

# Park Avenue Synagogue

## Young Family Trip to Israel

### June 2023

Led by Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove and Jamie Diamond  
Trip Co-Chairs: Nikki Cole and Debbie Konstadt



**Day 1: Tuesday, June 13**

**Bruchim HaBaim and Welcome to Israel**

**1:00 pm**      **Meet in Tel Aviv**  
**2:00 pm**      **Meet at the Ben Gurion Airport**

Drive North

**Program Opening at Kfar Kedem**

In the lush hill country of the Galilee, Kfar Kedem recreates the day-to-day life of this ancient land. A hands-on experience, Kfar Kedem will transport you back to the roots of your heritage. Ride the rolling hills as Abraham rode them on real donkeys. Take in the scents that Jacob smelled tending Laban's flocks. Hear the words of the prophets as you thresh grain, make cheese, spin wool, press oil from fresh olives and wine from fresh grapes. You'll even dress like them!

**Opening Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight Pastoral Kfar Blum, Upper Galilee**

**Day 2: Wednesday, June 14**

**Serenity and Security in the North**

Early Breakfast at the hotel

**Short Water Hike at the Tel Dan National Park**

This National Park combines a lush nature reserve with a biblical archaeological experience with three easy hiking routes and a short wheelchair-accessible trail. At the heart of the park is Tel Dan, the capital of the ancient northern kingdom. The Dan River, one of the sources of the Jordan, flows through the reserve with its water coming from the melting snow of the nearby Mount Hermon. There is also a wading pool which offers a refreshing break

**Or** take a refreshing walk around the **Banias**:

One of Israel's most beautiful nature reserves. The Banias spring feeds into the Jordan River, the reserve's large waterfall tumbles down a 33-foot precipice year-round, and a nearby cave houses remains of a temple to the Greek god Pan, including the newly suspension bridge route.

**Lunch at Katzrin**

**Enjoy an off-roading Jeep Tour on the Syrian Border**

The Golan Heights is one of Israel's most beautiful and controversial regions. Discover first-hand the strategic importance of the area as you climb the Heights and "capture" a former Syrian bunker, offering you a bird's-eye view of Israel's expansive Hula Valley below.

**Mt. Bental viewpoint**

Mt. Bental is 1,170 meters above sea level and offers a spectacular panoramic view of Syria, Lebanon and Northeastern Israel. You will be briefed on this key strategic point for Israel and learn about the valley between Mount Bental and Mount Hermon that became known during the Yom Kippur War as the Valley of Tears, as hundreds of Israeli tanks were reduced to seven under extreme enemy fire.

**Tour and Workshop at De Karina Chocolate House**

The chocolate is made with the high-quality ingredients, the knowledge, and the experience past on for generations, beginning in south America- the source of the chocolate. We will take a guided tour through the manufacture process of the chocolate including tastings

**Wine Tasting for the Adults**

**Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight Pastoral Kfar Blum, Upper Galilee**

**Day 3: Thursday, June 15**

**Spirituality, Tradition and Fun in the Galilee**

Breakfast at the hotel

**Tour the Mystical City of Tzfat**

A city that sits at a higher altitude than any other city in Israel and has been known since the 16th century as a major center of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). Safed's mystical aura adds to its special status as one of Israel's four holy cities, along with Jerusalem, Tiberias, and Hebron. Safed is also known as a city of art. Many creative souls are attracted to and inspired by the winding, narrow cobblestone streets of Safed's Old City, home to an artists' quarter. Photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry design and Judaica - Safed is the home of every medium of art imaginable.

Explore with a visit to the **Ari, Caro or Abuhav Synagogues**, each with its great stories and mystical messages and a stroll through the quaint Artists' Colony and shop in the galleries and crafts shops.

**Lunch at the Water Park**

**Aqua Kef** on the Kinneret Israel's first and only floating Water Park on the Sea of Galilee. The Park has three different compounds suitable for all ages from 6 and up.

**Visit the Hula Lake Nature Reserve (Agamon HaHula)**, nestled between the Golan heights and the Upper Galilee Mountain range, whose marshland serves as the perfect stopover twice a year during the migration season for 500 million birds. We will have the opportunity to nature-walk, bike, or kick back in a golf cart around the marsh and test our eyes to see how many birds we can spot.

