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**Beth Sholom B’nai Israel**

***Interfaith Journey to Israel***

**Led by Rabbi Randall Konigsburg**

*March 3-14, 2019*

(rev 23 Aug 18)

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| **Sunday, March 3** | ***DeParture*** |

* Departure from Boston Logan (BOS) on El Al #015 at 9:00pm.

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| **Monday, March 4** | ***bruchim haba’aim-welcome to israel!*** |

* Arrival at Ben Gurion airport at 2:05pm.
* *(Assistance upon arrival by Keshet representatives).*
* We proceed directly to the port of Old Jaffa for an opening ceremony where pilgrims and *olim* have entered the Holy Land for centuries.
* Welcome Dinner
* Check-in at the hotel, located on the beach promenade.

***Overnight:*** *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

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| **Tuesday, March 5** | ***exile and return*** |

* We begin the day visiting Old Jaffa for a walking tour. Examine the common roots and divergence of Judaism & Christianity in reference to the vision of St. Peter.
* Visit the Shalom Tower to see the new “We Declare” exhibit about the founding of the State of Israel and then walk along the new Tel Aviv Independence Trail, inspired by Boston’s Freedom Trail.
* Stroll through the weekly arts & crafts fair at Nahalat Binyamin.
* Lunch break (on own)
* Visit “Save A Child’s Heart”- a project of the Wolfson Hospital, in which Israeli pediatric surgeons provide pro-bono cardiac surgery for children from all over Africa and the Middle East.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

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| **Wednesday, March 6** | ***a light unto the nations*** |

* Meet Brother Olivier, a Benedictine Monk who is building bridges in the Arab village of Abu Ghosh.
* Stop at Yvel, a leading jewelry brand worldwide which founded a philanthropic school where Ethiopian immigrants are given a chance to earn a new trade and a possibility for a financially stable life.
* Lunch break (on own)
* At the Haas Promenade, delve into the theological implications for the story of the Binding of Isaac in Judaism and Christianity.
* Check-in at hotel.
* Meeting with Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum of the Conservative community of Kehillat Tzion and a leader in outreach to her Christian and Muslim Arab neighbors in Jerusalem.
* Dinner and evening at leisure

***Overnight:*** *Inbal, Jerusalem*

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| **Thursday, March 7** | ***this year in jerusalem*** |

* Begin the day at the City of David where Jerusalem’s 3000 year history began. Explore the latest excavations and the concept of Biblical Political Morality and the role of the prophet as critic in light of the story of David and Batsheva.
* Walk through a tunnel running under the Second Temple Period street to Robinson’s Arch.
* Explore the Southern Wall excavations to gain a better understanding of the role of the Temple and pilgrimage in ancient times using texts from the Mishnah and the New Testament.
* Reflections at the Kotel
* Ascend to the Jewish Quarter for lunch break (on own).
* Participate hands-on in a unique archaeological project sifting through excavated remains from various dig sites.
* Group dinner at hotel
* Panel: Pastor Steven Khoury and David Nekrutman of the CJCUC (Center for Jewish Christian Understanding)

***Overnight:*** *Inbal, Jerusalem*

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| **Friday, March 8** | ***from out of the crucible*** |

* Learn and remember at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Center including the new historical museum, Avenue of the Righteous of the Nations and the Children’s Memorial.
* Lunch stop (on own) in Machaneh Yehuda market and free time to explore on your own.
* Time to prepare for Shabbat.
* 17:24 Candle Lighting
* Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel or local synagogue
* Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel or “Shabbat of a Lifetime” home hospitality dinner with a modern Orthodox family.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal, Jerusalem*

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| **Shabbat, March 9** | ***shabbat in jerusalem*** |

* Shabbat morning services at local synagogue or shul hopping or at leisure?
* Day at leisure to explore Jerusalem on your own.
* (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
* We reconvene in the late afternoon for a walking tour to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter.
* Group Havdalah ceremony to “separate” from the Sabbath
* *Options for mass in English: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Franciscan Chapel at 17:00, Notre Dame at 18:30, Pontifical Biblical Institute at 19:00*
* Evening: Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sounds & light show projected on the walls of the museum (dress warmly and weather permitting).
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal, Jerusalem*

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| **Sunday, March 10** | ***what price freedom?*** |

* Early morning departure from hotel for the Dead Sea Region, lowest point on earth.
* En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
* Visit the ancient site of Qumran, home to the “Yachad” Sect, often associated with the Essenes, and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.
* Continue to Masada. Lunch break (on own) at Masada Visitor’s Center.
* Ascend Herod’s mountain fortress of Masada by cable-car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Descend by cable-car to the visitor’s center.
* Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at private beach.
* Return to Jerusalem
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal, Jerusalem*

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| **Monday, March 11** | ***jordan river valley*** |

* Depart for the North.
* Visit Qasr-el-Yehud on the Jordan River, associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and the entry of Joshua & the tribes of Israel into Canaan.
* Travel along the Jordan River Valley to the Bet She’an valley.
* Lunch stop (on own) in Bet Sh’ean.
* At Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, earn how this religious kibbutz led the “Green Revolution” in organic farming in Israel. “Bio Bee” tour of the fields and their “bug factory”.
* Explore the Ministry of Jesus in the area of the ancient Jewish fishing villages around the Sea of Galilee
* Visit Kfar Nahum (Capernaum)**,** a thriving Jewish community during the days of the Second Temple and where Jesus is said to have taught some of his first disciples in the ancient synagogue.
* Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Compare the Sermon on the Mount to traditional Jewish texts.
* Check-in and dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Habayit Bagalil Boutique Hotel*

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| **Tuesday, March 12** | ***northern exposure*** |

* Start at the headwaters of the Jordan River at Tel Dan, which also incorporates the Biblical city of Dan. Learn about the rebellion of the Northern Kingdom of Israel against God and the Davidic monarchy. *(1 Kings 12)*
* Stand at Israel’s border with Syria with views of Mt. Hermon, where some remember the Transfiguration.
* Ascend the Golan Heights.
* Lunch stop (on own) in Katzrin.
* Winery Tour on the Golan.
* Outlook over Syria from the bunkers of Mt. Bental. Strategic briefing on Syria and Iran by IDF intelligence officer.
* Return to hotel for dinner.

***Overnight:*** *Habayit Bagalil Boutique Hotel*

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| **Wednesday, March 13** | ***galilee mosaic*** |

* Travel to the Arab village of Shefaram. Meet the Anglican Priest Rev. Fuad Degher to hear his personal vision of co-existence with his many neighbors.
* Lunch break (on own) en route
* Meeting with Rabbi Dubi Hayun of the Conservative community of Kehillat Moriah and the Ahmadi Imam, who study together weekly. Visit the Ahmadi Mosque in Haifa.
* Continue to the ancient port of Caesarea, home to Pontius Pilates, Rabbi Akiba and Eusebius, Bishop in the 4th century. Explore the theater, palace, hippodrome, and Crusader remains. Discuss the sparking of the “Great Revolt” and the history of Church Doctrine formulated here.
* Summary and Conclusion Session
* Farewell Dinner
* Transfer to airport for departing flight.

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| **Thursday, March 14** | ***arrival in boston*** |

* Departure on El Al #015 at 12:30am.
* Arrival Boston at 6:15am.
* Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator.
* All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
* This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet.



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