



Friday, May 27, 2022

# Temple Emanuel of Kensington

## Multigenerational Israel Experience

Led by Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser

**August** 9-20, 2023

## The **J<sup>2</sup>** way

J<sup>2</sup> crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

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Educational trips, curated expeditions & missions.

**NEW YORK | TEL AVIV**



# Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

## **01: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 | ON THE WAY TO ISRAEL | FLIGHT**

- ◇ Depart the U.S.A.

## **02: THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 | THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY | TLV**

- ◇ Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- ◇ Meet your **tour educator** who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- ◇ Enter **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ◇ **Beginnings:** Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient **Jaffa**. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea; learn why Jaffa, mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, is so historically important; and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past.
- ◇ **Jaffa Stories and Coffee:** You’re warmly invited into the home of **Doris Hiffawi** to hear about her life as a Christian Arab in Jaffa. Over coffee brewed by her family and Arabic sweets and **dinner**, she’ll talk about whether the area’s Jewish, Muslim, and Christian population mix or merely make do. We’ll also find out how female entrepreneurs like Doris are bringing change to this socio-economically deprived neighborhood.

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### 03: FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 | FOUNDATION OF THE CITY & STATE | TLV

- ◇ Breakfast at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet.
- ◇ **From Hebrew City to Hebrew State:** Walk along the newly opened **Independence Trail** and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.
- ◇ **What's Going on in Bohemian Tel Aviv?** Join an expert on Tel Aviv's alternative scene for an urban adventure and **graffiti tour**. Explore the latest street art and find out what it reveals about life, ideas, and ideology in Israel's cultural capital.
- ◇ Enjoy lunch at the **Sarona Market**. Through the smells, flavors, and tastes of this renovated historical Templars town, explore the range of cuisine – from local street food to fine dining by world-renowned Israeli chefs.
- ◇ Browse your way through **Nahalat Binyamin**, Tel Aviv's arts and crafts market, before we check out the hustle and bustle at the Carmel Market.
- ◇ **A Fallen Leader, A Fallen Soldier:** The assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995 was one of the great traumas of Israeli political history. Discuss his life and death at **Rabin Square**, the place where he was murdered, and take a quiet moment to reflect at the Rabin Memorial. We'll also see how Rabin Square has become one of the crucial public spaces in Israel and the location for political protests, state ceremonies and spontaneous celebrations.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.
- ◇ **Kabbalat Shabbat services** with **Beit Tefilah Israeli** at the **Tel Aviv Port**. As the sun sets over the Mediterranean Sea, join Israelis from diverse backgrounds welcoming Shabbat through prayer, song, and joy.
- ◇ **Shabbat dinner** at a local restaurant/hotel.



#### 04: SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 | **FREE SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV** | TLV

- ◇ **Morning services** on the beach with Rabbi Rosenwasser.
- ◇ Free shabbat to enjoy the city and crash the waves.
- ◇ **Three Stars in the Israel Sky:** At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah** ceremony.
- ◇ **The City at Night:** Tel Aviv's food scene is on fire with world-class chefs and a huge range of happening restaurants. See and taste for yourself during a free evening with dinner (*on own account*). Afterwards, those who love the nightlife can sample the city's bar, club and café culture or stroll along the refurbished promenade and port.

#### 05: SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 | **ALONG THE COAST** | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ Check out of the hotel and depart Tel Aviv.
- ◇ Drive along the coast to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Explore life 2,000 years ago with its ancient theater, palace, and bathhouse.
- ◇ Continue to **Haifa**.
- ◇ Take a moment at the top of **Mount Carmel**, the setting for many biblical stories and the old stomping ground of the prophet Elijah, to admire the view of Haifa Bay. Haifa's diversity is also reflected by the fact that it is a world center of the Baha'i religious movement. We'll see the beautiful **Baha'i Gardens** and one of their holiest sites, the gold-domed Shrine of the Bab, and discuss the sometimes-tragic history of this community and how a faith that began in Iran ended up being based in Israel.
- ◇ Drive to the Upper Galilee.
- ◇ **Higher Ground:** Hit the ground racing as we go off-road for a **jeep tour** of the **Golan Heights** that will combine natural beauty with security insights into one of Israel's most strategically important areas. Retrace the experiences of Israeli soldiers in their battles during the Six Day War of 1967 and the 1973 Yom Kippur War and talk with your jeep drivers about their personal experiences and feelings about the Golan.
- ◇ Check into your hotel.
- ◇ **Dinner** at the hotel.

