Me’ah Study Tour to Israel:  Continue the Journey  
February 26-March 10, 2017  
(rev 2 Aug 16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday February 26</th>
<th>DEPARTURE</th>
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<td>- Departure from the United States (own flight arrangements)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday February 27</th>
<th>BRUCHIM HAB’AIM-WELCOME TO ISRAEL</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Rendezvous at hotel lobby in Jerusalem in late afternoon.</td>
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<td>- Program Orientation-meet your Keshet Educator/guide and the other program participants</td>
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<td>- Welcome dinner at local restaurant</td>
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<td><strong>Overnight:</strong> Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday February 28</th>
<th>BIBLICAL PERIOD</th>
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<td>- Begin the morning with a spectacular outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade. Text study on <em>Lecha Lecha</em> (Genesis 12) and <em>Akedat Yitzhak</em> (Genesis 22) and discussion on the development of ethical monotheism.</td>
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<td>- Descend to the City of David, where King David established his capitol 3,000 years ago.</td>
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<td>o Delve into the issue of Jewish Political Morality in light of the story of David and Batsheva. (2 Samuel 11-12:25)</td>
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<td>o Discussion on David as the Paradigm for “teshuva” using various Psalms attributed to David</td>
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<td>o The Role of the Prophet-Isaiah and Jeremiah</td>
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<td>o Explore the latest excavations and findings</td>
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<td>Enjoy lunch with residents of the City of David who choose to live among 3000 years of Jewish history.</td>
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<td>Return to hotel for rest/leisure time.</td>
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<td>Program at the Israel Museum. (<em>The Israel Museum is open 4-9pm on Tuesdays</em>).</td>
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<td>o Lecture on the latest findings concerning the Dead Sea Scrolls.</td>
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<td>o Guided visit to the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scroll Exhibit), Second Temple Period Model, and Archaeology Wing.</td>
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<td>o Time on own to explore the other museum galleries. Dinner (on own) at the museum café or restaurant.</td>
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**BIBLICAL AND RABBINIC PERIODS**

- Explore the Southern Wall Excavations, including the visitor center, Robinson’s Arch and Hulda Gates. Using a selection of *mishnayot*, gain a better understanding of the centrality of the Temple and pilgrimage in ancient times. We will also discuss the political implications of the recent UNESCO position regarding the Temple Mount.
- Ascend to the Jewish Quarter to delve into the period before the Great Revolt of 70CE.
  - Visit the Herodian Mansions to see how Jerusalem’s elite-the Priestly class-lived.
  - Compare Josephus’ description of the destruction of Jerusalem with Talmudic texts referencing the same event.
  - Discussion on the concept of *Sinat Hinam* in Rabbinic sources and modern interpretations.
- Lunch stop (on own) in Jewish Quarter.
- Participate hands-on at a rescue dig, sifting through excavated remains of the Temple Mount at Emek Tzurim.
  - Introductory lecture on the Politics of Archaeology and the unique history of this dig project with site director, Dr. Gaby Barkay.
  - Survey the many important artifacts found which span 4000 years of history.
- Return to hotel for rest/leisure time and dinner break (on own).
- Evening lecture: “Topics in Biblical Criticism” with Bible scholar, Prof. James Kugel (formerly of Harvard University and Bar-Ilan University).

*Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem*

**RABBINIC PERIOD**

- Early breakfast and departure for the Dead Sea Region, lowest point on earth.
- Visit the ancient site of Qumran, home of the “Yachad” Sect and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.
  - Survey the site and discuss the nature of the sect.
  - Who were the Essenes and did they live here?-Refer to Josephus’ description of the Essenes and references in the New Testament regarding John the Baptist.
- Continue to Herod’s ancient fortress of Masada. Ascend by cable car.
  - Discuss why the Jewish rebels chose to live after the Great Revolt against the Romans.
  - Carefully read Josephus’ description of the Roman siege and fateful battle against Silvanus’ forces. Does it match the historical/archaeological record?
  - Discussion on the background of the rebels (were they zealots or Sicarii) and their fate (group suicide, fight to the death or another way). Descend by cable car.
- Lunch (on own) at the Visitor’s Center.
- Float in the Dead Sea at a private beach. Ecological update concerning the fate of the Dead Sea and plans to rejuvenate the Jordan River Basin.
- En route to Jerusalem, meet Ethiopian families, in their homes, who crossed the desert to Sudan to wait for months in refugee camps before being airlifted to Israel by the Mossad.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

*Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem*

**MODERN PERIOD**

- **Thursday March 2**
- **Friday March 3**
We spend the morning learning and remembering at Yad Vashem, including visits to the Historical Museum, Childrens’ Memorial, and Sculpture Garden. Focus on the Israeli response to the Shoah from the 1950s to the present.

Option to visit the Bible Lands Museum instead of Yad Vashem.

Lunch break (on own)

Explore the colorful and vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market at Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat.

