, Rooftops** and **Cardo** followed by free time to shop and explore on own.
  - Free time to relax and get ready for Shabbat.
- Friday/Shabbat evenings options:**
- **Light Shabbat and Hanukkah candles** together before setting off for one of the following **Friday/Shabbat evenings options:**
  - Join hundreds of other Jews from around the world to **Greet the Sabbath** at the **Western Wall**. Option to pray together as a congregation at the "**Masorati Kotel**", where men and women can stand together.
  - **OR:** Attend **Friday night services** at a local Jerusalem synagogue.
  - **Festive Shabbat dinner** at hotel.
  - Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

## Shabbat/Saturday, December 24

### And on the Seventh Day...in Jerusalem

- **Shabbat morning services** – TBD with Rabbi Zimmerman.
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at hotel.
- Walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City. Then continue to **Ketef Hinnom**, a First Temple period burial site where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found.
- **Havdalah and Hanukkah candle lighting** with Rabbi Zimmerman
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- **Recommendation for the evening:** Visit the **First Station Compound**, Jerusalem's restored Ottoman railway station turned restaurant – cafe area.
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

## Sunday, December 25

### Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity

- Tour of **Yad Vashem** – Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Holocaust History Museum** and **Children's Memorial**. (Children under age 10 are not permitted in Yad Vashem's historical museum).
- **Alternate program for younger children:** Visit Jerusalem's **Biblical Zoo**, where you'll see animals which lived in Israel during biblical times. (Children must be accompanied by an adult. Zoo visit not included in the tour price).
- Lunch on own
- Multimedia tour of the **Herzl Museum** to discover the story of Zionism's founding father, followed by a meaningful visit to **Mt.**

**Herzl Cemetery** to discover chapters in the history of Israel while visiting the graves of Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl and Hannah Senesch.

- Tasting tour of the bustling **Machane Yehuda Market** to discover Jerusalem's flavors from East and West.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** at hotel together before setting out for a free evening.
- Free evening. Dinner on own, if still hungry.
- Overnight: King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem

## Monday, December 26

### Encountering the Graeco-Roman World

- Check out of King Solomon Hotel.
- **Option:** Early **Bar Mitzvah** ceremony at the egalitarian **Masorti Kotel** near Robinson's Arch.
- Travel to northern Israel through **Jordan Valley**.
- See the **ancient synagogue of Beit Alfa** and ponder why its 1,500 year old mosaic floor features a wheel of the Zodiac.
- Lunch on own in modern town of **Beit Shean**.
- Tour the stunning, extensive **Roman ruins of Beit Shean**, once a splendid city of the Decapolis and formerly an important city in biblical Israel.
- Check in to the **Leonardo Plaza Hotel** in **Tiberias**.
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias

## Tuesday, December 27

### Ancient and Modern Geopolitics & Israel's Finest

- **Plant a tree** in Israel in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- Explore mystical **Tzfat**, cradle of **Kabbalah** (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Tour its old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Then discover the origins of our Friday night service in the city where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Lunch on own.
- Jeep tour in the **Golan Heights** for a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we "look down at Israel" the way the Syrian army once did. Then look out at the border from strategic **Mt. Bentul**.
- Chocolate making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory**.
- Then taste wines and liqueurs at the adjacent **Bahat Winery**.
- **Dinner** with young **Israeli soldiers**, who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel – **Meet the human face of the Israeli army**.
- Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias

## Wednesday, December 28

### Along the Mediterranean Coast

- Travel to **Rosh Hanikra** in the northwest corner of Israel.
- Descend by cable car to explore the **Grottos of Rosh Hanikra** – Beautiful sea caves formed by the forces of wind and water.
- Tour the **Old City of Acco**: Visit the **Underground Prisoners Museum** in **Acco Prison**, where the British held and even executed Jewish underground fighters. A daring escape from this prison is featured in the film **Exodus**. Then venture beneath the streets of Old Acco to explore the **Crusader Knights Halls** and emerge in the marketplaces of this charming Mediterranean city.
- Lunch on own
- Look out from the top of the **Bahai Gardens** on **Mt. Carmel** in **Haifa**.
- Travel to Tel Aviv
- Time permitting to explore on own and get in last minute shopping.
- **Farewell dinner** TBA
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**
- Eilat extension people will overnight at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

## Thursday, December 29

Return to U.S.A.