



# THE TEMPLE FAMILY ISRAEL TRIP

## 11 – 23, June 2019

(Draft March 2, 2018; Subject to change)

**Exact day's itinerary and timing for site visits will vary based on bus assignment**

**Tuesday, 11 June – Depart Atlanta**

**Wednesday, 12 June – *Shehecheyanu!***

- **Afternoon** Group arrival in Israel to be met and assisted at Ben Gurion Airport by your ITC representative
- Hotel check-in
- **Group “Meet and Greet” session** at the hotel
- **Welcome dinner** and *Shehecheyanu* at Dan Panorama Hotel Pool Area

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv**

**Thursday, 13 June – *From Rebirth to Start Up Nation***

- Climb down into the amazing underground, pre-State bullet factory built by the Haganah under the noses of the British at the **Ayalon Institute**
- Visit **Independence Hall**, relive Ben Gurion's moving declaration of the State; discuss whether it seems that the vision of Israel's founding fathers – articulated in the Scroll of Independence – has come to fruition, followed by lunch on your own and free time in Tel Aviv
- Explore the new **Sarona Gourmet Food Market** with time to enjoy lunch at one of the specialty restaurants stalls or create your own picnic and enjoy the grounds
- Visit the **Taglit Center for Israel's Innovation**, with a guided interactive exhibition tour of the “Start-Up Nation” and see why Tel-Aviv was rated the 2<sup>nd</sup> most innovative ecosystem in the world after Silicon Valley.
- Late afternoon free to enjoy at the beach or walking the streets of Tel Aviv
- Dinner on own, with suggestions provided for the many exciting areas to explore in and around **Tel Aviv and Jaffa Port**

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv**

### Friday, 14 June – *Where It All Began*

- Enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** at a beautiful overlook and pronounce the *shehecheyanu* blessing with a short ceremony
- Go way back in time to King David's Jerusalem in **David's City**
- See the 3-D presentation and enjoy sloshing through **Hezekiah's water tunnel** (strap-on water shoes and flashlights needed)
- Lunch on one's own in the Old City with a little time to **shop in the Cardo**
- Enjoy your first visit to **The Kotel**, to visit and reflect.
- Return to the hotel to relax and prepare for **Shabbat Services with all three Temple trips** at Hebrew Union College
- **Enjoy Shabbat dinner** with the Temple groups at the hotel

**GRANDPARENTS: Visit Palmach Museum, Ammunition Hill, Kotel**

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

### Shabbat, 15 June – *Shabbat in Jerusalem & Simcha*

- **Morning electives** with lunch (on one's own) in each locale
  - **Walking** tour of the **Christian Quarter of the Old City**, including time for a lunch stop (on one's own)
  - Visit to the **Israel Museum** (by bus), including the Shrine of the Book; Model of Ancient Jerusalem; art, archeology, and Judaica exhibits; sculpture garden; children's wing - and followed by lunch at the Museum cafeteria (on one's own)
- **Afternoon to rest** at the hotel and pool  
(**B'nei Mitzvah kids only meet with clergy to rehearse at Beit Shmuel**)
- **3:00 pm** All B'nei Mitzvah students meet Temple clergy in the lobby (showered and dressed) for the rehearsal
- Take part in a **moving Bar/Bat Mitzvah service** on the **Blaustein Hall** balcony of Beit Shmuel, overlooking the Old City followed by **Havdalah and a Festive Bar/Bat Mitzvah dinner** with DJ and dancing at Beit Shmuel

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

### Sunday, 16 June – *Digging Down Through Time*

- **Visit with guest speaker (To Be Announced)** in private room for Adults only, *subject to availability*
- Morning tour of the **Kotel Tunnels**, walk alongside the Kotel's massive foundation stones below the surface
- Quick stop for delicious Israeli boxed **picnic lunch** in the Jerusalem hills
- At the **"Dig for a Day"** program at **Beit Guvrin**, have a hands-on experience of archeology as you uncover actual artifacts while taking part in an ongoing archeological dig; "cave crawl" also available for the adventurous
- **Free Evening for adults**
- **Evening program and dinner** for children: chaperoned by Temple staff

