

Join Jacksonville Jewish Center's Exploring Israel Adventure Led by Rabbi Jonathan Lubliner



December 20, 2023 – January 1, 2024

Optional Eilat-Petra Extension December 31, 2023 – January 4, 2024

"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."



Tour Package Includes:

- Hotels: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv; Ruth-Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat; and Dan Panorama, Jerusalem
- All Breakfasts, 2 Friday night "Shabbat" Dinners and Shabbat Lunches, 3 Weekday dinners and lunches as per itinerary
- Touring with Rabbi Lubliner and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled deluxe touring Motor Coach

A Few Tour Highlights:

- Guided tour of the Ayalon Institute – An underground bullet factory in Rehovot.
- Tour the alleys of Old Jaffa, the ancient port city once known as the Gate of Zion.
- Guided tour of The New Anu – Museum of the Jewish People on the campus of Tel Aviv University.
- Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv standing at the Founders' Monument on Rothschild Boulevard.
- Welcoming Shabbat Friday Evening Service – Shabbat morning services.
- Discover the quaint Neve Tzedek neighborhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years".
- Tour the ruins of Caesarea, including its Roman Theater, Promontory Palace, Hippodrome and Amphitheater.
- Guided tour of the ornate Bahai Gardens in Haifa from the top of Mt. Carmel to the Bahai Shrine.
- Tour mystical Tzfat's old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Tzfat was the cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism).
- Walk in the lush Tel Dan Nature Reserve, one of the sources of the Jordan River.
- Jeep tour of the Golan Heights for a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics.
- Chocolate making workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory on nearby Kibbutz Ein Zivan.
- Shehechyanu-Welcome Ceremony on Mt. Scopus overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem and Temple Mount.
- Optional B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony at the Egalitarian Kotel (near Robinson's Arch) to connect a Jewish past with a Jewish future.
- Travel to Kiryat Gat to visit the Neve Hannah Youth Village to hear about the amazing work they do.
- Ascend Masada by cable car to tour the ruins of King Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence.

Trip Costs and Reductions

Land Only Package – \$4795

Discounted price for check payment

Land and Air Package – \$6485

Discounted price for check payment

Single Room Supplement – \$1780

Discounted price for check payment

Land Only Package – \$4987

Full price for credit card payment

Land and Air Package – \$6745

Full price for credit card payment

Single Room Supplement – \$1852

Full price for credit card payment

Bar/Bat Mitzvah, third in a room

Reduction – \$880

3rd Child, up to 12 years, sharing with parents

Reduction – \$730

3rd adult in room

Reduction – \$650

View and download itinerary and application at www.israeltour.com/rlubliner

For additional information please contact Rabbi Lubliner at jlubliner@laxjewishcenter.org or 904-292-1000

Tour arranged by ITW Tours • Tour manager: Stacey@israeltour.com • 800-247-7235

Optional Eilat-Petra Extension: December 31, 2023–January 4, 2024 (Price per person based on double occupancy)

Per Person: 2pax \$1650pp; 4-5 pax \$1475pp; 6-7 pax \$1350pp; 8-9pax \$1295pp; 10pax \$1250pp

Tips for extension \$40. Visa and border taxes (approximately \$120pp)

Added to the costs above are tips for Guide, Driver, Restaurants, and Porterage – \$215

Tour price is based on minimum of 20 participants. With less the 20 price will increase.

Round trip air available through ITW Tours. Call Stacey at 800-247-7235. or stacey@israeltour.com

Wednesday, December 20

Depart USA

Thursday, December 21 – Going up into the Land

- Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (today's program depends on arrival time).
- Guided tour of the **Ayalon Institute** – An underground bullet factory in **Rehovot** used by Jewish forces before the founding of the State of Israel.
- Travel to **Tel Aviv**.
- Tour the alleys of **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as the Gate of Zion. **Shekhiyanu-Welcome ceremony** on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Check-in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- Welcome dinner at **Maganda Restaurant** in Tel Aviv's old **Yemenite Quarter**.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Friday, December 22 – Tel Aviv: The First Hebrew City in 2,000 Years

- Guided tour of **Anu – The Museum of the Jewish People** on the campus of **Tel Aviv University**.
- Hear about the establishment of **Tel Aviv** standing at the **Founders' Monument** on **Rothschild Boulevard**. Then see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 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 **"Magen David Junction"**.
- Free time to get ready for Shabbat.
- **Welcoming Shabbat** – Friday evening options to be determined with Rabbi Lubliner.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, December 23 – And on the Seventh Day...in Tel Aviv

- **Shabbat morning services** – To be determined with Rabbi Lubliner.
- Walking tour of historic **"Little Tel Aviv"** – Discover the quaint **Neve Tzedek** neighbourhood that gave birth to the **"first Hebrew city in 2,000 years"**, once home to Zionist cultural pioneers Eliezer Ben Yehuda, S. Y. Agnon and Rabbi Kook.
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at Hotel.
- 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.
- **Havdallah** with Rabbi Lubliner.
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Sunday, December 24 – Cradles of Jewish Civilization

- Depart for northern Israel.

