

## **Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley**

### **Israel Trip 2023**

**29<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

12 days / 11 nights

#### **Tour Description**

This is a family friendly trip with mixed activities for adults and youth. The tour will include activities and sites that stimulate and educate, illustrating Israel's past and present, plus a peek at possibilities for the future. We'll look at the current status of the country's ecological fabric and how it can be sustained for future generations. You'll meet Israelis from all walks of life, including members of a local reform congregation, Bedouin residents of the Negev desert, Palestinians and much more. We'll hold discussions on historical, social, economic and political issues, and future sustainability.

During the more 'adult' events there will be a youth experience and/or sport and fun activities for the children and youth, during which they will be appropriately supervised, and when possible have the opportunity to meet local children their own age.

The last 2 days of the trip offer the travelers to choose from Jerusalem activities and experiences or alternatively an exploration and deeper understanding of the 'Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Families will come back together each evening.

*Please note that this is just an outline and each of the activity bullet points will be expanded into a sentence or two for the final itinerary. Driving times and time slots for events will also be included in the final version.*

Itinerary – Draft 1 -

**Day 1 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Departure from JFK, NYC**

- Rabbi leads Tefillat Ha-Derech
- Children & Youth receive their Rice Klaf & Pen – to begin scribing of their Klaf for a Mezuzah
- Share hopes, expectations, dreaming together

**Day 2 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Arrival – Transfer to Tel Aviv hotel**

\*Travelers bring a downloaded digital copy of CCAR PRESS MiSHKHAN TEFILAH

<https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/resources-repaginated/>

Travelers arrange ahead of time for an international plan on their Cell Phones for the duration of the trip or alternatively (SIM cards can be purchased/shipped to you in the US before departure)

<https://www.gcellular.com/>

- Rooftop Lounge / or on beach - Rabbi leads morning meditation
- Short Orientation
- Beit Ha-Tefutzot (The New Diaspora Museum) / Teens with their parents, parallel children's activity
- Independence Hall
- Walking Tour
- Free Time to Swim, Rest, Prepare for Shabbat
- Kabbalat Shabbat at the Tel Aviv Port
- Shabbat Dinner together in Restaurant at the Port
- OVERNIGHT Tel Aviv

**Day 3 – Shabbat 1<sup>st</sup> July – Tel Aviv - Jaffa**

- Shabbat Morning Services at either LGBTQ Tel Aviv Synagogue or Kehillah Mesorati in Neve Tzek with a Tot Shabbat program in courtyard parallel to services

Walking tour through Florentine – graffiti art

- Jaffa Old City -
- Lunch at Jaffa Port
- Walk Ajami neighborhood of Jaffa
  - o Children’s activity in adjacent park
    - Discussion of 1948 in Tel Aviv & Jaffa.
- Rabbi’s friend’s nephews Café (Asufa) as gathering place for Havdalah
  - Flea Market (free time/Dinner on your own) (Shuk HaPishpithim)
- Overnight Tel Aviv

**Day 4 – Sunday 2 July – Caesarea – Haifa - Tiberius**

- Morning Minyan with Rabbi on the Beach (1/2 hour before 1<sup>st</sup> planned activity)
  - Drive north to Caesarea, Tour the ancient Site / Parallel Children’s program (3 D movie presentation and tour)
  - \*Lunch at Jisr al-Zarqa Meet with female activist from the village & with HK Meirav Cohen
  - En Hod artists village / Children & Youth Ceremaic Workshop- create a Mezuzah
  - \*Engagement/Program At Ethiopian Immigrant Center/School with Israeli (yotzei Ethiopia) who are first, second, and third generation Israelis; they or their parents and/or grandparents immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia
  - Ein Hawd traditional Arab meal / early dinner
- Alternatively The Leo Baeck Center in Haifa, focus on their programming for the community Yotzei Ethiopia
- Head North, stop in Haifa, walk & explore mixed city of Haifa, dessert then back to bus and continue North to Ginosar
- Overnight at Sea of Galilee (Kibbutz Ginosar)

**Day 5 – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July -**

- B-Mitzvah at Ancient Synagogue at Har-Meiron
  - Visit Tzfat - activities children make candles & glass blowing demonstration
  - Lunch in Tzfat
  - Kfar Blum water activities – zip line etc. for families
  - \*Alternative Hike / Nahal Yehudia for hikers
  
