



**2019 Holyland Interfaith Tour**  
**with**  
**Dr. Elisheva (Irma) Diaz BAJS, MTS, DD**

*September 8-16, 2019*  
(rev 27 Jan 19)

**Sunday, September 8 DEPARTURE**

- Departure from US for Israel (own flight arrangements)

**Monday, September 9 WELCOME TO ISRAEL!**

- Check-in at hotel from 14:00 on
- 18:00 Rendezvous at hotel lobby with the rest of the group
- Opening Ceremony in the port of Old Jaffa where pilgrims and *olim* have entered the Holy Land for centuries. Examine the common roots and divergence of Judaism & Christianity in reference to the vision of St. Peter.
- Welcome Dinner in Tel Aviv's Yemenite Quarter

**Overnight:** *Renaissance Hotel, Tel Aviv*

**Tuesday, September 10 GALILEE MOSAIC**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Travel to the ancient port of Caesarea, home to Pontius Pilates, Rabbi Akiba and Eusebius, Bishop in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Explore the theater, hippodrome, and Crusader remains. Discuss the sparking of the "Great Revolt" and the history of Church Doctrine formulated here.
- Lunch break (on own) en route
- Visit the Ahmadi Mosque in Haifa and meet with the leader of the community.
- Outlook over the Bahai Gardens and port of Haifa.
- Continue to the mystical city of Zefat. Art & Kabbalah program with local artist.
- Continue to the Galilee for check-in at kibbutz guest house.
- Dinner at hotel

**Overnight:** *Kfar Blum Kibbutz Hotel*

**Wednesday, September 11 KINNERET & GOLAN HEIGHTS**

- Breakfast at the hotel.

- Explore the Ministry of Jesus in the area of the ancient Jewish fishing villages around the Sea of Galilee
  - Visit Kfar Nahum (Capernaum), a thriving Jewish community during the days of the Second Temple and where Jesus is said to have taught some of his first disciples in the ancient synagogue.
  - Visit the Mt. of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Compare the Sermon on the Mount to traditional Jewish texts.
- Lunch stop (on own) en route.
- Start at the headwaters of the Jordan River at Tel Dan, which also incorporates the Biblical city of Dan. Learn about the rebellion of the Northern Kingdom of Israel against God and the Davidic monarchy. (*1 Kings 12*)
- Ascend the Golan Heights.
- Outlook over Syria from the bunkers of Mt. Bental.
- Enjoy a sunset boatride on the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) with time for meditation.
- Dinner stop (on own) in Tiberias

**Overnight:** *Kfar Blum Kibbutz Hotel*

#### **Thursday, September 12 JORDAN RIVER VALLEY**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Enjoy a guided tour in a “hidden safari vehicle” through the Agamon Hahula Nature Reserve, where thousands of birds rest on their migrations between Europe and Africa.
- Lunch break (on own) en route
- Travel south along the Jordan River Valley.
- Visit Qasr-el-Yehud on the Jordan River, associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and the entry of Joshua & the tribes of Israel into Canaan.
- Outlook over the Old City of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.
- Check-in at hotel.
- Dinner at hotel
- Evening Panel: Pastor Steven Khoury and David Nekrutman of the CJCUC (Center for Jewish Christian Understanding)

**Overnight:** *Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem*

#### **Friday, September 13 THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- At the Haas Promenade, delve into the theological implications for the story of the Binding of Isaac in Judaism and Christianity.
- Explore the Southern Wall excavations to gain a better understanding of the role of the Temple and pilgrimage in ancient times using texts from the Mishnah and the New Testament.
- Reflections at the Kotel (Western Wall)
- Ascend to the Jewish Quarter for lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Cardo.
- Explore the vibrant Machaneh Yehuda market and free time to explore on your own.
- Time to prepare for Shabbat.
- 18:11 Candle Lighting
- Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel or local synagogue

- “Shabbat of a Lifetime” home hospitality dinner with a modern Orthodox family.

**Overnight:** *Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem*

### **Saturday, September 14    *SABBATH IN JERUSALEM***

- Breakfast at hotel
- Day at leisure to explore Jerusalem on your own.
- (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
- We reconvene in the afternoon for a meeting with Issam Sa’ad, a former Gaza resident who fled Hamas and is now involved in a unique Jewish-Palestinian dialogue project OR with Arab-Israeli journalist, Khaled Abu Toameh
- Walking tour to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter.
- Dinner at hotel
- Group Havdalah ceremony to “separate” from the Sabbath
- *Options for mass in English: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Franciscan Chapel at 17:00, Notre Dame at 18:30, Pontifical Biblical Institute at 19:00*
- Evening: Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sounds & light show projected on the walls of the museum (bring a sweater).

**Overnight:** *Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem*

### **Sunday, September 15    *WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?***

- Breakfast at hotel
- Early morning departure from hotel for the Dead Sea Region, lowest point on earth.
- En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
- Visit the ancient site of Qumran, home to the “Yachad” Sect, often associated with the Essenes, and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.
- Continue to Masada. Lunch break (on own) at Masada Visitor’s Center.
- Ascend Herod’s mountain fortress of Masada by cable-car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Descend by cable-car to the visitor’s center.
- Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at private beach. (There is also a swimming pool and massages can be pre-ordered in advanced for an additional fee).
- Return to Jerusalem
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** *Herbert Samuel, Jerusalem*

### **Monday, September 16    *FROM OUT OF THE CRUCIBLE***

- Breakfast at hotel
- Hear the personal story of Rena Quint, a survivor of the Holocaust.
- Learn and remember at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Center including the new historical museum, Avenue of the Righteous of the Nations and the Children’s Memorial.
- Lunch break (on own)

- Visit “Shevet Achim”, a Christian organization which children from the Middle East for pro-bono heart surgery in Israel.
- Free time for last minute shopping or exploration.
- Summary and conclusion session
- Farewell Dinner
- Transfer to airport for departing flights. (own arrangements)

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator.
- 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.
- Note: This trip requires daily walking on unstable pavement and terrain and climbing stairs and is not recommended for handicap individuals.



### **Keshet Educational Journeys**

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