

# Temple Emet

An inclusive Jewish congregation

## **Israel Encounter**

May 23 – June 3, 2019

**Led by Rabbi Cantor Didi Thomas**

### Itinerary Proposal

(As of August 21- Subject to Change)

<b>Thursday May 23</b>	<b>BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME TO ISRAEL</b>
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- Afternoon/evening arrival from USA at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Check-in (from 3 PM) and relax at our hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea
- In the early evening, we'll meet for our opening program and dinner

**Overnight:** Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

<b>Friday May 24</b>	<b>TO BE FREE IN OUR OWN LAND</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Visit the Rabin Museum, which tells the story of the State of Israel through the life story of former Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**
- Saying *lehitraot* to Tel Aviv, head to the ancient Roman capital and port at **Caesarea**, where we will examine the complex relationships between the Roman pagan world and Jews & Judaism during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Period and beyond.
- Lunch on your own
- Continue to **Akko (Acre)**, a mixed Arab- Jewish city with Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities. Tour the underground remains of the **Crusader era city** and explore the colorful outdoor market.
- Check-in at our hotel in Haifa
- Join one of Haifa's Reform congregations for **Kabalat Shabbat** services and Shabbat dinner.

**Overnight:** Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

<b>Shabbat May 25</b>	<b>SHABBAT SHALOM IN HAIFA</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Shabbat morning services with one of Haifa's Reform congregations.
- Walking tour along the **Haifa Promenade** with magnificent views of the Bahai Gardens, the city of Haifa and the bay.

- Lunch on your own in Haifa's German Colony neighborhood
- Tour the **Bahai Gardens**. *Haifa is the world center of the Bahai faith.*
- Meet **Israeli Arab Muslims** and gain insight to the complex nature of Israeli Arab identity.
- Dinner on your own (as a group) and Havdallah marking the end of Shabbat

**Overnight:** Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa

<b>Sunday May 26</b>	<b>LIVING WATERS</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Head to **Tzfat**, city of the Jewish mystics. Explore the narrow alleyways and synagogues and learn how the mystical traditions that emerged here 500 years ago continue to impact the Jewish world.
- Lunch on your own and time to explore and shop at the galleries and shops of Tzfat.
- Meet a **Kabalistic artist** in his studio; learn about Kabbalah via the lens of art.
- Visit the **Hulah Valley Nature Reserve** where we will learn about Israel's flora and fauna and about the migratory birds that pass through Israel every year.
- Dinner at the hotel and a **session with a Kibbutz member** to learn about changes in Kibbutz life.

**Overnight:** Hagoshrim Kibbutz Hotel

<b>Monday May 27</b>	<b>ISRAEL: LAND OF BORDERS</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Delve into the complex security and water issues on the **Golan Heights**, starting with a **nature walk** at the beautiful **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** incorporating the headwaters of the Jordan River & ancient Biblical City Dan.
- Head to Israel's **border with Syria** to better understand the political and security situation.
- Lunch on your own in Katzrin, capital of the Golan
- Tour and taste at the award winning **Golan Heights Winery**
- Visit and stand in solidarity with **IDF soldiers guarding** Israel's border with **Lebanon**. *Learn about life on a border Kibbutz.*
- Continue to historic, picturesque **Metulah** at the very northern tip of Israel to meet local residents and have dinner

**Overnight:** Hagoshrim Kibbutz Hotel

<b>Tuesday May 28</b>	<b>FROM SEA TO SEA</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel.
- Stop at ancient **Bet Shean** - which was a major city in the Second Temple Period – and see the most extensive Roman era remains in Israel. *Examine the complex relationships between the Roman pagan world and Jews & Judaism during the Second Temple Period and beyond*

- See the magnificent mosaics at the ancient synagogue at **Beit Alfa** in the Bet Shean Valley
- Stop for lunch on your own en-route
- Continue to the **Dead Sea** – the lowest place on earth!
- Check in at our hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea – enjoy the **spa, pool and float in the sea.**
- Dinner at the hotel

**Overnight:** David Resort & Spa Hotel, *Dead Sea*

<b>Wednesday May 29</b>	<b>WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Cable car up to the fortress of **Masada** where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the mighty Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.
- Tour atop the mountain as we address the troubling issues presented by the Masada story.



- Descend by cable car or Snake Path to the Masada Visitors Center.
- Lunch on your own at the Masada Visitors Center
- Continue to **Maaleh Adumim** for a **home hospitality program** with **Ethiopian Jews**; hear the dramatic story of their long trek home from Africa to Israel
- Ascend to Jerusalem and celebrate our arrival with **Shehechyanu** and the magnificent views of the city from the **Mt. Scopus.**
- Check-in at our hotel in Jerusalem
- Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem

**Overnight:** Dan Panorama Hotel, *Jerusalem*

<b>Thursday May 30</b>	<b>JERUSALEM THE HOLY THROUGH THE CENTURIES</b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Step back 3,000 years to the days of **King David** and the days of the First Temple at **the City Of David** (the original Jerusalem)



- At the **Davidson Southern Temple Mount Archeological Park** step back 2,000 years to the days of the Second Temple. Examine the centrality of the Temple experience in Jewish tradition

