



B'nai Tikvah Israel Exploration Led by Rabbi Leonard Gordon & Kayla Ship

*November 7-18, 2021
(rev 14 Mar 21)*

Sunday, November 7 DEPARTURE

- Departure from Boston on JetBlue Flight 2979 at 2:35pm.
- Arrival in Newark (EWR) at 4:30pm.
- Transfer to El Al Airlines Flight 026 departing at 8:30pm.

Monday, November 8 BRUCHIM HABA'AIM-WELCOME TO ISRAEL

- Arrival at Ben Gurion airport at 14:00.
- *(Assistance upon arrival by Keshet representatives).*
- Airport Snack
- Opening Tree Planting ceremony at the Neot Kedumim Biblical Nature Reserve.
- Outlook over the port of Jaffa, where pilgrims and *olim* entered the Holy Land for centuries.
- Check-in at hotel and time to freshen up
- Welcome Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: *Tal by the Sea, Tel Aviv*

Tuesday, November 9 THE NEW HEBREW CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Docent tour of the Reuven Ruben Museum, focusing on the rebirth of Hebrew culture and art in Tel Aviv's early years.
- Stroll through the weekly arts & crafts fair at Nahalat Binyamin.
- Lunch break (on own)
- Learn how and why Israel became "The Start-Up Nation" at the Taglit Innovation Center.
- Walk along the "Independence Trail", modeled after the Freedom Trail, to learn about the founding on Tel Aviv and the State of Israel.
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Overnight: *Tal by the Sea, Tel Aviv*

Wednesday, November 10 TORAH IN THE GALILEE

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out.

- Study session with one of Israel's finest teachers, Dr. Rachel Korazim. Using texts she takes us on through "A Tale of Two Cities—Contrasting Zionist Narratives."
- Depart for the north.
- Visit the Talmudic city of Tzippori, where Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi compiled the Mishnah and site of some of the most beautiful mosaics in the Middle East.
- Picnic Lunch
- Enjoy wine tasting at the Jezreel Winery on Kibbutz Hanaton
- Continue to kibbutz guest house for check-in and dinner.

Overnight: *Hagosherim Kibbutz Guest Hotel*

Thursday, November 11 MYSTICS & MOUNTAINS

- Breakfast at hotel
- Ascend the Golan Heights
- At Tel Saki, site of a fateful battle during the Yom Kippur War, meet Capt. (Res.) Yaakov Selavan for an update on the current security situation in Syria.
- Meet young IDF soldiers defending the northern border.
- Lunch break (on own) in Katzrin
- Drive to Tzfat, the heart of Jewish mysticism, to explore the alleyways and synagogues of the mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th century.
- Art & Kabbalah program with local artist, David Friedman, in his studio.
- Return to guest house for dinner.
- Evening: Meeting with kibbutznik on Kibbutz life in 2021.

Overnight: *Hagosherim Kibbutz Guest Hotel*

Friday, November 12 JORDAN RIVER VALLEY

- Breakfast at hotel and check-out
- Travel south to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu.
- Learn how this religious kibbutz led the "Green Revolution" in organic farming in Israel. "Bio Bee" tour of the fields and their "bug factory".
- Lunch in Bet She'an
- Continue along the Jordan River Valley to Jerusalem.
- Check-in at hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- 16:01 Candle-lighting
- Kabbalat Shabbat services at the Masorti (egalitarian) Kotel followed by visit to the Kotel Plaza.
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem*

Shabbat, November 13 SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at hotel
- Shabbat morning services at local synagogue.
- Day at leisure to explore on your own. *Please note that lunch can be ordered at the hotel (restaurant or lobby café) and charged to your room.*

- (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
- Meeting with Issam Sa'ad, a former Gaza resident who fled Hamas and is now involved in a unique Jewish-Palestinian dialogue project or with Arab-Israeli journalist, Khaled Abu Toameh
- 17:19 Havdalah
- Tower of David "Night Spectacular" sound & light show, projected on the walls of the museum. (bring a sweater as we will be sitting outside)
- Dinner (on own)

Overnight: *Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem*

Sunday, November 14 THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at hotel
- Visit the Haas Promenade overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. Text study and discussion on the Binding of Isaac and whether Abraham passed the test.
- Enter the Old City via Jaffa Gate.
- Brief visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Christian Quarter.
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and Cardo.
- Visit the Karaite Jews Heritage Center to learn more about the Bnei Mikrah Community.
- Descend to the Southern Wall excavations. Explore the centrality of the Temple and the role of pilgrimage in ancient times. Discussion on the sanctity of the Harem El Sharef (Noble Sanctuary) in Islam.
- Brief Kotel Visit.
- Enjoy strolling through the vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem*

Monday, November 15 WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

- Early Breakfast at hotel
- Depart for the Dead Sea Region. En route, optional photo op with "Shushi" the camel at the "Sea Level" marker.
- Ascend Herod's mountain fortress of Masada by cable-car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Descend by cable-car to the visitor's center.
- Lunch break (on own) at the Visitor's Center.
- Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at a Private Beach
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: *Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem*

Tuesday, November 16 THE PERIPHERY

- Breakfast at hotel

- Political briefing with Yitzhak Sokoloff
- Tour the Israeli Supreme Court, whose architecture reflects the Biblical tenets of “Justice and Righteousness”. Then meet a former Israeli Supreme Court justice, for a “hot topic” discussion.
- Lunch break (on own) en route
- “Living in the Levant-Bridging Narratives and Culture” with Yasmin Barhur in the Arab village of Ein Rafa.
- Meet Rabbi Dr. Sharon Shalom, an inspiring Ethiopian immigrant who is the rabbi of an Ashkenazi community in Kiryat Gat.
- Return to Jerusalem
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Bat Sheva Hotel, Jerusalem*

Wednesday, November 17 *NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM*

- Breakfast at hotel
- Meeting with a representative from IRAC (Israel Religious Affairs Center) for an update on issues regarding Jewish Pluralism in the Jewish State.
- Visit Yad L’Kashish-Lifeline of the Elderly, where shopping is a true mitzvah!
- Visit the beautiful Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Karem.
- Free time for lunch and last minute shopping time.
- We reconvene for a summary and discussion session.
- Farewell Dinner
- Transfer to airport for departing flight

Thursday, November 18 *ARRIVAL IN BOSTON*

- Departure on El Al Flight 025 at 12:05am.
- Arrival in Newark at 5:00am.
- Transfer to JetBlue Flight 2389 departing at 9:30am.
- Arrival Boston at 11:00am.

- ✓ Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- ✓ Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator.
- ✓ All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
- ✓ This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet.



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