

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El

Unique tour featuring the Food, Wine & Art of **ISRAEL**

Led by Rabbi Neil & Lori Cooper

June 18-29, 2018

(As of 9/14/17)

Traveling together in Israel is an opportunity to connect – with our brothers and sisters in Israel, with the land itself, and with each other. As a traveling community, we will bond through our shared experiences, from the fun and adventurous to the historical and spiritual. Along the way, we'll enjoy delicious gourmet meals, sample outstanding wines and encounter the varied artistic forms of Israel, from modern to ancient.



Day 1: Monday, June 18, 2018: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel, which just celebrated her 70th birthday!

Day 2: Tuesday, June 19, 2018: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- We arrive in Israel this afternoon and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- Transfer to our hotel in **Tel Aviv** to check in and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy a **welcome dinner** together on our first night in Israel.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 3: Wednesday, June 20, 2018: OUR FIRST TASTES OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our first day of touring begins with a visit to the **Rabin Center**, where the spiraling exhibits lead us through the history of the modern state and broader world history, through the prism of the life of one of Israel's most beloved leaders, Yitzhak Rabin.
- We experience the multi-ethnic weave of Tel Aviv through tastings at the **Levinsky Market**, with flavors and aromas from all over the Balkans and Greek Isles.
- We enjoy **lunch** together at **Lilith**, a restaurant employing at-risk youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, training them in restaurant and culinary skills to provide them with a better future.



- We “join up” with the Jewish pre-State Palmach combat unit for an interactive, multimedia mission at the **Palmach Museum**.
- The center of Tel Aviv hosts a spot where great poets, artists and politicians rest together amongst the people. **Trumpedor Cemetery** offers us a venue to explore and celebrate the lives of some of Israel’s greatest minds, as our guide leads us through the social, cultural and political history of Israel.
- This afternoon, we visit Israel’s first micro-brewery, **The Dancing Camel**, in the trendy Florentine neighborhood of Tel Aviv.
- Spend the evening at leisure and enjoy dinner on own. *Restaurant options will be provided for any free evenings, both in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.*

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 4: Thursday, June 21, 2018: ART, PERFORMANCE & BREADS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our day begins at **Independence Hall**, the site of the signing of Israel’s Declaration of Independence in 1948.
- Today, we experience the creativity and ingenuity of Israeli art through a **gallery tour of Tel Aviv**, including the **Tel Aviv Museum of Art**, the **Litvak Gallery**, the **Chelouche Gallery**, the **Artishook Gallery** and more. Along the way, our guide will point out some of the best examples of UNESCO World Heritage White City buildings.
- **From Bakery to Bakery:** We bakery hop in Tel Aviv, tasting bread and pastries in a variety of Old-World bakeries that evoke memories of food served by our grandparents during our childhood.
- This evening, we head out on the town for “**Dinner in the Dark**”, a tantalizing experience that will trigger all of your senses, followed by a performance of “Not by Bread Alone” at the **Nalagaat Center** for the deaf and blind.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 5: Friday, June 22, 2018: TO JERUSALEM



- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day in **Old Jaffa**, where we meet with scholar **Rachel Korazim** for a discussion on Israeli art and poetry.
 - Continue to **Neot Kedumim**, where we walk in the footsteps of our forefathers through the biblical landscape, with plants, trees, water and agricultural instillations as they were over 2,000 years ago. We participate in a specialized workshop dealing with the 7 spices and foods of the bible, and enjoy a **biblical lunch** together.
- We check in to our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set, we venture to the **Tachana Rishona**, where we join the inclusive **Kabbalat Shabbat** service.
- We gather together for **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 6: Saturday, June 23, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We spend Shabbat morning at leisure – service options will be provided.
- Option to visit the **Israel Museum**, home to the famous **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls (on own).
- We join together for **seudah shlishit** (Third Meal) in the late afternoon.
- We set out on a **walking tour and political discussion** in Jerusalem's **Old City**, led by a scholar from the **Hartman Institute**.
- As Shabbat comes to a close, we join together for Havdalah, followed by free time for dinner on own as the streets of Jerusalem return to life.
- Later, we walk to the **Tower of David** for the spectacular **Sound and Light show**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 7: Sunday, June 24, 2018: JERUSALEM OR DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
OPTION: Today, choose the option of touring Jerusalem or spending a day in the Dead Sea basin.
- **JERUSALEM:**
 - Explore the power of Jewish ideas, texts and values during a hands-on **art workshop** with **Rabbi Matt Berkowitz** and/or **David Moss** of Kol HaOt.
 - Visit the **Old City** once more, this time visiting **the Jewish Quarter**, the **Cardo marketplace** and the **Burnt House** excavations. We'll also have the option to visit the excellent **Ir David** excavations, the original City of David.
- **OR**
- **DEAD SEA:**
 - This morning, we depart early for a day of adventure in the **Dead Sea basin**.
 - Upon arrival, we ascend **Masada** by cable car or snake path, to see the remains of King Herod's fortress, as we learn about the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman forces.
 - We descend the mountain and head to the beach for an "unsinkable" swim in the healing, salty waters of the **Dead Sea**.
 - Take a short hike to the hidden waterfalls in the desert oasis of **Ein Gedi**.
 - Return to Jerusalem for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Jerusalem



