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***Families Experience Israel***

**Led by Rabbi Avi Alpert**

*June 18-July 2, 2024*

updated July 23

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| **Tuesday, June 18:** | ***Israel – here we come!*** |

* Depart from LAX – flights TBD
* El Al Flight #6 departing at 11.30am

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| **Wednesday, June 19:** | ***Bruchim Habaim – welcome!*** |

* Land in Israel at 11.25 am
* Meet and greet service in the airport
* Meet your guide, pack up the bus, and head to Tel Aviv to start your adventure!
* **Welcome to Israel ceremony** on Rothschild Street, outside of the Independence Hall
* Look into Jews’ contributions to world sports at the new **Sports Museum** in Kfar Macabbiah
* Check into your hotel and spend some time on the beach
* Cruise the Mediterranean on a **private boat**
* Welcome dinner at a local restaurant
* Now wander the streets and get a feel for Tel Aviv’s night life

***Overnight:*** *Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Thursday, June 20:** | ***startup nation*** |

* If you want to come out for a **morning walk or jog** or a refreshing **dip in the sea**, feel free!
* After breakfast, get to know Hebrew culture and about issues in modern Israeli society through a **Graffiti/Street Art** tour in southern Tel Aviv
* Lunch on your own at the trendy **Sarona Foodie Market**
* We start our last day together with a site visit to **Save A Child's Heart** whose mission is to improve the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries who suffer from heart disease and who cannot get adequate medical care in their home countries. There we will run activities and play with children that are waiting for or recovering from surgery
* In the evening, let’s learn about the development of Israeli culture through classic Israeli movies with comedian **Benji Lovitt**

***Overnight:*** *Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Friday, June 21:** | ***who are the people in your neighborhood?*** |

* In Jaffa’s Ajami neighborhood, we are hosted by **Doris** **Hiffawi Family**, a Christian Arab, who will serve us their coffee and let us know what it is like to be a minority group in the Jewish State
* Walking tour and gallery browsing in **ancient Jaffa** and the adjacent **Flea Market**
* Peruse the crafts, meet the artists and enjoy the street performers at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and grab lunch at the adjacent **Carmel Market**
* In the evening, we join Tel Avivis bringing in the **Shabbat** at a local, happy-clappy synagogue
* Shabbat dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Saturday, June 22:** | ***shabbat shalom!*** |

* Free morning to go to a local Shabbat service at the **Yakar Congregation**, or to take advantage of the beautiful Tel Aviv beaches, shops, restaurants, galleries, etc.
* Optional study session with Rabbi Avi
* Walk along the beautiful Yarkon Park, with the option of playing some pickup basketball
* Shabbat lunch in the hotel
* In the afternoon, we’ll take a guided tour of the **Reuven Rubin Museum**, one of the premier artists of Tel Aviv at the beginning of the 20th century
* After Havdallah, we will join the Israelis on the beach promenade for some traditional **Israeli dance**

***Overnight:*** *Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Sunday, June 23:** | ***Northern exposure*** |

* Visit the impressive ruins of King Herod’s port city of **Caesarea**, once the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
* **Snorkel archaeology** in the Mediterranean Sea
* Home hospitality injera lunch in the home of an **Ethiopian immigrant** and hear the story of her years-long journey “home” to Israel
* Meet with **Ofer Eden**, who lost his arm in the Yom Kippur War but went on to become a successful entrepreneur and is an avid mountain biker and kayaker
* Continue north
* Check into your hotel, followed by dinner there

***Overnight:*** *Kibbutz HaGoshrim Hotel, Galilee*

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| **Monday, June 24:** | ***mystics and mountains*** |

* In **Tzfat**, explore the alleyways and synagogues of mystics and trace the development of Kabbalah in the 16th Century; then meet with a **Kabbalistic artist** and see how he incorporates his mystical studies into his artwork
* Taste the special pomegranate wines of the **Rimon Winery** and learn about the wine-making process
* On the border of Lebanon, **meet soldiers in action** understand the burden of Israel’s security on the shoulders of 20-year-olds
* Participate in a **cooking workshop** in the house of a Druze family; then dine on the results and hear about the **Druze people**

***Overnight:*** *Kibbutz HaGoshrim Hotel, Galilee*

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| **Tuesday, June 25:** | ***there are the mountains of the golan!*** |

