



**Israel from Many Angles:
A Sha'ar Zahav Travel Experience**

Friday, November 15 – Sunday, November 24, 2024
Extension: November 25, 2024

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Day 1: Welcome & Shabbat Evening - Friday, November 15 (*Group airport transfer*)
(Guide, Bus)

Land in Israel and transfer to your hotel in Tel Aviv. Prepare for Shabbat and set out as for *tefilah* at one or two local congregations* (*i.e. Beit Tefilah Yisraeli, Kehilat HaLev, depending on size of group, availability, access*). Enjoy dinner together back at the hotel.

**Reaching these locations will require use of the bus.*

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [D]

Day 2: Introduction to the “White City,” Tel Aviv - Saturday, November 16
(Guide, Bus)

- *Timepiece* - Taking in seaside views from the Jaffa Old Town, learn how this 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.
- *Independence Path* - Starting from *HaTahana* terminal for the old Jaffa-Jerusalem railway turned urban hangout, track the birth of Tel Aviv through the Neve Tzedek neighborhood and along Nahalat Binyamin. Stroll up Bialik street to learn about eminent figures of Cultural Zionism and reach Meir Park, home to a prominent city-funded LGBTQ center. Meet with a representative (*as available*) to learn more about the community they serve.
- Gather for an opening group discussion/reflection and Havdalah (MEJDI will bring drinks), before free time to find dinner on your own.



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Touring on Day 2 or Day 3 will include stops at newly established sites of memorial to Israelis lost, missing, and impacted by the events of October 7 and their aftermath.

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [B, L - packed lunch/sandwiches]

Day 3: Jaffa - Ancient Port & Modern “Mixed City” - Sunday, November 17
(Guide; Bus)

- *“Dual Narrative,” Many Perspectives* - Meet local Jaffa residents for lunch (representatives of the bi-national, Jewish-Arab Sadaka Reut youth movement, if available), hearing multiple takes on day-to-day tensions and collaboration between those inhabiting this “mixed city.” Our trip will be grounded in this kind of multi-perspective approach to learning about Israel.
- *Breaking Barriers* - Meet with a representative of **Shovrot Kirof**, a grassroots movement that promotes civic, feminist community activism and public campaigns. The movement's founders work at the intersection of *Mizrahi* identity, politics, and community building.
- *Visit the Rabin Museum or meet another organization working to build a more peaceful future in keeping with the former Israel Prime Minister’s unique legacy*
- *Safety and Security* - Hear from a leading voice on the Israeli military, security policy, and regional affairs. Consider the new reality post-October 7 and how the state balances its responsibility for the safety of its citizens with a commitment to democratic principles.

Overnight: Ruth Daniel Residence, Jaffa [B]

Day 4: The Crossroads - Monday, November 18
(Guide, Bus)

- *Morning meeting with Mickey Gitzin of NIF-Israel (as available)*
- **Wahat al Salaam - Neve Shalom* - Depart Tel Aviv in the morning for the heart of the country, an often bypassed region rich in history and contemporary Israeli life. Take in the views while on tour through the only planned joint Israeli-Palestinian town in the country, with a local resident.



- **Ramla (or Lod)* - Explore a nearby city of great significance throughout various historical epochs, as a crossroads between continents and different parts of the Land of Israel. Enjoy lunch on your own in the market, then learn how the area evolved in the early Islamic period, during the British Mandate, and in recent years.
- **Diaspora* - Consider modern Israel within a broader framework of peoplehood. Recently renovated and renamed (fka "Diaspora Museum), ANU: Museum of the Jewish People portrays an uninterrupted Jewish story complete with evidence, artifacts, and experience.

**Time constraints may allow for only two of the activities above.*

- *Panel of Perspectives* - Enjoy dinner and discussion with the following speakers (or similar):
 - **Hila Peer** of Aguda: The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel
 - **Avi Soffer** of Beit Dror, a shelter for youth at risk
 - **Rita** of Habayit Hashona (The Different House), a shelter serving the Arab community
 - **Rotem Sorek** of Maaverim (Crossings / Passageways), an organization that empowers and supports the trans community.

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

Day 5: Road North - Tuesday, November 19 **(Guide, Bus)**

- *Volunteer* - Spend the morning giving hands-on support to an organization in the Tel Aviv or Haifa area *(to be determined per availability/need)*
- *Standing Together* - Meet leaders of the *Omdim B'yachad* organization, which has emerged as a leading political force organizing Jewish and Arab Israelis from across the country to advocate for policies of justice and equality
- *Kibbutz* - Continue to your accommodations just outside of Mizra, a Kibbutz in the Jezreel Valley established in the 1920's. Enjoy dinner as a group.

Overnight: Nof Tavor, Mizra [B, L, D]



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Day 6: The Galilee - Wednesday, November 20
(Guide, Bus)

- *Pioneers* - Head to Kibbutz Hannaton, a community founded by alumni of the the Conservative “Masorti” movement committed to a shared vision of Jewish life and learning. Meet Rabbi Haviva Ner David (*as available, or other community representative*) for a discussion on spiritual practice, Jewish pluralism in Israel, and Jewish-Arab relations in the Galilee.
- Join the *Druze* community for a traditional hospitality lunch in Bayt Jann and meeting a local village resident to discuss their unique culture, traditions and minority status within Israel.
- *Tzfat* - Imagine the city abuzz at the end of a busy week, and bring to mind the words of Shlomo HaLevi Alkabetz, 16th century author of L’cha Dodi. Walk winding alleyways, stand under the arches of synagogues centuries old, and step into galleries of artworks inspired by the Jewish mystical tradition. Visit the Gallery of Mystical Art for a brief conversation with its principal creator (*as available*).
- Return to your accommodations for dinner as a group.

