



Affinity Excursions...enlightened travel

EBJC Celebrates 60 Israel Tour Led by Rabbi Jeff Pivo

October 27 – November 7, 2019
As of April 11, 2019

Day 1: Sunday, October 27, 2019

- 10.00 pm: Depart on El Al 26 from Newark Airport. Dinner and breakfast on board.

Overnight: En route

Day 2: Monday, October 28, 2019 *BRUCHIM HABAIM- WELCOME!*

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport at 2.20 pm.
- Transfer to Tel Aviv.
- Welcome by the Rabbi and saying the traditional Shehecheyanu prayer at overlook onto beach?
- Check in to the hotel.
- Welcome dinner at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

Overnight: Market House Hotel, Tel Aviv



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Day 3: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 TEL AVIV VIBES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Tour the dynamic **Florentine** neighborhood, Tel Aviv's most bohemian and upbeat neighborhood, and learn about contemporary Israeli culture through the writing on the wall, graffiti, bumper stickers and even painted garbage bins. In recent years Tel Aviv has become Israel's capital of **urban art**.
- Enjoy a guided walk through the neighborhood of **Neve Zedek**, one of the first neighborhoods built outside of Jaffa, with its narrow streets, incomparable stories and beautiful gentrification.
- The bi-weekly **Nachalat Binyamin market** comprised of over 100 stands representing specialty crafts and folk art in virtually every medium imaginable has become synonymous with quality Israeli crafts and folk art.
- Lunch on own.
- Go to the top of the **Azrieli Tower** for an overview of the history of Tel Aviv.
- **Sarona** was a flourishing Christian Templar agricultural settlement in the midst of the isolated plains north of Jaffa; today it is an exclusive business park in the heart of Tel Aviv while at the same time preserving the character of the Sarona neighborhood, its buildings and deep-rooted plants.
- Touring and "tastings" dinner in the 80+ year old **Carmel Market (Shuk HaCarmel)**, revealing the fascinating culinary traditions that mix in this place.
- *Optional:* Attend a live music session at one of Tel Aviv's famous **jazz clubs/pubs**.

Overnight: Market House Hotel, Tel Aviv



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Day 4: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 *INNOVATION NATION: FROM DREAMERS TO DOERS*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *From Hebrew City to Hebrew State:* Walk the Tel Aviv “**Independence Trail**” that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948, with possible stops at first homes of Tel Aviv built on sand dunes, the mosaic of Jaffa's history created by Nahum Gutman, the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium, the Great Synagogue, the Hagana Museum, the first branch of the Bank of Israel, the monument commemorating Tel Aviv's founders, the statue of the city's first mayor, Meir Dizengoff, and **Independence Hall Visitors Center**.
- *Into the 21st Century: Global Technology:* The **Taglit-Birthright State of Mind Innovation Center** encapsulates the reasons why Israel is known as the “Startup Nation” – recognized as a major player in the fields of innovation, R & D and entrepreneurship. The Innovation Center allows you to learn about the new advancements Israeli startups are making in different fields.
- Travel to Lod, with lunch on own.
- Meet **Shirin Natour Hafi**, Principal of the Arabic High School, and hear how she has transformed a school and a neighborhood and is working to bring a new spirit of co-operation between Jews and Arabs.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- Dinner on own.
- *Optional: (on own)* The "**Nalaga'at**" **Center** is comprised of the "Nalaga'at" Theater, home to the Deaf-Blind Acting Ensemble; Café Kapish, with its deaf waiters and BlackOut, the pitch-black restaurant with its staff of blind waiters.

Overnight: Market House Hotel, Tel Aviv



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Day 5: Thursday, October 31, 2019 *CONFLICTS*

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Stop at the **Siboni Overlook** into Gaza for an overview of the situation between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip and international implications.
- Continue to **Kibbutz Nahal Oz** for a dialogue with residents about resiliency and continued community building in light of their proximity to one of Israel's most volatile borders.
- Participate in an authentic **Kurdish or Moroccan cooking workshop** In the Judean Foothills that affords a hands-on, true-to-life cultural immersion that explores foreign cultures through taste, smell, and experience.
- Continue to Jerusalem.
- Proceed to **Mt. Scopus** in Jerusalem for an introduction to the city.
- *The Right to Judaism*: Meet with **Rabbi Shaul (Seth) Farber**, at **ITIM**, an organization that helps people navigate the religious authorities' bureaucracy in Israel.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 6: Friday, November 1, 2019 *JERUSALEM THROUGH THE AGES*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Beginning at **Jaffa Gate**, walk along the rooftops of the Old City for a glimpse at the multiethnic weave of the city, followed by a visit through the **Jewish Quarter**, including the Cardo, Hurva Square and the Herodian Mansions. Conclude at the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park – Davidson Center complex**, including the southern wall excavations, temple steps and Robinson's Arch.
- Stop at the **Western Wall (Kotel)** for private reflection and meditation. Afterwards, head underneath the Old City's chaotic maze of buildings to the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the extension of the retaining wall built 2,000 years ago by Herod the Great to support the massive compound where the Temple stood.
- Lunch and the rest of the afternoon on own.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** at **Kehillat Zion**, a community of Israeli Jews of all backgrounds, beliefs, customs, and practices, gathering together to re-dream Jerusalem as a meeting point for all to pray and celebrate Judaism in a way that feels authentic and relevant to them, oftentimes for the first time in their lives, within a community deeply rooted in tradition and Jewish heritage.
- Festive Shabbat dinner with **lone soldiers** (not confirmed).

