



Congregation Emeth - Explore Israel Trip

Led by Rabbi Debbie Israel

October 26 – November 7, 2016

(Draft: January 18, 2016; Subject of change)

Wednesday, 26 October – *Depart USA*

Thursday, 27 October – *Entering the Land*

- Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (*today's program depends on arrival time*).
- **Shekhiyanu**-Welcome ceremony on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv. Tour the alleys of **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as the *Gate of Zion*.
- Proceed to check-in at the **Dan Panorama Hotel** or **Metropolitan Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- **Welcome dinner** and **orientation** at **Maganda Yemenite Restaurant**.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, 28 October – *The Hebrew City and the Jewish State*

- Relive David Ben Gurion declaring the new State of Israel at **Independence Hall**.
- Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv standing at the **Founders' Monument** on **Rothschild Boulevard** and see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Visit **Beit Bialik**, the private home of Israel's late poet laureate Chaim Nahman Bialik, and see its etrog shaped dome roof.
- Lunch on your own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin** crafts fair. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** and bohemian **Sheinkin Street** – All Three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the same junction.
- Free time to walk along Mediterrean shore and to get ready for Shabbat.
- **Shabbat evening service** on beach with Rabbi Israel
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, 29 October – *Shabbat in Tel Aviv*

- **Shabbat morning services** - To be determined with Rabbi Israel.
- Visit the "**Aliyah Bet**" **Memorial** in **London Square** to hear the story of the illegal immigration operations which rescued Jewish refugees before the founding of the State of Israel.
- Shabbat Lunch at hotel
- Walking tour of the quaint **Neve Tzeddek** neighborhood that gave birth to the "*first Hebrew city in 2,000 years*".

- Free time to enjoy the beach and beachside promenade – Take in a slice of local life as you see how Tel Aviv spends Shabbat afternoon.
- **Recommendation:** Visit the new **Israeli Art Wing** at the **Tel Art Museum** then explore the nearby recently renovated **Sarona neighborhood**.
- **Havdallah** with Rabbi Israel
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Sunday, 30 October –*Unearthing the Past and Exploring the Desert*

- Drive to **Beit Guvrin** in the **Judean Foothills**.
- Unearth Israel's past in a **hands on** archaeological excavation in a cave next to biblical **Tel Maresha** with **Dig for a Day**.
- Travel south across the **Negev Desert**.
- Enjoy Lunch, **Bedouin** hospitality and **camel riding** and at **Sfinat Hamidbar** ("Desert Ship").
- Look out at the majestic **Zin Valley David Ben Gurion's** gravesite in **Sde Boker** and hear about his vision for developing the Negev.
- Stop on the rim of **Makhtesh Ramon** ("Ramon Crater") to look out and see a stunning desert landscape.
- Check in to the **Ramon Inn** in **Mitzpe Ramon**
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Ramon Inn, Mitzpe Ramon

Monday, 31 October *Nature, People and Development in the Negev*

- **Jeep tour** of **Makhtesh Ramon** to discover magnificent desert landscapes and a fascinating window into the earth's past.
- Visit **Yerucham** and hear about its transformation from a downtrodden development town to a dynamic growing community.
- Lunch with **Kitchen Queens of Yerucham** - *a true gastronomic experience*.
- **Study session** on "Why was the Torah given in the desert" with **Debbie Golan** at **Bamidbar**, a Yerucham based educational and social action center.
- Travel to **Dead Sea region**.
- Check-in to **Ein Gedi** Hotel
- Dinner at hotel
- Israeli singing with Dror Sandalon, Kibbutz Ein Gedi
- Overnight: Ein Gedi Hotel

Tuesday, 1 November – *Masada and the Dead Sea*

- Guided tour of Kibbutz Ein Gedi's Botanical Gardens.
- Ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence 2,000 years ago: **Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne?**
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth at the Ein Gedi Spa, where you can also try out sulfur baths and the cosmetic properties of Dead Sea mud. The spa also has a fresh water pool. Massages available by prior reservation at own expense.

- Lunch on own. The Ein Gedi Spa has a cafeteria and snack bar.
- Travel north through the **Jordan Valley**.
- Discover Ethiopian Jewish culture at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Hear a personal account of this community's modern day Exodus story and about the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today.
- Check-in to the **Nof Ginosar Hotel** on **Kibbutz Ginosar** by the **Sea of Galilee**.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Ginosar.

