

BHSS ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL • LED BY RABBI ILANA SCHWARTZMAN

BHSS ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL  
AUGUST 15-25, 2020

# THE ISRAEL TRIP



telling the story of Israel and the Jewish World.



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## YOUR TOUR EDUCATOR

Every journey we offer is accompanied by a Tour Educator (TE) who brings your itinerary to life. Some of our TE's have decades of firsthand experience leading people to particular places.

Your TE will provide you with an authentic understanding of the locations you will visit, will introduce you to the locals, and will share his/her enthusiasm and passion for the local culture. The result is a journey that transforms your understanding of a place, connecting you to the people and places you encounter in a way that is palpable and unforgettable.

Our TE's are like no other: intelligent, knowledgeable, engaging and fun. They will become an indispensable part of your experience and some might just become lifetime friends.



# OUR TRIP

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**AUGUST** 15-25, 2020

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FROM **\$3,675** LAND ONLY

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## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Journey of connection and inspiration
- Archeological digs & tree planting: connect to the land of Israel
- Israel beyond the headlines
- Shabbat with Reform community in the holy city of Jerusalem
- Israeli cuisine – from street food to fine dining
- The complex reality of minorities in Israel
- Superb service and top-notch educators



הקניסלה העמיתית החדשה



## **DAY 1** ↘ ON THE WAY TO ISRAEL SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020

- Depart the US.

Overnight: Flight

## **DAY 2** ↘ THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

- Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- Meet your tour educator who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- Enter Tel Aviv, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complemented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- Israel 101 - Our Thoughts, Our Journey: Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant and orientation for your trip by Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman and your tour educator.

Meals: Dinner

Overnight: Tel Aviv

## **DAY 3** ↘ TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

- Breakfast at an Israeli hotel is an experience in itself. Start the day with a bounteous buffet.
- Beginnings: Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient Jaffa. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea; learn why Jaffa, mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, is so historically important;

and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past.

- Walk through Jaffa's famous flea market - Shuk Hapishpeshim and stop at the famous Abulafia Bakery.
- Out of East Africa: Meet African women seeking refuge in Tel Aviv and see how they are working toward a brighter future by creating beautiful crocheted products. Kuchinate (meaning crochet in Tigrinya) is a collective that celebrates African art and culture while empowering women asylum-seekers, many of whom suffered great hardships while fleeing to Israel. Here we'll:

Children:

- Try our hand at creating East African baskets (or bracelets) during a craft workshop led by the women of Kuchinate.

Adults:

- Dialogue with women and discuss the reality of their lives as immigrants and asylum seekers.

All:

- From Hebrew City to Hebrew State: Walk along the newly opened Independence Trail and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948.
- Return to the hotel; afternoon at leisure to enjoy Tel Aviv's beach.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Tel Aviv



## DAY 4 ↘ COMMUNITIES PAST AND PRESENT TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

- Check out of the hotel.
- Stroll down the Nahalat Binyamin pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly craft fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market.
- In the Market: Carmel Market is where Tel Aviv comes to shop and to eat; stroll along and absorb the atmosphere.
- There's Art in Them Thar Hills: Experience the Ein Hod artists' colony in the foothills of the Carmel Mountains. Founded by a leading Dadaist painter, Ein Hod is now home to artists working in every cultural medium imaginable. Sculptor and painter Dan Ben-Arye will be our guide as we explore the galleries and studios and talk with artists about their techniques and inspiration. The tour will include:
  - Time to Get Creative: Join Lea Ben-Aryeh for an art workshop as we prepare our own individual designs and use silk screen printing to create a funky t-shirt or bag.
  - Stop by the village recently recognized of Ein Hod where the former Palestinian residents of Ein Hod have created a new village.
- Cool Off Down the Jordan River: With the hot weather, it's time to take to the water with rafting or kayaking down the Jordan River. This is the parched Middle East rather than the Rockies, so the current is mainly calm and suitable for ages five and up. Water shoes are recommended.
- Check into the hotel and enjoy dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

