

Hanukkah Family Mission with Rabbi Raskin

December 22, 2019 – January 3, 2020

(Draft: October 16, 2018; Subject to change)

Sunday, 22 December – *Depart USA*

Monday, 23 December – *Going up into the Land*

- **4:30 pm** Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (*today's program depends on arrival time*)
- Evening tour of **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city, once known as the *Zion Gate*, through which Jonah fled and Solomon brought the Cedars of Lebanon.
- **Shehekhiyanu**-Welcome ceremony TBD.
- Check-in to the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- Welcome dinner at **Maganda Yemenite Restaurant**.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** together at restaurant.
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 24 December – *The Hebrew City and the Jewish State*

- 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.
- Visit **Rabin Square** in Tel Aviv to hear about Israeli society's soul searching in the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- Lunch on your own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin** crafts fair. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** and try out **Sufganiyot** (jelly donuts) – **Israel's favorite Hanukkah pastry**.
- Discover the world of the Maccabees at the **Hasmonean Village** on **Moshav Shilat**, by participating in interactive drama about Mattathias and his sons and ancient crafts, including pressing olive oil and making your own Hasmonean oil lamp.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- **Light Hanukkah Candles** together as a group before setting out for a free evening.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- **Recommendation for the evening:** Check out the **Sarona neighborhood**, a new restaurant-café and shopping area in a recently restored former German colony.
- Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, 25 December – *Cradles of Jewish Civilization in the Galilee*

- Depart for northern Israel.
- Explore the ruins of **Tzippori**, the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna. Discover Tzippori's Ramotsh ancient mosaic pavements, including

Mona Lisa of the Galilee, Nile Flood Festival and Orpheus, who looks like King David (?). What do the ruins of Tzippori reveal about Jews and Hellenism? Then ponder why an **ancient synagogue** floor features a wheel of the zodiac. **Why does the Menorah on the mosaic have seven branches instead of nine?**

- Lunch on own
- Tour mystical **Tzfat's** ornate old synagogues and picturesque alleyways and discover the origins of our Friday night service in the city where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Free time to shop in galleries and explore **Tzfat's Artists Colony** on own.
- Check-in to the **Ramot Hotel** in the **Galilee**.
- **Light Hanukkah candles** together at hotel.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Ramot

Thursday, 26 December – Ancient and Modern Geopolitics and Israel's Finest

- Walk in the lush **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, one of the sources of the **Jordan River**, where you'll discover biblical intrigue and one of the oldest arches in the world.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of 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 and then look out at the border from the peak of strategic **Mt. Bental**.

Please choose one of the following two "touring and tasting" options. Both located on nearby Kibbutz Ein Zivan (Possibility of splitting the group):

- Chocolate making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory**.
- **OR:** Tour and wine tasting at the boutique **Pelter Winery**.
- **Hanukkah candlelighting and dinner** with young **Israeli soldiers** who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel.
- Overnight: Ramot

Friday, 27 December – Across Israel: Many Faces of the Jewish People

- Discover **Ethiopian Jewish culture** at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Hear a personal account of this community's modern day Exodus story and about the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today. **Did the Jews in Ethiopia know about Hanukka? When did they lose contact with the rest of the Jewish people?**
- Lunch on own
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Shekhiyanu/Welcome ceremony overlooking the **Old City of Jerusalem**.
- Check-in to the **Inbal Hotel** in **Jerusalem**.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- **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: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat/Saturday, 28 December – *And on the Seventh Day...in Jerusalem*

- **Shabbat morning services** at a local **Masorti (Conservative) synagogue**, followed by kiddush and an update on the Masorti Movement in Israel.
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at hotel

Shabbat afternoon options:

- **Late afternoon** walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City.
- **AND/OR:** Walking tour to First Temple period burial site at **Ketef Hinnom** – Where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found.
- **Havdalah** and **Hanukkah candle lighting** with Rabbi Raskin.
- Dinner on own
- Watch the ***Night Spectacular*** – Sound and light show at the **Tower of David**.
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 29 December – *Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity*

- Tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial, including a moving visit to the **Children's Memorial**, followed by a tour of the **Holocaust History Museum**.
- Lunch on own
- 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.
- Engage in ***hands on tzedakah*** preparing food packages for distribution to some of Israel's neediest people at **Pantry Packers** or **Yad Ezra Veshulamit**.
- Sunset tour of the **Jewish Quarter** to **light Hanukkah candles with local residents** and learn about their special way of "***advertising***" ***the miracle***.
- Free time to shop in **Cardo**.
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 30 December – *The Old City of Jerusalem: An Ancient Jewish Legacy*

- **Option:** **B'nai Mitzvah** ceremony at the **egalitarian Masorti Kotel**.
- Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes of Jewish life in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**, including a **new discovery connected to the Hanukkah story**.
- Visit the traditional prayer area of the **Western Wall**.
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover ***underground Jerusalem***.
- Festive B'nai Mitzvah lunch at **Between the Arches Restaurant**.
- Multimedia tour of the new **Six Day War Heritage Museum** at **Ammunition Hill**, the site of the fiercest battle in the Six Day War.

- **OR:** 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.
- **Recommendation:** Coffee and dessert at one of the cafés in adjacent **Music Square** and listen to an open air performance. Then check out the nearby **Ben Yehuda Street Pedestrian Mall**.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 31 December – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Set out early across the **Judean Desert** and ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence. **Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne? What decision did our ancestors make?**

2nd Timers Option

- Walk in **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** - Opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul.
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense.
- Lunch at Dead Sea resort.
- Travel to Negev Highlands.
- *Time permitting:* Look out at the majestic **Zin Cliffs** from **Ben Gurion's Gravesite**.
- Check in to the **Beresheet Hotel** or the **Ramon Inn** (Pundak Ramon) in **Mitzpe Ramon**.
- Dinner at hotel
- **New Year's Eve celebration – TBD.**
- Overnight: Beresheet Hotel or Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon

Wednesday, 1 January – Negev Highlands: Primeval Desert Beauty

- Learn about the natural history of the region at the multimedia **Makhtesh Ramon Visitors Center** dedicated to fallen Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon.
- Explore **Makhtesh Ramon** (Ramon Crater) on foot and by jeep to discover magnificent desert landscapes and a fascinating window into the earth's past.
- Camel ride and Bedouin hospitality lunch at Khan Hashayarot.
- Remainder of afternoon free to relax and enjoy the hotel's **spa** and **recreational facilities**.
- Dinner at hotel.
- Overnight: Beresheet Hotel or Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon.

Thursday, 2 January – Nature, Vision and Development in the Negev

- Tour of **David Ben Gurion's House** on **Kibbutz Sde Boker** to learn about his vision for developing the Negev.
- Lunch on own

- Guided tour of the **Israeli Air Force Museum** at **Hatzerim** to see exhibition of historic Israeli Air Force planes and hear the story of this elite branch of the Israel Defense Forces.
- Travel to the western Negev
- Tour of an **exotic orchard**, followed by a **gourmet farewell dinner** at **Ora's Yard** on **Moshav Kfar Maimon**. Taste their home-made liqueurs and jams. Hear your hosts' moving personal immigration stories.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – ***See you again soon!***

Friday, 3 January – Arrive in USA

- ***Begin planning your next Israel trip with Rabbi Raskin and ITC Tours!***

Pricing on next page >

PRICES FOR THE ABOVE TOUR
(All Prices USD)

"Land Only" Packages based on number of travelers, according to two different hotel options:

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Tel Aviv, Ramot Resort Hotel - North, Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem, Beresheet Hotel - Mitzpe Ramon

| 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45+ |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| \$4655 | 4255 | 4155 | 4095 | 4055 | 3995 | 3955 |

Single Supplement: \$1950

Third person adult in triple room: **subtract** \$450

Child, ages 2-12, as third person in parents' room: **subtract** \$620

Bar/Bat Mitzvah child as third person in parents' room: **subtract** \$720

Third and Fourth child sharing room in quad with parents: **subtract** \$300

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Tel Aviv, Ramot Resort Hotel - North, Inbal Hotel - Jerusalem, Ramon Inn - Mitzpe Ramon

| 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45+ |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| \$4155 | 3795 | 3695 | 3655 | 3595 | 3555 | 3495 |

Single Supplement: \$1550

Third person adult in triple room: **subtract** \$450

Child, ages 2-12, as third person in parents' room: **subtract** \$320

Bar/Bat Mitzvah child as third person in parents' room: **subtract** \$425

Third and Fourth child sharing room in quad with parents: **subtract** \$200

Please Note: Rates are based on attached itinerary and are valid only for the dates specified in this itinerary.