Wednesday, 2 November – *The Sources of the Jordan and the Strategic Golan Heights*

- Tour to the **Golan Heights** to visit former Syrian bunkers where the Syrian army used to look down at Israel in the valley below.
- Ascend to the peak of strategic **Mt. Bental** to look out at the border and gain a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics.
- Guided tour and **wine tasting** at the boutique **Bahat Winery**.
- Lunch on own.
- *Time permitting:* Walk in the lush **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, one of the sources of the **Jordan River**, where you'll discover biblical intrigue and one of the oldest arches in the world.
- Late afternoon visit **Agmon Hahuleh Nature Park** to watch thousands of migrating birds land to roost for the night.
- Barbeque dinner on an **Israeli army base** with young soldiers who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel.
- Overnight: Ginosar
- **Please note:** Order of day may change according to location of army base.

Thursday, 3 November – *Mystical Tzfat and the Road to Jerusalem*

- Tour the old synagogues and picturesque alleys of the mystical city of **Tzfat** - Discover the origins of our Friday night service where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Free time to explore on own and shop in the marketplace of Tzfat's Jewish Quarter.
- Visit the studio of a **Kabbalistic artist** to hear how Jewish spirituality has impacted on his art.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of **Nahal Me'arot Nature Reserve**
- Drive to **Jerusalem** on Trans Israel Highway – View and discuss Israel's Security Fence en route.
- Hear about the struggle for the **road to Jerusalem** in the War of Independence as you drive on the highway through **Shaar Hagai/Bab El Wad**, and see the remains of convoys that tried to break the siege on Jerusalem.
- Look out over the **Old City of Jerusalem** from the **Haas Promenade**.
- Check-in to **Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel** in **Jerusalem**
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, 4 November – *The Old City of Jerusalem – An Ancient Jewish Legacy*

- Drive to the **Old City of Jerusalem**.
- Explore the **City of David** using the Bible and archaeology to make Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the city's ancient past. Wade through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** – A still flowing ancient water system that saved the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago (dry option available).
- Visit the **Western Wall** to connect with an ancient Jewish legacy.
- Explore the raucous **Machane Yehuda Market** and take in a slice of local life as you see Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat. En route see the picturesque **Nachalaot** neighborhoods.
- Lunch on own in Machane Yehuda Market.
- Tour of Herodian
- **Shabbat evening services** at **Kol Haneshama** – A local Reform congregation
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, 5 November – *And on the Seventh Day... in Jerusalem*

- **Shabbat morning services** with Rabbi Israel. Location to be determined.
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at hotel.
- Visit to the **Israel Museum** to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the **Shrine of the Book** and the **Model of Jerusalem** in the first century. Free time to explore additional exhibitions on own – **Recommendations: Modern Israeli art, Synagogue interiors** in the **Judaica** section and the **Archaeology Wing**.
- Free time to relax, enjoy hotel pool or explore on your own.
- **Havdallah** with Rabbi Israel at the historic **Montefiore Windmill** in **Mishkenot**
- **Shaananim**, the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City.
- Free evening - Dinner on own
- **Recommendation for the evening:** Visit the **First Station Compound**, Jerusalem's restored Ottoman railway station turned restaurant - cafe area.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel or Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 6 November – *Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity*

- Tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Historical Museum** and **Children's Memorial**.
- Lunch on own
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo**, **Broad Wall** and **Rooftops** followed by free time to shop and explore on own.
- **Late check-out**
- Farewell Dinner at **Medita Restaurant**.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

Monday, 7 November - *Arrive in USA*

- Begin planning next **Israel trip** with Rabbi Israel and ITC Tours!

Optional Eilat/Petra Extension

November 7 – 10, 2016

Monday, 7 November – *Eilat on the Red Sea*

- Morning airport transfer for domestic flight to **Eilat**.
- Descend into a **Red Sea coral reef** at **Eilat's Underwater Observatory** where you look out the window at the surrounding marine life. Continue exploring Eilat's remarkable undersea world at the observatory's aquarium.
- Lunch on own
- Check-in to **Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat**
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Tuesday, 8 November – *The Wonders of Petra*

- Early departure for **Petra** to explore the amazing red sandstone structures carved by the ancient Nabateans. Enter Jordan at the **Arava Crossing** and travel to **Petra** by bus (approx. 2.5 hours). Tour its **Treasury ("Khaznieh")**, **Roman theatre**, impressive caves and rock formations of this **Nabatean City**. Buffet lunch included.
- Return to Eilat.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Wednesday, 9 November – *Red Sea Delight*

- **Red Sea Sail** - Board a luxury touring **yacht** at the Eilat Marina for a **leisurely cruise** and lunch on the Red Sea. **Snorkeling** equipment is available for a closer look with the most **exquisite coral reefs** and tropical fish to be found in the world.
- Dinner on own
- Evening domestic flight to **Ben Gurion Airport**.
- Check-in for U.S. flight at **Ben Gurion Airport Terminal 3**.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama, Eilat

Thursday, 10 November – *Arrive in USA*

- Begin planning your next **Israel trip** with Rabbi Israel and ITC Tours!

