

CONGREGATION KOL AMI ISRAEL TOUR WITH RABBI SAM SPECTOR

DEC 21, 2021 – JAN 1, 2022
(Optional extension to Petra Jan 1 – 3, 2022)

\$2855.00 per person land price based on double occupancy Israel portion
Triple deduction and single supplement rates are available
Eilat extension including Petra \$1069.00 per person double
(additional border tax collected at Israeli-Jordanian border)

Tue, Dec 21, 2021: **DEPARTURE**

- Depart SLC on the flight of your choice.

Wed, Dec 22, 2021: **BARUCHIM HABA'IM (WELCOME)**

- Arrival in Israel (meeting time by 4:00 pm for group transfer). Proceed to the ancient and modern capital of Israel, Jerusalem.
- Group welcome dinner and Shechianu.
- Optional walking tour along Jaffa Road to Machane Yehuda Market.
- **Overnight: LADY STERN HOTEL JERUSALEM**

Thu, Dec 23, 2021: **JERUSALEM: CROSSROADS OF THREE RELIGIONS**

- Visit the **Mount of Olives**, 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 and walk to the **Davidson Center**. Perhaps we will stop for a moment of prayer and thanks at the Egalitarian location of the Western Wall. Continue into the **Jewish Quarter**.
- Enjoy a delicious sit-down meal at the **Quarter Café** in Jerusalem included in our tour.
- Proceed to the religious section **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.
- Continuing into the Old City, we'll walk via the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, for a guided tour of the church.
- **Overnight: LADY STERN HOTEL**

**Fri, Dec 24, 2021: CONTEMPORARY ISRAEL:
WHERE ANCIENT MEETS MODERN**

- Travel to the **Dead Sea**, lowest point on earth; continue to **Qumran**, home of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** which were first discovered in the caves in 1947 by a Bedouin Sheppard who looked for a lost goat. The scrolls revealed to be the oldest biblical Hebrew scriptures ever found, shedding light on practices and beliefs of ancient Judaism, during the time of Christian origins.
- Visit Herod's mountain fortress of **Masada**. Explore why the Jews chose to live here 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 your own.
- Hike to the natural pools and waterfalls of Nahal David in the **Ein Gedi Oasis**
OR
- Relax and float in the **Dead Sea** (weather permitting).
- Shabbat evening program with Rabbi Spector. Special **Shabbat Dinner of a LIFETIME with a local family** in one of the neighborhoods of the New City of Jerusalem. Learn about the various traditions and meanings that accompany the festive Shabbat meal.
- **Overnight: LADY STERN HOTEL**

Shabbat, Dec 25, 2021: SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Morning services at a private room in the hotel or synagogues of individual choice.
- Head into the Old City for lunch. You may eat on your own or enjoy a prepaid lunch at an Armenian Restaurant (approximately \$65.00 – \$75.00 per person). Then we meet together again and enjoy a walking tour together.
- Enjoy a glimpse of the Old City of Jerusalem from a unique perspective; take the **Ramparts walk** from the Tower of David to the Dung Gate. The Ramparts Walk winds along the top of the walls, affording stunning views of Jerusalem's New and Old Cities.
- Free evening to wander back to Ben Yehuda Street or Mamilla Street and watch as the city reopens after Shabbat.
- **Overnight: LADY STERN HOTEL**

Sun, Dec 26, 2021: *WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?*

- After breakfast depart Jerusalem for a full day beginning with a **Tree Planting Ceremony**. Feel your connection with the land of Israel by planting a tree with your own hands.
- Prepare to 'get dirty' as we 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**, our tour will be given 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 Haganah munitions factory existed during the Mandate Period under Britain.
- **Overnight: LADY STERN HOTEL**

Mon, Dec 27, 2021: *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, will later be included in large food baskets destined for needy families throughout the country.
- Continue to take an unforgettable journey moving through Jerusalem's historic turning points at the **Time Elevator**. Combining motion seating with visual input, visitors have the sensation of viewing the movie as a participant rather than a spectator.
- 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**.
- *Adults:* 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 HOTEL**

Tue, Dec 28, 2021: *THE ANCIENT GALILEE*

- On our way north, 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 hands on view into life in the Land of Israel 2,000 years ago—from the back of a donkey! We might enjoy pita baking or pressing our own olive oil! We will break bread together for lunch as in the ancient times.
- Arrive in the beautiful and possibly snowy Golan Heights. Check into our accommodations and meet for dinner, included in our stay here.
- **Overnight: MEROM GOLAN KIBBUTZ HOTEL**