Overnight: Nof Tavor, Mizra [B, L, D]

Day 7: Transition - Thursday, November 21
(Guide, Bus)

- *Borderland* - Drive south into the West Bank, along an Israeli highway looking into Jordan. Discuss the peculiarity of a sparse region deemed crucial for Israeli self-defense, where vulnerable Palestinian villages struggle to maintain traditional ways of life. Water scarcity and the shrinking Dead Sea amount to challenges that require a regional response. Meet EcoPeace Middle East (*as available, or alternative speaker*) to discuss cross-border advocacy initiatives advocating for a transition from extractive to more sustainable policies and practice.
- *The Valley, Area C* - Drive south into the West Bank, along an Israeli highway looking into Jordan. Discuss the peculiarity of a sparse region deemed crucial for Israeli self-defense, where vulnerable Palestinian villages struggle to maintain traditional ways of life.



- *Welcome to Jerusalem - (if time permits)* Open your visit with an iconic vista, taking time for personal and group reflection.
- *Tragedy & Memory* - After lunch en route, pay tribute to those lost in the Shoah with a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum and memorial. Remember this most painful moment in history and reflect as a group on the "Never Again" imperative. (*Alice Marcu is preferred guide*)

Overnight: Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L]

Day 8: Between the Lines - Friday, November 22
(2 Guides, Bus)

- *United/Divided City* - Return to Jerusalem for a tour with Ir Amim (*as available, or similar*), an organization working towards an "equitable and stable Jerusalem with an agreed political future." Understand how the landscape of East Jerusalem has changed in recent days and decades; explore the divisions cutting through a city "unified" in 1967.
- *Bethlehem, or Gush Ezion* - Driving south towards Bethlehem, hear your Palestinian guide's perspective on the significance of this region in Abrahamic tradition and for Palestinian national aspiration. See the disjointed infrastructure of contested territory and review the events that carved such a complex reality. Discuss the politics of painted murals along the separation/security barrier before visits to Manger Square and the Church of Nativity.
- *Judea* - Meet a resident of the nearby Jewish settlement to better understand their sense of belonging to the region and perspective on Israeli policy in the West Bank.
- Experience *Kabbalat Shabbat* with one or more local congregations (*i.e. Kehilat Tzion, Kol Haneshtama, Har El, etc, depending on group size, availability and accessibility*). Enjoy a group dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L, D]

Day 9: The City, Old & New- Saturday, November 23
(2 Guides, Bus)

- *West Side* - Enjoy Shabbat morning services at Hebrew Union College, or enjoy a "Dual Narrative" walking tour on King George Street and in downtown West Jerusalem. Learn



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about the development of Jewish urban culture in the pre-state era and notice remnants of a since diminished Arab presence in this part of the city.

- *Four Quarters* - Enter the Old City through the Jaffa Gate, making your way past the Armenian Quarter towards the excavated Roman Cardo below. See the Hurva Synagogue and feel the relaxed energy of the Jewish Quarter on Shabbat. Continue to a rooftop view point, and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Take time to explore on your own before heading out via the Muslim Quarter.
- *Seeking Peace* - Meet in the evening with representative(s) of Combatants for Peace and Land for All organizations
- Enjoy Havdalah as a group in the evening and dinner on your own

Overnight: Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem [B, L or D]

Day 10: Many Voices - Sunday, November 24
(Guide, Bus)

- *Pinnacle* - Return to the Old City early, ascending as a group to the Temple Mount / Noble Sanctuary. Remember Jewish Temples of previous millenia and come to understand Islamic attachment to *Al Aqsa*. Stroll the vast plaza surrounding the Dome of the Rock, calling attention to underlying national and political sensitivities that make this remarkably tranquil site so volatile.
- *The Plaza* - Head down the “mountain” onto the Western Wall plaza, laying your own experience and aspirations at the foot of a landmark where so many have come before. Reflect on the enduring relationship of the Jewish people with Jerusalem, and how this sometimes polarizing pilgrimage site factors in your own sense of connection.
- *Home hospitality* - Enjoy a festive lunch with musical accompaniment hosted by a Palestinian family in East Jerusalem.
- *Open House* - Conclude your tour with a visit to the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance, a leading LGBTQ advocacy organization serving a city not always known for inclusivity. Hear about and celebrate their work in conversation with a community leader, then take time as a group to process the trip experience.
- Enjoy free time at Mahane Yehuda market to shop and find dinner on your own before heading to the airport for your departing flights.



Some may stay in Jerusalem for the TBD extension.

Overnight: N/A [B, L]

*An optional extension will include one additional night accommodation and two parallel day tour tracks (on Monday, November 25): either **Masada & the Dead Sea** or **Ramallah**, the de facto capital of the Palestinian Authority. The extension will conclude with a group dinner on Monday, November 25, and transfer to the airport for late night departing flights. Those flying late on Tuesday, November 26 may opt for an additional post-stay night.*