Overnight: Herbert Samuel



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Day 7: Saturday, November 2, 2019 *A JERUSALEM SHABBAT: UNITY IN DIVERSITY*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning for services or leisure.
- **Shabbat Lunch** at the **Fuchsberg Center** with **Rabbi Andrew Sacks**, Director of the Masorti [Conservative] Movement's Rabbinical Assembly in Israel: *Update on the Masorati Movement*
- *Shabbat afternoon options (leadership to choose one):*
 - **The Poet and the Windmill** – Guided walk through Yemin Moshe using the poetry of Yehudah Amichai as a guide
 - **The German Colony/Rehavia** – Walk through the German Colony and/or Rehavia neighborhoods of Jerusalem with their unique buildings and stories that have become part of Jerusalem's lore.
 - **Christian Quarter** walk
- Optional full-day tour to Masada and the Dead Sea (at additional cost.)
- **Havdalah** at the hotel.
- Dinner and evening on own.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem

Day 8: Sunday, November 3, 2019 *ONE LAND- MANY NARRATIVES*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Israelis and Palestinians: Two Narratives, One Land:* Framing the day with **Paul Liptz**, social historian.
- Stop at *Rehov HaAnafa* on the southern side of **Gilo** for an introduction to the maps of Jerusalem, followed by an overview of Bethlehem and surrounding towns, the Seam Zone Barrier (Separation Fence) and the complex road network into Jerusalem.
- *My Home in Palestine – I am Here to Stay:* Geopolitical drive to Bethlehem in the Palestinian Authority for a visit to the **Church of the Nativity** and guided tour of Bethlehem with a Palestinian guide who will explain the sentiments of Palestinian residents living under Israeli rule.
- Lunch at the **Gush Etzion Winery**.
- *My Home in Judea and Samaria – I am Here to Stay:* Visit the **Gush Etzion Heritage Center**, which tells the story of the establishment of Gush Etzion, from its early beginnings to the fall of the Gush during the War of Independence and its rebirth. Meet with a **Gush Etzion resident** for an understanding of the opinion to settle all parts of the Land of Israel.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner at a restaurant.

Overnight: Herbert Samuel Hotel, Jerusalem



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Day 9: Monday, November 4, 2019 *MEMORIALIZATION*

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- *Destruction and Reconstruction: What to Remember?*
 - Visit **Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center** with emphasis on the place of the Holocaust in Israeli society.
 - Tracks for first-timers and repeaters
 - Visit the **Mt. Herzl Military** cemetery with emphasis on the place of the military in Israeli society
- Lunch on own.
- Travel through the **Great Rift Valley**, stopping at the **Jordan Valley Monument**, constructed from old parts of armored vehicles, tanks and guns. It serves as a memorial to the Israeli soldiers who died in the area, particularly during the post-1967 Six Day War "Period of Pursuits".
- Guided visit through the **Beit Shean Archaeological Park**, re-named Scythopolis during the Roman-Byzantine period, which boasts a 10,000-seat theater, a huge colonnaded gym, ancient streets and marvelous mosaics, as well as the remains of a synagogue dating to the 4th century.

OR

- Explore the riddles the intact mosaic floor of **Beit Alpha synagogue** presents such as determining the meaning of the pagan zodiac in a Jewish place of worship and why the entire prayer hall is paved in mosaic squares in geometric patterns.
- Dinner at "**A Place in Sejera**", which was the first communal agricultural settlement in Palestine and the birthplace of the Ha-Shomer movement. The restaurant's owners are direct descendants of some of Sejera's original founders and have re-created the family kitchen in a 100-year-old farmhouse with décor recalling the settlement's origins.
- Check in to the hotel.

Overnight: Lavi Guesthouse



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Day 10: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 *NORTHERN EXPOSURES*

- Breakfast at the hotel.
 - Visit **Tsfat** for a guided look at the ancient synagogues with time for walking through the artists' corridor.
 - A **nature walk** in the **Hula Valley Nature Reserve** offers bird spotting, endless hikes and walks, bike trails, and beautiful nature to absorb.
 - Ascend to the **Golan Heights** for a guide-led security briefing on the relationship between Israel and Syria from the **Tel a-Saki** vantage point.
 - Lunch on own in Katzrin.
 - Meet with soldiers on an IDF base (**Note: Pending IDF approval**)
- OR
- Overview from the top of **Mt. Bental** into Syria
 - Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Lavi Guesthouse



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Day 11: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 *MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINE*

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out of the hotel.
- Proceed to Akko.
- Guided walk through the port city of **Akko**, a city of intrigue with labyrinthine alleys and streets, exploring the remains of Crusader, Muslim and Ottoman construction; massive city walls; subterranean Crusader city; an Ottoman fortress and a uniquely decorated synagogue.
- Lunch on own in Akko.
- Proceed to Haifa.
- Stroll along the **Louis Promenade** on Mount Carmel, dotted with numerous museums and shops and an exceptional view that includes Haifa, distant Rosh Hanikra, the coastal cities of Nahariya, Akko, and the Krayot, and the mountains of the Western Galilee.
- Check in to day-use rooms in Haifa.
- Continue to Zichron Ya'akov.
- The Zichron Ya'akov **Wine Road** "Derekh HaYayin" has been recreated to bring back to life the character of the moshava's early days. It includes reconstruction of building facades using traditional elements such as wood windows, tiled rooves, stone posts and old-fashioned street lamps.
- **Farewell dinner and wine tasting** at a boutique winery.
- Proceed to **Ben Gurion International Airport**.

Day 12: Thursday, November 7, 2019 *RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES*

- **12.05AM** depart on **El Al flight 27** for Newark Airport. Arrive home at **5.25am**