



Israel Encounter

May 26 – June 3, 2019

Led by Rabbi Cantor Didi Thomas

Itinerary

(As of November 26 - Subject to Change)

Sunday May 26 BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- 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. *Enjoy the beautiful beaches of Tel Aviv*
- In the early evening, we'll head to **Old Jaffa** to learn about it's over 4,000 years of history.
- Welcome to Israel dinner

Overnight: Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv

Monday May 27 TO BE FREE IN OUR OWN LAND

- 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
- **OR**
- 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 2nd Temple Period and beyond
- Packed Lunch
- Head to **Haifa** and visit an **Ahmadiyyan Muslim Mosque** and meet an Imam. *Learn about the Ahmadiyyan vision of an Islam that extends its hand in friendship to the world.*
- For the top of Mt. Carmel, we'll have views of the **Bahai Gardens**, the city of Haifa and the bay. *Haifa is the world center of the Bahai faith.*
- Continue to our Kibbutz Hotel for check-in and dinner
- **Session with a Kibbutz member** to learn about changes in Kibbutz life.

Overnight: Pastoral Hotel, Kibbutz Kfar Blum



Tuesday May 28 ISRAEL: LAND OF BORDERS

- 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: Pastoral Hotel, *Kibbutz Kfar Blum*

Wednesday May 29 **LIVING WATERS**

- Breakfast at the 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.
- Meet a **Kabalistic artist** in his studio; learn about Kabbalah via the lens of art.
- Lunch on your own and time to explore and shop at the galleries and shops of Tzfat.
- 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*

Thursday May 30 **WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?**

- 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: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Friday May 31 **JERUSALEM THE HOLY THROUGH THE CENTURIES**

- 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
- Private prayer and contemplation time at the **Kotel (Western Wall)**
- 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 prepare for Shabbat .
- Join **Kehilat Kol HaNeshamah** for Kabbalat Shabbat services.
- **Shabbat Dinner**

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Shabbat June 1 SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- 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?**
- Lunch on your own
- 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: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Sunday June 2 FROM OUT OF THE CRUCIBLE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 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 the **Mt. Herzl** Military Cemetery, visit and pay tribute at the graves of Israeli soldiers and leaders including **Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir & Hana Szenesh**
- Head to the famous bustling open-air **Machane Yehudah** market for lunch tastings and a tour
- Return to the Old City - At the **Kotel Tunnels**, continue learning about the Temple experience
- Evening and dinner on your own in Jerusalem

Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, *Jerusalem*

Monday June 3 JERUSALEM : PEELING BACK THE LAYERS

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart 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.
- At the **Hadassah Medical Center** at Ein Karem, see the famous **Chagall Windows**, tour the hospital and learn about **Israel's health care system**.
- Head to the Negev for (late) **Bedouin lunch** and **camel riding**
- **Continue to Ben Gurion International Airport** for dinner on your own and flights to the USA
- **OR**
- **Continue to Eilat for those continuing on to Petra**

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Tour Educator
- All 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

Optional Eilat - Petra Extension

June 3 – 5, 2019

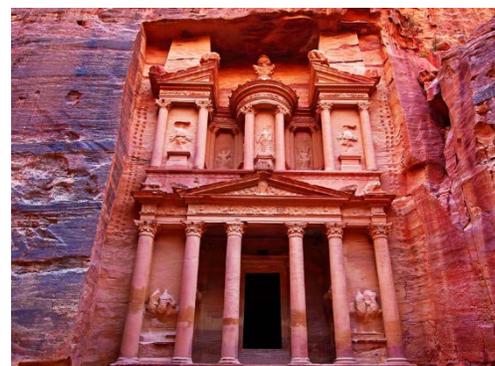
Monday June 3 **TO EILAT**

- 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

Tuesday June 4 **PETRA**

- 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



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