Return to hotel to prepare for Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel followed by festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

### Shabbat March 4  SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Morning at leisure to attend Shabbat services at local synagogues.
- In the late morning, we rendezvous for a meeting with Levi Lauer on “The Zionist Imperative 2017”.
- Afternoon at Leisure. (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).
- Optional Walking Tour through Mishkenot Sha’ananim and Yemin Moshe with the poetry of Yehuda Amichai, Israel’s poet laureate.
- Havdalah
- Screening of the short Israeli film “Hasimot” which deals with reality of checkpoints followed by discussion.

**Overnight:** Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

### Sunday March 5  RABBINIC AND MODERN PERIODS

- Depart for the Galilee.
- Visit the ancient site of Bet She’arim, where Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi lived and the Sanhedrin resided for many years. Survey the many inscriptions in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek in the Jewish necropolis.
- Continue to the Talmudic city of Zippori, where Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi compiled the Mishnah and site of some of the most beautiful mosaics in the Middle East.
  - View the “Nile Mosaic” and use it as a text to better understand the purpose of the building that houses it.
  - In the Roman Villa, site of the “Mona Lisa of the Middle East”, discuss the relationship between the Jewish community of Tzippori and the greater Roman Culture.
  - Compare different mishnayot and Talmudic passages to trace the change in attitude in Judaism to “pagan” art.
  - Discussion on why Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi decided to put the Oral Law into written form.
- Picnic Lunch
- Visit the Circassian Museum to learn about this Muslim minority maintains its history and culture while exiled from its homeland. Compare and contrast their Diaspora Experience to that of Am Yisrael.
- Continue to kibbutz guest house for check-in and dinner.
- Evening: Meeting with Gal Lusky of Israel Flying Aid which brings humanitarian aid to those caught in natural disasters or conflict areas.

**Overnight:** Nof Ginnosar Kibbutz Hotel

### Monday March 6  MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS
- Learn about the life of Dona Gracia, a wealthy conversa from Portugal who supported many Jewish causes, at the Dona Gracia Museum in Tiberias dedicated to this Jewish heroine of the 16th century.
- Visit the ancient synagogue at Kfar Nahum for a discussion on the Jewish roots of Christianity and the subsequent diversion of the two religions.
- Continue to the mystical city of Zefat, which became the center of Kabbalah in the 16th century.
  - Explore the synagogues of the mystics.
  - Trace the development of mysticism in the 15th century in Zefat to the Golden Age of Spain and subsequent Expulsion from Spain.
  - Art & Kabbalah program with local artist, David Friedman
  - Lunch stop (on own) and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and artist colony.
- Visit the Ziv hospital in Zefat, to meet with medical staff who have treated many Syrians wounded in their civil war over the past 5 years.
- Dinner at hotel.

**Overnight:** Nof Ginnosar Kibbutz Hotel

### Tuesday March 7  MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PERIODS
- Learn more about the First and Second Aliyah and the halutzim at the Kinneret Courtyard, using the poetry of Rachel and the writings of A.D. Gordon and other Zionist thinkers.
- Kibbutz @ 2017 with Yonatan Alter or Muki Tzur. Survey the history of the kibbutz movement and the challenges and changes is has faced in recent years, including “privatization” and a changing socio-economic reality in Israel.
- Lunch stop (on own) en route.
- “The Crusader Period in the Holy Land & Kiddush Hashem” at the Belvoir or Apollonia Crusader period fortresses.
- Continue to Tel Aviv for check-in
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** Renaissance, Tel Aviv

### Wednesday March 8  MODERN PERIOD
- Walking tour of the Trumpledour Cemetery or Neve Tzedek to “meet” some of the founders of Tel Aviv-the First Hebrew City.
- Reenact the moving moment when David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel at Independence Hall.
- Lunch break (on own)
- Guided tour of the Reuven Rubin Museum, one of Israel’s pioneering artists who founded the “Eretz Yisrael” style of art.
- Learn with one of Israel’s finest teachers, Dr. Rachel Korazim. Using texts she takes us on a tour of “A Tale of Two Cities—Contrasting Zionist Narratives.”
- Dinner at Café Yafo in the Old Jaffa flea market.

**Overnight:** Renaissance, Tel Aviv

**Thursday March 9 MODERN PERIOD**

- Check-out and store bags at hotel.
- Visit “Save A Child’s Heart” - at the Wolfson Hospital, a unique project in which Israeli pediatric surgeons provide pro-bono cardiac surgery for children from all over Africa and the Middle East. OR Meeting with representative from “Innovation Africa” which uses Israeli technology to provide solar energy and clean drinking water to African villages.
- Meeting with MK Michael Oren or author Yossi Klein Halevi or speaker on Israeli hi-tech.
- Free time for lunch and last minute shopping
- Summary and conclusion sessions
- Farewell Dinner
- Transfer to airport for departing flights

**Friday March 10 ARRIVAL IN US**

- Arrival in U.S.

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and security escort for touring days in the Old City.
- 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