

Sample Israel Journey for Congregations, Independent Minyanim, JCCs,
Agencies, and others

Each day is designed around a core theme. Taken in its entirety, this itinerary presents to participants of all ages a comprehensive picture of Israel from a variety of perspectives: geography, culture, spirituality and politics.

An Israel journey that is sandwiched between strong pre-journey planning and post-journey reflection will deepen the experience for the entire sponsoring community. We are prepared to work with staff to design these pre- and post-components as well as the trip itself. A milat hayom – word of the day – and shir hayom – song of the day can be added, which will further deepen the experience and add to the 'take aways.'

DAY 1

Depart Saturday evening Air France BOS 7:45p

Arrive Sunday TLV 3:40p

Day 2

Sunday Arrive 3.40PM

Core: The different meanings, models, and experiences of travel to Israel

Drive to Jerusalem - Tayelet for panoramic view, walk thru shuk to kotel
Festive welcome dinner with traditional Middle Eastern fare
overnight Jerusalem

Day 3

Monday

Core: Holiness in Jerusalem - the meaning of Jerusalem for the world and for Jews

Visit to Davidson Center and Southern Wall excavations
Prayer experience at Southern Wall (possible Bnai mitzvah experience?)
Visit to Temple Mount, church of the Holy Sepulchre
Lunch; Scavenger Hunt in Israel Museum-- understanding Israel today -
connections to Archaeology and Modern Art; Walking tour of Machane Yehuda
market; Meetings with groups trying to create secular society in Jerusalem
Overnight Jerusalem

Day 4

Tuesday

Core: Introductory program on the history of Tel Aviv and the city's image as a place of youth and renewal.

Walking tour of neighborhood with choice of: Bialik house; Reuven Rubin house. Independence Hall Ben Gurion house; and visit to Nahalat Binyamin crafts fair and lunch in shuk; private meeting with contemporary Israeli artists
Start Up nation tour - visit to Better Place; night walk from namal (modern boardwalk) to Sde Dov; opportunity for Social Justice activities with Darfurian refugees and other foreign workers
Concert in Tel Aviv
overnight in Tel Aviv

Day 5,

Wednesday

Core: Ancient and modern Galil

leave early for hike down Arbel or Tel Dan/Banias; Zippori National Park – study tour; The Kibbutz today- experience at Yodefah; Possibly be joined by families from Haifa on hike and Zippori visit
Home hospitality (dinner or just coffee) in homes in Haifa
Dinner in Zichron Yaakov winery
overnight Haifa

Day 6

Thursday

Core: Visits through the Galil to see coexistence in practice.

Meetings with Arab Israelis
Lunch with an entrepreneurial Arab Israeli woman with a unique family story
Visit to Jewish communities trying to create social change in the Galil
[Eshbal, others]
Tea with Arab family with a different story
Opportunities for families and children to hike this day instead
overnight Haifa

Day 7

Friday

Core: The geographic expanse of Israel; winter in the desert

Early Morning drive into and thru Negev, via Sde Boker, Ein Avdat, Mitzpeh Ramon, Machtesh (craters) Ramon arrive Ketura for Shabbat dinner at Shaharut or kibbutz - restaurant in tents in hills above Israel and Jordan Sleep at Keren Kolot at kibbutz Ketura

Day 8

Shabbat

Core: Scope of Shabbat possibilities in the Negev

Outdoor shabbat experience in nature- bnai mitzvah opportunity
Mountain biking opportunity; Leisure time in Eilat - beach, wind surfing, snorkling, Aquarium; afternoon program on sustainability in the Desert - optional visit to Bedouin
Dinner
Sleep in Keren Kolot

Day 9

Sunday

Core: Spirituality from ancient to modern renewal

Return to center of country - visit to Masada , Ein Gedi, Mineral Beach at Dead Sea; Possible tour to view "West Bank" and see borders and security issues
Return to Jerusalem: Meetings with leaders in Jerusalem to hear about areas of spiritual renewal in Israel, other 'secular' study groups, overnight Jerusalem

Day 10

Monday

Core: East and West Jerusalem

Yad Vashem with Spielberg Film Archives- continuing role of Shoah in Israeli and Jewish culture ; Optional Visit to Yad Vashem art museum and Valley of the communities ; Damascus Gate area - Sh'ar Shechem; Abu Shukri, Jerusalem Pottery ; view of Jerusalem 1967- present; Kol Haot- Art experience; Cultural event in Jerusalem - Cinemateque / concert
overnight Jerusalem

Day 11

Tuesday

Core: Pulling together - Israel: past, present, future: My place in Israel as an American Jew: Bringing it back home

Drive to Caesarea Roman ruins. Lunch enroute back to Tel Aviv.
Rabin Museum; Option of Palmah Museum for kids;
Options: Bike ride namal through Ganei Yehoshuah to cactus gardens; Bike ride to Tel Baruch beach; night view from Azrieli tower;
Time for shopping and family time;
Festive Final dinner
Overnight Tel Aviv

Day 12, Wednesday Depart for airport 5.30AM

Farewell moment on Tel Aviv boardwalk

Depart Wednesday Jan. 1 TLV 8:05a
Arrive Wednesday Jan. 1 BOS 5:45p