

Conversations and Connections: The Temple's Israel Adult Experience

Itinerary

June 5 – 16, 2019

(Draft: **Feb 28, 2018**; Subject to change)

Guide: Marion Forster-Bleiberg
Hostess in Jerusalem: Cheryl Meskin

Wednesday, 5 June – Depart Atlanta

Thursday, 6 June – *Going up into the Land*

- Arrive in Israel to be met and assisted by your ITC representative and transfer with guide
- (if group flight is an early arrival) 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 2nd most innovative ecosystem in the world after Silicon Valley
- ***Shehecheyanu***
- Proceed to check-in at the David Intercontinental Hotel on Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast
- **Welcome dinner** and orientation at **Goshen Restaurant**

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, 7 June – *Searching for Peace*

- Guided tour of the **Ayalon Institute in Rehovot** – an underground bullet factory used by Jewish forces before the founding of the State of Israel
- 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
- Lunch on own in **Old Jaffa**
- **Visit with Ihab Balha**, director of the Educational Kindergarten Program at **The Orchard of Abraham's Children** to hear the emotional story of a Jewish & Moslem couple who in 2011 established a preschool for the sake of reconciliation and mediation between the children of Abraham.
- Free time to explore **Nachalat Benyamin Craft Fair & Carmel Market** or **Neve Tzedek**
- **Kabbalat Shabbat on the on the beach**
- **Dinner at Kitchen Market**, a special "chef's restaurant" in Tel Aviv Port

Overnight: David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, 8 June –*EREV SHAVUOT- Street and Desert Art*

- **Graffiti Tour** with artist Ilyll Sne- walk the streets of the Southern Florentin section of Tel Aviv and learn about this creative voice of the people
- 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 (lunch on own)
- Travel south to the **Negev Highlands**
- Lookout over the stunning landscape of **Makhtesh Ramon – The Ramon Crater**
Learn about the natural history of the region at the multimedia **Visitor's Center** dedicated to fallen Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon
- **Makhtesh Ramon electives:**
 - ✧ **Rappell** down the crater's cliffs
 - ✧ Explore the crater by **jeep** to discover magnificent desert landscapes and a fascinating window into the earth's past
- Check-in to the Beresheet Hotel in Mitzpe Ramon
- Dinner at the hotel
- **Havdalah** under the stars
- **Evening study session/program** in private room

Overnight: Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Sunday, 9 June – *SHAVUOT - Southern Exposure*

- **Early morning Hike** in the white canyon of the **Zin Valley** to the beautiful **Ein Avdat** springs. En route study a mind and body text
- *(subject to availability)* **Shavuot procession and share a festive lunch – Chag Habikurim on Kibbutz Sde Boker**
- Afternoon free to enjoy the hotel's **spa and recreational facilities**
- Dinner at the hotel
- **Stargazing with local astronomer** – Get away from the earthly lights and see more stars than you ever have deep in the desert crater

Overnight: Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Monday, 10 June – *Vision and Development in the Negev*

- Stop and pay tribute at the **graves of Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion** and his wife Paula (Pola)
- Visit **Ben-Gurion's hut**, the Ben Gurion retirement home from the years 1953 until 1973. The "hut", was preserved exactly as it was left by Ben-Gurion and now serves as a museum
- Drive to the Negev development town of **Yerucham**, with short introduction on the early development town that inspired the movie "at The End of The World Turn Left"
- Lunch with the **Kitchen Queens of Yerucham** - a special and local gastronomic experience
- Travel to Dead Sea region
- Check-in to Isrotel Dead Sea Hotel
- Enjoy a late afternoon swim in the **Dead Sea** and other resort facilities
- Dinner at hotel
- **Evening program with Dead Sea /Arava Science Center speaker** on the critical environmental concerns regarding the erosion of the Dead Sea

Overnight: Isrotel Dead Sea Hotel

Tuesday, 11 June – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Set out early to climb or ascend by cable car (your choice) up **Masada** for a unique tour of the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence, including the lower tiers of northern palace
- Return to hotel for late check out
- Lunch (on own) en route to **Jerusalem**
- **Shehechyanu** together at the Western Wall
- Check-in to David Citadel Hotel.
- Time to enjoy dinner on own, suggestions to be provided
- **Special Evening Music Program** (*subject to confirmation*) **OR** enjoy a guided tour of the new **Hebrew Music Museum** in downtown **Jerusalem's Nachalat Shiva** neighborhood to learn about the history of Jewish music from biblical times and through seven different regions of the Diaspora
- Listen to open air musical performances in **Music Square** (Kikar Hamusica) next to museum

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 12 June – Taking Care of Her People

- Visit **Yad Lakashish**- a unique employment project helping Jerusalem's elderly, including a stop in its shop "*where shopping is a mitzvah!*"
- Tour of **IDF base** (*subject to confirmation*)
- Lunch on own
- **Special culinary experience with Tali Friedman**, well-known Jerusalem chef who studied and attended programs at the kitchens of master chefs, and graduated from the elite LeNotre – start with a culinary tour in the raucous **Machane Yehuda Market** where you will hear stories, select and buy fresh produce, and finally cook a splendid meal together in Tali's charming atelier

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, 13 June – We Remember Them

- Visit the state-of-the-art Memorial Museum, Children's Memorial, and Valley of the Communities at **Yad Vashem**
Possible alternate visit here for repeat travelers: Herzl Museum, no additional cost
- Lunch on own at Yad Vashem cafeteria
- **Visit Ammunition Hill, The Six Day War Heritage Museum with Director Alon Wald**, the son of Rami Wald, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) captain and a war hero who fell on the first day of fighting
- **Winery visit at Domaine du Castel** is a family owned boutique winery in the the Judaen Mountains surrounding the city of Jerusalem
- **Free evening**

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, 14 June – *Where It All Began*

- Guest speaker after breakfast in a private room
- **Arrive** and explore the **City of David** using the Bible and archaeology to make Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the city's ancient past; Wade through **Hezekiah's Tunnel**
- **Warren's Shaft entrance** a still flowing ancient water system that saved the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago (dry option available)
- Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter
- Time to reflect at the Kotel
- Remainder of afternoon free to relax and get in last minute shopping
- Join other Temple groups for **Shabbat evening services** at **Hebrew Union College**
- A **traditional Friday night dinner** at David Citadel main dining room

Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, 15 June – *A City of Four Peoples*

- Walking tour of the **Christian Quarter** in the **Old City**, including **The Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and a segment of the **Via Dolorosa**. Farewell visit to **Western Wall**
- Lunch on own
- Return to hotel to pack
- **OPTIONAL - B'nai Mitzvah Service at HUC** Remainder of afternoon free to relax and get in last minute shopping
- **Farewell dinner** at Restaurant at the **First Station Complex** is a vibrant outdoor pedestrian area on the site of Jerusalem's Old Train Station
- Travel to airport for late night departure and return to Atlanta
- **Overnight for those continuing on the Eilat/ Petra Tour Extension**

Sunday, 16 June – *Return to Atlanta*