



2024: Temple Micah Explores Israel (December 8 - 17, 2024)

The itinerary below will soon be updated to reflect the **revised and final travel dates of December 8-17 (including travel days)**. Departing the US on December 8, arriving back in the US on December 17. Please check back here for forthcoming adjustments to the day-by-day itinerary.

Itinerary

Day 0: Travel - Sunday, December 8

Depart the US in the evening, arriving in TLV the following afternoon/evening.

Overnight: in flight

NOTE: DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHT until you receive the tour confirmation email from us. **Once the tour has been confirmed**, you can either wait for Rabbi Zemel to notify the group of the flight he will be taking OR you can choose your own flight.

Day 1: Arrival - Sunday, December 8

Arrive to Tel Aviv in the afternoon/evening and transfer with the group to your Jerusalem accommodations. Dinner is provided upon arrival, followed by a brief orientation (*if travel itineraries suggest later arrival, orientation may take place the following morning*).

Overnight: The Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Dinner included]

Day 2: Revisiting Jerusalem- Monday, December 9

Begin the day with a view towards the Old City and light walking tour exploring familiar sites within the framework of the recent conflict and change. After lunch on your own, head to the National Library of Israel for a guided visit and discussion of an October 7 documentation initiative supported by the Israeli Ministry of Heritage. Meet Gili Rei over dinner, for a conversation about her work in both local Jewish Israeli and binational Israeli-Palestinian communities.

Overnight: The Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast & Dinner included]



Day 3: The East Side - Tuesday, December 10

Gather perspectives from various points around the Jerusalem periphery, with views both towards the Old City and areas of both Jewish Israeli and Palestinian development to the east. Visit key neighborhoods under pressure from continued development favoring only some of its residents, discuss cases of displacement, and pass the separation/security barrier to better understand the architecture of Israeli control. Meet a manager of the celebrated “Educational Bookshop” in downtown East Jerusalem and a civil society leader from the Palestinian education, rights, or development sectors.

Overnight: The Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast & Lunch included]

Day 4: Hebron & Surroundings - Wednesday, December 11

Head south from Jerusalem to visit Hebron, site of the Cave of the Patriarchs / Ibrahimi Mosque. Tour a city divided between heavily fortified Jewish Israeli enclaves and a large Palestinian urban center, offering insight into the Israeli security regime and witnessing damage to the historic *Casbah*. On your way back to Jerusalem (or upon arrival), meet a representative of area Jewish settlement communities who advocate for extending Israeli sovereignty over “Judea and Samaria.”

Overnight: The Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem [Breakfast & Lunch included]

Day 5: Ramla & Lod: 1948 Until Today - Thursday, December 12

Spend the day with Shaharit, an Israeli think tank, incubator and community organizing hub, exploring the complex history and current reality of mixed Jewish-Arab cities on the coastal plain. Stop at the new Lod Mosaic Center, meet representatives from the *Garin Torani* and visit the celebrated Chicago Community Center. Tour Open House Ramla and meet members of the local city council.

Overnight: The Renaissance, Tel Aviv¹ [Breakfast included]

¹ Comfort Sea View Rooms



Day 6: Tel Aviv in Context - Friday, December 13

Begin the day in conversation with leaders of the “Brothers in Arms” movement, which organized weekly protests against the judicial overhaul, and later rallied volunteer networks in response to October 7. Stop at landmarks and city memorials honoring those lost on that day and in the year since. Later, hear how an Israeli organization works to support those most impacted by the trauma of continued violence.

Head to *Nahalat Binyamin* and the Carmel Market for lunch and explore nearby Tel Aviv sites, revisiting the moments and values that gave rise to the modern State of Israel. Join the Birkat Shalom community of Kibbutz Gezer for Shabbat evening services and dinner.

Overnight: The Renaissance, Tel Aviv [Breakfast & Dinner included]

Day 7: Shabbat in Jaffa - Tel Aviv - Saturday, December 14

Enjoy a walking tour with seaside views from the Jaffa Old Town, learning how an ancient port evolved into a modern metropolis. See one of the seven limestone clock towers dating to Ottoman Palestine and track the growing lore of the Jaffa orange from 19th century Templar export to the subject of contemporary art. Discuss the shifting dynamics of a distinctive Arab-Jewish neighborhood within the larger Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality. *Optional visit to the new ANU Museum in the afternoon.*

Overnight: The Renaissance, Tel Aviv [Breakfast included]

Day 8: Community & Connection - Sunday, December 15

Head north towards the largely Arab-Israeli “Triangle” region just west of the “Green Line.” Visit the Givat Haviva Center for Shared Society to meet both organization leadership and Jewish and Arab students on campus. *(Time permitting if no meetings in the morning)* Continue to the nearby town of Arara for a tour of a recently developed hub for Arab entrepreneurship and tech training. Return to Tel Aviv for a brief farewell dinner and wrap up, before transferring to the airport for your departing flights.²

Overnight: The Renaissance, Tel Aviv [Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner included]

² Hotel rooms booked until check out on December 16, 2024.