



# MEJDI TOURS

## Temple Micah 10-Day, 9-Night Family Trip to Israel April 11-20, 2024

### ITINERARY:

**Suggested Flight: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 on United Flight 72 from Dulles to TLV.**

#### **Day 1, Thursday, April 11, 2024: Arrival**

- Arrive at **Ben Gurion Airport**. For those on the direct flight that lands at 4:40 pm, a group transfer will be provided to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Check in and get some much needed rest.

**Hotel:** Selina, Tel Aviv-Jaffa

#### **Day 2, Friday, April 12, 2024: Zionist History in Tel Aviv**

- Begin the day at the **Palmach Museum**, covering the Palmach legacy through the stories of individuals and groups. Visitors to the museum join the group of young Palmach recruits from its establishment, and advance through the story of the Palmach until the end of the War of Independence. The manner of presentation is extremely innovative. There are no displays or documents, but rather an account of a fascinating personal story accompanied by three-dimensional decor, films and various effects incorporating documentary materials.
- Travel to central Tel Aviv to shop at the **Nachalat Binyamin Crafts Market**.
- Continue to the **Carmel Shuk** for a guided tour and tasting through the market.
- Stroll up **Bialik Street** to learn about the history of cultural Zionism and to see **Bauhaus architecture**. Bialik Street is home to Rubin Museum, the former residence of painter Reuven Rubin and Bialik House, the former residence of Israel's national poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. Beit Ha'ir, Tel Aviv's former town hall is at the top of the street.
- End the afternoon tour with a visit to Meir Park, opened in 1944 and named after the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff. Meir Park is home to a prominent city funded **gay community center**. Outside of the center, you can find a monument dedicated to the gay victims of the Holocaust and a garden serving as a memorial to the 2009 shooting spree at a Tel Aviv LGBT youth club.
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat.
- Gather on the beach at **Tupim Beach (Banana Drum Beach)** for a pre-Shabbat drum circle.
- Attend **Shabbat services** with Kehilat Halev, one of Tel Aviv's leading Reform synagogues.
- Have **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

**Hotel:** Selina, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast & Dinner included]



## Day 3, Saturday, April 13, 2024: Jewish Peoplehood and the Best of Tel Aviv Beaches

- Travel to the **ANU Museum: The Museum of the Jewish People**. The museum presents and displays the unique and ongoing 4,000 year-old story of the Jewish people – past, present and future with a heavy emphasis on culture and religious diversity. Have lunch on your own.
- Get changed into your bathing suites and head to **Gordon Beach**.
- Every Saturday there is public **Israeli folk dancing on the boardwalk** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. After catching on to the basic moves, join the amateur dancers.
- **Surfing lessons** will be available for an additional cost for those who are interested. Everyone else can chill on the beach and soak up the sun.
- Get some **ice cream at Golda's**.
- As the day comes to a close, make **havdalah together on the beach**.
- Have a fun evening out at the **Tel Aviv Port**.
- **Kids** will get a fast food dinner, visit the **Museum of Illusion**, and bounce at **Sky Jump indoor trampoline park**.
- Meanwhile, the **adults will go out for a nice dinner** at a restaurant in the port.

**Hotel:** Selina, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast, ice cream, & Dinner included]

## Day 4, Sunday, April 14, 2024: Jaffa

- Take a walking tour of **Jaffa through the lens of music** with a member of the **multi-ethnic hip hop group System Ali**. The tour combines the history of the city of Jaffa in its 5,000 years of existence with a discussion of the conflictual issues of the city in recent decades through textual and musical works performed on the site.
- Have lunch on your own in the **Jaffa shuk**.
- The kids will then take a private **aerial silks class** at FlyFit while the adults do a **whiskey tasting at Milk and Honey Distillery**.
- At 6:30 pm, have dinner in the dark served by blind waiters at the **BlackOut Restaurant in the Nalaga'at Center**. It is the first center of its kind in the world.

**Hotel:** Selina, Tel Aviv-Jaffa [Breakfast & Dinner included]

## Day 5, Monday, April 15, 2024: Israel's Northern Coast

- Take a **4-wheel scooter tour of the ancient Herodian port city of Caesarea**, whose extensive sandstone ruins overlook the peaceful blue waters of the Mediterranean. Take in Caesarea's theater, hippodrome, and learn about the area's Crusader history and the old Bosnian Muslim community that lived there. Have lunch on your own at the port.



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- Have some free time on **Caesarea's beach**.
- Have a group dinner.