**BBQ Dinner Outside in Nature**

**Overnight Pastoral Kfar Blum, Upper Galilee**

**Day 4: Friday, June 16**  
**On the Way to Jerusalem**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy **rafting or kayaking** down the Jordan River with Kfar Blum Kayaks located right on the kibbutz grounds.

Check out and Drive South to Jerusalem

Enter Jerusalem and drive to the **Haas Promenade** for an overlook of the City of Jerusalem. **Shehechyanu/ HaTikvah and Overview of Jerusalem** We will recite the traditional '**Shehechyanu**' blessing for new beginnings, as we set our sights on the beauty laid out in front of us, witnessing three thousand years of history, old and new merging, from the days of King David through the very moments in which we celebrate our arrival and at once also internalize the many complex layers the city has to offer.

**Picnic lunch**

Prepare for Shabbat

**Shabbat Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 5: Shabbat, June 17**  
**Shabbat in Jerusalem**

**Shabbat Services**

Late Breakfast at the hotel

**Activity TBC –**

**Walking Tour Options:**

- Israel Museum
- Old City/New City

**Scavenger Hunt – Possible**

**Lunch at the hotel**

Enjoy the Hotel Pool

**Se'uda Shlishit (Dinner) - Kid Friendly Food (Pasta – Schnitzel - Pizza)**

**Havdallah**

**Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 6: Sunday, June 18**  
**The Layers of Jerusalem**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** via the Jaffa Gate.

Explore the **Jewish quarter** and **Jerusalem Archeological Park**, (including the Southern Steps and Robinson's Arch) for deeper insight into the Second Temple period, the Jewish pilgrims of the time, why it all came to an end- and why it really didn't! From the Second Temple period pedestrian mall below Robinson's Arch, we will also have an opportunity to view and speak about the Western Wall **Azrat Yisrael**, the egalitarian prayer space.

Visit the **Kotel (Western Wall)** and experience the special atmosphere at this holy site.

Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter

Explore the excavations at the **City of David**, the very core of ancient Jerusalem. View the Gihon Spring, the 3000-year-old water source of King David's capital and that of the Jebusite city before it. Wade through the water of King Hezekiah's 2700-year-old water tunnel and continue through the 2000-year-old dry drainage system of the Temple Mount.

Enjoy a late afternoon guided **Tasting Tour** experience: the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of Jerusalem will come alive while walking through the ethnically diverse **Machane Yehuda** open-air market with a local Shuk (market) foodie expert providing access and engagement with the best that the market has to offer.

**Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 7: Monday, June 19**

**Memory and Renewal. Searching for Roots**

Breakfast at the hotel

For Adults - Visit **Yad Vashem**, the National Museum and Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided visit will include:

**The Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees, symbolic of the renewal of life, have been planted in memory and in honor of the brave, non-Jewish Righteous Amongst the Nations, who risked and gave their lives to save Jews during the Shoah.

**The Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos, forests, and camp.

**The Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children murdered during the Holocaust.

For Kids - For younger children (under the age of 11 per museum's guidelines):

**Option 1: The Israel Aquarium** is Israel's first aquarium. The experience of visiting the aquarium will lead you along a fascinating path, emphasizing Israel's aquatic habitats – the Mediterranean Sea, The Red Sea, and even the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea

**Option 2: The Biblical Zoo** is one of Jerusalem's loveliest places. It has a great collection of animals with a special focus on creatures mentioned in the Bible. It includes 62 acres of open areas where the animals live, a zoo train if you don't feel like walking, a petting zoo, and plenty of other activities to keep all ages enthralled.

**Option 3: Nachlaot** is one of Jerusalem's best-kept secrets, and on this **Scavenger Hunt** you will discover this colorful, surprising, and eclectic neighborhood. On your navigation adventure, you will get to know the pioneers of the early Jerusalem neighborhood, while engaging with the unique Nachlaot vibe.

Lunch on own

**Dig for a Day:** Take part in an active **archaeological dig** at the **Beit Guvrin Caves**; prepare to get your hands dirty uncovering pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago (and to be the first to touch that pottery in 2300 years!) and brave the Maresha Cave Labyrinth with some cave spelunking (optional).

**6:30 pm**      **Dinner at Hatzot restaurant**

Free time to explore downtown Jerusalem, including the **Ben-Yehuda** pedestrian mall the Nachalat Shiva neighborhood, or the newer Mamilla pedestrian mall, with dinner on own.

**Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

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**Day 8: Tuesday, June 20**

**Deep Dive into the Desert**

Early breakfast at the hotel

Early departure to descend to the Dead Sea Basin via the Judean Desert

Ascend by cable car to **Masada, Herod's Mountain palace** and the site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defense and its current significance in modern Israel.

**Putting your feet up IN the Dead Sea:** Enjoy **Lunch & Swim at the Vert Dead Sea beach hotel**. A relaxed afternoon will include floating in the Dead Sea. Not much can live (or swim) in Yam HaMelach, the "Sea of Salt," which is nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is an unparalleled experience. We'll also enjoy a **buffet lunch** and if the Dead Sea wasn't enough, we will check out the **shoreline hotel's spa facilities**

*Time permitting:* Take a short hike to **Nahal David**, the freshwater spring and waterfalls in the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, where David hid from King Saul.

Heading back to Jerusalem

Early Dinner - On the way back to Jerusalem, stop at **Eretz Beresheet** (Genesis Land), with the mountains of Jordan as the backdrop, for a short camel ride, followed by a Hafla Dinner at the Abraham's tent for a chance to "catch up".

**Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

**Day 9: Wednesday, June 21**

Breakfast and Check Out

Tikun Olam - **Pantry Packers** is the food distribution arm of Tzedakah Central, the oldest continuously operating network of social services in Israel – established in 1788. Every month Pantry Packers delivers crates containing all the necessary foods and household maintenance supplies to Israel's poorest families and senior citizens. You will get to help and pack food with your own hands and practice Tikun Olam in the most tangible way possible.

Ancient Steps towards New Beginnings: Tour the **Old City of Jaffa**. Ascend from the ancient port, which has served as a gateway to the land of Israel for eons, through the Ottoman period alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for a view VERY different than the one which greeted the early pioneers. With Tel Aviv sprawled out beneath us, we will explore whether the dreams of the early Zionists have been fulfilled.

Lunch in Old Jaffa on own

**Graffiti Tour of South Tel Aviv**

Explore Southern Tel Aviv's Bohemian neighborhood with a local resident, and encounter the street art and graffiti, serving as the 'writing on the wall' to provide deeper insights into contemporary Israeli culture and identity.

**Summary & Closing dinner at Maganda** restaurant in the Yemenite Neighborhood of Tel Aviv

Drive to the airport

שלום ולהתראות  
*Shalom U'lehitraot!*

## **Rates (Land Only)**

**Rates are based on a minimum participation of 75 full fare participants**

Price per person sharing a double room

- **\$ 4,950 USD**

Single **Supplement** for those rooming alone

- **\$ 1,405 USD**

**Reduced rate** for one child (2 – 12 years old) sharing as 3<sup>rd</sup> in room

- **\$ 3,965 USD (Discount of \$985 for one child)**

**Reduced rate** for two children (2 – 12 years old). At hotel Kfar Blum, a family room for 4 participants (2 Adults & 2 Children) has been secured. At the Inbal hotel in Jerusalem, a family of four will be placed in two connecting or adjacent rooms based on availability.

- **\$ 4,620 USD per child (Discount of \$330 per child)**

**Reduced rate** for three children (2 – 12 years old) staying in a separate room from parents (either connecting or adjacent as per availability)

- **\$ 4,450 USD per child (Discount of \$500 per child)**

## **Accommodation**

**Kibbutz Kfar Blum Hotel, Upper Galilee**

- 3 nights in Classic rooms

**Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

- 5 nights in Classic rooms

## **Featured**

### **Included**

- 8 nights' accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 8 dinners
- 9 days of touring with a select tour educator (guide)
- 9 days of touring in a deluxe air-conditioned bus
- 9 days of touring with a field coordinator
- 9 days of touring with an Israeli Youth Counselor
- Transfer from the airport on June 13 or at the pre-scheduled group Pick-Up Point in Tel Aviv on June 13.
- 1 Transfer to the airport for departure flights at the end of the program
- Entrance fees and program fees as per your final itinerary
- Booklets for all participants
- Water on the bus or reusable water bottle
- Porterage at hotels

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### **Excluded**

- International Airfare
- Covid related expenses including but not limited to medical care, quarantine requirements, and testing (PCR, Serological or other) should any be required
- Evening transportation when dinner is not included
- Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, extras charged to hotel rooms, alcohol at meals, insurance of any kind, unless otherwise specified
- Transfers and airport assistance for individuals not arriving/departing on the group dates
- Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists if they are not Israelis. Should laws change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- Gratuities to Guide and Driver. We recommend the following guidelines for tipping: Tour Educator: \$ 8 USD per person per day; Driver: \$ 4 USD per person per day; Field Coordinator: \$ 5 USD per person per day