Pricing for main tour on next page>

**PRICES FOR THE ABOVE TOUR
(All Prices USD)**

“Land Only” Packages based on number of travelers, according to three different hotel options:

Tel Aviv – Metropolitan, Negev – Ramon Inn, Dead Sea - Ein Gedi Hotel, North - Nof Ginosar (DLX rooms), Jerusalem – Dan Panorama

15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
\$3555	3295	3185	3155	3085	3025	2795

Single Supplement: \$960

Third person adult in triple room: **subtract** \$225

Please Note: Rates are based on attached itinerary and are valid only for the dates specified in this itinerary.

Separate pricing for Eilat-Petra Extension at end of proposal

Flights (NB: Rates are *estimates* and depend on when booked and contract received from the airline; fuel surcharges are subject to fluctuation; ITC can only hold group space up until 90 days before departure, after which air prices are subject to change; tour companies have only very limited control over group seating on flights.)

- Estimated roundtrip airfare from San Francisco \$1500 - \$1600

Please book directly with Mark in ITC’s NJ office: 800-2-ISRAEL, 973-535-2575.

Terms & Conditions

- The above rates are per person based on double occupancy.
- Prices are per bus and are based on number of full-paying travelers.
- The tour selling price is based on a minimum number of passengers, as per above chart, and the above itinerary. If the total number of participants falls below the minimum number used for the selling price, the selling price can be recalculated to accommodate a smaller number of tour participants. If the total number of participants should be fewer than 15, group rates may not be available through hotels, airlines, and tourist sites, resulting in additional expenses.
- Offer is for indicated or similar hotels, depending on availability; prices subject to dollar fluctuation.
- ITC pricing reflects a 4% discount for cash and checks. For credit card usage please add 4%.
- Single supplement applies only when a passenger is allocated a single occupancy room.
- Price for airline seats are not guaranteed until airline receives seat deposits.
- To confirm your land and air arrangements, please forward a **deposit of \$1000.00** with the attached **signed contract** to ITC Tours. This deposit is refundable less \$500.00 handling fee up to 90 days prior to departure if trip is cancelled.
- For itineraries offering choices, the numbers of travelers choosing each alternative must be submitted by the tour leader to the ITC office at least three months before departure.

All of this is Included in Your Tour

- Deluxe accommodation, as per your itinerary
- Touring and entrance fees, as per your itinerary
- Meeting & assistance by your ITC representative within the arrivals terminal at Ben Gurion Airport
- One of Israel's finest English-speaking licensed tour educators (guides), to be with you for the duration of the tour and give insight into this beautiful, spiritual land
- Deluxe air-conditioned, comfortable modern motor coach, featuring large panoramic windows, reclining seats, and foot rests
- Professional, safety conscious bus driver
- Professional ITC education director, to ensure an extraordinary Israel experience
- Professional ITC tour manager
- Snack and 1 small bottle of mineral water upon arrival in Israel
- Water bottles on bus
- Hostess at Jerusalem hotel, based on a minimum of 25 travelers
- Informative Israel sourcebook
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Daily buffet breakfasts, six weekday dinners (welcome, hotel dinner in Mitzpe Ramon, hotel dinner in Ein Gedi, hotel dinner in north, IDF Barbeque, farewell), Bedouin lunch, Yerucham lunch, 2 Shabbat dinners and 2 Shabbat lunches, as per itinerary.
- Late check out on November 6, 2016.

Not Included in Package

- Visa & border fees
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Private rooms for group meetings/at the hotel, unless specified in this offer
- Meals and beverages not specifically mentioned in this offer.
- Bus service on Shabbat (Saturday) October 29, 2016.
- Tips (\$180 per person)*
- Insurance

* Please note that this amount covers a basic recommended *minimum* tip for the guide, bus driver, and meal service staff at restaurants for the number of days the group will be in Israel. Travelers should feel free to add to this amount when in Israel, if they are so moved.

Important Information For All Travelers:

Please be aware that you may not fly to a foreign country if your passport has fewer than 6 months remaining. ***Be sure that your passport, and those of all members of your traveling group, has an expiration date that is at least six months later than your day of departure.*** If this is not the case, please take immediate steps to renew your passport!

Your Friends at ITC

PRICES FOR EILAT-PETRA EXTENSION

Prices for Eilat-Petra Extension based on number of travelers

6-8	10	15+	Single Supplement
\$1295	\$1195	\$1155	\$265

Third person adult in triple room: **subtract** \$56

Above prices include:

Round trip flights to/from Eilat
Accommodation at Dan Panorama Eilat on B/B basis, as per itinerary
Entrance fee to Underwater Observatory
Full day Petra tour, including lunch
All transfers as per itinerary
Assistance in Eilat