Day 8: Monday, June 25, 2018: THE FLAVORS OF ISRAEL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. Here, we participate in a very special tour, focused on resistance during the Holocaust, and the many forms it took, both among the Jewish population of Europe, as well as their gentile countrymen. First timers may choose to instead visit the main memorial complex. We conclude our visit with a **memorial ceremony**.
- Lunch at new restaurant, **Crave** (cost on own). Run by Chef Todd Aarons, Crave serves "creative Kosher upscale street food", including carnitas, fish tacos, sliders and more.



- Following lunch, we enjoy a walking tour through the colorful **Nachlaot** neighborhood, considered by many to be Jerusalem's most pluralistic community, mixing the various streams of Orthodox Judaism with secular residents.
- We are led by **Chef Tali Friedman** through the **Machane Yehuda** market, where we choose fresh ingredients along the way for our **cooking workshop**, culminating in a delicious **dinner** made from our purchases!
- Following dinner, we set out on a late night tour of the **Western Wall tunnels**, where we discover archaeological wonders that once remained untouched for centuries.

Overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9: Tuesday, June 26, 2018: ART, WINE & MUSEUMS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we tour the ancient and modern agriculture surrounding the **Sataf Forest**, including a visit to **Shai Zelter's Cheese Farm**.
- We travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea**, the former Roman capital of the area. Here, we view the theater and the aqueduct and visit the **Ralli Museum**, filled with Latin American and Spanish paintings and sculptures as well as 16th to 18th century paintings depicting biblical themes.
- We continue to **Zichron Yaakov**, where we enjoy a **tour and wine tasting** at the **Carmel Winery**, followed by free time for lunch. After lunch, feel free to stroll through the streets of this quaint European style village, or choose to learn the tragic but inspiring story of the Nili spies at the **Nili Spy Museum**.
- Visit **Atlit**, a former detention compound for Jewish immigrants who arrived in Israel illegally during the British Mandate period.
- We travel to **Carmel Forest Spa** to check in to this lovely spot. We enjoy **dinner** together this evening.

Overnight at Carmel Forest Spa



Day 10: Wednesday, June 27, 2018: CONNECTING IN HOSHAYA

- Breakfast at our spa hotel.
- Today, we enjoy a very special visit, hosted by Rabbi Cooper's daughter at her home in the Galilee town of **Hoshaya**. We enjoy locally baked breads and a delicious dessert tasting, and maybe even meet the baker! We meet also **Haviva Ner David** from nearby Kibbutz Hanaton, to talk about the Masorti movement and the challenges and rewards of life in northern Israel.
- We visit the **Gravity Winery** (Yekev Gravitazia) for an introduction to their wines, including a tasting.
- We continue to Alonim to visit the massive spice market "**Havat HaTavlinim**".
- We return to our spa hotel for a leisurely afternoon and evening, relaxing and enjoying the lovely grounds and hotel amenities.

Overnight at Carmel Forest Spa

Day 11: Thursday, June 28, 2018: THE MYSTICAL NORTH/DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our spa hotel.
- After a relaxing morning, we check out of our spa hotel mid-day.
- We travel to the mystical city of **Safed**, where, after time for lunch on our own, we meet artist **David Friedman** and participate in a **Kabbalah workshop**.
- Continue to the **Galilean Hills** for a concert at the home of composer and concert pianist, **Yitzhak Tavior**.
- We next visit the Druze village of **Daliyat el Carmel**, where we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** at Nura's Kitchen, hosted by Nura Husaisi, who worked at the Carmel Forest Spa with some of Israel's leading chefs until she opened her home to guests.
- We travel south to **Tel Aviv**, and transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.



Day 12: Friday, June 29, 2018: WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive home this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

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