* We start off with **hike through one of the streams** of the Golan
* Overlooking Syria from Tel A-Saki, program on **military ethics with Capt. Ya’akov Selavan**, including an escape room inside of the bunkers
* **Rafting** down the “mighty” Jordan River
* Travel to Jerusalem via the Jordan River Valley
* Drink a l’chaim overlooking Jerusalem for the first time
* Check into your hotel

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Wednesday, June 26:** | ***this year in jerusalem!*** |

* At the **Haas Promenade**, beginthe exploration of the Jewish love affair with Jerusalem; remember the Biblical accounts of the Binding of Isaac, associated with this spot
* Continue to the **City of David**, site of biblical Jerusalem; see the probable foundations of King David's palace; Bible in hand, understand how Jerusalem became the venue for the development of classic Jewish values and our national identity; with your flashlights and water shoes, exit via the **water tunnel dug by King Hezekiah** 2,700 years ago in order to save the city from the Assyrians
* Say a prayer at the **Western Wall**
* Lunch and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo
* **Silent Disco** through Jerusalem
* Senses overload: enjoy the tastes, sites sounds and smells at the **Machane Yehuda Shuk** on an **Ethnic Tasting Tour**

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Thursday, June 27:** | ***one land, two peoples*** |

* **Bnai Mitzvah celebration** at the pluralistic section of the Western Wall
* **Political topography** tour of south Jerusalem
* Enter the West Bank and see what a “settlement” is really like
* Train like an Israeli soldier and learn about military ethics at **Caliber 3**
* Meet with Rabbi Hanan Schleisinger and Ali Abu Awwad of Shorashim - **Palestinian and Jewish residents of the West Bank** – to hear their thoughts on coexistence
* Free evening on Ben Yehuda Street

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Friday, June 28:** | ***from holocaust to redemption*** |

* Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum**, including visits to the historical museum, Children’s Memorial, and Sculpture Garden
* Rabbi-led Unpacking of Yad Vashem
* Take the Connection Path up to the **Mt. Herzl National Military Cemetery** and hear the moving stories of the Leaders of the Nation and of the soldiers who fell defending it
* Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat
* In the evening, participate in a group **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the pluralistic section of the **Western Wall**; then join the thousands of Israelis and Jews from around the world as they bring in **Shabbat at the Kotel**
* Shabbat dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Saturday, June 29:** | ***Shabbat Shalom*** |

* Free morning; you may want to:
	+ Attend a local synagogue – Rabbi Avi will be taking a group to the renowned **Great Synagogue**
	+ Wander the Arab Souq
	+ See the Dead Sea Scrolls and other gems at the Israel Museum
* Shabbat lunch in the hotel
* In the afternoon, take a **walking tour of the Nahlaot**, one of the first neighborhoods outside of the Old City walls; then enter the **Syrian Ades Synagogue** and join them in singing *piyyutim* )Jewish songs)
* In the evening, join local singer **Rika Razel** of the famous singing Razel family, for a **Havdallah** service and musical walking tour

***Overnight:*** *Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Sunday, June 30:** | ***going down!*** |

* Depart Jerusalem and head south
* In **Sde Boker**, visit the desert grave of Israel’s first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, and hear his vision of making the desert bloom
* In **Timna Park**, see the incredible rock formations and ancient copper works
* Continue to **Eilat** and check into your hotel
* Beach time!!

***Overnight:*** *Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat*

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| **Monday, July 1:** | ***A lot of Eilat*** |

* Optional early-morning hike up **Mt. Tzfachot** to view four countries at sunrise
* Free morning to hang out at the beach
* **Snorkel** in the Red Sea and check out the northern-most coral reef in the world at the Coral Beach
* See the exotic fish and coral at the **Underwater Observatory**
* Free evening on the boardwalk and in town

***Overnight:*** *Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat*

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| **Tuesday, July 2:** | ***the desert for dessert*** |

* Hang out at the **Dolphin Reef** and swim with the dolphins
* Shower off at the hotel
* Head north
* **Rappel** into the Ramon Crater
* Take a **jeep ride** into the **Ramon Crater** and understand how this geological phenomenon was created
* Continue north
* Farewell dinner
* Continue to the airport for your flight home - El Al flight #5 departing at 1.05am to LAX
* Land at 6:00am
* Start planning your next trip to Israel!
* Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator
* All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
* This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet

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