### **Guidelines for Payment and Cancellation**

#### **Payment policy:**

- A non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$ 500 per person is due upon registration and is fully applicable to the price of the trip.
- A second payment of 40% of the total price of the trip is due five months before the scheduled trip begins (January 13, 2022)
- The balance in full is due two months before the scheduled trip begins (April 13, 2023)

We accept **Visa, MasterCard or American Express** in which case an **administrative and processing fee of 3.7% will be added to each charge**. Recommended form of payment is via **credit card**. To avoid this fee, you can pay by international bank wire. Should you choose this method, please indicate as such on the registration form and the banking details will be emailed to you.

### **Cancellation policy**

All cancellations must be made in writing and addressed to Anna: Anna@routestravel.com . The cancellation fee depends on the date when we receive written notification of your request to cancel your booking. Please note that in all cases the deposit remains non-refundable.

- Cancellations received no later than 90 days before arrival in Israel are subject to loss of the deposit
- Cancellations received less than 90 days but no less than 60 days before arrival in Israel are subject to a cancellation fee equivalent to 25% of the total price of the trip
- Cancellations received less than 60 days but no less than 30 days before arrival in Israel are subject to a cancellation fee equivalent to 50% of the total price of the trip
- Cancellations received less than 30 days before arrival in Israel are subject to a cancellation fee equivalent to 100% of the total price of the trip

**It is highly recommended that group participants purchase comprehensive travel and cancellation insurance to cover as many eventualities as possible.**

### **VAT (Value Added Tax)**

**Israeli VAT** not applicable to non-Israeli tourists for a variety of services and is therefore not included in our prices. In this connection, please note the following:

- Should any members of your group be **either** holders of an Israeli passport or residents of Israel, they are subject by Israeli law to Israeli VAT (Value Added Tax) which is 17%, a tax which is **not included** in the above prices since non-Israeli tourists are exempt from this tax on key services. If we are informed of the participation of Israeli citizens/residents in advance, we can bill accordingly from the outset. Otherwise, any Israeli passport holders and/or residents **regardless of where they reside**, will be charged VAT by the hotel reception.
- With respect to tourists, although current regulations continue to exempt them from VAT on key services, this could change at any time, in which case VAT would have to be added by law to the services provided.

### **Travel Protection**

More than ever, Travel Insurance is a **vitaly important** feature of any planned travel and safeguards against unexpected developments. Comprehensive travel insurance helps to protect you from many otherwise unavoidable financial implications which could result from cancellations, illness, and/or other causes. In view of the Covid pandemic, it is particularly important to cover as many pandemic related events as is possible including the various travel, financial and medical consequences of sickness and/or quarantine prior to, during or following the planned tour. **We very strongly urge you to travel with appropriate and comprehensive travel and medical insurance.** For more information about travel insurance, please contact us.

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### **Additional Notes Regarding Covid**

Throughout the world, human lives have been dramatically impacted by the Covid pandemic, nowhere more so than in the realm of international travel.

As always, Routes maintains as its highest priority the safety, health, and welfare of its clients. Our tours adhere to all measures instituted by Israeli government authorities and our professional teams go to lengths to ensure as smooth and seamless a travel experience as is possible within the context of ever-changing realities.

It is important to remember of course, that fluctuations in country policies affect procedures for departure from one's own country as well as for entry into destination countries. As we have learned over the past two years, the fluidity involved in travel-related situations requires all parties to continue to be aware of circumstances as they develop. At Routes we are in constant touch with all relevant regulatory bodies including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism, and the Interior Ministry to comply with any mandated procedures for entry to and travel within Israel. We will of course make you aware of Israeli requirements and limitations which are known prior to your travel so that you can be as fully informed as possible, whether in connection to testing, vaccination, quarantine and so on. Aside from checking any local travel advisories which may be applicable to you, please consult the most current Covid related guidelines for entering Israel on Israel's Health Ministry Portal.

We urge all our clients not only to doublecheck procedures on their end but also to secure **comprehensive** travel and medical insurance which covers as many pandemic related events as is possible including the various travel, financial and medical consequences of sickness and/or quarantine prior to, during or following the planned tour.