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## 06: MONDAY, AUGUST 14 | SPIRITUALITY & NATURE IN THE NORTH | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, and maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city; entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:
  - Visit the **Ari synagogue** and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved **Rabbi Isaac Luria** and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
  - See the **Caro synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari, in the 16th century. It is where **Rabbi Joseph Caro**, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a *maggid*, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
  - Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the **Artists' Colony** with its galleries, shops, and studios.
- ◇ **Cool Off Down the Jordan River:** With the hot weather, it's time to take to the water with **rafting** or **kayaking** down the Jordan River. This is the parched Middle East rather than the Rockies, so the current is mainly calm. Water shoes are recommended.

### Option 1

- ◇ **From Little Things, Great Things Grow:** The Golan Heights is wine country. Sample some of its best at the **Pelter Winery**. Nir and Tal Pelter used to run this winery out of the backyard of their family farm. The brothers have proven their expertise since then, but the winery remains a boutique family affair. We're doing the driving, so you're welcome to treat yourself.

### Option 2

- ◇ **Comfort You Can Eat:** Enjoy the culinary delights of a **chocolate workshop** at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** on Kibbutz Ein Zivan. Chocolatier Karina Chepelinski continues her family's tradition of creating handmade premium chocolate. During this tour and workshop, taste various chocolates and learn what makes it so delicious. Then, experiment with quality ingredients to create your own chocolate masterpiece.

### All

- ◇ **Northern Borders, Northern Battles:** We'll gaze across the Golan and into Syria from the top of **Mount Bental** and gain powerful insights into Israel's geopolitical and security situation. Analyze the current challenges Israel faces on its northern border, examine the impact of the tragic civil war in Syria, and hunker down in bunkers from the vital battles that took place here during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- ◇ Return to the hotel for **dinner**.

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## 07: TUESDAY, AUGUST 15 | THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM | JLM

- ◇ Check out of the hotel and depart.
- ◇ **Kinneret Cemetery:** The area around the Kinneret was a stronghold for early Zionist experiments in communal living and collective agriculture. We'll visit the graves of some of the iconic figures in pioneering Zionist culture buried at the **Kinneret Cemetery** including Rachel the Poetess, the Zionist Marxist philosopher Ber Borochov, and Naomi Shemer, the "first lady of Israeli song," and discuss communal life in Israel then and now.
- ◇ Swim in the freshwater pools and natural springs at the **Gan Hashlosha Nature Reserve (Sachne)**, situated at the foot of Mt. Gilboa.
- ◇ As we drive south through the **Jordan Valley**, we'll discuss the strategic and political situation in this area and consider how Israeli control over it is viewed by some as vital to national security but by others as an impediment to any future agreement with the Palestinians.
- ◇ **Welcome to Jerusalem:** Continue to the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, and experience the convergence of the old and the new. Head straight to the **Kotel** (Western Wall), widely considered to be Judaism's holiest existing site. It will be the ideal location as we celebrate our arrival in Jerusalem with a special ceremony and the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing of thanksgiving.
- ◇ **The Jerusalem Archaeological Park** is a large-scale excavation that has uncovered vital parts of ancient Jerusalem. A particular highlight is to walk on the Southern Wall steps used by Jewish pilgrims to enter the Temple, 2,000 years ago. But there is much else to see, including Robinson's Arch, the remains of a major Second Temple-period street, and drainage tunnels used by Jewish fighters hiding from the Roman invaders. A museum, including movies and a 3-D model of ancient Jerusalem, add to the experience.
- ◇ Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's **Old City** and the **Jewish Quarter** and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
  - A climb to the **rooftops** to see and discuss the ties and tensions between the different faith groups and communities of the Old City. From this one spot, we'll look out over the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, venerated by Christian groups as the burial place of Jesus; the golden Dome of the Rock, which is sacred to Islam; and the Jewish Quarter's famous Hurva Synagogue.
  - The **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
  - King Hezekiah's "**Broad Wall**," a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
  - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
- ◇ Check into your hotel and evening at leisure in Jerusalem.



## 08: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 | **SEARCHING FOR ROOTS** | JLM

- ◇ **The Process for Progress:** Discuss the way forward in the struggle for religious pluralism and gender equality in Israel with a representative from the **Israel Religious Action Center**.
- ◇ **One City or Two?** Go beyond the headlines as we explore the **geopolitics of Jerusalem** with site visits and discussions on key issues. Learn more about the complex relationship between predominantly Arab East Jerusalem and the city's mostly Jewish western part. We'll encounter the **Security Barrier** and discuss its effects.
- ◇ **Is Religion the Way Forward or an Obstacle to Peace?** We'll go beyond the Green Line to meet with **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger** from **Shorashim** (Roots), a program bringing West Bank Palestinians and their Jewish neighbors together despite their fears and suspicions.
- ◇ **Diggin' for Roots:** Get in touch with the land and history of Israel. Take part in an archaeological dig at the **Beit Guvrin Caves**. Get your hands dirty uncovering pottery from the **Hellenistic** period, 2300 years ago, and then crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth (non-crawling options are available) in this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem.
- ◇ **High Times in the Holy City:** Jerusalem at night provides a very different vision of the Holy City. Check out how the locals let their hair down during a **free evening** and explore Jerusalem nightlife, such as:
  - The **Mamilla Mall**, an upscale, open-air food and shopping area located outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate.
  - Joining the crowds strolling through the **Ben Yehuda** and **Nahalat Shiva Pedestrian Malls**.

