



10-Day, 9-Night Journey through Israel
Temple Hillel B'nai Torah
Led by Rabbi Barbara Penzner
December 22-31, 2022

Included:

- 9 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar; Ruth Daniel Residence (Tel Aviv-Jaffa), Holiday Village (Kibbutz Mizra); Eyal Hotel (Jerusalem)
- 2 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 6 days
- 1 MEJDI-Trained Guide for 4 days
- 7 days of private bus transportation
- Arrival & Departure Group Transfers
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- Bottled Water available on the bus daily
- Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
- Customary tips for drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance- **Recommended**
- Single Supplement Costs = \$695
- Any required COVID testing costs
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Individual airport transfers (arrival and departure)
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing:

- 26-27 Paying Participants - \$3,550 Per Person
- 24-25 Paying Participants - \$3,650 Per Person
- 22-23 Paying Participants - \$3,750 Per Person
- 20-21 Paying Participants - \$3,895 Per Person
- 18-19 Paying Participants - \$4,075 Per Person

Itinerary

Day 0: Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Depart Boston Wednesday December 21. Group arrival and departure transfers will be arranged based on flights booked. Individual transfers can be arranged through MEJDI or public transportation options are available. Detailed flight booking guidance will be provided once the tour is confirmed.

Hotel: N/A (in transit)

Day 1, Thursday, December 22, 2022: Arrival

- Meet your driver and guides and transfer to Tel Aviv.
- Your Israeli and Palestinian guides will explain the exciting Dual Narrative perspectives you will hear on the trip. Learn from them the dual histories of the Arab and Jewish cities, including an explanation of the birth of Tel Aviv and the Zionist movement and the struggles of life in Arab Jaffa and beyond.
- Check in to the hotel and rest / get ready for your journey starting tomorrow.

Hotel: Ruth Daniel Residence Hotel, Jaffa

Day 2, Friday, December 23, 2022: Tel Aviv

- Tour the Museum of the Jewish People (ANU Museum). The new core exhibition reflects the Jewish world of today. ANU – Museum of the Jewish People celebrates the multiculturalism of Jewish diversity and adopts an inclusive, pluralistic approach.
- Have lunch on your own in the Carmel Shuk Market and explore the Nahalat Binyamin Arts Market.
- Follow the Independence Trail and take a journey through the history of the founding of Tel Aviv and the State of Israel. Discover the city's historical landmarks along the trail such as the Great Synagogue, Independence Hall, Tel Aviv's first kiosk, and more.
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- Attend Shabbat services with Kehilat Daniel, an egalitarian Reform congregation in Jaffa.
- Enjoy a Shabbat dinner back at the hotel.

Hotel: Ruth Daniel Residence Hotel, Jaffa [B, D]

Day 3, Saturday, December 24, 2022: Jaffa

- Have a free morning to sleep in, attend Shabbat services, go to the beach, or explore a bit of the city on your own.
- Have lunch on your own.
- In the afternoon, meet a representative of the Jaffa Theatre – A Stage for Arab Hebrew Culture.
- Stop in at the Yafa Coexistence Bookshop for a drink (fresh juice, tea, or coffee) and check out their book selections.

- Visit Physicians for Human Rights-Israel's clinic in Jaffa and learn about the communities they serve from one of their staff members.
- Visit the Bustan Yafa Bilingual (Hebrew, Arabic) Kindergarten that operates in the spirit of the Waldorf method and meet with its director.
- End the day with havdallah and then a group dinner at Beit Kandinof.

Hotel: Ruth Daniel Residence Hotel, Jaffa [B, D]

Day 4, Sunday, December 25, 2022: Sea Turtles, Caesarea and Jisr az Zarqa

- Check out after breakfast and head north to Beit Yannai Sea Turtle Rescue Center. There learn about sea turtles, their life cycle, the threats to their survival, and the efforts made today to protect the sea turtles of the Mediterranean. Then tour the center's yard, meet the turtles in treatment close up, and hear their stories. You'll discover how to avoid harming sea turtles and what to do if you come across a turtle in trouble.
- Continue north to the Herodian port city of Caesarea, whose extensive sandstone ruins overlook the peaceful blue waters of the Mediterranean and have lunch on your own and then see the theater, hippodrome, and learn about the area's Crusader history and the old Bosnian Muslim community that lived there.
- Experience the authentic atmosphere and culture of the Israeli Arab fishermen's village of Jisr az Zarqa with local high school students as guides. Through a young leaders project, local youth have learned English and trained as guides. They will share insights from their life experience, culture, and community's history (including its link to Baron Edmond James de Rothschild).
- Continue north and check in to the hotel and have dinner.

Hotel: Nof Tavor Hotel at Kibbutz Mizra [B, D]

Day 5, Monday, December 26, 2022: Kfar Kedem, Kanna and Kfar Yehoshua

- Visit Kfar Kedem, a site that will transport you back to the biblical roots of your heritage with hands-on experiences. Follow in the shepherds' footsteps, savor the flavors they tasted, inhale the aromas they smelled. Ride donkeys through the Galilee hills, shear sheep, spin wool into cloth, milk goats to make fresh cheese, and spread that cheese on pita that you'll bake yourselves.
- Then visit Sindyanna of Galilee's visitor center in Kanna. Sindyanna is a female-led non-profit that actively promotes the concepts of "business for peace" and Fair Trade in Israel. They sell Arab producers' olive oil and other premium products in the international marketplace according to Fair Trade principles, and then channeling all of the profits back into Arab women education. Taste fair trade olives and olive oil and then learn to make a zatar spice blend before enjoying lunch.
- Conclude the afternoon with the Israeli Circus School in nearby Kfar Yehoshua. The school works to maintain a space for multicultural activity between youth from different nationalities and cultures in general, and between Jewish and Arab youth in particular. Learn more about their joint Jewish-Arab activities and have the chance to try some circus skills.
- Return to the accommodations and have dinner together.

