

CONGREGATION KOL AMI to ISRAEL

HOSTED by RABBI SAM SPECTOR

JULY 25, 2021 – AUGUST 6, 2021 (optional extension to Eilat/Petra available)

Sunday, July 25: **DEPARTURE**

- Depart SLC on the flight of your choice.

Monday, July 26: **BARUCHIM HABA'IM (WELCOME)**

- Arrival in Israel (meeting time by 4 PM for group transfer to begin tour in Tel Aviv.
- Travel to the ancient port of **Jaffa** for an overview of the city and its sister city, modern **Tel Aviv** for a **Shechiyanu** blessing.
- Group welcome dinner at the hotel; we'll get to know each other and our guide better.
- Optional walking tour along Tel Aviv's **Coastal Promenade**.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel — Tel Aviv

Tuesday, July 27: **THE FIRST HEBREW CITY: TEL AVIV**

- Visit the **Palmach Interactive Museum**, a place that describes the pre 1948 military and how it evolved.
- Reenact the moving moment when David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel at **Independence Hall** on May 14, 1948. Examine the miracles and struggles leading up to this dramatic event.
- Tour of **Tel Aviv**. Feel the creative pioneering energy of the first Hebrew city build in two thousand years, the economic, technological, architectural, and cultural center of the modern State of Israel. A highlight will be the visit to the **PEREZ Center of Peace and Innovation**.
- Enjoy the funky crafts and the creative sidewalk artists and street musicians in the **Nachalat Binyamin** outdoor Artists' Market.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel — Tel Aviv



Israel Head Office: 5 Yoni Netanyahu St. Or Yehuda 60376, ISRAEL, Telephone: 972-3-538-8444, Fax: 972-3-5336061, E. mail: mngt@amiel.israel.net

Wednesday, July 28: ISRAEL'S FACE TO THE SEA

- Travel to **Caesarea**, the ancient Roman capital and port city built by Herod the Great on the shores of the Mediterranean. Consider the challenges faced by Jews living in a predominantly Roman city during a walk through the remains of the theater, hippodrome, bath house complex and palace of this magnificent city.
- Continue to the artists' colony of **Ein Hod**. Tour the colony and participate in a **hands-on workshop** with a professional artist.
- Travel to the Druze village of **Daliyat el-Carmel** for an ethnic lunch and a dialogue with community leaders on the Druze Israeli Arab community's relationship to Israel and their place in Israeli society.
- Continue to Haifa for a bus tour of the city, including the spectacular **Bahai Gardens**. Learn about the Bahai faith and the importance of Israel as a destination for pilgrimages.
- Continue to the **Upper Galilee** to our hotel at the foot of the **Golan Heights**.
- Dinner in hotel.

Overnight: Merom Golan Kibbutz Hotel

Thursday, July 29: NORTHERN EXPOSURES

- A short stop at the **Tel Dan** national reserve, a beautiful paradise that lies in the ancient city ruins of Dan. See the fascinating Canaanite archway, built centuries before the famed Roman archways. On to the **National Park of Banias** with cool water flowing from the mountain springs.
- Travel to a **kibbutz** on the Lebanese border for a view into **Lebanon** and a briefing of the political situation in the area. Meet with Israeli soldiers and learn about their service along an often hostile border.
- Travel to the mystical city of **S'fat** to explore its narrow alleyways, ancient synagogues and many colorful shops and galleries of the Artists' Colony. Enjoy some free time on the main artist street to explore and purchase some unique and beautiful local art.
- Lunch on own.
- Continue to the shores of the upper **Jordan River for a fun rafting ride** down the river (water levels permitting).
- Dinner at our kibbutz hotel.
- Evening activity: Enjoy a Kibbutz tour/lecture and learn about this true Israeli concept.