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**09: THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 | JEWISH MEMORY, JEWISH RENEWAL | JLM**

- ◇ **B'nei and Bnot Mitzvah services** on the **Beit Shmuel Roof Terrace** overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. The Beit Shmuel complex serves as the headquarters of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.
- ◇ Take a multi-cultural tasting journey through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Mahane Yehudah** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop.

**Option 1**

- ◇ Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
  - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
  - The **Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.

**Option 2**

- ◇ **Two by Two the Animals Went into the Ark:** The **Biblical Zoo** is one of Jerusalem's loveliest places. It has a great collection of animals with a special focus on creatures mentioned in the Bible. It includes 62 acres of open areas where the animals live, a zoo train if you don't feel like walking, a petting zoo, and plenty of other activities to keep all ages enthralled.

**All**

- ◇ Return to the hotel.
- ◇ **Celebratory dinner** at a local restaurant.



## 10: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 | **MASADA & THE DEAD SEA** | JLM

- ◇ Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before setting out to explore the **Dead Sea** region.
- ◇ **As Low as It Goes:** We'll drive to the Dead Sea Basin, 1412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape, and the views are breathtaking.
- ◇ **The Last Stand:** Take the cable car to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- ◇ **The Sea of Salt:** Float into happiness at the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live or swim in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- ◇ **Muddy Good Fun:** Coat yourself in the famous **Dead Sea mud**, a time-honored tradition enjoyed by all ages. For thousands of years, it has been believed that the mud and minerals of the Dead Sea have special healing and beauty qualities. See and feel for yourself.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem and prepare for Shabbat.
- ◇ **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at **Kehillat Mevasseret** in **Mevasseret Zion**, led by **Rabbi Alona Nir-Keren**, followed by a **home hospitality Shabbat dinner/communal Shabbat dinner** with local congregants. *(pending confirmation)*



## 11: SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 | **SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM** | DEPARTURE

- ◇ **Shabbat morning services** with Rabbi Rosenwasser overlooking the Old City Walls.
- ◇ **Free time** in Jerusalem with an opportunity to:
  - Enjoy the **hotel's pool**.
  - Visit the renewed and wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its eclectic collection, ranging from archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls to Jewish life and art, European art, contemporary Israeli art, and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.
  - Spend time in the **Old City Shuk** (market) in the Christian quarter.
  - Visit the **First Station**. Jerusalem's rail link from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century has been transformed into a center of restaurants, shops, and culture.
- ◇ Late check out.
- ◇ **Arming for Independence**: Visit the **Ayalon Institute** near Rehovot and uncover its role in the establishment of the state of Israel. This secret ammunition factory produced millions of bullets for Jewish forces fighting for a Jewish state and the end of British rule over Palestine.
- ◇ **Farewell dinner** at the Ayalon Institute. (pending confirmation)
- ◇ Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your return flight to the USA.

## 11: SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN** | FLIGHT

- ◇ Return to the U.S.A.



# Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double/triple room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Aug. 10-13	3	Carlton	Superior	Tel Aviv
Aug. 13-15	2	Hagoshrim	Classic	Upper Galilee
Aug. 15-19	4 + LCO	Inbal	Standard	Jerusalem

Option B:

# OF PARTICIPANTS	20+	30+	40+	child as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> reduction Age 2-17	Single Supplement
	\$4,935	\$4,695	\$4,438	-\$1,215	+\$1,865

\*A special subsidiary of \$499 will be offered to kids ages 2-6 at the time of the trip.

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# What to **Expect**

## **Included:**

- ◇ 9 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ Late check out on the day of departure is included.
- ◇ 9 days of touring with a tour educator (guide), 8 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 arrival transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ 1 departure transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ Daily breakfast & 7 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.

## **Excluded:**

- ◇ Credit card fees.
- ◇ Flights to & from Israel.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.



- ◇ Gratuities: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 30/40 participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Driver: \$6 per day per person.

### **Terms & Conditions (T&C's):**

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

**Rates:** Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 30/40 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.



**Currency:** Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

**Payment policy:** The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

**Cancellation policy:** All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J² travel program.
- If your J² travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

**Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:**

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.
- The cost of the PEACE OF MIND TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (POM), for trips only to Israel, if this was purchased.
- Group airfare penalty fee.

**Travel insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.