



## ***Family Adventure in Israel***

Led by Rabbi Seth Haaz and Norman Einhorn

December 19-29, 2023

updated March 21

### **Tuesday, December 19: *HERE WE COME!***

- Depart from Newark Airport – El Al flight #26 departing at 9:00pm

### **Wednesday, December 20: *BRUCHIM HABAIM – WELCOME TO ISRAEL!***

- Land in Tel Aviv – 2:20pm – meet and greet service
- Meet your guide, pack up the bus and travel to Jerusalem
- **Welcome to Israel ceremony** overlooking the Old City
- Check into the hotel, followed by dinner

**Overnight:** Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Thursday, December 21: *THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM!***

- At the **Haas Promenade**, begin the 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 (or take the dry tunnel on this winter day)
- Lunch and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo
- Say a prayer at the Ezrat Yisrael of the **Western Wall**
- See how incredible King Herod's Temple Project must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels**
- 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** (buy something that catches your eye to share at Oneg Shabbat tomorrow night)

**Overnight:** Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Friday, December 22: *FROM HOLOCAUST TO REDEMPTION***

- Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum**; young children to the Biblical Zoo or the Bloomfield Science Museum (depending on weather)
- Take the Connection Path up to the **Mt. Herzl National Military Cemetery**; see the graves and hear the stories of the Leaders of the Nation and of the soldiers who fell defending it, including Philadelphia native Michael Levin

- 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
- Share with the group your culinary finds from the shuk last night and experience **Oneg Shabbat**

**Overnight:** Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

#### **Saturday, December 23: SHABBAT SHALOM**

- Shabbat services in local synagogues
- **Study session** with Rabbi Haaz
- 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:** Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

#### **Sunday, December 24: WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?**

- Hike up (or, for those who want – take the cable car) **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**
- Time permitting, visit **Sde Boker** and the grave of Israel’s first prime minister – David Ben Gurion – and explore his vision to make the desert bloom
- Check into the hotel, followed by dinner there

**Overnight:** Ramon Suites Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

#### **Monday, December 25: THE CRATER AND THE CREATOR**

- Optional early-morning hike to watch the sunrise over the **Ramon Crater**
- Take a long walk off a short cliff – **repelling** into the Ramon Crater
- Take **jeeps** off road into the Ramon Crater and explore this geological phenomenon
- At the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center**, learn about the formation of the crater and about Israel’s first astronaut in space, who took his name from the crater
- Dinner in the hotel
- In the evening, go **star gazing** in one of the world’s best stargazing parks using some of the best portable telescopes in Israel

**Overnight:** Ramon Suites Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

#### **Tuesday, December 26: THE DESERT FOR DESSERT**

- Experience the sanctity of the desert with **Desert Archery**
- Participate in an **actual archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
- Travel to Tel Aviv; peruse the local crafts, enjoy the street performers and taste some of the street food at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and the adjacent **Carmel Market**

- Check into the hotel followed by a free evening

**Overnight:** *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

### Wednesday, December 27: **STARTUP NATION**

- Relive the moment that David Ben Gurion declared independence outside of **Independence Hall**; then walk along the **Independence Trail** to see the sites where Israel and Tel Aviv were created
- Continue to **Neve Tzedek**, the first neighborhood of Tel Aviv, for a look at the foundations of Hebrew culture
- 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**
- Visit the **Weizmann Institute of Technology Visitors Center** for a quick look at some of the projects in the Israeli startup world
- Unique culinary experience at dinner in the total dark at the **Blackout Restaurant** of the Na Lagaat (please touch) Center for the deaf and blind

**Overnight:** *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

### Thursday, December 28: **ROUNDING IT UP**

- Travel up the coast to King Herod's ancient port city of **Caesarea**, once the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
- At **Save a Child's Heart**, learn about this institution which brings children from Africa and across the Middle East to Israel for life-saving heart surgery; then interact with the children as they prepare for or recover from their surgery
- **Final discussion**
- **Farewell dinner**
- Return to the airport for your flight home

### Friday, December 29: **NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!**

- Depart on El Al flight #27 at 1:00am
- Land in Newark at 6:00am
- 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 and a Keshet Youth Counselor.
- There will be parallel educational programming for adults and youth throughout the trip to allow for age-appropriate learning.
- 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



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