**Hotel:** Zohar Badeshe at Kibbutz Dalia or similar [Breakfast & Dinner included]

## Day 6, Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Galilee

- Spend the morning at **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. **Shear sheep, spin wool into cloth, milk goats to make fresh cheese, and spread that cheese on pita** that you'll bake yourselves.
- Visit **Sindyanna of the Galilee** in Kanna, 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. Have lunch there, **taste their fair trade olives and olive oil, and then learn to make a zatar spice blend**.
- Survive a **water obstacle course** at Aqua Kef in Tiberias.

**Hotel:** Zohar Badeshe at Kibbutz Dalia or similar [Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner included]

## Day 7, Wednesday, April 17, 2024: Archaeological Dig, Archaeological Dig and Ethiopian Israeli Cultural Experience

- Check out after breakfast and head south to **Beit Guvrin** to participate in a hands-on archaeological experience that combines excavating, sifting, pottery examination, and exploration of an extensive archaeological cave system.
- Have a group lunch.
- In the afternoon, visit **the Hanni Association's Kfar Beta Israel experiential visitor center** in Kiryat Gat. Kfar Beta Israel provides employment and a social framework for adults of Ethiopian origin, and to change the perspective on the Ethiopian community by exposing the cultural treasures and heritage of the community. Learn the history of **Ethiopian Jewry** and community's aliyot stories, get an explanation of **Ethiopian cuisine** and then prepare and eat injera together. End with an **Ethiopian dance workshop**.
- Ascend to Jerusalem. Check into the hotel and enjoy a free evening in **Ben Yehuda Street's** pedestrian shopping district. Have dinner on your own.

**Hotel:** Beit Shmuel (if reopened), Kibbutz Ramat Rachel or similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast & Lunch included]



## Day 8, Thursday, April 18, 2024: Jerusalem's Old City

- Enter the **Old City** to begin an exploration of the three major religious traditions and their stories about what makes this place holy to these faith traditions.
- Visit the **Kotel (Western Wall)** plaza and have time for personal reflection or prayer.
- Then tour the **Davidson Center's Jerusalem Archaeological Park**, home to important archaeological finds and displays from the First & Second Temple periods.
- While the kids **paint an Armenian tile at Sandrouni Armenian Ceramics**, the adults will have the opportunity to:
  - Learn about the **Christian "Stations of the Cross" along the Via Dolorosa** and the incense-filled halls of the **Holy Sepulchre Church**, the place identified as both the site of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus.
  - Weave through the shops and alleyways of the **Arab shuk** (market) in the Old City, where you can have some free time to practice your haggling skills.
- Leave the Old City and participate in a workshop **with Kol HaOt Educational Art Experiences**. Engage in a meaningful way with various Jewish values, texts and themes, through the magical power of the arts. The hands-on, interactive project enables you to come home with a memorable creation from your experience.
- Have dinner on your own in the Mamilla area.
- Enter the Old City at night to experience the **Tower of David Night Spectacular** sound and light show.

**Hotel:** Beit Shmuel (if reopened), Kibbutz Ramat Rachel or similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast included]

## Day 9, Friday, April 19, 2024: Jerusalem and Reform Judaism for Shabbat

- Hear from **Yossi Klein HaLevi**, a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, or a similar expert speaker.
  - Nani will escort the kids on the bus to go to **Gan Sacher's giant playground**.
  - Opt out to go to **Yad Vashem**, the Israeli Holocaust Museum on your own.
- Regroup in the early afternoon to eat your way through the **Machene Yehuda Shuk Market** mid-day.
- In the late afternoon, visit the Reform American high school students spending a semester in Israel with **Heller High** based at **Kibbutz Tzuba**.
- Then be welcome to **Kibbutz Gezer**, one of Israel's Reform kibbutzim, by the Kibbutz's rabbi. Learn about Rabbi Beraha's internship here when he was in rabbinical school. Meet **David Leichman**, one of the founders of **Israeli baseball**. Join the community for **services followed by a festive Shabbat dinner**.

**Hotel:** Beit Shmuel (if reopened), Kibbutz Ramat Rachel or similar, Jerusalem [Breakfast & Lunch included]



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## Day 10, Saturday, April 20, 2024: Masada and Departure

- Check out after breakfast and travel south to the mountaintop fortress of **Masada**. Stop for a pit stop along the way where you can have your picture taken atop a camel.
- Upon reaching Masada, **take the cable car up the mountain, 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.
- Take a **dip in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea**.
- Adults can unwind (child-free) at the **Ein Gedi Spa** in the late afternoon while the kids are supervised by the guide at the **Kibbutz's pool**.
- Everyone will have the opportunity to shower and change before leaving for the airport.

[Breakfast included]

**Recommended flight home: United Airlines 73 at 12:20 am on Sunday, April 21, 2024 that lands at 5:25 am on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at Washington, D.C. Dulles Intl (IAD).**

**First Seder is Monday night, April 22, 2024**