- Tour the ruins of **Caesarea**, including its **Roman Theater, Promontory Palace, Hippodrome** and **Amphitheater**. Then Contemplate a rabbinic debate over Jews attending gladiator games.
- Guided tour of the ornate **Bahai Gardens** in **Haifa** from the top of **Mt. Carmel** to the **Bahai Shrine**.
- Lunch on own
- Tour mystical **Tzfat's** old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Tzfat was the cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Judaism's Friday night service, Kabbalat Shabbat and the hymn **Lecha Dodi** originated in Tzfat at that time.
- Free time to browse in galleries and explore **Tzfat's Artists Colony** on own.
- Check-in to the **Ruth-Rimonim Hotel** in **Tzfat**.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Ruth-Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat

Monday, December 25 – Ancient and Modern Geopolitics and Israel's Finest

- 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.
- Lunch on own.
- Jeep tour of the **Golan Heights** for a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we visit former Syrian bunkers overlooking Israel and then look out from the peak of strategic **Mt. Bental**.
- Chocolate making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** on nearby **Kibbutz Ein Zivan**.
- **BBQ** dinner with young Israeli soldiers who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel.
- Overnight: Ruth-Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat

Tuesday, December 26 – Across Israel: A Multicultural Jewish Society

- Discover Ethiopian Jewish culture at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Learn about this community's modern day Exodus story and the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today.
- Lunch on own.
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- **Shekhiyanu-Welcome Ceremony** on **Mt. Scopus** overlooking the **Old City of Jerusalem** and **Temple Mount**.
- Enter the **Old City of Jerusalem** through the **Zion Gate**.
- Tour of the **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo, Broad Wall** and **Rooftops** followed by free time to shop and explore on your own.
- Check-in to the **Dan Panorama Hotel** in **Jerusalem**.
- Dinner on own.
- **Recommendation:** Visit the **Israel Museum** to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** and the **Model of ancient Jerusalem** in the first century. Additional recommended exhibitions are **Modern Israeli art, Synagogue**

interiors in the Judaica Section and the **Archaeology Wing**.

- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, December 27 – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Set out early ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of King Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence. **Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne? Who were our ancestors? What decision did they make?**
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense.
- Lunch at Dead Sea resort (Herbert Samuel Hotel).
- Tour the ruins of **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered to hear about the unique community that lived there (*Time permitting*).
- Return to Jerusalem
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, December 28 – The Old City of Jerusalem: An Ancient Jewish Legacy

- **B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony** at the **Egalitarian Kotel** (near Robinson's Arch) to connect a Jewish past with a Jewish future.
- Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes of Jewish life 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**. Hear about a new archaeological discovery connected to the Chanukah story.
- Discover underground Jerusalem in the **Western Wall Tunnels**.
- Lunch on own in the bustling **Machane Yehuda Market** to take in a slice of local life and Jewish flavors from east and west.
- Engage in **hands on tzedakah** preparing food packages for distribution to some of Israel's neediest people at **Pantry Packers** in southern Jerusalem.
- Dinner on own in Jerusalem's **Mamilla Quarter**.
- Watch the **Night Spectacular** – Sound and light show at the **Tower of David**.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, December 29 – Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity

- Tour of **Yad Vashem** – Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Historical Museum** and **Children's Memorial**. (Children under age 10 are not permitted in Yad Vashem's historical museum).
- **Alternate program for younger children:** Visit Jerusalem's **Biblical Zoo**, where you'll see animals which lived in Israel during biblical times.



(Children must be accompanied by an adult. Zoo visit not included in the tour price).

- Lunch on own.
- Meaningful visit to the **Mt. Herzl Cemetery** to discover chapters in the history of Israel at the graves of Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl and Hannah Senesch.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Shabbat** candle lighting together as a community.
- **Friday/Shabbat evenings services – TBD with Rabbi Lubliner.**
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, December 30 – And on the Seventh Day...in Jerusalem

- **Optional** very early morning visit to a Nachlaot synagogue to hear the singing of Bakashot.
- **Shabbat morning services** – To be determined with Rabbi Lubliner.
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at hotel.

Shabbat afternoon options:

- **Late afternoon** walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City.
- **AND/OR:** Walking tour to the First Temple period Jewish burial site at **Ketef Hinnom** – Where archaeologists found the oldest biblical text ever discovered.
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Lubliner.
- Free evening dinner on own.

- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, December 31 – Social Responsibility and Digging Up the Past

- Travel to **Kiryat Gat** to visit the **Neve Hannah Youth Village** to hear about the amazing work they do and meet with their young residents.
- Lunch on own.
- Dig up Israel's past by participating in a **hands on** archaeological excavation with **Dig for a Day** in **Beit Guvrin National Park**.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- **Late Check out.**
- Farewell Dinner at **Medita Restaurant**
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

Monday, January 1 – Arrive in USA

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

Optional Eilat/Petra Extension December 31–January 4, 2023

Sunday, December 31

- Overnight in Tel Aviv

Monday, January 1 – 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, January 2 – 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.
- **Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Eilat

Wednesday, January 3 – 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.
- Evening domestic flight to **Ben Gurion Airport**.
- Check-in for U.S. **flight at Ben Gurion Airport Terminal 3**.

Thursday, January 4

- Return home to USA