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**House of Worship Tours**

***Journey to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel***

**Led by Rabbi Steve Einstein, Essraa Nawar and Rev. James Pike**

*February 12-26, 2023*

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| **Sunday, February 12** | ***DeParture*** |

* Departure from LAX on Lufthansa Flight 457 at 3:05pm.

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| **Monday, February 13** | ***En route*** |

* Arrival in Frankfurt at 11:00am.
* Transfer to Lufthansa Flight 580 departing at 1:30pm.
* Arrival in Cairo at 6:40pm.
* Your local guide will meet you and escort you to the hotel
* Check-in and dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel*

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| **Tuesday, February 14** | ***Cairo*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Meet your guide for a full day city tour of Cairo
* Visit the Ben Ezra Synagogue (in Fustat-Old Cairo) where the Cairo Geniza was found.
* See the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx
* Explore the Kahalili Bazaar full of the aromas and colors of the Mid East. (time permitting)
* Enjoy a Nile dinner cruise or dinner at the hotel (option must be chosen in advance)

***Overnight:*** *Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel*

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| **Wednesday, February 15** | ***Alexandria*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Depart for Alexandria.
* Visit the Qait Bay Citadel considered one of the most beautiful defensive strongholds in Egypt, on the shores of the Mediterranean.
* Visit the El Morsi Mosque and revel in its beautiful architecture.
* Learn about the Roman period at the ancient Roman Theater and see the Montaza Palace, which boasts Italian architecture.
* Visit the newly restored Eliyahu Hanavi Alexandria Synagogue
* Return to Cairo.
* Dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel*

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| **Thursday, February 16** | ***Cairo*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* ​To be confirmed:  Meeting with Coptic Christian Pope; Meeting with Minister of Immigration and the Diaspora; Meeting with Grand Imam of Cairo
* Dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Barcelo Cairo Pyramids Hotel*

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| **Friday February 17** | ***to jordan*** |

* Packed Breakfast from hotel
* Early morning transfer to airport for departure on Royal Jordanian Flight 502 at 9:00am. Arrival in Amman at 10:20am.
* Visit Madaba, city of mosaics and where the famed “Madaba Map” of the Holy Land was found.
* Lunch stop (on own) en route
* At Mt. Nebo, gaze into the “Promised Land” as Moses did and visit the Byzantine church.
* Continue to Petra.
* Dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Petra Moon Hotel, Petra*

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| **Saturday, February 18** | ***petra- the rose city*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Enter the city through the “Siq” - a narrow natural gorge that ensured the secrecy of the entrance to Petra. Experience the most astonishing and dramatic monument in Jordan: the "Khazane" (Treasury). (You may remember this from the movie “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”.)
* You will also visit the theatre, tombs, façades and the colonnaded street.
* Lunch in Petra.
* Return to the bus on foot (6-8 kilometers).
* Dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Petra Moon Hotel, Petra*

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| **Sunday, February 19** | ***to israel*** |

* Transfer to the Allenby border crossing to cross into Israel. (Approx. 4 hour drive)
* Meet your Keshet Tour Educator
* Lunch at Café Café en route
* Travel to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu to learn how this religious kibbutz led the “Green Revolution” in organic farming in Israel.
* “Bio Bee” tour of the fields and their “bug factory”.
* Check-in at kibbutz guest house, located on the shores of the Kinneret
* Dinner at hotel

***Overnight:*** *Nof Ginossar Kibbutz Guest House*

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| **Monday, February 20** | ***The Galilee & Golan Heights*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Depart hotel to explore the Ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee and learn about Jewish life during the late Second Temple period which is the backdrop and context of the Gospel accounts.
* Visit Capernaum the home base of Jesus’ ministry including the site of the synagogue where Jesus taught and the home church at what might have been Peter’s house.
* At the Mt. of Beatitudes remember the Sermon on the Mount teachings and compare the text to Jewish sources.
* Ascend the Golan Heights
* Lunch break (on own) en route
* Security briefing overlooking the Syrian border by former IDF office at Tel Saki and background on “Operation Good Neighbor”.
* Enjoy a tour and wine-tasting at the award-winning Golan Heights Winery.
* Return to hotel for dinner.

