

Temple Shaarei Shalom
Israel Exploration
Led by Rabbi Anthony Fratello

October 10-24, 2018
(rev 9 Nov 2017)

Wednesday October 10 DEPARTURE

- Departure from Miami International airport on El Al Flight 018 departing at 1:00pm.

Thursday October 11 BRUCHIM HABA'AIM-WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Arrival at Ben Gurion international airport at 8:05am.
- (*Assistance upon arrival by Keshet representatives*).
- We proceed directly to the Neot Kedumim Biblical Nature Reserve for an opening tree-planting ceremony.
- Welcome Brunch at Neot Kedumim.
- We continue to the port of Old Jaffa overlooking where pilgrims and *olim* have entered the Holy Land for centuries.
- Check-in at the hotel, located on the beach promenade. Time to rest or stroll along the beach.
- Welcome Dinner at Café Yafo in the Jaffa Flea Market

Overnight: Park Plaza Orchid, Tel Aviv

Friday October 12 THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Reenact the moving moment when David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel at Independence Hall or visit the Palmach Museum.
- Stroll through the weekly arts & crafts fair at Nahalat Binyamin.
- Lunch break (on own) and free time explore Tel Aviv.
- Prepare for Shabbat.
- Join Beit Tefilah Yisraeli for a lively musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. Beit Tefilah Israeli is a liberal, independent, and egalitarian community in Tel Aviv, which is committed to Jewish spirit, culture, and social action.
- Festive shabbat dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Park Plaza Orchid, Tel Aviv

Shabbat October 13 TEL AVIV SHABBAT

- Late wakeup and leisurely breakfast.
- Day at leisure to enjoy the city's museums, galleries and café culture or the beach. (The Tel Aviv Museum of Art is open 10-4, The Eretz Israel Museum is open 10-2, Bet Bialik is open 10-2, Nahum Gutman Museum of Art is open 10-3, Ilana Goor Museum is open 10-6, Old Jaffa Visitor's Center is open 9-5).
- We reconvene in the evening for a group Havdalah ceremony on the beach.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Park Plaza Orchid, Tel Aviv

Sunday October 14 INNOVATION NATION

- Depart for Rechovot.

- Visit the Ayalon Institute, a secret, underground bullet factory from the Mandate Period.
- Learn about the cutting-edge scientific research being conducted at the Weizmann Institute of Science with a visit to their interactive center.
- Picnic Lunch.
- In Holon, visit “Save A Child’s Heart”- a project of the Wolfson Hospital, in which Israeli pediatric surgeons provide pro-bono cardiac surgery for children from all over Africa and the Middle East.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Park Plaza Orchid, Tel Aviv*

Monday October 15 ISRAELI MOSAIC

- Depart Tel Aviv and drive north along the Mediterranean Coast.
- Explore the ancient port city of Caesarea, built by King Herod, including the theater, hippodrome, and bathhouse complex.
- Continue to the Druze village of Usafiya to enjoy a home hospitality Druze lunch and to learn more about Druze culture and religion from our hosts.
- Visit the Ahmadiya mosque in Haifa and meet with the community leader.
- Outlook over the Bahai Gardens and port of Haifa.
- Check-in at hotel
- Dinner at hotel and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Leonardo, Haifa*

Tuesday October 16 MYSTICS AND MOUNTAINS

- Visit the beautiful Rosh Hanikrah sea grottoes along the Lebanese border.
- Cross the Western Galilee to the mystical city of Zefat. Lunch stop (on own).
- Explore the synagogues of the mystics and discuss why Zefat became a center of mysticism in the early 16th century.
- Art & Kabbalah program with local artist and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter.
- Continue to the Upper Galilee to Kibbutz Hagosherim for check-in at the kibbutz hotel.
- Dinner at hotel

Overnight: *Kibbutz Hagosherim Hotel*

Wednesday October 17 GOLAN HEIGHTS 360^o

- Meet young IDF soldiers defending Israel’s northern border.
- Ascend the Golan Heights. Lunch break (on own) in the town of Katzrin.
- Continue to Kibbutz Ein Zivan.
 - Chocolate Lover’s Option: Hands-on workshop at the De Karina Boutique Chocolate Factory.
 - Wine Lover’s Option: Visit the Bahat Winery.
- Outlook over Syria from the bunkers of Mt. Bental. Learn about the fateful battles here in 1967 and 1973 as well as an update on current security situation in Syria.
- Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: *Kibbutz Hagosherim Hotel*

Thursday October 18 JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

- Depart hotel and travel south along the shores of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu.
- Learn how this religious kibbutz led the “Green Revolution” in organic farming in Israel. “Bio Bee” tour of the fields and their “bug factory”.
- Lunch in the active kibbutz dining room.
- Continue south along the Jordan River Valley to Jerusalem.
- Explore the colorful and vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market.
- Check-in at hotel.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Prima Royale, Jerusalem*

Friday October 19 THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM

- Begin the day with a spectacular outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade (a great photo op). Text study and discussion on the Binding of Isaac and whether Abraham passed the test.
- Descend to the Old City and enter from the Dung Gate.
- Explore the Southern Wall excavations to gain a better understanding of the centrality of the Temple and pilgrimage in ancient Israel. Private time at the Egalitarian Kotel and quick visit to the Kotel Plaza.
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Cardo and Jewish Quarter.
- Time to prepare for Shabbat.
- Join the Reform community of Tzur Hadassah or Modi’in for Kabbalat Shabbat and home hospitality dinner with community members.

Overnight: *Prima Royale, Jerusalem*

Shabbat October 20 SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Shabbat morning services at Hebrew Union College.
- Day at leisure to explore on your own.
- (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
- We reconvene in the late afternoon for an optional walking tour to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter of the Old City.
- Group Havdalah
- Dinner and evening at leisure.
- *Evening: Optional-Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sound & light show projects on the walls of the museum.*

Overnight: *Prima Royale, Jerusalem*

Sunday October 21 SHOAH TO TEKUMAH

- We learn and mourn together at Yad Vashem, including visits to the historical museum, Children’s Memorial, and Sculpture Garden.
- Lunch break (on own)
- Learn more about the father of modern political Zionism, Theodor Herzl at the multi-media Herzl Museum.
- Visit the beautiful stained-glass Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Karem.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Prima Royale, Jerusalem*

Monday October 22 WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- Early morning breakfast and departure for the Dead Sea Region, lowest point on earth.
- En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
- Continue to Masada. Ascend Herod’s mountain fortress of Masada by cable car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Descend by cable car.
- Lunch (on own) at the Masada Visitor’s Center.
- Float in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea at a private beach.
- En route to Jerusalem, meet with Ethiopian families who crossed the desert of Sudan to wait for months in refugee camps before being airlifted to Israel by the Mossad.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Prima Royale, Jerusalem*

Tuesday October 23 NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

- Visit Yad L’Kashish-Lifeline of the Elderly, where shopping is a true mitzvah.
- Volunteer hands-on with Pantry Packers.
- Free time for last minute shopping and explorations.
- We reconvene for a summary session and Farewell Dinner.
- Transfer to airport for departing flight.

Wednesday October 24 ARRIVAL IN FLORIDA

- Departure on El Al Flight 017 at 12:30am.
- Arrival in Miami at 7:00am.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and security escort for touring days in the Old City.
- All breakfasts plus 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.



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