



**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND
USA**



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OF HULL, MA - JNF TRIP TO ISRAEL

CLIENT: TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OF HULL

MAR 28 - APR 6, 2024 (10 DAYS 9 NIGHTS)

Day 1 - Thursday, 28 March, 2024

THE BEGINNING OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY

ARRIVAL

Arrive at **Ben Gurion International Airport**.

WELCOME TO ISRAEL

Our VIP representatives will be happy to provide you with a service with your arrival procedures.

MEET YOUR TOUR GUIDE

Meet your **Tour Guide** and depart the airport.

A FIRST LOOK AT THE HOLY CITY

Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of Jerusalem. We'll stop at the Haas Promenade for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "**shehechyanu**" blessing of thanksgiving.

CHECK IN

Check into the hotel.

WELCOME DINNER

Dinner will be at **Touro**. Located in the Jerusalem Hills and with spectacular views of the Old City and Mount Zion, this chef restaurant fuses Mediterranean cuisine with Asian flavors including meat, vegetarian, and vegan dishes.

OVERNIGHT: Harmony Hotel

Day 2 - Friday, 29 March, 2024

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

JAFFA GATE

Enter the **Old City** through the **Jaffa Gate**, one of the most beautiful and important gates among the gates of the Ottoman city wall from the 16th century.

THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

The Old City From Above: Climb to the rooftops to see and discuss the ties and tensions between the different faith groups and communities of the Old City. From this one spot, we'll look out over the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, venerated by Christian groups as the burial place of Jesus; the golden **Dome of the Rock**, which is sacred to Islam; and the Jewish Quarter's famous **Hurva Synagogue**.

THE CARDO

Continue to the **Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.

THE BROAD WALL

Stand by King Hezekiah's **Broad Wall**, a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.

THE JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

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.

WESTERN WALL

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 WESTERN WALL TUNNELS

Going Under, Going Deeper: Explore the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are revising our understanding of daily life in ancient Jerusalem.

LUNCH

The Best Falafel in the World! Right Here in the Old City. The battle for the best street food in Jerusalem's Old City is tough. Take your choice from whatever option catches your eye with lunch

(not included in package.) If you're looking for suggestions, the Christian Quarter swears by the hummus at "Lina" and 'Abu Shakri" while locals in the Jewish Quarter claim the falafel at the "Rova Courtyard" can't be beat.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

At the end of the **Via Dolorosa** is the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, the place where Jesus is believed to have been crucified. This church is one of Christianity's great pilgrimage sites and a testament to the remarkable diversity of the Christian world. It includes an empty tomb where it is said that Jesus was buried and resurrected.

ARABIC MARKET

There will also be time to see the bargains and the bargaining in the **Old City Shuk** (market) in the Christian quarter.

MOUNT ZION

A Mountain Holy to Many: Experience the complexity of inter-religious relations on **Mount Zion**. We'll first visit the Upper Room. It is venerated by Christians as the location of Jesus' **Last Supper** but was, for a period, converted into a mosque. In a room directly below, Jews pray at the place believed to be **King David's Tomb**.

FREE TIME

Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Shabbat Candle lighting at the hotel lobby.

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Join **Kabbalat Shabbat Services** at **The Jerusalem Great Synagogue**.

SHABBAT DINNER

Festive Shabbat Dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Harmony Hotel

Day 3 - Saturday, 30 March, 2024

INTO THE DESERT: MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

TRAVEL TIME

As Low as it Goes: We'll drive to the Dead Sea Basin, 1412 feet below sea level and the lowest place on earth. The desert, the landscape and the views are breathtaking.

MASADA

The Last Stand: Climb via the snake path OR via the Roman Rampart OR 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.

KICKING BACK AT THE DEAD SEA

A blissful afternoon will include floating at a private beach in the **Dead Sea**. Not much can live (or swim) in the "Sea of Salt", which is nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun. We'll also enjoy a **buffet lunch** at a local hotel and feel the relaxation seep into

our bodies as we check out their spa facilities. And there'll be the opportunity for some "muddy good fun" getting covered in the famous Dead Sea mud. For thousands of years, people of all ages have enjoyed this tradition and believed that the Dead Sea mud and minerals have special healing and beauty qualities. See and feel for yourself.

TRAVEL TIME

Return to Jerusalem.

HAVDALAH

Three Stars in the Jerusalem Sky: At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal Havdalah ceremony overlooking the Old City.