## DAY 5 ↘ JEEPS & BORDERS - ADVENTURES IN THE NORTH WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

- Paradise Springs is one of the places we'll visit at the Tel Dan Nature Reserve. We'll tour the remains of a 5,000-year-old city and find out why water is like gold in the parched Middle East.
- Higher Ground: Hit the ground racing as we go off-road for a jeep tour of the Golan Heights that will combine natural beauty with security insights into one of Israel's most strategically important areas. Retrace the experiences of Israeli soldiers in their battles during the Six Day War of 1967 and the 1973 Yom Kippur War and talk with your jeep drivers about their personal experiences and feelings about the Golan.
- Northern Borders, Northern Battles: We'll gaze across the Golan and into Syria from the top of Mount Bental and gain powerful insights into Israel's geopolitical and security situation. Analyze the current challenges Israel faces on its northern border, examine the impact of the tragic civil war in Syria, and hunker down in bunkers from the vital battles that took place here during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Option 1:

- Wine tasting at a local winery on the Golan Heights.

Option 2:

- Enjoy the culinary delight of a chocolate workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory on Kibbutz Ein Zivan.

All:

- Return to the hotel for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee



## DAY 6 ▾ FROM MYSTICS TO DREAMERS THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

- Check out of the hotel.
- Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, and maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city; entering Tsfat, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:
  - Visit the Ari Synagogue and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
  - See the Caro Synagogue, built originally, like the Ari Synagogue, in the 16th century. It is where Rabbi Joseph Caro, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a maggid, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
  - Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the Artists' Colony with its galleries, shops, and studios.
  - Meet with artist Sheva Chaya in her studio for an interactive window into the world of Kabbalah, glass blowing, and questions of identity and Judaism.
- As we drive south on the Trans-Israel Highway, there will be an opportunity to see the Security Barrier which runs along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian territories, and to learn about the barrier's effects on Israeli security and Palestinian communities.

- A First Look at the Holy City: Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of Jerusalem. We'll climb to the top of the Tower of David for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "shehechyanu" blessing of thanksgiving.
- Check into the hotel.

Adults:

- Challenges and Triumphs of Religious Pluralism and Social Justice in Israel: Meet with Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC).

Children:

- Ready, Get Wet, Go! Experience the Teddy Park Fountain.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Jerusalem

## DAY 7 ▾ THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

- Together at the Wall: Celebrate Rosh Chodesh with a prayer service at the Kotel (Western Wall). We'll join Women of the Wall, leaders in the struggle for religious freedom in Israel, in welcoming the arrival of the new month with a service of joy and togetherness.
- No visit to Israel is complete without experiencing the Kotel (Western Wall), widely considered Judaism's holiest site. Each year, over one million notes containing prayers and wishes are placed in the cracks of the wall. We'll discuss the wall's historical and contemporary importance and experience its unique atmosphere.
- The Jerusalem Archaeological Park is a large-scale excavation that has uncovered vital parts of ancient Jerusalem. A particular



highlight is to walk on the Southern Wall steps used by Jewish pilgrims to enter the Temple 2,000 years ago. But there is much else to see, including Robinson's Arch, the remains of a major Second Temple-period street, and drainage tunnels used by Jewish fighters hiding from the Roman invaders. A museum, including movies and a 3-D model of ancient Jerusalem, add to the experience.

- Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's Old City and the Jewish Quarter and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
  - A walk along the rooftops that will provide an extraordinary scene of multi-faith Jerusalem.
  - The Cardo, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
  - King Hezekiah's Broad Wall, a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
  - Hurva Square, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter
- Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- Kabbalat Shabbat services at Kehillat Achva Ba'Kerem, led by Rabbi Tamir Nir.
- Home hospitality Shabbat dinner/communal Shabbat dinner with local congregants.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Jerusalem

