



September 11, 2022

A Taste of Israel | Beth Sholom Journey

To Israel | Led by Rabbi Sam Stern

May 28-June 8, 2023

The **J²** way

J² crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

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Program Outline

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

01: SUNDAY, MAY 28 | **DEPARTURE** | FLIGHT

- ◇ DEPART THE USA.

02: MONDAY, MAY 29 | **THE START OF A JOURNEY** | JLM

- ◇ Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- ◇ Meet your **tour educator** who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- ◇ Welcome to Jerusalem: Drive to the vibrant and colorful ancient city of **Jerusalem**, and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- ◇ A First Look at the Holy City: Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of **Jerusalem**. We'll stop at **Mount Scopus** for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing of thanksgiving.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ Enjoy a festive **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant, followed by orientation with **Rabbi Stern** and your **tour educator**.

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03: TUESDAY, MAY 30 | A CITY OF LAYERS | JLM

- ◇ Breakfast at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet.
- ◇ Take a walking tour through **Jerusalem's Old City** and the Jewish Quarter and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
 - A walk along the **rooftops** that will provide an extraordinary scene of multi-faith Jerusalem. From this one spot, we will see the domes of three great religious landmarks: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre (marking where Jesus is believed to have been crucified); the Jewish Quarter's Hurva synagogue; and the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's most sacred and beautiful sites.
 - **The Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
 - **King Hezekiah's "Broad Wall"**, a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
 - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
 - No visit to Israel is complete without experiencing the **Kotel (Western Wall)**, widely considered Judaism's holiest site. Each year, over one million notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the wall. We'll discuss the wall's historical and contemporary importance and experience its unique atmosphere.
 - Going Under, Going Deeper: Explore the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are revising our understanding of daily life in ancient Jerusalem.

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04: WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 | **THE DEAD SEA BASIN** | JLM

- ◇ Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before setting out to explore the Dead Sea region.
- ◇ As Low as It Goes: We'll drive to the **Dead Sea Basin**, 1,412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape, and the views are breathtaking.
- ◇ The Last Stand: Take the cable car to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- ◇ The Sea of Salt: Float into happiness in the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live or swim in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- ◇ **The Desert Experience:** Guests are treated like royalty in desert societies. Take a camel for a test drive and ride into the Judean wilderness. Afterward, we'll recline in a spacious tent and enjoy Middle Eastern hospitality and a traditional "**hafla**" dinner. Even the patriarch Abraham will be on hand to welcome us to Genesis Land as we get a taste of life and travel in biblical times.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.

05: THURSDAY, JUNE 1 | **AGENTS OF CHANGE** | JLM

- ◇ Meet with a representative from **Women of the Wall**, leaders in the struggle for religious freedom in Israel.
- ◇ Living on the Edge: Proceed to **Moshav Netiv Ha'asarah**, located on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, meet a resident and discuss the security implications of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.
- ◇ The Old Man and the Desert: Visit the grave and the house of Israel's "founding father", David Ben-Gurion at **Kibbutz Sde Boker**. We'll discuss why Ben-Gurion, the "grand old man" of Israel's public life and the country's first Prime Minister, abandoned the political scene for life in an isolated kibbutz in the Negev Desert.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem.
- ◇ Take a multi-cultural tasting journey through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop. This doubles as a delicious **dinner**.

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06: FRIDAY, JUNE 2 | **THE POWER OF MEMORY** | JLM

- ◇ Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved 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 and camps.
 - The **Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
- ◇ Explore the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, housing more than 5,000 years of cultural treasures. Highlights include the archaeology wing, with the most extensive collection of biblical artifacts in the world; the Jewish art and life wing; the fine arts wing; the sculpture garden; and the open-air model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period. Don't miss the Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, considered the world's oldest existing biblical manuscripts.
- ◇ Kabbalat shabbat at **Kehillat Beit Hakerem**, followed by home hospitality **Shabbat dinner** (*pending confirmation*).

07: SATURDAY, JUNE 3 | **SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM** | JLM

- ◇ *Optional:* Attend Shabbat morning services at one of the nearby Jerusalem synagogues.
- ◇ Depart the hotel for a **walking tour**.
- ◇ **Yemin Moshe and Mishkenot Sha'ananim:** Get to know the great banker and philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore as you explore the pastoral neighborhoods, famous windmill and the artists' colony that he developed and which transformed Jerusalem in the nineteenth century. En route, view two of modern Jerusalem's most storied and important landmarks: the King David Hotel and the YMCA building.
- ◇ **Three Stars in the Jerusalem Sky:** At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah ceremony** overlooking the Old City.
- ◇ Free time in the Mamilla Mall, an upscale shopping street and the only open-air mall in Jerusalem, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City.
- ◇ **Lights! Action! Jerusalem!** Watch the **Night Spectacular** at the **Tower of David Museum**. The walls of the Citadel serve as the stage for this cinematic celebration of sight and sound depicting the story of Jerusalem.