Overnight: Meron Golan Kibbutz Hotel



Friday, July 30: THE ANCIENT GALILEE

- Depart for Jerusalem.
- On our way, stop at the ancient Galilean capital city of **Tzippori**, where Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi compiled the Mishnah, the text which allowed Judaism to flourish for 2,000 years in the Diaspora. Explore the magnificent synagogue and mosaics, examining the complex relationship between Jewish and Pagan Roman civilizations.
- **Kfar Kedem**: Get a view into life in the Land of Israel 2,000 years ago — from the back of a donkey!
- Enjoy a "Mishnaic" lunch.
- Transfer to Jerusalem along the Trans-Israel Highway.
- Upon arrival, you'll have time for check in and freshening up before meeting together for Shabbat dinner.
- Special **Shabbat of a Lifetime Dinner with 2 – 3 local families** in one of the neighborhoods of the New City of Jerusalem. Learn about the various traditions and meanings that accompany the festive Shabbat meal. Read traditional blessings and lots of singing to highlight Shabbat welcome.

Overnight: Lady Stern Jerusalem Hotel

Shabbat, July 31: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Morning services at a synagogue in the hotel to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of one of our family members, Eva Newland, daughter of John and Joanne.
- Lunch: You may arrange for Shabbat lunch at the hotel. Your cost will be added to your hotel bill.
- **Afternoon Walking Tour** of Jerusalem's oldest neighborhoods outside the Old City, **Yemin Moshe** and **Mishkenot Sha'ananim**. These were the first neighborhoods built outside the Walls of the Old City and therefore they were open to Bedouin raids. We continue to an entrance and climb the steps to walk the **ramparts of the Walls of the Old City**. Enjoy the unusual and bird's eye view of the Old City.
- Return to the hotel, dinner on your own. Use this free evening to enjoy the city as it re-opens after Shabbat.

Overnight: Lady Stern Jerusalem Hotel



Sunday, August 1: JERUSALEM: CROSSROADS OF THREE RELIGIONS

- Visit the **Haas Promenade**, overlooking a magnificent panoramic view of Jerusalem. Explore the Jewish “love affair” with Jerusalem through the stories of the Binding of Isaac and King David’s establishment of the city as the capital of the People of Israel 3,000 years ago.
- Explore the **City of David**, “the original Jerusalem,” along with some of the most ancient archaeological finds in the country, including remains that some scholars believe to be from King David's reign. Discuss age-old questions of Jewish political morality in light of the story of David and Batsheva.
- Climb through a 2,000 year old **Herodian Drainage System** built by King Herod. Continue to the **Davidson Center**.
- We have added in a wonderful dairy lunch in a restaurant overlooking the Plaza and Western Wall.
- Proceed together to the holy **Western Wall — "Kotel."** The Kotel is part of the few remaining structures of the Temple Complex built by Herod the Great.
- Descend through the many layers of Jerusalem’s past at the time of the Temple through the **Western Wall Tunnels**. Inside, a most interesting model shows the different dwelling periods and history of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Stand on the site believed to be the nearest spot to the "Holy of Holies."
- Walk via the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, for a guided tour of the church.
- Evening: Dinner on your own, explore the city, shop for fun souvenirs, and people watch! Stroll to the **Machane Yehuda market** to see the exciting music/food scene that opens after the fresh market stalls have closed.

Overnight: Lady Stern Jerusalem Hotel

Monday, August 2: MODERN JERUSALEM

- Our first stop will be **Pantry Packers** for an exciting hands-on opportunity to pack commodity food staples for Israel’s poorest families. These packages, which bear a sticker with the name of the packing group, Congregation Kol Ami, and will later be included in large food baskets destined for needy families throughout the country.
- Visit the **Jerusalem Time Elevator**; hold onto your seats for a fascinating ride through 3000 years of Jerusalem History.



- Learn and remember at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's central memorial to the victims of the Shoah, including the Historical Museum, the Children's Memorial, and the Avenue of the Righteous. Explore the relationship between the Holocaust and the State of Israel.
- **Alternative program for Children under 10 years of age:** the **Jerusalem Biblical Zoo**
- Geopolitical tour of Jerusalem and the **Seam Zone Barrier**. Explore the complexities of the geopolitics of Jerusalem and the personal and human price which Jerusalem residents pay due to the complex nature of the situation, as well as considering possible scenarios for the future of the city.