NIGHT SPECTACULAR

Lights! Action! Jerusalem! Watch the **Night Spectacular** at the Tower of David Museum. The walls of the Citadel serve as the stage for this cinematic celebration of sight and sound depicting the story of Jerusalem.

LEISURE EVENING AT JERUSALEM

High Times in the Holy City: Jerusalem at night provides a very different vision of the Holy City. Check out how the locals let their hair down during a free evening and explore Jerusalem nightlife including: **The Mamilla Mall**, an upscale, open-air food and shopping area located outside the Old City's Jaffa Gate.

The First Station. Jerusalem's rail link from the late 19th century has been transformed into a center of restaurants, shops, and culture.

Joining the crowds strolling through the **Ben Yehuda** and **Nahalat Shiva** Pedestrian Malls.

OVERNIGHT: Harmony Hotel

Day 4 - Sunday, 31 March, 2024

MEMORY AND RENEWAL

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

LIFELINE FOR THE OLD

The Art of Tikkun Olam: Meet elderly, often impoverished, immigrants who are finding a sense of purpose and creating beautiful artwork at Yad LaKashish (Lifeline for the Elderly). We'll hear personal stories and see the ageing artisans in action, talk with those running this inspirational organization, and check out the fabulous giftshop that supports this endeavor.

YAD VASHEM

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.

A memorial service where we will pay tribute to those who were lost. It will include the opportunity to talk about family members and loved ones who died during the Shoah.

MACHANE YEHUDA MARKET

Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Mahane Yehuda**

open-air market, with lunch (not included in the package).

THE ISRAEL MUSEUM

Explore the wonderfully creative **Israel Museum**, with its eclectic collection, ranging from archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls to Jewish life and art, European art, contemporary Israeli art and the open-air model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple period.

FREE TIME

Return to the hotel and freshen up ..

DINNER

Where You Can Always Read at the Table: The **Tmol Shilshom bookstore-café** is one of Jerusalem's cultural treasures that combines two of the city's great passions – food and literature. Enjoy a dairy dinner, browse among the bookshelves, and recline in the favorite armchair of the poet Yehuda Amichai. Over the years, Tmol Shilshom's regular customers have included many of Israel's most famed writers, from Amos Oz and David Grossman to Etgar Keret.

IS A "JEWISH DEMOCRATIC STATE" A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS?

Major. (Res.) Dan Feferman from the Jewish People Policy Institute will discuss whether the idea of Israel as a Jewish state (and the recent law passed to that effect) clashes with democratic values and the rights of Israel's non-Jewish citizens

FREE TIME

Return to the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Harmony Hotel

Day 5 - Monday, 01 April, 2024

MYSTICS AND DREAMERS IN THE NORTH

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

CHECKOUT

Check out from the hotel and begin your drive north.

JORDAN VALLEY

As we drive **north** through the Jordan Valley, we'll discuss the strategic and political situation in this area and consider how Israeli control over it is viewed by some as vital to national security but by others as an impediment to any future agreement with the Palestinians.

KINNERET CEMETERY

Kinneret Cemetery: The area around the Kinneret was a stronghold for early Zionist experiments in communal living and collective agriculture. We'll visit the graves of some of the iconic figures in pioneering Zionist culture buried at the Kinneret Cemetery including Rachel the Poetess, the Zionist Marxist philosopher Ber Borochov, and Naomi Shemer, the "first lady of Israeli song," and discuss communal life in Israel then and now.

LUNCH

Lunch on own

SAFED

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.**

DAVID FRIEDMAN

Dialogue with **David Friedman**, a Tsfat artist inspired by Kabbalah.

TRAVEL TIME

Drive to the hotel.

CHECK IN

Check into the hotel.

DINNER

Dinner at the hotel..

OVERNIGHT: Pastoral Hotel, Kfar Blum

Day 6 - Tuesday, 02 April, 2024

SERENITY AND SECURITY IN THE NORTH

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

TEL DAN

Walk through the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River, and examine the ruins of the great biblical city of Dan.

JEEP TOUR

Hit the ground racing as we go **off-road for a jeep tour** of the Golan Heights that will combine natural beauty with insights into one of Israel's most strategically important areas. Retrace the experiences of Israeli soldiers in their battles here during the Six-Day War of 1967 and talk with your jeep drivers about their personal experiences and feelings about the Golan.