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08: SUNDAY, JUNE 4 | FROM THE HILLS OF JERUSALEM TO THE HILLS OF THE NORTH | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ As we drive north on the **Trans-Israel Highway**, there will be plenty of opportunities to see the Security Barrier which runs along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and to learn about the barrier's effects on Israeli security and Palestinian communities.
- ◇ Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, and maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city; entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you could:
 - Visit the **Ari Synagogue** and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
 - See the **Caro Synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari Synagogue, in the 16th century. It is where Rabbi Joseph Caro, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a *maggid*, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
- ◇ Up There Where We Belong: The **Agamon Hula** (Hula Lake), Israel's best place for bird-watching, is home to thousands of storks, cranes, pelicans and flamingos. We'll learn why early Zionist efforts to drain these swamps have been replaced by environmental protection. And for those with a need for speed, there's bike-riding and golf-carting.
- ◇ Check into the hotel, followed by **dinner**.

09: MONDAY, JUNE 5 | NATURE AND SECURITY | UPPER GALILEE

- ◇ 60 Minutes – Israel's Security Challenges Along Its Syrian Border: Meet with a research expert and reserve IDF officer from the **Alma Research** and Education Center for a security briefing at observation points along Israel's border with Syria. Find out about the security implications of Syria's civil war, Iran and the Shi'ite axis on the border, Operation "Good Neighbor," United Nations (UNDOF) activity in Syria, and security challenges on the Syrian border.
- ◇ Paradise Springs is one of the places we'll visit at the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**. We'll tour the remains of a 5,000- year-old city and find out why water is like gold in the parched Middle East.
- ◇ From Little Things, Great Things Grow: The Golan Heights is wine country. Sample some of its best at the **Pelter Winery**. Nir and Tal Pelter used to run this winery out of the backyard of their family farm. The brothers have proven their expertise since then, but the winery remains a boutique family affair. We're doing the driving, so you're welcome to treat yourself to Pelter's Israeli gin along with the grapes.
- ◇ Return to the hotel for **dinner**.

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10: TUESDAY, JUNE 6 | **COMMUNITIES COMING ALIVE** | TLV

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ Farmers, Fighters, and Flyers: Visit **Nahalal**, Israel's first moshav, and encounter the Israeli experiment of communal living, then and now. We'll discuss why its members played such a prominent role in the Israeli military while visiting the village's secret weapons hideaway used during the 1948 War of Independence. We will also stop at the graves of famed General and politician Moshe Dayan, and two Israeli fighter pilots, Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, who died during the Columbia space shuttle mission of 2003, and his son Assaf, who died at age 21 during a training flight. **Lunch** will be at the home of local residents.
- ◇ Drive along the coast to and back in time to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Explore life 2,000 years ago with its ancient theater, palace, and bathhouse.
- ◇ Welcome to **Tel Aviv**: Enter Tel Aviv, also known as "the city that never sleeps." A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.

11: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7 | **A NEW CITY** | FLIGHT

- ◇ Beginnings: Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient **Jaffa**. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea; learn why Jaffa, mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, is so historically important; and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past. Walk through Jaffa's famous flea market – Shuk Hapishpeshim.
- ◇ From Hebrew City to Hebrew State: Walk along the **Independence Trail** and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.
- ◇ Experience the dynamism of Jewish life at the newly opened **ANU Museum of the Jewish People**, dedicated to telling their story and representing their diversity, highlighting the creative works and cultural riches of a variety of communities in different periods of history until the present day.
- ◇ Late check-out from the hotel.
- ◇ **Festive farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.
- ◇ Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight.

12: THURSDAY, JUNE 8 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN**

- ◇ Return to the USA.

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Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
May 29 – Jun 4	6	Dan Boutique	Superior	Jerusalem
Jun 4-6	2	Hagoshrim	Classic	Upper Galilee
Jun 6-7	1 + LCO	Tal	Standard	Tel Aviv

# OF PARTICIPANTS	15+	Single Supplement
	\$4,980	+\$1,450

What to Expect

Included:

- ◇ 9 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ Late check out on the day of departure is included.
- ◇ 10 days of touring with a tour educator (guide), 9 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 group arrival transfer & assistance at the airport.
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- ◇ Daily breakfast, 1 lunch & 7 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.

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Excluded:

- ◇ Credit card fees.
- ◇ Flights to & from Israel.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- ◇ Gratuities: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 15 participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Driver: \$6 per day per person.

Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

Rates: Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 15/20 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.

Currency: Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.



Payment policy: The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

Cancellation policy: All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J² travel program.
- If your J² travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.
- The cost of the PEACE OF MIND TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (POM), for trips only to Israel, if this was purchased.

Travel insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.