



Ayelet Tours, Ltd.®

Rabbi Adam Raskin & Congregation Har Shalom

Discovering Israel

June 2012

(proposed itinerary as of 12/9/11)

Day 1, SUNDAY, June 24, 2012: BEGIN OUR JOURNEY

Depart the United States on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2, MONDAY, June 25, 2012: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

Morning arrival into Israel's Ben Gurion Airport... Greeting and assistance by an Ayelet representative... Start the day with a visit to **Independence Hall** where the establishment of the state of Israel was declared... Stop for a moment of reflection at **Rabin Square**, place of assassination of Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin... Next we "join up" with the paramilitary forces at the **Palmach Museum**... Continue to **Old Jaffa**, an 8000-year-old port city... Visit the ancient ruins and walk along the restored Artist's Quarter, as well as the amazing flea market... Transfer to our hotel for check-in... Welcome dinner at the Maganda restaurant this evening... Overnight Tel-Aviv.

Day 3, TUESDAY, June 26, 2012: REACHING OUT

Breakfast... This morning we join **Table to Table**, an organization dedicated to feeding the hungry in Israel to collect fruits or vegetables for distribution... Visit the **Weitzman Institute** for a look at the hi-tech advances in science being made today in Israel. We also have the chance to visit to **former home of Chaim Weitzman**, located on the campus, where we learn the story of his life in service to Israel. Continue to the **Ayalon Institute**, where we discover its secret identity as a bullet factory during the British Mandate... Free time, beach time, and time for dinner on own before we join together to visit **Nalagaat** for a performance called **Not by Bread Alone**. The blind and deaf actors will invite us into their world in a moving and inspiring performance. Overnight Tel Aviv.

Day 4, WEDNESDAY, June 27, 2012: NORTHERN COASTAL BEAUTY

Breakfast... Drive north to **Caesarea**, once the Roman capital of the region... See the excavations of the crusaders' city, the aqueduct, and the Roman Theater that has been fully restored... Visit **Zichron Yaakov**, where we first stop at the **Aharonson House** to learn about the history of the Nili spies... Lunch on own in Zichron ... Continue along the northern coast, through the new Haifa tunnel to **Akko**, where we see the seaside **crusader fortress**. We also make an interesting stop at the **Tunisian Mosaic Tile Synagogue** in Akko, Or Torah. Check in for Dinner and overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.

Day 5, THURSDAY, June 28, 2012: EXPLORING THE GALILEE/GOLAN

Breakfast... We begin the day continue the day with a hike in **Tel Dan Nature Preserve**... Enjoy a **Jeep tour** to the Golan (*those not taking jeeps can travel up to the Golan by bus along the main road*)... Continue to **Kibbutz El Rom**, where we hear the story of the tank brigades during the decisive Yom Kippur war battles that took place on this very spot... Enjoy a fun **Rafting trip** down the Jordan River (*those not taking the rafting trip can either return to the Kibbutz for free time, or visit a nearby Winery*)... Dinner and overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.

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Day 6, FRIDAY, June 29, 2012: CONNECTING IN THE NORTH/TO JERUSALEM

Breakfast... Begin our day in **Safed**, where we see the **Caro and the Ha'ari synagogues**, the most important synagogues in the city... Visit **Moshav Nahalal**, including a home hospitality lunch with the warm and welcoming Aviran Family... Continue to the excavations of **Tzippori**, including the floor mosaic known as the Mona Lisa of the Galilee... Continue up to Jerusalem... As we enter **Jerusalem** we stop for a special "Sh'hekiyanu!" ceremony atop the Haas Promenade, overlooking the City of Gold... Check in and time to relax and refresh... Welcome Shabbat at the **Western Wall** with the people of Jerusalem... Enjoy Shabbat dinner together at our hotel... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 7, SATURDAY, June 30, 2012: SHABBAT SHALOM!

Breakfast... Shabbat Shalom!.. This morning we invite you to join us for services at the **Masorti Agron Street Synagogue (Moreshet Yisrael)**... We enjoy lunch at the **Fuchsberg Center**, including an introduction by center leadership about the Conservative/Masorti movement in Israel today... Free day to relax and enjoy the calm of Shabbat in Jerusalem, or explore on own... Overnight Jerusalem

Day 8, SUNDAY, July 1, 2012: FROM THE TUNNELS TO THE ROOFTOPS

Breakfast... We begin today with a visit the excavations at **Ir David** and a walk through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** – Bring water shoes! (*option to watch the Ir David historical movie*)... Time for reflection at the **Western Wall**... In depth look at Temple times as we walk through the fascinating **Western Wall tunnels**... Tour the **Old City** of Jerusalem, beginning at the Southern Excavations... Walk along the **Cardo**, the ancient Roman road and marketplace... Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** and walk through the Arab Shuk marketplace, including a stop atop the roof for an amazing view... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 9, MONDAY, July 2, 2012: CELEBRATING OUR B'NAI MITZVAH

Breakfast... This morning we celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the Southern Wall... Visit **Yad L'Kashish**, Lifeline for the Old, which assists elderly community members in Jerusalem... Visit the military cemetery at **Mt. Herzl** and the Mt. Herzl Museum, where we learn about the life of one of Israel's greatest historical leaders and visionaries... Travel to the Knesset, where we meet with **Gil Hoffman, chief political correspondent from the Jerusalem Post** at his office for an update on politics in Israel. After free time for dinner on own, we gather together to see the amazing **Sound and Light Show at the Tower of David**... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 10, TUESDAY, July 3, 2012: THE DEAD SEA BASIN

Early morning departure to the south... Pass **Qumran**, the place where the Dead Sea scrolls were found... continue to King Herod's fortresses and castle atop **Masada**, ascending by cable car or snake path... Visit the remains of the walls, palaces, synagogue, and the bathhouses, learning about the Jewish Zealots last stand against the Roman forces... Descend by cable car... Next we enjoy an unsinkable swim in the healing salty waters of the **Dead Sea**... Time permitting we enter **Ein Gedi** for a short hike to the waterfall... Enjoy a biblical desert experience with a roadside camel ride along the way Overnight Jerusalem.

ADD CAMELS (mamsheet?)

Those not traveling to Masada and the Dead Sea for the day can choose to remain in Jerusalem for a day at leisure or visit on own the world class Israel Museum, which recently underwent a \$100 million renovation.



Day 11, WEDNESDAY, July 4, 2012: DIGGING INTO THE PAST/DEPARTURE

Breakfast... Drive to **Yad Vashem**, the memorial to the Holocaust to visit the museum and the valley of the lost communities (optional children's activity)... Depart Jerusalem to take part in a "hands-on" archeological dig at **Beit Guvrin**... Try a delicious pita with hummus at **Abu Gosh**, a friendly Arab village on the road to Jerusalem... Free time for last minute shopping or relaxation... This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner together... Transfer to the airport for our flight home to the United States

Those not going on the dig can enjoy a full day at leisure in Jerusalem. Options include the new Menachem Begin Center, the Islamic Museum of Art, The Museum on the Seam and many other wonderful cultural opportunities.

Day 12, THURSDAY, July 5, 2012: RETURN HOME

Arrival back in the US.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

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