  - Dinner & overnight at Sea of Galilee (Kibbutz Ginosar)
  - \*Optional Evening swim & hang out for families with children
  - hang at the Beach & Kibbutz Grounds, Kumsitz, R & R
  - \*Optional Evening at a Winery
  - \*Optional Visit to Tiberius on your own
  - \*Optional Evening Mikveh for those who chose in the Kinneret
  - \*Overnight at Kibbutz Ginosar

**Day 6 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Jordan Valley - Masada**

\*Morning Minyan with Rabbi by the Kinneret

- Drive south from Tiberius
- Visit Auja Eco Centre – sustainable horticulture

<http://www.aujaecocenter.org/index.php/about-us/vision-and-mission>

- Lunch at Kalia Beach, Dead Sea
- Dip in the Dead Sea
- \*Exploration of Water Issues & Future of Dead Sea
- Masada desert fortress – late afternoon/(last cable car of the day)
- Dinner & Overnight Ein Bokek hotel with swimming pool

**Day 7 proposed –Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Kibbutz Lotan (Reform Community, and an Eco-Jewish intentional, collective community with a deep commitment to environmental protection)

- \*Morning Minyan with Rabbi Yael overlooking Dead Sea
- \*Activities for adults & kids at Kibbutz exploring issues of sustainability
- \*Night Safari Drive (Visit to Desert Animal Safari/Gan Chayot (Nocturnal Animals of the desert))
- \*Dinner & overnight Kibbutz Lotan Inn

**Day 8 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

- Drive through Negev Desert
- Tour unrecognized Bedouin village and meet with local Bedouin Leader
- Visit a Negev Farm and/or Vineyard and Have Lunch on the Farm
- Neve Shalom Wahat Al-Salam- meet with residents & explore the dream, what works and what does not work
- Overnight in Jerusalem

**Day 9 – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July –Jerusalem**

- Yad V'shem with children's guide
- Shuk -Macheneh Yehudah for adults, swimming in the German Colony for the children/youth
- Shabbat Services at Kol Ha-Neshamah & Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner at the Hotel
  - Overnight Jerusalem

**Day 10 – Shabbat – 8<sup>th</sup> nd July – Jerusalem**

- Shabbat Morning Services at selected Jerusalem Congregation
  - Shabbat afternoon walking tours to consider
    - o Walk to Mount of Olives?
    - o Walk the Old City?
    - o Walk around the Old walls
  - Dinner Havdalah at the Hotel
    - Evening out and Dinner on your own
  - Overnight Jerusalem

**Day 11 & 12- Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> & Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Jerusalem \*\*\*\*\*2 Options\*\*\*\***

- Breaking the Silence Tour (option 1)
  - Gravesite of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba
  - Tomb of the Patriarchs square
  - The former Wholesale Market
  - The shuhad Street
  - The four Israeli settlements in Hebron
  - A visit with Palestinian non-violent activists in the neighborhood of Tel-Rumeida
  - A new settlement point established 2014 variously called the House of Contention, the House of Peace/Rajabi House and the Bronw House
- \*Visit refugee camp
- \*Meet with Palestinian professionals, politicians and businesspeople.
- \*Walk east & west Jerusalem – both sides of the Green Line
- Lunch with a representative from Rabbis from Human Rights (*or other human rights group*) • Driving tour of the separation wall & view the '300' checkpoint
- \*Meet with representative of RAC
- \* Lunch with Reform Member of Knesset Gilad Kariv

## Itinerary – Draft 1 -

For those remaining in Jerusalem: (option 2)

- \*Guided Tour of Jerusalem in 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Period
- \* Biblical Zoo
- \*Fun Day Massages and water park for kids
- \*Israel Museum
- \*Tour of The Kinneret
- \*Tour of the Supreme Court of Israel

Shared final dinner & Reflections at location TBD before departing (both groups)

- Two final Overnights in Jerusalem

### **Notes for the Congregation:**

Each family is asked to download a copy of Mishkan Tefillah (including weekday and Shabbat edition)

Everyone wants to access an international plan on their cell phone so that you can reach Rabbi, the tour leader, and one another throughout the trip or alternatively purchase a sim card at the airport upon arrival.

We should have copies of the Declaration of Independence for reading prior to the trip

Articles:

For Israel and Palestinians, confederation is a disastrous fantasy – Haaretz, Opinion Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie

The Woman in Charge of Implementing Israel's Plan for Arabs, May 27 Haaretz, Hilo Glzer

Books:

Exodus – Leon Uris

My Promise Land- Ari Shavit

Can We Talk About Israel- Daniel Sokatch

Haifa Republic- Omri Boehm