Wed, Dec 29, 2021: *NORTHERN EXPOSURES*

- Following a delicious Kibbutz breakfast, we'll drive to **Tel Dan** national reserve, a beautiful paradise that lies in the ancient city ruins of Dan. We will walk down the gorgeous trails leading through dense forest and the Dan River. See the fascinating Canaanite archway built centuries before the famed Roman archways.
- Visit the **Banias Falls** where we will have time for a nature hike to one of Israel's most beautiful waterfalls which flows from the foot of Mount Hermon to the Jordan River.
- 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.
- We'll stop for lunch, on your own, and then 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. Meet a Kabbalistic Artist in his studio to learn about the secrets of Kabbalah through the lens of his art.
- Dinner at the kibbutz.
- Evening activity: Enjoy a Kibbutz tour/lecture and learn about this true Israeli concept.
- **Overnight: MEROM GOLAN KIBBUTZ HOTEL**

Thu, Dec 30, 2021: *ISRAEL'S FACE TO THE SEA*

- Travel to Haifa for a bus tour of the city, including the view of the spectacular **Bahai Gardens**. Learn about the Bahai faith and the importance of Israel as a destination for Bahai pilgrimages
- Travel to the Druze village of **Daliyat el-Carmel** for an ethnic lunch, included in our tour, and a dialogue with community leaders on the Druze Israeli Arab community. Learn about the relationship to Israel and their place in Israeli society.
- Continue to the artists' colony of **Ein Hod**. Tour the colony and participate in a hands-on workshop with a professional artist.
- 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 Tel Aviv. Once we check in, feel free to stroll along the beach front “Tayelet” walkway, have a beer or a coffee, and join Israelis as they people watch.
- **Overnight: TAL HOTEL**

Fri, Dec 31, 2021: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY: TEL AVIV

- Visit the "**Palmach Museum**" dedicated to the strike-force of the pre-state underground Haganah defense organization and its contribution to the creation of the State of Israel.
- 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. (Based on re-opening as Independence Hall is being restored. The restoration has been delayed.)
- Bus Tour of **Tel Aviv**. Feel the creative pioneering energy of the first Hebrew city built in two thousand years—the economic, technological, architectural, and cultural center of the modern State of Israel. Stop for a brief visit at Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin Memorial**.
- Take a tour of the **Peres Center of Peace and Innovation**, the first and largest visitors' center of its kind in Israel. It presents the incredible story of Israel, the "innovation nation," and showcases the diverse fields and people behind Israeli innovation.
- Enjoy the funky crafts and the creative sidewalk artists and street musicians in the **Nachalat Binyamin** outdoor Artists' Market. Make your way back to the hotel on your own.
- Shabbat Dinner will be available at the hotel for an additional charge (\$75.00 per person) OR on your own, visit family/friends for Shabbat at their homes.
- **Overnight: TAL HOTEL**

Sat, Jan 1, 2022: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER – SHALOM ULEHITRA'OT!

- **Morning at your Leisure OR possible Shabbat service at hotel.**
- We will meet informally and share experiences and thoughts of our trip together.
- **Afternoon on your own (late checkout at 5 :00 pm).** There are many places in Tel Aviv that are open on Shabbat and you may feel free to wander and enjoy this vibrant city on your own.
- Final banquet during dinner we will discuss our personal experiences which will help us put our trip together and transfer to the airport for flights back to the USA.

OPTIONAL PETRA EXTENSION

Sat, Jan 1, 2022: *OPTIONAL PETRA EXTENSION*

- After your final banquet head to Ben Gurion airport for your flight to Eilat airport. Board your flight and transfer to your Eilat hotel to enjoy the evening at leisure.
- **Overnight: DAN PANORAMA EILAT**

Sun, Jan, 2, 2022: *PETRA DAY TOUR*

- After breakfast, we'll be transferred to the Arava border crossing where we'll meet our Jordanian 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.
- At the end of the day, we'll drive back to the border crossing and return to our hotel in Eilat.
- **Overnight: DAN PANORAMA EILAT**

Mon, Jan, 3, 2022: *LEHITRAOT*

- After breakfast meet your transfer who will drive you to Ilan Ramon airport where you will catch your local flight to Ben Gurion and then your International flight home.

**ISRAEL REQUIRES PROOF OF
COVID VACCINATION IN ORDER
TO ENTER THE COUNTRY**

Full Israeli Breakfast Buffet is included daily plus other meals
(8 lunches or dinners) as listed in the itinerary.

Transfer from airport to hotel on arrival and departure based on group times.

All sightseeing with an English speaking licensed Israeli guide-educator.

All entrance fees included according to the itinerary.

All hotel taxes.

LAND PRICE BASED ON TWO (2) ADULTS SHARING A ROOM

\$2855.00 PER PERSON

(single supplement \$1179.00, discounts available for 3rd sharing)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO EILAT-PETRA

\$1069.00 PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

ADDITIONAL \$125.00 BORDER TAX COLLECTED AT THE BORDER