



**Congregation Beth Shalom of Naperville**  
***Trip to Israel and Jordan***  
**Led by Rabbi Marc Rudolph**  
*May 10-22, 2015*

**Sunday May 10**                      **DEPARTURE**

- Departure from Chicago

**Monday May 11**                      **BRUCHIM HABA'AIM-WELCOME TO ISRAEL!**

- Arrival at Ben Gurion airport in the late afternoon
- We proceed to the port of Old Jaffa for an opening program where *olim* and pilgrims entered the Holy Land for centuries
- Welcome dinner in Tel Aviv's Yemenite Quarter

**Overnight:** *Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv*

**Tuesday May 12**                      **COSMPOLITAN TEL AVIV**

- On the way to the new multi-media Rabin Museum stop at Rabin Square to pay respects and view the famous graffiti written there. Then take in the Rabin Museum which traces the life of the former Prime Minister with the history of the State of Israel.
- Stroll through the weekly arts & crafts fair in the Nahalat Binyamin neighborhood.
- Study session with one of Israel's finest teachers, Dr. Rachel Korazim. Using texts and the pictures on the walls of her home in Jaffa, she takes us on a tour of "A Tale of Two Cities—Contrasting Zionist Narratives."
- Enjoy dinner at Kapiche Café, where the wait staff are deaf.

**Overnight:** *Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv*

**Wednesday, May 13**                      **THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST**

- "InnovatioNation-Why Israel is a hi-tech dynamo" with Assaf Luxembourg
- Travel north along the Mediterranean Coast to the Crusader-era port city of Acco.
- Explore the Knights' Halls and discuss the impact of the Crusades on Jewish Europe and the Holy Land
- Visit the Underground Prisoners' Museum
- Continue to Haifa
- Check-in and dinner at the hotel
- Evening: Program with Dubi Hayyun, a Conservative Rabbi and Emir Sharif, an Ahmadi Imam who meet weekly to study religious texts together.

**Overnight:** *Dan Panorama, Haifa*

**Thursday, May 14**      **EXILE AND RETURN**

- Atlit Detention Camp. See the audio/visual presentation on a restored ship like the ones use in the Aliyah Bet, bring Jewish refugees to Eretz Yisrael.
- Lunch stop (on own) in the charming pioneering town of Zichron Yaakov and take in the Tishbie Winery.
- Travel to Jerusalem
- Explore the vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market with a “Shuk Bites” tasting card
- Check-in at hotel
- Dinner and evening at leisure

**Overnight:** *Dan Boutique, Jerusalem*

**Friday, May 15**      **THIS YEAR IN JERUSALEM**

- Begin the day at the Haas Promenade, overlooking the Old City.
- Descend to the City of David to see the latest excavations.
- Walk through a newly discovered tunnel from the Second Temple Period which leads to Robinson’s Arch
- Explore the Southern Wall Excavations to gain a better understanding of the role of pilgrimage in ancient times
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and Cardo
- Return to hotel to prepare for shabbat
- Kabbalat Shabbat at the egalitarian Ezrat Yisrael prayer section of the Kotel (or at local synagogue)
- Festive shabbat dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight:** *Dan Boutique, Jerusalem*

**Shabbat, May 16**      **A JERUSALEM SHABBAT**

- Free morning or optional “shul hopping” on your own—exploring a variety of synagogues representing different ethnic and liturgical traditions.
- Lunch and afternoon at leisure.
- (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).
- Optional walking tour of Mishkenot Sha’ananim (with the poetry of Yehuda Amichai)
- We reconvene in the afternoon for a light Suedah Shlishit (third small meal towards the end of Shabbat)
- Group Havdalah
- Dinner on own in Mamilla
- Evening: Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sound & light show

**Overnight:** *Dan Boutique, Jerusalem*

**Sunday, May 17**      **SHOAH TO TEKUMAH**

- Walk down the Mt. of Olives, taking in the stunning view of the Old City, the famous trees, churches, and desert views. Take in Bethany, the Gardens of Gethsemane, the Russian

Orthodox Church of Maria Magdalene, and the tomb of Absalom. View King David's escape route during the rebellion of his son Absalom.

- Lunch break on Emek Rephaim, the heart of the German Colony, where we view some of the Templar houses (lunch on your own).
- We learn and remember at Yad Vashem including visits to the historical museum, Children's Memorial, Sculpture garden, and the Valley of the Lost Communities.
- Dinner and evening at leisure

**Overnight:** *Dan Boutique, Jerusalem*

### **Monday May 18                      *LOWEST POINT ON EARTH***

- Early morning departure for Ein Gedi where we hike Nahal David to the waterfall.
- Explore the ancient fortress of Masada, where Jewish rebels chose to live after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans.
- Lunch (on own) at the Masada Visitor's Center
- Then float in the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, at a private beach.
- Drive south along the Arava Valley to the resort city of Eilat on the shores of the Red Sea
- Check-in at hotel
- Dinner and evening at leisure

**Overnight:** *Rimonim, Eilat*

### **Tuesday May 19                      *PETRA***

- Pick-up: approximately 7:30 am from your hotel in Eilat
- Transfer to the Arava Border Crossing.
- After all border-formalities, drive up to the "Desert Highway" and then to the "Rose Red City" - Petra.
- Enter the ancient city through the famous "Siq" - a narrow natural gorge that ensured the secrecy of the entrance to Petra. At once, the valley of Petra opens up and the famous "Khazane" ("Treasury") can be seen.
- Visit the most famous monuments, carved in the red Sandstone, and eat lunch nearby before returning to your bus (total walking distance is from 6-8 kilometers).
- After a short tour of Aqaba, reach the Arava Border and return to Eilat (approximately 6:30 pm at the hotel)
- Dinner and evening at leisure

**Overnight:** *Rimonim, Eilat*

### **Wednesday May 20                      *THE NEGEV***

- Depart Eilat for the Arava Valley.
- Jewish ecology program at Kibbutz Lotan
- Continue to Maktesh Ramon (the Ramon Crater) and the town of Mitpzeh Ramon
- Lunch stop (on own)
- Visit the new Ramon Visitor's center dedicated to the memory of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon
- Program with the "Asher Ruach Bo" mechina (pre-army prep program) which prepares teens at risk to serve in the IDF
- Check-in and dinner at the hotel

- Evening: Star gazing in the desert.

**Overnight:** Ramon Inn, Mitzpeh Ramon

**Thursday May 21      MAKING THE DESERT BLOOM**

- Exciting jeep ride in the Ramon Crater (or option to spend the morning by the pool)
- Lunch stop (on own)
- Cross the Negev to Moshav Talmei Yosef to visit the “The Salad Trail”. Learn about Israeli desert agriculture as you pick and eat delicious veggies
- Continue to the center of the country
- Summary and conclusion session
- Farewell dinner
- Transfer to airport for departing flight

Keshet Tours will work with you personally if you wish to extend your visit to Israel to include dates before or after our group departure times.

Land Costs for the Tour are \$3272/per person double occupancy.

Estimate of Air Fair, roundtrip is 1500/per person.

- 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.
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