Flights (NB: Rates are *estimates* and depend on when booked and contract received from the airline; fuel surcharges are subject to fluctuation; ITC can only hold group space up until 90 days before departure, after which air prices are subject to change; tour companies have only very limited control over group seating on flights.)

- **Estimated** Roundtrip Airfare from Dulles on United: \$1850 - \$2200

Please book directly with Tami in ITC's NJ office: 800-2-ISRAEL, 973-535-2575.

Terms & Conditions

- The above rates are per person based on double occupancy.
- Prices are per bus and are based on number of full-paying travelers.
- The tour selling price is based on a minimum number of passengers, as per above chart, and the above itinerary. If the total number of participants falls below the minimum number used for the selling price, the selling price can be recalculated to accommodate a smaller number of tour participants. If the total number of participants should be fewer than 15, group rates may not be available through hotels, airlines, and tourist sites, resulting in additional expenses.
- Offer is for indicated or similar hotels, depending on availability; prices subject to dollar fluctuation.
- ITC pricing reflects a 4% discount for cash and checks. For credit card usage please add 4%.
- Single supplement applies only when a passenger is allocated a single occupancy room.
- **ITC offers 1 free "Land+Air" package for Rabbi starting with a minimum of 15 full paying tour participants; 2 free "Land+Air" packages with a minimum of 30 full paying tour participants. 3 free "Land+Air" packages with a minimum of 45 full paying tour participants**
- Airline utilization & deposit requirements will be advised at time of confirmation.
- Price for airline seats are not guaranteed until airline receives seat deposits.
- To confirm your land and air arrangements, please forward a **deposit of \$500.00** with the attached **signed contract** to ITC Tours. This deposit is refundable less \$250.00 handling fee up to 90 days prior to departure if trip is cancelled.
- For itineraries offering choices, the numbers of travelers choosing each alternative must be submitted by the tour leader to the ITC office at least three months before departure.

All of this is Included in Your Tour

- Deluxe accommodation, as per your itinerary
- Touring and entrance fees, as per your itinerary
- Meeting & assistance by your ITC representative within the arrivals terminal at Ben Gurion Airport
- One of Israel's finest English-speaking licensed tour educators (guides), to be with you for the duration of the tour and give insight into this beautiful, spiritual land
- Deluxe air-conditioned, comfortable modern motor coach, featuring large panoramic windows, reclining seats, and foot rests
- Professional, safety conscious bus driver
- Professional ITC education director, to ensure an extraordinary Israel experience
- Professional ITC tour manager

- Snack and 1 small bottle of mineral water upon arrival in Israel
- Hostess at Jerusalem hotel, based on a minimum of 25 travelers
- Informative Israel sourcebook
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Daily buffet breakfasts; seven dinners (Welcome, hotel dinner in north; IDF Barbeque, Shabbat dinner at hotel, two hotel dinners in Mitzpe Ramon, farewell); four lunches (Shabbat lunch at hotel, Between the Arches lunch or similar, Dead Sea lunch, Khan Hashayarot), as per itinerary.

Not Included in Package

- Visa & border fees (not applicable for U.S. citizens)
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Private rooms for group meetings/at the hotel, unless specified in this offer
- Meals and beverages not specifically mentioned in this offer.
- Tips (\$180 per person)*
- Bus service on Shabbat (Saturday)
- Speakers fees
- Insurance

* Please note that this amount covers a basic recommended *minimum* tip for the guide, bus driver, and meal service staff at restaurants for the number of days the group will be in Israel. Travelers should feel free to add to this amount when in Israel, if they are so moved.

Important Information For All Travelers:

Please be aware that you may not fly to a foreign country if your passport has fewer than 6 months remaining. [Be sure that your passport, and those of all members of your traveling group, has an expiration date that is at least six months later than your day of departure.](#) If this is not the case, please take immediate steps to renew your passport!

Your Friends at ITC