***Overnight:*** *Nof Ginossar Kibbutz Guest House*

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| **Tuesday, February 21** | ***israeli mosaic*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Drive to Tzfat, the heart of Jewish mysticism, to explore the alleyways and synagogues of the mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th century.
* Art & Kabbalah program with local artist, David Friedman, in his studio.
* Lunch break (on own) en route.
* Continue to the Arab village of Shefaram to meet with the Anglican Priest Rev. Fuad Degher to hear his personal vision of co-existence with his many neighbors.
* Visit the Ahmadi Mosque in Haifa and meet with head of the community.
* Check-in at hotel and time to freshen up.
* Enjoy an authentic home hospitality Druze dinner in the village of Usafiyya and learn about Druze religion and culture.

***Overnight:*** *Haifa Bayview Hotel*

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| **Wednesday, February 22** | ***from the sea to the city on the hill*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Visit the Baha’i Temple amidst the magnificent gardens overlooking the port of Haifa.
* Travel along the Mediterranean Coast to the ancient port of Caesarea. Here we will explore the complex relationship between Biblical and Roman Pagan civilizations with a visit to the ancient Roman capital including its theater, bathhouse complex and remains of the palace where St. Paul was arraigned before being sent to Rome for trial.
* Lunch break (on own) en route
* Continue to Jerusalem.
* Outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade. Discussion on the “Binding of Isaac” text from Genesis and whether Abraham (and Isaac) passed the test and the development of ethical monotheism.
* Check-in at hotel and freshen up
* Dinner at hotel
* Evening: Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum of the Conservative community of Kehillat Tzion and a leader in outreach to her Christian and Muslim Arab neighbors in Jerusalem.

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings, Jerusalem*

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| **Thursday, February 23** | ***jerusalem-cradle of faith*** |

* Early Breakfast at hotel
* Ascend the Temple Mount/Haram-el-Sharef “Noble Sanctuary”, spiritual center to Jews, Christians and Muslims where the Dome of the Rock and El-Aqsa mosque now stand.
* Continue to the Davidson Southern Temple Mount Archeological Park, stepping back 2,000 years to the days of the Second Temple. Examine the centrality of the Temple experience in Jewish society and tradition.
* Private prayer and contemplation time at the Kotel *(Western Wall)*
* Lunch and shopping time on your own in the Jewish Quarter.
* Explore the vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market.
* Dinner at hotel
* Evening speaker: See the Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sound & light show, projected on the walls of the museum. (Dress warmly as show is outside).

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings, Jerusalem*

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| **Friday, February 24** | ***what price freedom?*** |

* Early breakfast at hotel
* Depart for the Dead Sea region. En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
* Cable car up to the fortress of Masada where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the mighty Roman Empire 2,000 years ago. Tour atop the mountain as we address the troubling issues presented by the Masada story.
* Head to the “lowest place on earth” for a float in the Dead Sea and lunch.
* Return to Jerusalem to freshen up.
* Meet for group session, Shabbat candle lighting and departure to the Kotel (Western Wall) to join thousands in welcoming the Sabbath with prayer, song and dance
* Festive Sabbath dinner at the hotel (including *Kiddush*-the blessing of the wine, *Hamotzi*-the blessing over the challah, and a few words of “*Torah*”)

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings, Jerusalem*

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| **Saturday, February 25** | ***sabbath in jerusalem*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Morning options: “Shul hopping” to different synagogue represent different liturgical and ethnic traditions in Judaism; attend a local synagogue of your choosing; or morning at leisure.
* 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).
* Afternoon walking tour to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional site of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus
* Group Havdalah ceremony to “separate” from the Sabbath
* Check-out and load bus
* Summary and conclusion session and farewell dinner
* Check-out and load bus.
* Transfer to airport for departing flight.

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| **Sunday, February 26** | ***departure*** |

* Departure on El Al Flight 005 at 12:45am. Arrival in LAX at 6:00am.
* Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by local guides in Egypt and Jordan and a Keshet Israel Tour Educator in Israel.
* 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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