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***Family Adventure in Israel***

Led by Cantor Emma Lutz and Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback

*December 23, 2024-January 2, 2025*

updatedJune 6

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| **Monday, December 23:** | ***Bruchim Habaim – welcome to Israel!*** |

* Land in Tel Aviv – meet and greet service
* Meet your guide, pack up the bus and travel to Tel Aviv
* Welcome to Israel ceremony outside of **Independence Hall**
* Check into the hotel, followed by dinner

***Overnight:*** *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Tuesday, December 24:** | ***startup nation***  |

* At the new **ANU Museum of the Jewish People**, understand the connection between Jews around the world and the land of Israel
* Walking tour of trendy **Neve Tzedek**, the first neighborhood of Tel Aviv, for a look at the foundations of Hebrew culture
* Peruse the crafts, enjoy the street performers and taste the street foods at the renowned **Nahalat Binyamin Arts and Crafts Fair** and the adjacent **Carmel Market**
* Dinner in the dark at the **Blackout Restaurant**, where all waiters are blind

***Overnight:*** *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Wednesday, December 25:** | ***if i forget thee, oh tel aviv*** |

* **The Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** was created by the late Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister and President of Israel, to develop peacebuilding programs based on innovation and optimism. Our visit will include a tour of the Israeli Innovation Center, which celebrates the people and companies that are making Israel the “innovation nation.” The center includes continually updated, high-tech exhibits on everything from artificial intelligence to the latest developments in water use.
* I’m all shuk up: Take a **tasting tour** through a local favorite: **Shuk Hapishpishim** – the Jaffa Flea Market. Combining traditional dishes from the Bulgarian, Bukharan, Middle Eastern, Persian, North African and Eastern European kitchens with offerings from hip new cafes and restaurants, the market is a delicious illustration of the diversity of the Israeli culinary scene.
* **Jaffa Stories and Coffee**: You’re warmly invited into the home of Doris Hiffawi to hear about her life as a Christian Arab in Jaffa. Over coffee brewed **Doris Hiffawi** by her family and Arabic sweets, she’ll talk about whether the area’s Jewish, Muslim, and Christian population mix or merely make do. We’ll also find out how female entrepreneurs like Doris are bringing change to this socioeconomically deprived neighborhood.
* Light candles for the first night of Channukah

***Overnight:*** *Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv*

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| **Thursday, December 26:** | ***Mediterranean Coast*** |

* At **Save a Child’s Heart**, learn about this institution which brings children from Africa and across the Middle East to Israel for life-saving heart surgery; then interact with the children as the prepare for or recover from their surgery
* Travel up the coast to King Herod’s ancient port city of **Caesarea**, once the capital of Israel during the Roman and Byzantine Periods
* Meet with the **Reform community of the city of Modiin**, built some 25 years ago on the site where the Channukah story was launched
* Continue to Jerusalem
* **Welcome to Jerusalem ceremony** overlooking the Old City Walls
* Check into your hotel
* Light candles for the second night of Channukah
* Optional walking tour of the Jewish Quarter of the **Old City to see the scores of lit menorahs**

***Overnight:*** *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Friday, December 27:** | ***This year in jerusalem!*** |

* Encounter with author **Yossi Klein Halevi** for a talk on the issues of coexistence in the region
* 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
* Lunch and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter and the Roman/Byzantine Cardo
* Light candles for Shabbat and for the third night of Channukah
* 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 Western Wall**
* Shabbat dinner in the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Saturday, December 28:** | ***Shabbat Shalom*** |

* Optional Shabbat services in a local synagogue or as a group
* **Shabbat study** with Rabbi Dr. Leon Dow of the Kolot Beit Midrash
* Shabbat lunch in the hotel
* In the afternoon, walk through the Old City to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** – one of the holiest places on earth for most Christians – and understand the importance to Jerusalem to all monotheistic religions
* **Group Musical Havdallah** and musical walking tour with Rika Razel of the famous Razel Family
* Free evening to explore Jerusalem’s nightlife

***Overnight:*** *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Sunday, December 29:** | ***what price freedom?*** |

* Take the cable car (or hike) up **Masada,** the desert fortress, and hear one of the most dramatic stories in Jewish history
* Hike the **Ein Gedi waterfall trail**
* **Float in the Dead Sea**
* **Ride camels** to Abraham’s (of Biblical fame) tent; hear his stories and experience his renowned hospitality over a *hafla* dinner at **Genesis Land**
* Light candles for the fifth night of Channukah

***Overnight:*** *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Monday, December 30:** | ***From holocaust to redemption*** |

* Meet with **Orly Erez Likhovski** of the **Israel Religious Action Center**, which promotes religious Jewish equality
* See how incredible King Herod’s Temple Project must have been at the **Western Wall Tunnels**
* Learn and remember at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum;** young children to the Biblical Zoo or the Bloomfield Science Museum (depending on weather)
* Head over to the vibrant **Machane Yehuda Shuk** for a **culinary tour** to taste some of the incredible Israeli street food; then participate in a **cooking workshop**
* Walk off your excess calories walking around the adjacent **Nahalaot** neighborhood to see the lit menorahs
* Light candles for the sixth night of Channukah

***Overnight:*** *Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem*

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| **Tuesday, December 31:** | ***going down*** |

* Participate in an **actual archaeological dig** at the Beit Guvrin National Park
* At the **Salad Trail**, pick vegetables grown in sand and hear about one man’s successful dream of desert agriculture
* Time permitting, visit **Sde Boker** and the grave of Israel’s first prime minister – David Ben Gurion – and explore his vision to make the desert bloom
* Check into your hotel followed by dinner there
* Light candles for the seventh night of Channukah

***Overnight:*** *Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon*

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| **Wednesday, January 1:** | ***the crater and the creator*** |

* Optional **pre-dawn hike to Camel Mountain** overlooking the crater for a spectacular sunrise
* Take a long walk off a short cliff – **repelling** into the Ramon Crater
* Take **jeeps** off road into the Ramon Crater and explore this geological phenomenon
* At the **Mitzpe Ramon Visitors Center**, learn about the formation of the crater and about Israel’s first astronaut in space, who took his name from the crater
* Time to enjoy the hotel facilities
* Dinner in the hotel
* In the evening, go **star gazing** in one of the world’s best stargazing parks using some of the best portable telescopes in Israel
* Light candles for the last night of Channukah

***Overnight:*** *Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon*

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| **Thursday, January 2:** | ***the desert for dessert***  |

* Experience the sanctity of the desert with **Desert Archery**
* **Hike** in Ein Avdat and see the natural spring water – even in the desert
* Meet with Ethiopian-born **Rabbi Sharon Shalom** an hear the touching story of his journey “home” to Israel
* **Final discussion**
* **Farewell dinner**
* Return to the airport for your flight home
* 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 and a Keshet Youth Counselor.
* There will be parallel educational programming for adults and youth throughout the trip to allow for age-appropriate learning.
* 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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