

Join Rabbi Neil Tow's Multi-Generational Israel Adventure

June 11–19, 2023

"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."



Tour Package Includes:

- Hotels: Metropolitan, Tel Aviv; Daria Hotel, Sea of Galilee; and Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem
- All Breakfasts, Friday night "Shabbat" Dinner and Shabbat Lunch, 2 Weekday dinners and lunches as per itinerary
- Touring with Rabbi Tow and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled deluxe touring Motor Coach

A Few Tour Highlights:

- Shehehiyanu/Welcome ceremony overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Discover the archaeological story of the Western Wall and episodes of Jewish life in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.
- Tour of Jewish Quarter, including the Herodian Mansions, Cardo, Broad Wall and Rooftops followed by free time to shop.
- Briefing on Religious Pluralism in Israel and the Masorti (Conservative) Movement by Rabbi Andy Sacks.
- Set out across the Judean Desert and ascend Masada (Swim in the Dead Sea, Walk in Ein Gedi Nature Reserve).
- Visit a mixed bilingual Arab-Jewish Hand in Hand School, which helps foster better understanding between Jews and Arabs.
- Visit a TALi School in Jerusalem to learn about pluralistic Masorti Jewish education in the Israeli school system.
- Guided tour of Yad Vashem Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the Historical Museum.
- Travel to the Judean Lowlands. En route cross the biblical Elah Valley, where David and Goliath fought.
- Dig up Israel's past at a real, hands-on archaeological excavation in a cave in Beit Guvrin National Park.
- Join hundreds of other Jews from around the world to Greet the Sabbath at the Western Wall. Option to join the new egalitarian Kabbalat Shabbat minyan run by the Masorti Movement at the Masorti Kotel, where men and women can pray.
- Afternoon walking tour to the historic Montefiore Windmill to discover the first neighborhood built outside the Old City.
- Havdalah with Rabbi Tow. Visit Bio-Bee on Kibbutz Sde Eliahu, world leaders in organic agriculture.
- Visit the Kinneret Cemetery, discover the songs and the poetry of Naomi Shemer and Rachel the Poetess.
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Chocolate making workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory.
- Taste wines and liqueurs at the boutique Bahat Winery. BBQ dinner with young Israeli soldiers.
- Explore mystical Tzfat, cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Visit its old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Then discover the origins of our Friday night service in the city where Lecha Dodi was written.
- Explore the ruins of Tzippori, the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna. Discover remarkable ancient mosaic pavements, including Mona Lisa of the Galilee, Orpheus, who looks like King David (?) and the Nile Flood Festival.
- Guided tour of the Ayalon Institute – An underground bullet factory in Rehovot used by Jewish forces.
- Family scavenger hunt in Tel Aviv's historic Neve Tzedek neighborhood. Tour the alleys of Old Jaffa, the ancient port city.
- And much, much more!

Trip Costs and Reductions

Discounted price for check payment

Land Only Package – \$3265
Land and Air Package – \$4655
Single Room Supplement – \$650

Full price for credit card payment

Land Only Package – \$3395 Land
and Air Package – \$4840 Single
Room Supplement – \$676

Reductions

Child up to 12 years old 3rd in room – \$150
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child as 3rd in room – \$200
Adult 3rd in a room – \$123

*Added to price are tips for Guide, Driver, Portage and Restaurants \$195

Tour price is based on minimum of 15 participants. Round trip air available through ITW Travel call Stacey at 800-247-7235

View and download itinerary and application at www.israeltour.com/rtow

For additional information please contact Rabbi Tow at rabbineiltow@shaare-shalom.org or call 703-737-6500.

Tour arranged by ITW Travel – Tour manager staceyr@israeltour.com 800-247-7235

Sunday, June 11

Depart U.S.A.

Monday, June 12 – Going up into the Land

- Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (today's program depends on arrival time).
- Tour **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as Zion Gate from which Jonah tried to flee and where Solomon brought the Cedars of Lebanon on the way to Jerusalem. Today, paintings and sculptures have been installed in its ancient alleys.
- **Shehehiyanu**–Welcome ceremony on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Check-in to the **Metropolitan Hotel** in **Tel Aviv**.
- **Welcome dinner** at **Maganda Restaurant** in Tel Aviv's **Yemenite Quarter**.
- Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, June 13 – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State

