

Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel
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Bnai Jeshurun Congregation
2014 Israel Family Adventure

Led by Rabbi Stephen Weiss

Keshet Tour Educator: Aliza Avshalom
Youth Madrich: Netanel Azualos

July 6 – 21, 2014
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Sunday July 6

Departure from USA

- Departure from Cleveland on Delta Airlines flight #4166 to New York (JFK) at 4:25 p.m. Arrive JFK at 6:19 p.m. Depart on delta Airlines flight #468 to Tel Aviv at 11:57 p.m.

Monday July 7

Bruchim Haba'aim – Welcome to Israel

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport at 5:10 p.m.
- **Opening Program: “Routes to Roots”** on the summit of the tel in Old Jaffa overlooking the Tel Aviv skyline and the Mediterranean Sea.
- 19:30 Welcome dinner in Tel Aviv restaurant
- Hotel check in and overnight: Renaissance Hotel, *Tel Aviv*

Tuesday July 8

Modern Israel: Blessings and Challenges

- 9:00 For first timers: **Independence Hall**. Experience the dilemmas faced by Israel's leaders who declared Israel's independence here in 1948. Then
- Experience the hustle and bustle of the **Nachalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair**
- 10:30 For veteran visitors: Jewish values in a modern state: **Walking tour of southern Tel Aviv neighborhoods** and meetings with Sudanese refugees/economic migrants and community activists
- All do lunch on own and then, in the afternoon:
- 14:30 For first timers: In the **Palmach Museum**, follow the lives of ten Palmach fighters who struggle to make independence a reality for the new Israeli state.
- 14:30 For veteran visitors: Follow the development of modern Israel and the career of Yitzhak Rabin in the new **Israeli Museum** in Ramat Aviv
- 17:00 Learn more about Israel's **Start-Up Nation** success story with noted lecturer Assaf Luxemburg (parallel program for children)

- 19:00 Dinner for all at Kaphiche Café in the **NaLagaat Center for the Deaf Blind** followed by
- 20:30 “Not by Bread Alone” at the **NaLagaat Theater**
- Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, *Tel Aviv*

Wednesday July 9

Rabbis on the Run (or The Birth of the Talmud)

- Tour of the **Tzippori National Park**, seat of the Sanhedrin after it was exiled from Jerusalem, where Rabbi Judah the Prince created the Mishnah in the third century C.E., and home to some of the most beautiful Byzantine Period mosaics in the Middle East. Parallel program for children.
- 12:30 Mishnaic style lunch and activities for the whole family, including donkey rides, at the **Kfar Kedem Mishnaic Village**.
- 15:30 Arrive in **Beit Shean Cleveland Partnership 2000 region** in mid-afternoon, Hostel check-in and swim time, **Babylonian Food and Culture Celebration** (with residents), traditional Kurdish dinner prepared by local family (with residents), 21:30 Shean Nights audio-visual presentation in the **Beit Shean National Park**
- Overnight: Beit Shean Youth Hostel, *Beit Shean*

Thursday July 10

Mountains and Mystics in the Galilee

- 11:00 Walking tour to in the **Druze village of Pekiin** in the Upper Galilee including sites of special Jewish interest.
- 12:00 Druze lunch in Diwan e-Muchtar, the former home of the Muchtar of Pekiin
- **Walking tour in the picturesque alleys** and synagogues in the ancient “Old City” of **Tzfat** and consider how the kabbalistic traditions developed here in the 16th century continue to shape our Jewish identity today.
- Time for **browsing and shopping in the artist galleries** and studios.
- 17:00 **Meet with one of Tzfat’s kabbalistically inspired artists** in his studio
- Overnight: Ruth Rimmonim Hotel, *Tzfat*

Friday July 11

Land of Borders

- 9:45 **Visit IDF soldiers** at an army outpost on the Israel’s border with Lebanon
- 11:30 Cable car, snapping, and mountain slides at the **Manara Cliff**. (Cable car and walking tour for those who prefer something more sedentary.)
- 16:00 Enjoy family **rafting on the “mighty” Jordan River**.
- 12:00 Ayalim Student Village
- Lunch on own en-route
- Prepare for Shabbat
- **Bnai Jeshurun Kabbalat Shabbat** overlooking Mount Meron or join the new “Carlebach Minyan” Old Jewish Quarter of Tzfat.
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the Barel home in Tzfat.
- Overnight: Ruth Rimmonim Hotel, *Tzfat*

Shabbat July 12

Shabbat in Tzfat

- Bnai Jershurun Shabbat service at the hotel or explore one or more of the mystical synagogues in the Jewish Quarter.
- Festive Shabbat lunch at the hotel
- Optional late afternoon learning program with Rabbi Weiss
- Seudah Shlisheet snack and group havdalah.
- Overnight: Ruth Rimmonim Hotel, *Tzfat*

Sunday July 13

Golan 360

- 9:00 “**Inner Rhythms**” Mikvah Spiritual Journey – a meditation and musical workshop and mikvah tour for women.
- For men, an inspiring “plunge” into the world of mikvah for men and the **(optional) opportunity to immerse in the mikvah of Rabbi Isaac Luria**, the greatest of Tzfat’s 16th century kabbalists (*or a guided walk through the ancient cemetery of Tzfat and stories of Luria, Alkabetz, Cardovero, Karo, Irgun fighters, and schoolchildren from Maalot and Avivim*).
- 12:00 **Ascend the Golan Heights** and peer into Syria from Tel Saki and **meet with Col (Res.) Nir Atir**, who fought at Tel Saki in the Yom Kippur War.
- Drive to Katzrin and late lunch on own in Katzrin
- In Katzrin, break into two groups. One adventurous group will **hike and swim in Nachal Devorah (Wadi Gilaboun)**.
- 16:15 Non-hikers on the trip will go on a delicious **winery tour and tasting at the renowned Golan Heights Winery**.
- 18:00 Dinner and music at a Golan Heights bistro restaurant
- Overnight: Ruth Rimmonim Hotel, *Tzfat*

Monday July 14

Southward Ho!

