



Temple Emanu-El of Atlanta
Adventure in Israel
Led by Rabbi Spike Anderson

June 7-17, 2020

updated September 15

Sunday, June 7: BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME!

- Arrival in Israel; Rendezvous at the hotel in the late afternoon
- Say the *shehechyanu* blessing and drink a *l'chaim* at an **opening ceremony** overlooking the Tel Aviv coastline
- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight: *David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Monday, June 8: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

- Visit the Shalom Tower to see the new **“We Declare”** exhibit about the founding of the State of Israel and then walk along the new Tel Aviv Independence Trail, inspired by Boston’s Freedom Trail.
- Follow the life of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the parallel history of the development of Israel at the **Rabin Museum**
- Take some time to wander the alleyways of **ancient Jaffa** and have lunch on your own there
- Site visit to **Save A Child’s Heart** whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries suffering from heart disease and who cannot get adequate medical care in their home countries
- Enjoy the sunset over the Mediterranean Sea and a free evening to check out Tel Aviv’s night life

Overnight: *David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel Aviv*

Tuesday, June 9: GOING DOWN

- In **Sderot** – the town (in)famous for being the target of Hamas rockets, tour the town, see the collection of katyusha rockets which landed in the area and see how they protect their residents; understand why it is so difficult to find an apartment available for rent or purchase
- Pick vegetable grown in the desert sand and hear one man’s (successful) modern-day Zionist dream at the **Salad Trail** (lunch on site)
- Explore David Ben Gurion’s vision of making the desert bloom and his lifetime accomplishments at his **Sde Boker desert home**
- Visit **Ben Gurion’s grave** and take in the breathtaking view of the desert
- Check into the hotel and cool off in the swimming pool
- Dinner in the hotel

Overnight: *Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon*

Wednesday, June 10: THE CRATER AND THE CREATOR

- Optional **sunrise hike** along the Ramon Crater and over to Camel Mountain; discuss why the Torah was given in the desert
- Return for breakfast and some spa time in the hotel
- At the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center**, learn about the formation of the geological craters and about Israel's first astronaut, who took his name from this crater
- Take **Jeeps** off road to see the hard to reach phenomena of the Ramon Crater
- Visit the **Derech Eretz Lone Farm** – an initiative to increase the Jewish population in the Negev; taste the wines produced from the grapes grown in this desert farm and hear this Zionist story
- Return to the hotel pool
- Dinner in the hotel
- Take advantage of the low light pollution and see the plethora of **stars and planets** from Israel's strongest portable telescopes

Overnight: Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon

Thursday, June 11: THE DESERT FOR DESSERT

- Encounter with **Lt. Colonel Ido Fromer**, commander of a Drone Squadron; in addition to his operational responsibilities, Col. Fromer trains Israeli air force pilots on the laws and ethics of combat in the IDF and runs a robotics lab for Yerucham's youth
- Meet with **Rabbi Sharon Shalom**, the Ethiopian-born rabbi of Holocaust survivors and immigrants from the Soviet Union
- Participate in an actual **archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
- Continue up to Jerusalem
- Upon entering the Holy City, drink a l'chaim at a **welcome to Jerusalem ceremony**
- Free evening to explore Jerusalem

Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, June 12: THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM!

- At the **Haas Promenade**, begin the exploration of the Jewish love affair with Jerusalem; remember the Biblical accounts of the Binding of Isaac, associated with this spot
 - Continue to the **City of David**, site of biblical Jerusalem; see the probable foundations of King David's palace; Bible in hand, understand how Jerusalem became the venue for the development of classic Jewish values and our national identity; with your flashlights and water shoes, exit via the **water tunnel dug by King Hezekiah** 2,700 years ago in order to save the city from the Assyrians
 - **Windows to Israeli Society** with Rachel Korazim – A Tale of Two Cities, contrasting Jerusalem to Tel Aviv
- OR**
- Participate in a **group art project** "mapping out your journey" with **Kol Haot**
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
 - 18:00 In the evening, go to the Ezrat Yisrael (Egalitarian Section) of the **Western Wall** to bring **Shabbat in as a community with special Kabbalat Shabbat led by the Masorti movement**; then join the thousands of Israelis and Jews from around the world as they bring in Shabbat

- Shabbat dinner in the hotel

Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, June 13: SHABBAT SHALOM

- Celebrate the Bnai Mitzvah of community members coming of age at the **Hebrew Union College** courtyard
- Celebratory lunch in the hotel
- Free afternoon to relax
- Optional walking tour of the **Christian Quarter** of the Old City, including the **Via Dolorosa** and the Church of the **Holy Sepulcher**
- Musical Group **Havdallah** followed by a night out on town

Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, June 14: ONE LAND, TWO PEOPLES

- Ascend the **Temple Mount**; see the remains of the First and Second Temples as well as the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque which stand there today
- See just how amazing the Second Temple must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels**
- Time to peruse the Arab souq of the Old City
- Tour of the **Separation Barrier** in Jerusalem with Col. (ret.) Danny Tirzah, who was responsible for creating its route and who served as a senior advisor of Prime Minister Olmert during his negotiations with the Palestinians
- Drive around the town of **Efrat** to understand what a “settlement” actually is
- Enter the **Palestinian town of Hussan**; participate in a Cleaning the Hatred project by their natural springs and hear **Jewish and Palestinian Residents** of the area speak about their visions of coexistence
- In the evening, Q & A on Israeli society and regional politics with Keshet’s founder and **political analyst** Yitzhak Sokoloff

Overnight: Mount Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, June 15: FROM HOLOCAUST TO REDEMPTION

- Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** (younger children to the Biblical Zoo)
- As a contrast to the morning, head over to the vibrant **Machane Yehuda Shuk** to taste some of the incredible Israeli street food
- **Ride camels** and meet Abraham (of biblical fame) at **Genesis Land**
- Continue to your Dead Sea Hotel; **float in the Dead Sea** and enjoy the pool and spa there

Overnight: Hod Hotel, Dead Sea

Tuesday, June 16: WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- Optional hike up the Judean Mountains for an incredible **sunrise over the mountains of Jordan**
- Take the cable car up to **Masada**, the fortress built by King Herod and used by Jewish zealots defending themselves from the Roman army; hear one of the most dramatic stories in Jewish history

- Travel north
- **Rafting** down the "mighty" Jordan River at Abukayak
- Peer into Syria from Tel as-Saki; get an update on what is happening today in Syria with **Captain (res.) Yaakov Selevan** and meet soldiers defending the border
- Check into the hotel
- Barbeque dinner overlooking the Kinneret

Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel, Galilee

Wednesday, June 17: **MYSTICS AND MOUNTAINS**

- Ascend up to **Tzfat**; explore the alleyways and synagogues of mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th Century. Meet with a **Kabbalistic Artist** and see how he synthesizes his studies of Jewish mysticism into his art
- Concluding discussion
- Farewell dinner in Tanduka Restaurant, Yokneam
- Continue to the airport for your flight home
- Start planning your next trip to Israel!

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and a Keshet Youth Counselor
- There will be parallel educational programming for adults and youth throughout the trip to allow for age-appropriate learning
- 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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