- Walking tour of historic **"Little Tel Aviv"** – Discover the historic **Neve Tzedek** neighbourhood that gave birth to the **"first Hebrew city in 2,000 years"**, once home to Zionist cultural pioneers Eliezer Ben Yehuda, S. Y. Agnon and Rabbi Kook.
- **ITC Touch**: Discover **City of Sand and Sea**, a mosaic fountain created by artist and writer Nachum Gutman portraying scenes from the history of Jaffa and Tel Aviv.
- Hear about the establishment of **Tel Aviv** at the **Founders' Monument**. Then stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** to view the Bauhaus architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on your own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin** crafts fair. While there, check out the nearby **Carmel Market** and great street food. Then have a look at bohemian **Sheinkin Street** – All Three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the **"Magen David Junction"**.
- Visit the **Palmach Museum** in **Ramat Aviv** to learn about the elite underground organization which played a critical role in the founding of the State of Israel.
- **Mifgash** – Meaningful encounter with Rabbi Jeff Cymet, a leader in the Masorti/Conservative movement and members of the New Kehilla in Ramat Aviv, Shaarei Shalom's partner masorti congregation in Israel. (Program to be determined by Rabbis Tow and Cymet). Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, June 14 – Cradles of Jewish Civilization in the Galilee

- Depart for northern Israel.
- Explore the ruins of **Tzippori**, the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna. Discover Tzippori's remarkable ancient mosaic pavements, including **Mona Lisa of the Galilee**, **Nile Flood Festival** and **Orpheus**, who looks like King David(?). **What do the ruins of Tzippori reveal about Jews and Hellenism?** Then ponder why an **ancient synagogue** floor features a wheel of the zodiac.
- Lunch on own

- Explore mystical **Tzfat**, cradle of **Kabbalah** (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Visit its old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Then discover the origins of our Friday night service in the city where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Check-in to the **Maagan Eden Hotel** or **Daria Resort** by the **Sea of Galilee**.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Maagan Eden or Daria Resort, Sea of Galilee region

Thursday, June 15 – Northern Exposure

- Tour the **Golan Heights** for a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we visit bunkers where the Syrian army literally looked down at Israel. Then we'll look out over the Syrian border from strategic **Mt. Bental**.

Please choose one of the following two "touring and tasting" options. Both located on nearby Kibbutz Ein Zivan (Possibility of splitting the group):

- Chocolate making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory**.
- **OR**: Guided tour of the boutique **Bahat Winery** including wine tasting.
- Lunch on own.
- Discover **Ethiopian Jewish culture** at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Learn about this community's modern day Exodus story and the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today.
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Check-in to the **Prima Kings in Jerusalem**.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, June 16 – The Old City of Jerusalem – An Ancient Jewish Legacy

- Briefing on **Religious Pluralism in Israel and the Masorti (Conservative) Movement** by Rabbi Andy Sacks, Deputy Director of the Masorti Movement.
- Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes of Jewish life in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
- Explore the **City of David** using the Bible and archaeology to make Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the city's ancient past. Wade through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** – A still flowing ancient water system that saved the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago (dry option available).
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Herodian Mansions**, **Cardo**, **Broad Wall** and **Rooftops** followed by free time to shop and explore on own.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.

Friday/Shabbat evening options

- Light Shabbat candles at hotel.
- Attend the **"Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat"** service at the **First Station Compound** (begins at 5:00pm, so it is also possible to continue to one of the other kabbalat options listed below).

- **OR**: Join hundreds of other Jews from around the world to **Greet the Sabbath** at the **Western Wall**. Option to pray together as a congregation at the **"Masorti Kotel"**, where men and women can stand together.
- **OR**: Attend **Friday night services** at a local Jerusalem synagogue.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem

Saturday, June 17 – And on the Seventh Day...in Jerusalem

- **Shabbat morning services** – TBD with Rabbi Tow.
- **Shabbat Lunch** at hotel
- Free time
- Late afternoon walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City. Then continue to nearby **Ketef Hinnom**, a First Temple period burial site where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found.
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Tow.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- **Recommendation for evening**: Check out downtown Jerusalem's lively **Ben Yehuda Street Pedestrian Mall**.
- Overnight: Prima Kings, Jerusalem

Sunday, June 18 – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Set out across the **Judean Desert** and ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence. **Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne? Which decision did our ancestors make?**
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense.
- Lunch at Dead Sea resort.
- Time permitting: Walk in **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** opportunity to bathe in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul.
- Stop off at **"Abraham's Tent"** for a **Camel ride** and biblical farewell dinner before transfer to airport.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

Monday, June 19 – Arrive in U.S.A.

- Begin planning next Israel trip with Rabbi Tow and ITW Tours!