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

### **Monday, 17 June – Jerusalem Old and New**

- **Special Shacharit** service at the Egalitarian section of The Kotel
- Take part in an enjoyable, **family-friendly “scavenger hunt”** program as you explore the Nahlaot neighborhood and bustling Machane Yehuda open-air market of Jerusalem
- Time for lunch in the market (on one’s own)
- Morning visit to **Yad L’kashish - Lifeline for the Old**, a moving crafts workshop that employs Jerusalem elderly. Enjoy shopping for unique hand-crafted Judaica items in their store
- Afternoon visit to the **Tower of David**, and onto explore the ancient **ramparts walk** above the walls of the Old City
- Dinner on your own in Jerusalem
- Attend **The Night Spectacular**, the new sound and light show at the **Tower of David Museum**

**GRANDPARENTS: Egalitarian service, Yad L’Kashish, Herzl Museum and cemetery**

**Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem**

### **Tuesday, 18 June – Never Forget!**

- Visit the state-of the art Memorial Museum, Children’s Memorial, and Valley of the Communities at **Yad Vashem**
  - *Alternative for younger children:* At the **Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**, enjoy meeting the animals that roamed this land during Bible times
- Lunch **on your own** at the Yad Vashem cafeteria
- Afternoon departure for the Dead Sea Region, the lowest place on earth
- Enjoy a walk through **Nahal David** to the waterfall in the beautiful **Ein Gedi** Nature Reserve; review the biblical story of kings David and Saul “on site”
- Hotel check-in
- Dinner at the hotel with **B’nai Mitzvah Blessing**

**Overnight: Isrotel, Dead Sea**

### **Wednesday, 19 June - Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?**

- Early morning departure for **Masada**. Hike up the Snake Path or ascend Masada by cable car to tour this magnificent excavation; tour the site and discuss the harrowing dilemma faced by its Jewish population during Roman times
- Take a **camel trek** through the desert and enjoy a traditional lunch in a **Bedouin tent at Kfar Hanokdim**
- Free time to float in the **Dead Sea** and enjoy the hotel spa and pool
- **Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight: Isrotel, Dead Sea**

### **Thursday, 20 June – Northern Exposure**

- **Morning departure for the North**
- Your group will visit one of 3 different sites with lunch stop (lunch on one's own)
  - Visit the **Germachin Center** in Beit Shean to learn about Ethiopian Jewish Culture and hear the community's modern day Exodus story
  - Visit Bio-Bee at **Kibbutz Sde Eliahu** a world leader in organic agriculture and biological pest control
  - Visit the ancient synagogue of **Beit Alfa** and ponder why a wheel of the Zodiac appears on its mosaic floor. Then continue to see the stunning Roman ruins at **Beit Shean National Park**.
- Travel back to the time as your group participates in one of 3 different hands on experiences of the land in ancient times at **Kfar Kedem** with:
  - **Wheat to Bread Experience** (learn how they harvested wheat and made it into bread)
  - **Olive Press** (learn how they took olives and made them into oil for lamps, food and cosmetics)
  - **Grapes to Wine** (learn how early settlers cultivated vineyards and crafted wine)
- Proceed to the Galilee Region and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Kinneret followed by a **festive lakeshore dinner at Decks**

**Overnight: Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

### **Friday, 21 June – Wonders of the North**

- Explore the North and Golan Heights through morning electives - each with a lunch stop (on one's own)
  - **Jeep tour of the Golan Heights** exploring the majestic and strategic area
  - Visit the **ancient city of Tzfat**, a center of Jewish spirituality and home to the Kabbalah Movement visit its synagogues, courtyards, and artists galleries
  - **Raft on the Jordan river with zipline** into the water
- **Free afternoon**
- **Shabbat services and dinner** at the kibbutz
- Adult debrief/program
- Children – talent show with Elizabeth Foster

**GRANDPARENTS: Tzfat Tour**

**Overnight: Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

### **Shabbat, 22 June – Shabbat Shalom!**

- **Morning choice of:**
  - Enjoy **kayaking** on the Jordan River at **Kfar Blum**
  - **Take a river walk/water hike (ages 12 and up) at Hazbani Or Snir**
- Lunch (on one's own)
- Return to the hotel to rest, pack
- **Farewell dinner** in the breathtaking port of **Caesarea** – explore the **ancient ruins of Caesarea** if time allows
- **Depart for Ben Gurion for late night group flight**