- Continue to the famous bustling open-air **Machane Yehudah** market for lunch tastings and a tour
- Return to the Old City for private prayer and contemplation time at the **Kotel** (*Western Wall*)
- At the **Kotel Tunnels**, continue learning about the Temple experience
- Group dinner and activity

**Overnight:** Dan Panorama Hotel, *Jerusalem*

<b>Friday May 31</b>	<b><i>DIG THE PAST</i></b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- On the slopes of **Mt. Scopus** we'll meet an archeologist and get hands-on insight and overview of the archeological layers of Jerusalem, participating in an **archeological salvage** project, sifting through earth and artifacts from archeological sites throughout the Jerusalem area.
- **Lunch and shopping time on your own in the Old City**
- Explore the restored **Jewish Quarter** together and examine the life of the city through the ages including the rooftops, the Cardo and the Kotel overlook.
- Return to the hotel to rest and prepare for Shabbat.
- Join **Kehilat Kol HaNeshamah** for Kabbalat Shabbat services.
- **Shabbat Dinner**

**Overnight:** Dan Panorama Hotel, *Jerusalem*

<b>Shabbat June 1</b>	<b><i>SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM</i></b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- **Shabbat services**
- Late morning session at the hotel with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, *former Arab Affairs Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post*: **Can Israel and the Palestinian Authority Make Peace?**
- Shabbat lunch at the hotel.
- Late afternoon walking tour to the famous **windmill** and the first neighbourhood built outside the Old City walls by **Sir Moses Montefiore** in the 1860s.
- Return to the hotel for dinner and **Havdallah**
- Head to the **Tower of David** Museum for the **Sound & Light Show**
- Additional Options on your own: *The Israel Museum is open from 10 AM – 4 PM and the Tower of David Museum is open from 10 AM – 2 PM.*

**Overnight:** Dan Panorama Hotel, *Jerusalem*

<b>Sunday June 2</b>	<b><i>JERUSALEM : PEELING BACK THE LAYERS</i></b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- At the **Hadassah Medical Center** at Ein Karem, see the famous **Chagall Windows**, tour the hospital and learn about **Israel's health care system**.
- Continue to the **Mt. Herzl** Military Cemetery, visit and pay tribute at the graves of Israeli soldiers and leaders the including **Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir & Hana Szenesh**
- Lunch on your own

- Visit and stand in solemn memory at Israel's **Yad Vashem** memorial to the Holocaust including the children's memorial and the historical museum
- Continue to **Tel Aviv** – check in at our hotel
- Evening tour and farewell dinner in **Old Jaffa**

**Overnight:** Renaissance Hotel, *Tel Aviv*

<b>Monday June 3</b>	<b><i>FROM OUT OF THE CRUCIBLE</i></b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- “Join” a Palmach unit at the multi-media **Palmach Museum** dedicated to this elite force of the pre-State Haganah
- Continue to the Negev for **Bedouin lunch** and **camel riding**
- At the **Cochin Jewish Heritage Center** at **Moshav Nevatim** just outside of Beersheva, explore the fascinating world of Indian Jewry and their aliyah to Israel.
- **Head to Ben Gurion International Airport** for dinner on your own and flights to the USA
- **OR**
- **Head to Eilat for those continuing on to Petra**

### **Optional Eilat - Petra Extension**

*June 3 – 5, 2019*

<b>Monday June 3</b>	<b><i>TO EILAT</i></b>
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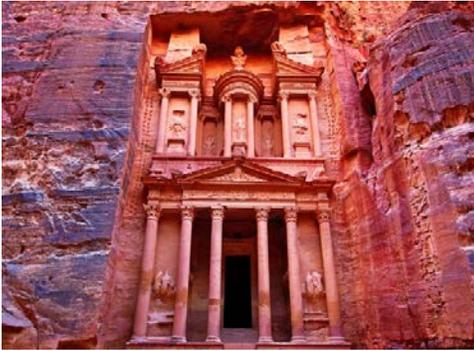
- At Sde Boker, visit the memorial center dedicated to Israel's founding **Prime Minister David Ben Gurion** and examine his vision of “making the desert bloom”
- Continue to Eilat for check in and dinner at our hotel

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Eilat

<b>Tuesday June 4</b>	<b><i>PETRA</i></b>
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- 7:30 AM approximate pick up from the hotel
- Transfer to the Arava Border Crossing leading from the State of Israel to the Kingdom of Jordan.

- Once in Jordan, drive up to the "Desert Highway" to the "**Rose Red City**" - **Petra**.



- Enter the ancient city through the famous "Siq" - a narrow natural gorge that ensured the secrecy of the entrance to Petra. At once, the valley of Petra opens up and you will see the famous "Khazane" ("Treasury").
- Tour Petra
- Late lunch in Petra
- Return to the Arava Border and cross back to Eilat, Israel
- Return to hotel at approximately 7 - 8:00 PM
- Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Eilat

**Wednesday June 5**

***EILAT & TEL AVIV***

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Visit the **Eilat Underwater Observatory** where an astonishing variety of tropical fish and coral are visible in their natural habitat.
- Lunch on your own
- Stop at **Timna Park** and see the dramatic geological formations and archeological remains.
- Flight from Eilat to **Tel Aviv**.
- Head to the Old Tel Aviv Port (**HaNamal**) for shopping and dinner on your own (as a group).
- Continue to Ben Gurion International Airport for flights to the USA

