



Sunday, July 31, 2022

# **NSCI Multigenerational Israel Trip**

Led by Rabbi Wendi Gefen

**March 23-April 2, 2023**

## The **J<sup>2</sup>** way

J<sup>2</sup> crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**

Educational trips, curated expeditions & missions.

**NYC | TLV | PRG | J2ADVENTURES.COM**



# Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

## **01: THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | ON THE WAY | FLIGHT**

- ◇ Depart the USA.

## **02: FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY | TLV**

- ◇ Group arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- ◇ Meet your tour educator who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- ◇ Group transfer to **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ◇ **Welcome to Israel:** Stop at the **Jaffa Overlook** for an introduction to Tel Aviv and to our journey in Israel.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ **Shabbat candle-lighting** at the hotel.
- ◇ **Kabbalat Shabbat** on the beach.
- ◇ **Blessings, Challah, and Friends:** Friday night is the traditional highlight of the Jewish week and the Jewish stomach. Enjoy a **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.



### 03: SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | **A CITY TO EXPLORE** | TLV

- ◇ Breakfast at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet.
- ◇ **Arming for Independence:** Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot and uncover its role in the establishment of the state of Israel. This secret ammunition factory produced millions of bullets for Jewish forces fighting for a Jewish state and the end of British rule over Palestine.
- ◇ **From Hebrew City to Hebrew State:** Walk along the newly-opened **Independence Trail** and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.
- ◇ **Three Stars in the Israeli Sky:** At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah** ceremony.
- ◇ **The City at Night:** Tel Aviv's food scene is on fire with world-class chefs and a huge range of happening restaurants. See and taste for yourself during a free evening with dinner (*on own account*). Afterwards, those who love the nightlife can sample the city's bar, club and café culture or stroll along the refurbished promenade and port.

### 04: SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | **COMMUNITIES PAST AND PRESENT** | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ Check out of the hotel and depart north.
- ◇ **Pioneers and Martyrs:** Encounter the successes, struggles, and sacrifices of the Zionist pioneers during a tour of **Zichron Ya'acov**, one of the first settlements created by the modern Zionist movement. Here, we'll: Learn about the Nili spy ring, the first underground Zionist movement, and their tragic fate outside Aaronsohn House – the Nili Museum and experience the changing face of Zionism as we walk through the cobblestoned boulevards of Zichron Ya'acov and explore how a place that was initially a malaria and poverty-stricken village is today a picturesque center of wineries, eateries, and art.
- ◇ Visit **Kfar Kedem** in the Galilee for a hands-on family experience, exploring Jewish life of 2,000 years ago, including donkey rides, costumes, pita baking and more.
- ◇ **A Taste of the Galilee:** We'll be welcomed into the home of an Israeli Arab family to hear about their lives and to enjoy a mini-workshop on the culinary traditions of the Galilee. Our GalilEat host family will prepare some delicious local delicacies and provide expert advice as we whip up a classic local dish for **dinner**.
- ◇ Drive to the kibbutz and check into the hotel.



## 05: MONDAY, MARCH 27 | **NATURE AND SECURITY** | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ Paradise Springs is one of the places we'll visit at the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**. We'll tour the remains of a 5,000-year-old city and find out why water is like gold in the parched Middle East.
- ◇ Go off-road for a **jeep tour** of the Golan Heights that will combine natural beauty with insights into one of Israel's most strategically important areas. Retrace the experiences of Israeli soldiers in their battles here during the Six Day War of 1967 and talk with your jeep drivers about their personal experiences and feelings about the Golan.
- ◇ Visit a village on the **Golan Heights** for a glimpse into the lives of Israel's Druze community. We'll learn about the background and beliefs of this minority group as we look at their complex but close relationship with the State of Israel.

### OPTION 1:

- ◇ The Golan Heights is also wine country. Sample some of its best during a tour of the boutique **Pelter Winery**. We're doing the driving so treat yourself to some Israeli gin to go with the grapes. L'chaim and cheers!

### OPTION 2:

- ◇ **Comfort You Can Eat:** Enjoy the culinary delights of a chocolate workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate** Factory on Kibbutz Ein Zivan. Chocolatier Karina Chepelinski continues her family's tradition of creating handmade premium chocolate. During this tour and workshop, taste various chocolates and learn what makes it so delicious. Then, experiment with quality ingredients to create your own chocolate masterpiece.

### ALL:

- ◇ Return to the hotel for **dinner**.



## 06: TUESDAY, MARCH 28 | SPIRITUALITY AND MORE | JLM

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, and maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city; entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:
  - Visit the **Ari Synagogue** and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In **Tsfat** they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
  - See the **Caro Synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari Synagogue, in the 16th century. It is where Rabbi Joseph Caro, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a maggid, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
- ◇ Drive through Tiberias on the shores of the **Sea of Galilee**. Visit Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, numbered among the four Jewish holy cities in the land because of its connection with the codification of the Talmud some 1,600 years ago.
- ◇ As we drive south through the **Jordan Valley**, we'll discuss the strategic and political situation in this area and consider how Israeli control over it is viewed by some as vital to national security but by others as an impediment to any future agreement with the Palestinians.
- ◇ **A First Look at the Holy City:** Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of Jerusalem. We'll stop at a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "shehechyanu" blessing of thanksgiving.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.