## DAY 8 INTO THE DESERT: MASADA & THE DEAD SEA SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020

- Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before setting out to explore the Dead Sea region.
- The Last Stand: Take the cable car to the top of Masada with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- The Sea of Salt: Float into happiness at the Dead Sea. Not much can live or swim in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- (Time permitting) Hike in Nahal David, part of the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. This is a desert oasis with springs, waterfalls, and freshwater pools, so don't forget your swimsuits. Featured are the ibex, hyraxes, and other desert mammals that live in this area. Nahal David is named after the biblical David, who fled here to escape from the murderous King Saul.
- We'll drive by Qumran, where a separatist Jewish sect from the Second Temple period created an isolated community and where the Dead Sea Scrolls, some of the most ancient and important religious manuscripts in existence, were discovered.
- Return to the hotel.
- Three Stars in the Israel Sky: At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal Havdallah ceremony.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Jerusalem



“Sabra, the Hebrew name for prickly pear cactus fruit, fruit of the nopale cactus, native to Mexico, now endemic in the Middle East.”

From Wikipedia



## DAY 9 ↘ JEWISH MEMORY, JEWISH RENEWAL SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

- Visit Yad Vashem, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
  - The Avenue of the Righteous, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
  - The Historical Museum, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
  - The Children's Memorial, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.

### Children:

- Two by Two the Animals Went into the Ark: The Biblical Zoo is one of Jerusalem's loveliest places. It has a great collection of animals with a special focus on creatures mentioned in the Bible. It includes 62 acres of open areas where the animals live, a zoo train if you don't feel like walking, a petting zoo and plenty of other activities to keep all ages enthralled.

### OR

- But Jerusalem Has No Ocean! Jerusalem may be one of the few great cities without access to the sea, but it does have the recently opened Israel Aquarium. Highlights include the shark tank, feeding the stingray, and an exhibition showcasing the marine life of Israel's "four seas."

### All:

- Take a multi-cultural tasting journey through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop. This doubles as a delicious lunch.
- Tour the grounds of Israel's "Capitol Hill": The Rose Garden, featuring more than 400 species of roses imported from all around the world; The Knesset - Israel's Parliament building and its famous Menorah - Israel's symbol monument built from bronze; The Supreme Court - designed to reflect Jewish and democratic values of justice.
- Making Our Mark: Feel the land and help it flourish with a tree planting ceremony. After the ceremony, explore the Gazelle Valley Park, a 250-acre haven of nature in urban Jerusalem with wildlife, including 30 gazelles, roaming through the park.
- Return to the hotel.

### Adults:

- Parents' Night Out: Dinner at one of Jerusalem's local restaurants.

### Children:

- Pizza and ice cream at the Old Train Station Plaza, with its fashionable restaurants featuring local and international cuisine. On certain evenings, you will enjoy street musicians, Israeli dancing, and other attractions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner for children

Overnight: Jerusalem



**DAY 10** ↘ THE WONDER OF INDEPENDENCE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020

- Arming for Independence: Visit the Ayalon Institute near Rehovot and uncover its role in the establishment of the State of Israel. This secret ammunition factory produced millions of bullets for Jewish forces fighting for a Jewish State and the end of British rule over Palestine.
- A Time to Glean: Pick your way to a better world as we join the volunteer organization Leket Israel for a hands-on Tikkun Olam opportunity. We'll harvest fruit and vegetables that will be donated to the needy.
- Diggin' for Roots: Get in touch with the land and history of Israel. Take part in an archaeological dig at the Beit Guvrin Caves. Get your hands dirty uncovering pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2300 years ago, and then crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth (non-crawling options are available) in this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Return to the hotel.
- Festive farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

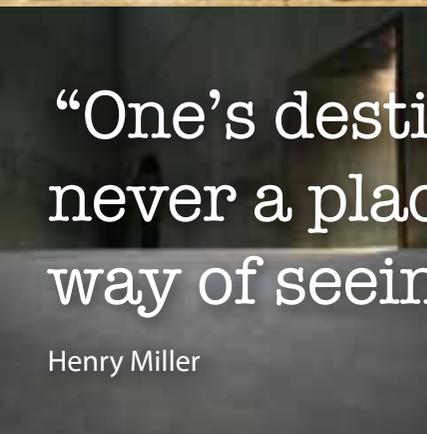
Overnight: Jerusalem

**DAY 11** ↘ UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your return flight to the US.

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