THE TEMPLE FAMILY ISRAEL EXPERIENCE
June 15-27, 2021
(Draft April 17, 2020; Subject to change)
Exact day’s itinerary and timing for site visits will vary based on bus assignment

Tuesday, 15 June – Depart Atlanta

Wednesday, 16 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 the David Intercontinental
**Overnight:**
David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, 17 June – From Rebirth to Start Up Nation
- Climb down into the amazing underground, pre-State bullet factory built by the Hagganah under the noses of the British at the **Ayalon Institute**
- 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.
- Explore the new **Sarona Gourmet Food Market** with time to enjoy lunch (on own) at one of the specialty restaurants stalls or create your own picnic and enjoy the grounds
- 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:**
David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, 18 June – Where It All Began
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Go way back in time to King David’s Jerusalem in **David’s City** and enjoy sloshing through **Hezekiah’s water tunnel**
- 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** before Shabbat to visit and reflect.
- **Shabbat Services with all Temple trips** at Hebrew Union College
- **Enjoy Shabbat dinner** with the Temple groups at the hotel

(Optional Grandparent Track: Visit Yitzhak Rabin Museum, Lunch in Ramat Aviv, Kotel Visit)
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem
Shabbat, 19 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 b’nei mitzvah service** followed by **Havdalah and a festive b’nei mitzvah dinner and celebration** with DJ and dancing at Beit Shmuel overlooking the Old City

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

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**Sunday, 20 June – Digging Down Through Time**

- **Visit with guest speaker** (Anat Hoffman of the Women of the Wall) for adults and older teens
- Morning tour of the **Kotel Tunnels**, walk alongside the Kotel’s massive foundation stones below the surface
- Quick stop for delicious Israeli picnic lunch in the Jerusalem hills
- At the “**Dig for a Day**” program in **Beit Guvrin**, have a hands-on experience of archeology as you uncover actual artifacts while taking part in an ongoing archeological dig
- **Biblical hospitality, camel rides and dinner at Abraham’s Tent** *(Optional Grandparent Track: Experience TBD)*

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

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**Monday, 21 June – Jerusalem Old and New**

- **Special** morning 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)
- 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
- Free time to shop and enjoy the beauty of Jerusalem
- Dinner on your own at the Midrachov (Ben Yehudah Street)
- Attend the sound and light show at the **Tower of David in the Old City** *(Optional Grandparent Track: Egalitarian service, Yad L’Kashish, Herzl Museum and cemetery)*

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem
Tuesday, 22 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: 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 and relax after a busy first week
Overnight: Isrotel, Dead Sea

Wednesday, 23 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
- Lunch at the Dead Sea Mall (on your own)
- Free time to float in the Dead Sea and enjoy the hotel spa and pool
- Dinner at the hotel
- B’nei mitzvah family blessings
Overnight: Isrotel, Dead Sea

Thursday, 24 June – Northern Exposure
- Morning departure for the North with a lunch stop en route (on your own)
- Travel back in time as your group participates in one of 3 different hand’s 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)
- Leave a lasting memory in the land of Israel as you **plant a tree**
- 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, 25 June – Wonders of the North
- Explore the North and Golan Heights through morning elective choices - each with a lunch stop (on your own)
  - **Jeep tour of the Golan Heights** exploring the majestic and strategic area
  - Put on your water shoes and bathing suit and take a river walk/water hike (ages 12 and up) through the Hatzbani Or Snir, one of the tributaries of the Jordan River
- **Free afternoon** to rest or enjoy the pool and gardens of the kibbutz
- **Shabbat services and dinner** at the kibbutz
• **Evening Activities:**
  o Adult debrief program
  o Children – talent show and games
  (Optional Grandparent Track: Private tour of the north)

**Overnight: Kibbutz Hagoshrim**

**Shabbat, 26 June – Shabbat Shalom!**
• Enjoy a relaxing Shabbat **raft ride down the Jordan River**
• 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**

*The memories will last forever!*