



B'nai Moshe ***Virtual Israel Tour!***

January 2021

Although you cannot physically come to Israel right now, we are super-excited to take you around the highlights of the Jewish State; no need to wear masks, no long rides, no jetlag – just a few hours of action-packed touring of some of the incredible sites and places around this country.

So don't fasten your seatbelts, don't check to see if your passport is still valid – just sit back in the comfort of your own couch to see, listen, discuss and feel what Israel is all about!

Day 1: JERUSALEM – WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

- **Overlooking Jerusalem**, we discuss historically what makes this city such a central one to Jews, Christians and Muslims around the world through the Biblical Story of the Binding of Isaac
- We then enter “original” Jerusalem – the **City of David**; King David turned Jerusalem into the political and religious capital of the Jewish people 3,000 years ago, we go to the foundations and check it out!
- From there we go on to the holy sites: the **Western Wall** (you can send me notes, I will print them out and put them in the Wall during my next excursion there), the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and the **Dome of the Rock**
- Jerusalem 2021 – well, how about 2019?! We will tour some of the highlights of the new city, including the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**, the **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery** and the **Machane Yehuda Shuk** (market); you may want to download Google Taste for that one ☺

Day 2: WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- Ascend King Herod's mountain fortress of **Masada** and hear one of the most dramatic stories in Jewish history
- We explore some of the other highlights of the Judean Desert, including the area of Ein Gedi – with its year-round flow of fresh water which supported Jewish communities there well over a thousand years ago; we will see the floor of the ancient synagogue of **Ein Gedi**, visit the caves in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were written in **Qumran** and smell the locally made, secret formula perfume made of the fruit of the **balsam tree**
- Then, enter run your bath in with hot water, add lots of salt and feel like you are **floating in the Dead Sea!** This is one of the modern wonders of the world, let's learn all about it!

Day 3: NORTHERN EXPOSURE

- Today we fly up to the north to delve into some of the highlights there

- We start of in **Tzfat** – one of the four holy cities of Israel; here we will look inside of some of the 400-year-old synagogues and track the formation of the Kabbalah – Jewish mysticism. With a little luck, we'll be able to study some Kabbalah with Madonna!
- Grab your favorite bottle of wine from the Golan Heights Winery as we ascend the **Golan**, the eastern-most section of Israel. We will review the Six Day War during which Israel obtained the Golan, then the Yom Kippur War during which Israel may not have survived had it not been for the heroism of its soldiers and citizens. Then we delve deeper to see some of the ancient history of the Golan, including a synagogue from the fifth century and the hard-to-reach pre-historic site of **Rujum el-Hiri**, Israel's Stonehenge

Day 4: **THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST**

- We start our day in modern Israel – in **Tel Aviv**; we will follow the Jews who transformed the sand dunes into a vibrant, modern city. We will relive the Declaration of Independence of May 14, 1948 and look into the reasons that Israel is considered the Startup Nation
- From there we go to one of the first examples of the Startup Nation with a visit to the **Ayalon Institute's** underground munitions factory, where – with all of their *chutzpah* – Jews produced bullets literally under the noses of the ruling British
- We then head north to the ancient city of **Caesarea**, a port city built by King Herod, which would become the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
- We top it off with a visit to the northern coastal city of **Acco**, which was the capital of Israel during the Crusader Period

Day 5: **THE DESERT FOR DESSERT**

- The desert makes up over 50% of Israel, yet so many tour groups only scratch the surface or ignore it altogether (though B'nai Moshe spent a good few days there on their community trip of October 2019). Israel's first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, said that Israel must conquer the desert in order for us to be able to thrive – to make the desert bloom. We will look into Israel's thriving agriculture (*chutzpah!*) in the desert, some of its natural beauty, and historical highlights, including the mysterious Tiger Temple!

- The virtual tour will be guided by Geoff Winston – licensed tour guide and the Programs Director at Keshet
- This is a fully interactive program and questions and comments are more than welcome throughout
- Any special requests are welcome and should be sent in writing to geoff@keshetisrael.co.il
- 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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