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**Gesher L’Torah**

***Showing our Love for Israel***

Led by Rabbi Michael Tracie Bernstein

*May 20-30, 2024*

updatedNovember 6

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| **Monday, May 20:** | ***Bruchim Habaim – welcome to Israel!*** |

* Land in Tel Aviv – meet and greet service
* Meet your guide, pack up the bus and start the adventure!
* Enter the subterranean munitions factory where Jews produced bullets literally under the noses of the ruling British leading up to the War of Independence at the **Ayalon Institute**
* At the new **ANU Museum of the Jewish People**, understand the connection between Jews around the world and the land of Israel
* Time and energy permitting, take a walking tour of the **Independence Trail**, highlighting the start of Israel and Tel Aviv, to **Neve Tzedek**, the first neighborhood of Tel Aviv, for a look at the foundations of Hebrew culture
* Check into the hotel, followed by dinner

***Overnight:*** *Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Tuesday, May 21:** | ***under fire*** |

* Participate in an **actual archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
* Activity TBD to show solidarity with Israel as the country comes out of the Swords of Iron War
* Peruse the local crafts, enjoy the street performers and grab lunch at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and the adjacent **Carmel Market**
* In the evening, learn about the development of **Israeli society through movies** with comedian **Benji Lovitt**

***Overnight:*** *Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Wednesday, May 22:** | ***northern exposure*** |

* See the incredible ruins of the port city build by King Herod in **Caesarea**, once the capital during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
* Learn about the **Druze religion** **and culture** and enjoy a traditional meal in **Daliyat el Carmel**
* Dialogue with **Israeli-Arab peers** and understand what it is like for non-Jews living in a Jewish state
* Continue to your hotel for dinner, followed by a processing session

***Overnight:*** *HaGoshrim Hotel, Galilee*

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| **Thursday, May 23:** | ***mystics and mountains*** |

* On the border of Lebanon, **meet soldiers in action** understand the burden of Israel’s security on the shoulders of 20-year-olds
* In **Tzfat**, explore the alleyways and synagogues of mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th Century
* Meet with **Kabbalistic artist** Sheva Chaya and see how she incorporates her mystical studies into her artwork
* Dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *HaGoshrim Hotel, Galilee*

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| **Friday, May 24:** | ***Golan 360o*** |

* Ascend the Golan Heights
* Peer into Syria from Tel as-Saki; hear the courageous stories of the Yom Kippur War and get an update on what is happening today in Syria with **Captain (res.) Yaakov Selevan**
* Learn about the 2,000 years of Jewish history on the Golan and about the abundant nature at the **Gamla National Park**
* Travel to Jerusalem, check into the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
* In the evening, participate in a group **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the pluralistic section of the **Western Wall**; then join the thousands of Israelis and Jews from around the world as they bring in **Shabbat at the Western Wall**
* Shabbat dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Saturday, May 25:** | ***Shabbat Shalom*** |

* Optional Shabbat services in a local synagogue or as a group
* **Study session** with Rabbi Bernstein
* Shabbat lunch in the hotel
* In the afternoon, walk through the Old City to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** – one of the holiest places on earth for most Christians – and understand the importance to Jerusalem to all monotheistic religions
* **Group Havdallah**
* Free evening to explore Jerusalem’s nightlife

***Overnight:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Sunday, May 26:** | ***This year in jerusalem!*** |

* At the **Haas Promenade**, beginthe exploration of the Jewish love affair with Jerusalem; remember the Biblical accounts of the Binding of Isaac, associated with this spot
* Continue to the **City of David**, site of biblical Jerusalem; see the probable foundations of King David's palace; Bible in hand, understand how Jerusalem became the venue for the development of classic Jewish values and our national identity; with your flashlights and water shoes, exit via the **water tunnel dug by King Hezekiah** 2,700 years ago in order to save the city from the Assyrians
* Lunch and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo
* See how incredible King Herod’s Temple Project must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels**

***Overnight:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Monday, May 27:** | ***From holocaust to redemption*** |

* Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**
* As a contrast to the morning, head over to the vibrant **Machane Yehuda Shuk** for a culinary tour to taste some of the incredible Israeli street food; then participate in a **cooking seminar**
* In the evening, meet with a **political analyst** for a look at some of the main issues Israel faces today

***Overnight:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Tuesday, May 28:** | ***what price freedom?*** |

* Ascend **Masada,** the desert fortress, and hear one of the most dramatic stories in Jewish history
* Hike the **Ein Gedi waterfall trail**
* **Float in the Dead Sea**
* Participate in an **art workshop** summarizing your Israel experience until now with **Kol HaOt**

***Overnight:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Wednesday, May 29:** | ***one land, two people*** |

* **Political topography** tour of southern Jerusalem
* Drive through a “**settlement**” to understand the reality in the West Bank
* Enter the **Palestinian village** of Hussan; participate in a **Cleaning the Hatred** project and meet with **Palestinian and Israeli residents** of the area to hear their views on coexistence
* **Farewell discussion and dinner**

***Late check-out:*** *Lady Stern Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Thursday, May 30:** | ***l’hitraot – see you soon!*** |

* Transfer to the airport for your flight home
* Start planning your next trip to Israel!
* 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

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