## 07: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 | THE DEAD SEA BASIN | JLM

- ◇ Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before setting out to explore the Dead Sea region.
- ◇ **As Low as It Goes:** We'll drive to the **Dead Sea Basin**, 1,412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape, and the views are breathtaking.
- ◇ **The Last Stand:** Climb via the Snake Path OR take the cable car to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- ◇ **The Sea of Salt:** Float into happiness at the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live or swim in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- ◇ (*Time permitting*) Hike in **Nahal David**, part of the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. This is a desert oasis with springs, waterfalls, and freshwater pools, so don't forget your swimsuits.
- ◇ **How Fast Can This Thing Go?** The patriarch Abraham will welcome us to **Genesis Land** for a taste of life and travel in biblical times as we take a camel for a test drive and ride into the heart of the desert. Afterward, see how you would have managed living in the wilderness during the time of the patriarchs and matriarchs with some fun, family-friendly activities, We'll kick back in a spacious, cool desert tent and enjoy a traditional **"hafla" dinner**.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.



## 08: THURSDAY, MARCH 30 | PASSAGES IN TIME | JLM

- ◇ Depart the hotel and head to the Old City for a group celebration.
- ◇ **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony** at Azarat Yisrael (the Egalitarian Kotel). **Mazal tov!**
- ◇ Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's **Old City** and the Jewish Quarter and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be
  - **The Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
  - **King Hezekiah's "Broad Wall,"** a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
  - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
  - No visit to Israel is complete without experiencing the **Kotel (Western Wall)**, widely considered Judaism's holiest site. Each year, over one million notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the wall. We'll discuss the wall's historical and contemporary importance and experience its unique atmosphere.
  - **Become Your Favorite Biblical Character!** Live the Bible's authentic costumes and amazing backgrounds provide a fun photo opportunity for you to dress up like Moses, Ruth, or a Temple Priest.
- ◇ Depart Jerusalem and drive towards **Beit Guvrin**.
- ◇ **Diggin' for Roots:** We'll literally get in touch with the land and history of Israel during an archaeological dig at the **Beit Guvrin Caves**. Get your hands dirty uncovering pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2300 years ago before crawling through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth. The non-crawlers among us will visit a more spacious part of the cave complex in this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.



## 09: FRIDAY, MARCH 31 | MEMORY AND RENEWAL | JLM

ADULTS & YOUTH (*age 12 and up*):

- ◇ Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
  - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
  - The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
  - The **Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.

YOUNGER YOUTH:

- ◇ **Two by Two the Animals Went into the Ark: The Biblical Zoo** is one of Jerusalem's loveliest places. It has a great collection of animals with a special focus on creatures mentioned in the Bible. It includes 62 acres of open areas where the animals live, a zoo train if you don't feel like walking, a petting pool and plenty of other activities to keep all ages enthralled.  
OR
- ◇ **But Jerusalem Has No Ocean!** Jerusalem may be one of the few great cities without access to the sea but it does have the recently-opened **Israel Aquarium**. Highlights include the shark tank, feeding the stingray, and an exhibition showcasing the marine life of Israel's "four seas."

ALL:

- ◇ Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market.
- ◇ **The City of Shabbat:** Join Jerusalem in welcoming the Sabbath, the high point of the Jewish week, with **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at the old train station.
- ◇ **Festive Shabbat dinner** at the hotel with **Lone Soldiers** – young men and women who have come to Israel without their families to serve in the IDF – and hear about their experiences.



## 10: SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | **SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM** | FLIGHT

- ◇ Guided walk through the streets of Jerusalem, using the writings of Jerusalem's poets and authors, such as **Yehuda Amichai, S.Y. Agnon, and others**.
- ◇ **One Mountain, Three Religions:** An inter-denominational exploration of **Mount Zion**, the traditional burial site of King David, the Room of the Last Supper, and a mosque – all sharing a single building.
- ◇ Explore the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its eclectic collection, ranging from archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls to Jewish life and art, European art, contemporary Israeli art, and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.
- ◇ Late check out from the hotel, followed by **farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.
- ◇ **Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah** overlooking the Old City.
- ◇ Group transfer to Ben Gurion Airport and check in for your departure flight.

## 11: SUNDAY, APRIL 2 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN**

- ◇ Return to the USA.



# Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Mar. 24-26	2	Dan Panorama	Tel Aviv	Tel Aviv
Mar. 26-28	2	Hagoshrim	Classic	Upper Galilee
Mar. 28- Apr. 1	4+LCO	Dan Panorama	Jerusalem	Jerusalem
# OF PARTICIPANTS	20+		3 <sup>rd</sup> child reduction	Single Supplement
		\$4,830	-\$725	+\$1,320



# What to **Expect**

## **Included:**

- ◇ 8 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ Late check out on the day of departure is included.
- ◇ 9 days of touring with a tour educator (guide) in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 Group arrival transfer & assistance at the airport.
- ◇ 1 Group departure transfer & assistance at the airport.
- ◇ Daily breakfast & 6 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.

## **Excluded:**

- ◇ **Credit card fees.**
- ◇ Flights to & from Israel.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- ◇ Gratuities: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 30/40 participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Driver: \$6 per day per person.



## Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

**Rates:** Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 20/30 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.

**Currency:** Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

**Payment policy:** The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J<sup>2</sup> Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

**Cancellation policy:** All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J<sup>2</sup> travel program.
- If your J<sup>2</sup> travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

**Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:**

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.
- The cost of the PEACE OF MIND TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (POM), for trips only to Israel, if this was purchased.
- Group airfare penalty fee.



**Travel insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.