- Drive to Beer Sheva
- 13:30 **IDF Air Force Museum** at the Hazerim AFB
- Lunch on own in Beer Sheva
- 15:00 Tour of the desert **home of David Ben-Gurion** on Kibbutz Sde Boker
- Hotel check-in, pool time, dinner, and overnight: Ramon Inn, *Mitzpe Ramon*

Tuesday July 15

A Still Small Voice in the Desert

- Wake before dawn for a beautiful and **moving hiking and spiritual experience in the Central Negev Highlands** (“the Wilderness of Zin”). This awesome (but optional) program has become a B’nai Jeshurun tradition.
- Return to hotel for breakfast
- 9:30 **Jeeping** in the Ramon Crater
- Time permitting, visit the newly reopened **Ramon Crater National Park Visitors Center** where we learn about the geology of the crater and the life of Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.
- 12:30 Lunch with the “**Culinary Queens of Yerucham**”
- Continue to the **Dead Sea** (lunch on own en route). Afternoon hotel check-in and **beach/spa time**.
- Dinner and overnight: Isrotel Hotel, *Ein Bokek*

Wednesday July 16

Jewish Strategies for Survival

- Breakfast and hotel check-out
- Ascend **Masada** via cable car or climb via the Snake Path for a guided visit through the site and an exploration of the symbolism and questions that arise from the Masada story.
- Text study atop Masada: **Elazar Ben Yair** and the Zealots of Masada & **Yochanan Ben Zakai** and the Rabbis of Yavne.
- Refreshing water hike at Wadi David in the Beautiful **Ein Gedi National Park** oasis
- 15:00 On the way up to Jerusalem, **meet with Ethiopian women** who share the story of their “*aliyah*” to Jerusalem through the Sudanese desert.
- **Shehechyanu blessing on Mount Scopus** overlooking Jerusalem.
- Afternoon check in to Jerusalem hotel, freshen up, dinner on own
- 21:30 Evening program: **The Night Spectacular** – a sound and light show of Jerusalem history in the courtyard of the Tower of David Museum (9:00 p.m.).
- Optional **nocturnal walk** through the Armenian Quarter **to the Western Wall**
- Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Thursday July 17

Bar Mitzvah Day!

- 9:00 Depart for the **Robinson’s Arch** section of the Western Wall for a special **Bnai Jeshurun Bar Mitzvah Service**.
- For first timers: Guided exploration of **the Jewish Quarter** and free time for exploring the shops of the Byzantine Cardo or the Arab souk
- For veteran visitors: Tour of the **Christian Quarter** and a Jesuit priest **guided tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher**.
- 11:30 **Celebratory Bnai Mitzvah lunch** in the Old City
- 13:40 **Western Wall Tunnels** Tour
- Early evening tour of the **Machane Yehuda Market**
- Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Friday July 18

From Out of the Crucible

- 9:15 Consider the history of early Zionism and the life of Theodore Herzl at the interactive **Herzl Museum** on Mount Herzl.
- 10:45 For first timers: Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial** complex including, at least, the Historical Museum and the Children's Memorial (Parallel programming for children at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo).
- 11:00 For veteran visitors: Guided tour of the newly wings of the **Israel Museum** (Biblical Archeology and Jewish Art and Ethnography)
- Lunch on own at the Yad Vashem Cafeteria
- 15:30 Hands on **Jewish art program facilitated by artist/educators from Kol HaOt**: Interactive Jewish Educational Art Programs in Israel
- Bnai Jeshurun **Kabbalat Shabbat** in the Old City of Jerusalem overlooking the Western Wall
- Festive Shabbat dinner and overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Shabbat July 19

Shabbat in Jerusalem

- Shabbat prayer at the **Moreshet Israel**, Jerusalem's flagship Masorati (Conservative) Synagogue
- 11:15 *Tour & Shiur*, 12:30 Festive Shabbat lunch at the (Masorati) Fuchsberg Center followed by a tour and shiur at the **Conservative Yeshiva**
- Afternoon time for rest and relaxation
- Late afternoon **walking tour of Mishkenot Shaananim** and the Windmill followed by a *Seudah Shlisheet snack* and Havdallah
- Free evening
- Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Sunday July 20

The Quest for Peace and Security

- 8:30 **Briefing with Khaled Abu-Toemeh**, journalist and expert on Palestinian Affairs
- Travel to the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo and **overlook the separation barrier**
- 11:30 Visit the Pioneer Museum on **Kibbutz Kfar Etzion** and learn about Gush Etzion of the 1930s and Gush Etzion in the War of Independence
- 14:00 **Biking on Derech HaAvot** in the footsteps of our biblical ancestors
- 16:00 Visit to the new **Schechter Institute** campus in Jerusalem
- Free time in downtown Jerusalem's **Ben Yehuda Street** for last minute shopping
- 18:00 **Summary session** and Farewell dinner
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport. Departure on Delta Airlines flight #469 to JFK at 12:20 a.m. Monday morning

Monday July 21

L'hitraot (See you again!)

- Arrive JFK 5:10 a.m. Depart JFK to Cleveland on Delta Airlines flight #3464 at 9:55 a.m. Arrive Cleveland at 11:43 a.m.

Notes: the trip will be staffed by a senior Keshet tour educator and a youth counselor. Bolded sites, all breakfasts and underlined meals are included in the group price. Listed speakers are subject to confirmation.

This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet for those considering travel with Keshet and is not to be shared otherwise without express permission from Keshet.