Hotel: Nof Tavor Hotel at Kibbutz Mirza [B, L, D]

Day 6, Tuesday, December 27, 2022: Evron and Akko

- Visit an authentic Ethiopian style house built of mud and straw in Kibbutz Evron. Yonie Skiba will introduce the group to Jewish Ethiopian tradition and cuisine over a buna (coffee) ceremony and some injara.
- Continue to Akko.
- Spend the afternoon on a walking tour of Akko featuring: The Hospitaller Fortress (Knights' Halls), Hamam al-Basha (The Turkish Bath), Turkish Bazaar, Arabesque Arts and Residency which was destroyed in the 2021 interethnic riots in Akko and then rebuilt, and the Templars Tunnel. Time permitting other sites of interest may be added.
 - Interesting opt-out option: Spend the afternoon at Akko's Extreme Park (<https://www.pex.co.il/>) (entrance not included)
- Return to the group's accommodations for a group dinner.

Hotel: Nof Tavor Hotel at Kibbutz Mirza [B, D]

Day 7, Wednesday, December 28, 2022: Archaeological Dig and Religious Diversity

- Check out of the hotel after breakfast.
- Participate in a hands-on archaeological experience that combines excavating, sifting, pottery examination, and exploration of an extensive archaeological cave system in Beit Guvrin.
- Travel to Beit Shemesh to learn about conflict and conflict resolution that has occurred between secular, religious, and ultra-Orthodox (Haradi) communities. [Meet with a representative of either Geshet (<http://www.geshetusa.org>), Plugta (<https://www.facebook.com/Plugta>), or Meetchabrim (<http://www.meetchabrim.org.il/?lat=en>) to find out what they do and how they approach bridge-building.]
- Ascend to Jerusalem and have a guided walk overlooking the Old City.
- Check into the hotel and then have a free evening to eat and/or go out on your own.

Hotel: Eyal Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 8, Thursday, December 29, 2022: Bethlehem and East Jerusalem

- On the way to the Bethlehem, briefly stop to learn about Kever Rachel, the matriarch Rachel's grave. The site is in a walled enclave that juts into the city of Bethlehem and provides a good opportunity to see the separation barrier from the Israeli perspective.
- After visiting the tomb, cross into the West Bank and see the wall from the Palestinian perspective.
- Visit the Walled Off Hotel, set up and financed by world renowned Street Artist Banksy, to see their museum and art gallery.
- Have a group lunch.
- Return to Jerusalem and spend the afternoon in Silwan, an East Jerusalem majority-Palestinian neighborhood just outside of the Old City that is home of the City of David archaeological site. Discuss perspectives of both Jewish and Palestinian communities residing in this area. Briefly see the City of David archaeological site.

- Return to the hotel to hear personal stories from members of The Parents Circle/Families Forum, a grassroots organization of Palestinian and Israeli families who have each lost immediate family members in the conflict.
- Have dinner on your own.

Hotel: Eyal Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 9, Friday, December 30, 2022: Masada, Dead Sea, and Shabbat

- Travel south to the mountaintop fortress of Masada. There, take in breathtaking views of the Judean Desert, explore the archaeological park, and learn the dramatic story of Masada's role in the Great Revolt.
- Float in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea.
- Then take a graffiti tour at an old Jordanian army base located along the Dead Sea. The tour brings awareness to the disappearance of the Dead Sea as well as focusing on coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis through the imagery of the intricate murals.
- Return to Jerusalem and prepare for Shabbat.
- Join Kehillat Mevakshei Derech, a Reform and Reconstructionist affiliated congregation for Shabbat services and home hospitality dinners.

Hotel: Eyal Hotel, Jerusalem [B, D]

Day 10, Saturday, December 31, 2022: Jerusalem's Old City and Departure

- Rabbi Penzner will lead a Shabbat morning program in Yemin Moshe / Mishkenot Sha'ananim.
- Walk to the Old City and have a group lunch.
- Take a tour of the cobbled alleyways of the Old City's Jewish Quarter and see landmarks such as the Roman Cardo, Hurva Synagogue, and Kotel/Western Wall.
- Continue to the Christian "Stations of the Cross" along the Via Dolorosa and tour the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, identified as the place of both the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
- Weave through the shops and alleyways of the Arab *shuk* (market).
- Meet Wissam Razzouk at Razzouk Ink, a 700-year-old Coptic Christian family owned tattoo parlor that catered to Christian pilgrims. He has centuries of family stories to tell including his own recent involvement in "Healing Ink," which uses tattooing to help Israeli victims of terrorism and war overcome trauma.
- Return to the hotel, have a closing group processing session, and join together in making havdallah.
- Group transfer to the airport for those who are leaving that evening.

[B, L]