

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: Saturday, October 24, 2015

BETH EL HEBREW CONGREGATION OF ALEXANDRIA

TRIP TO ISRAEL

LED BY RABBI BRETT ISSEROW

July 3-14, 2016

Day One: Sunday, July 3, 2016

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, July 4, 2016

ARRIVAL

- Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Depart the airport and drive via the coastal plain.
- Visit the **Old City of Jaffa**, ascend from the old port through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.
- Check into the hotel.
- Enjoy a Middle-Eastern-style **dinner** at **Maganda**, in Tel Aviv's Yemenite Quarter, with a varied menu of traditional salads and grilled meats.

Overnight: Tel Aviv



Day Three: Tuesday, July 5, 2016

ALONG THE COAST

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and drive to the **Ancient Roman Aqueduct**, located on the pristine beaches of Caesarea. With the ruins of a past empire to your backs, enjoy the power of the sand, sea and the rush of the water as you celebrate the beginning of your journey throughout Israel.
- **Tikkun Olam** hands-on experience with **Leket**, a volunteer organization that provides food for the needy by collecting excess produce from farms and food distribution companies.
- **Lunch** en route.
- Continue visit the **Zippori National Park**, known for its extraordinary ancient mosaics and its central role in Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple.
- Depart northward to the upper Galilee
- Check into the kibbutz.
- Dinner at the kibbutz.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

Day Four: Wednesday, July 6, 2016

NATURE IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast at the kibbutz hotel.
- Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River, and explore the ruins of the great Biblical city of Dan.
- The panoramic views from **Mt. Bental** (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) give sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the **Golan Heights**, and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- **Lunch** en route.
- Enjoy **rafting** or **kayaking** down the Jordan River.
- Return to the hotel to enjoy the pool.
- Return to the kibbutz hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee



Day Five: Thursday, July 7, 2016

SPIRITUALITY IN THE NORTH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Tsfat.
- **Iada'at Families in Tsfat** - משפחות מטיילות בצפת: Find your way through the alley ways of Tsfat, uncovering the hidden words, secret codes and mystical messages on a family scavenger hunt through the Old City of the ancient Kabbalists.
- Chance to wander in the colorful Artists' colony.
- **Lunch** en route.
- Walk along the top of **Mount Meron**, Israel's second highest mountain, a long time beacon for Jewish mystics, and a beautiful nature reserve as it towers over the city of Safed and the location of the grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.
- Travel southward to Jerusalem.
- Upon entering Jerusalem, stop to recite the traditional "**shehechiyanu**" blessing.
- Check into the hotel.
- Drive along the Trans-Israel Highway for a close-up view of the 'Security Barrier' along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

Day Six: Friday, July 8, 2015

HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Proceed to the Old City and enter via Dung Gate.
- Explore the Jerusalem Archaeological Park, including the Davidson Center, Robinson's Arch and the Southern Wall steps where Jewish pilgrims entered the Temple Mount 2,000 years ago.
- Stop at the Kotel (Western Wall) and experience the special atmosphere of this holy site and then walk through the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Western Wall alongside the Temple Mount.
- **Pizur lunch** in the **Jewish Quarter** and continue with a walking tour Jerusalem, for visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights, among them:
 - The Cardo, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th century.
 - Hurva Square, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
- Return to the hotel and time to prepare for Shabbat.
- Depart for Kehillat Tzur Hadassah for **Kabbalat Shabbat**.

Youth

- **Israeli Shabbat**: Join host families for **Shabbat dinner** in their homes.

Adults

- Depart **Tzur Hadassah** and return to Jerusalem for **Shabbat dinner**.

Overnight: Jerusalem / Home Hospitality in Tzur Hadassah



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Day Seven: Saturday, July 9, 2016

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

Youth

- Spend the day with Israeli hosts.

Adult

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Morning at leisure.
- Depart the hotel for lunch at **Bulghourji**, an authentic Armenian restaurant situated in an ancient building which was once a bulgur factory.
- Visit the **Christian Quarter** of the Old City of Jerusalem, including the **Via Dolorosa**, the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and other Christian sites.
- Travel to Tzur Hadassah to re-join the youth and Israeli hosts.

All

- *Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah.*
- Farewell to Tzur Hadassah and return to Jerusalem.
- Free time to explore Downtown Jerusalem, including the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall and the Nachalat Shiva neighborhood, with a **Pizur dinner**.

Overnight: Jerusalem

Day Eight: Sunday, July 10, 2016

THE POWER OF MEMORY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- **Yad Vashem** preparation.
- Special program at the **Yad Vashem** complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Visit the Historical Museum and the Children's Memorial, followed by a memorial service.
- Lunch at **Yad Vashem**.
- **LaDa'at Machaneh Yehuda** - אל השוק: Actively explore the colorful and ethnically diverse Machaneh Yehuda market of Jerusalem.
- Depart Jerusalem to take part in an **archaeological dig** at the **Beit Guvrin Caves**; prepare to get your hands dirty uncovering pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago, followed by a crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth (crawling is optional). *Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park was recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*
- Return to Jerusalem.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem



Day Nine: Monday, July 11, 2016

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and descend to the **Dead Sea Basin**.
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**.
- Hike to **Nahal David**, the freshwater spring and waterfalls in the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, a lush oasis in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea.
- **Lunch** en route.
- Ascend by cable-car to **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and the site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires; discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Descend via the Roman Ramp and drive to the **Nokdim** encampment in the Southern Judean Desert. Take a camel ride, experience Bedouin-style hospitality, enjoy a '**Hafla**' Dinner sleep under the stars in a Bedouin tent.

Overnight: Kfar Hanokdim, Judean Desert

Day Ten: Tuesday, July 12, 2016

CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH

- Breakfast at the camp.
- Check out and drive west through the Negev.
- *Living on the Edge*: Visit **Moshav Netiv Ha'asarah**, located on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, for an insight into the security complexities of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza while trying to create a thriving home, including a dialogue with a resident.
- **Lunch** en route.
- Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot for an eye-opening tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate.
- Enter the city of **Tel Aviv**, known as the "city that never sleeps," with its centers of culture, recreation and national history, great beaches and fine stores.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv



Day Eleven: Wednesday, July 13, 2016

TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began and walk through the famous **Jaffa Flea Market** – “**Shuk Hapishpishim**”.
- Return to Tel Aviv and walk the **Blue Route**, with its beautiful coastline and Mediterranean atmosphere, from the Jaffa Ridge in the south to the Tel Aviv Port.
- **LaDa’at EthnicTasting Tour:** walk through Tel Aviv’s famous **Levinsky Market**, where you'll find a combination of foods and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and hear the unique stories of the individuals who sell them with **lunch**.
- Visit **Independence Hall**, where David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel on May 14th, 1948.
- Time to relax at the beach.
- **Festive Mid-eastern farewell dinner** at **Maganda**, in Tel Aviv’s Yemenite Quarter, with a varied menu of traditional salads and grilled meats.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day Twelve: Thursday, July 14, 2016

DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.