Overnight: Lady Stern Jerusalem Hotel

Tuesday, August 3 : CONTEMPORARY ISRAEL: WHERE ANCIENT MEETS MODERN

- Shalom and Farewell to Jerusalem as we travel to the **Dead Sea**, lowest point on earth, to visit Herod's mountain fortress of **Masada**. Explore why the Jews chose to live there after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, and learn about the terrible choices the Jews had to make there and its relevance for us today.
- Lunch on own.
- Hike to the natural pools and waterfalls of Nahal David in the **Ein Gedi Oasis**.
- Relax and float in the **Dead Sea** (weather permitting).
- Continue to **Kfar Hanokdim** which is a Bedouin encampment for camel rides and Bedouin hospitality. Enjoy a delicious Hafla meal. Be prepared to sleep over in the massive tent.

Overnight: Kfar Hanokdim (OPTIONAL upgrade available to private room)

Wednesday, August 4: WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- After breakfast depart K'far Hanokdim and drive to the **Beersheba National River Park**. Here we will plant trees in honor of our exciting tour and to assist with the continued Greening of Eretz Yisrael.
- Prepare to 'get dirty' as you participate in an archaeological dig under Tel Maresha at **Beit Guvrin**. You'll discover pottery from the time of the Maccabees and get an appreciation for the tedious work of archaeologists!
- Visit the **Latrun Armored Museum**, to be given a tour by an Israeli soldier. Learn about the road to Jerusalem and the battles relating to this corridor. This is a great picture opportunity with the tanks of the IDF from all their wars.



- Join the 'underground' at the **Ayalon Institute**, where a once-secret Hagannah munitions factory existed during the Mandate Period under Britain.
- Check in to your Tel Aviv hotel. Dinner on your own, enjoy the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Tel Aviv

Thursday, August 5: **PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER — SHALOM ULEHITRA'OT!**

- Perhaps, we will have a mini meeting and discuss some experiences that helped make this trip special for each of us.
- Head to the **Carmel Market** where Tel Avivians barter over fresh goods and various products. Have a sample of Middle Eastern dishes or pastries while the noise and smells of the bazaar surrounds you.
- Or you could choose to relax at the hotel pool or the beach across the street.
- Return to the hotel for late check-out and departure preparation.
- Evaluations and summary.
- Final banquet and transfer to the airport for flights back to the USA...arrive August 6, 2021

OPTIONAL PETRA EXTENSION

- After our final banquet head to Ben Gurion airport for a flight to Eilat Ramon airport. On arrival, transfer to your Eilat hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Eilat

Friday, August 6: **PETRA DAY TOUR**

- After breakfast, we'll be transferred to the Arava border crossing where we'll meet our guide. Then we'll drive through the wonderful mountainous landscape of Jordan and arrive at the world-famous **Petra ruins** where we'll walk through the narrow canyon and see its great monuments such as the treasury, Roman Theater, and Royal Tombs. Lunch is included and a little time for shopping.
- At the end of the day we'll drive back to the border crossing and return to our hotel in Eilat. Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Dan Panorama Eilat



Saturday, August 7: LEHITRAOT

- After breakfast relax and stroll the promenade. Return to the hotel and meet your transfer bus. We will drive you to the Eilat airport.
- Fly back to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion airport where you will connect to your International flight home.

Full Israeli Breakfast Buffet is included daily, plus other meals as listed in the itinerary
All sightseeing with an English speaking licensed Israeli guide-educator
All entrance fees included according to the itinerary
All hotel taxes

**BASIC 10 NIGHT LAND TOUR PRICE \$2825.00 PER PERSON
based on double occupancy**

**Optional extension to EILAT/PETRA \$1069.00 per person
based on double occupancy**

Jordanian Border tax is \$125.00 U.S. Dollars additional

For Additional Information or to register contact:
Laura Green, Amiel Tours of Israel
801 944 5200 • jlaurag@amiel.israel.net



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