MOUNT BENTAL

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.

LUNCH

Lunch on own.

WINE TASTING

The Golan Heights is also **wine country**. Sample some of its best during a tour of the boutique **Pelter Winery**. We're doing the driving so treat yourself to some Israeli gin to go with the grapes. L'chaim and cheers!

EIN KSHATOT - UMM EL KANATIR

Ancient Judaism, Modern Technology: Visit **Umm el Kanatir** (Mother of Arches), a 5th-century synagogue with a remarkable Torah ark. We'll also see the motifs, some familiar, some surprising, that decorate its towering columns. A film will reveal the remarkable story of this ancient synagogue and its rebuilding. It was destroyed by earthquake in 749. For over 1250 years, its stones and ruins lay where they had fallen. Now, through cutting-edge technology and painstaking research, the synagogue is being reconstructed with every stone placed in precisely its original place.

FREE TIME

Return to the hotel.

DINNER

Dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Pastoral Hotel, Kfar Blum

Day 7 - Wednesday, 03 April, 2024

COMMUNITIES NOW AND THEN

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

CHECKOUT

Check out from the hotel.

AKKO

Battling for the Holy Land: Encounter the Christian Crusaders and their Muslim rivals at **Akko** (Acre). This UNESCO Heritage Site was a stronghold of Crusader power in the Holy Land but was also an important center of Muslim Ottoman rule. Today, it exemplifies the multi-culturalism of northern Israel. Highlights of our visit will include:

The restored Crusaders' Fortress where we'll look into the lives of the Templar knights, the Christian warrior-monks based here from the 12th century who fought to control the Holy Land.

Walking on the fortified walls that protected Akko and made it a vital town for controlling the Holy Land. Through the centuries, invaders damaged but could never destroy these walls. We'll see the massive security measures carried out by Ahmad Pasha el-Jazzar in order to defeat Napoleon and his French army at Akko in 1799.

The Templar Tunnel, the underground passageway that stretches from the fortress to Akko's port.

BAHAI GARDENS

From the top of **Mount Carmel** view the **Baha'i Gardens** and gold-domed Shrine of the Bab, one of the holiest sites of the Baha'i religion.

COOKING WORKSHOP

You Be the Chef: We'll be welcomed into the home of an Israeli Arab family to talk, over tea and coffee, about their lives and to join them for a **GalilEat cooking workshop**. The Arab villages of the Galilee are famous for their food, including fish and olive dishes and delicious desserts like knafeh and baklava. We'll find out the local culinary secrets and, mentored by our host family, whip up and eat a traditional **lunch**.

CAESAREA

Drive along the coast to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Explore life 2,000 years ago with its ancient amphitheaters, palaces, and bathhouses!

TRAVEL TIME

Drive to Tel Aviv.

CHECK IN

Check into the hotel.

LEISURE EVENING AT TEL AVIV

Free Evening and dinner on own in Tel Aviv for an opportunity to:

Meander through the **Old City of Jaffa**.

Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard**, with its many cafés and bars.

Experience **Tel Aviv Port**, with its restaurants and clubs.

Explore the gentrified **Neve Zedek neighborhood**.

Saunter down the **Tel Aviv Beach Promenade**.

Wander through the **Tachana**, Tel Aviv's renovated old train station, now a center of boutiques and good food, and one of Tel Aviv's blooming hot spots.

Walk through the smells, flavors, and tastes of the renovated historical Templers town of **Sarona**, and explore the range of cuisine - from local street food to fine dining by world-renowned Israeli chefs.

OVERNIGHT: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 8 - Thursday, 04 April, 2024

THE CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH - JNF DAY

BREAKFAST

Early breakfast at the hotel.

THE MONUMENT

Drive to **Shaar Haguy** and visit the monument for the **Fallen Volunteer Soldiers** from abroad who fell in the **Independence war**.

TRAVEL TIME

Continue your drive south.

SDEROT

Living on the Edge: Visit **Sderot**, located on Israel's border with the **Gaza Strip**, for an insight into the security complexities of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza while trying to create a thriving home, including a dialogue with a resident.

LUNCH

Lunch on own.

THE EXODUS AND AFTER - THE JEWS OF ETHIOPIA

In 1980, **Naftali Aklum** and his family were amongst the first Ethiopian Jews who set out for Israel, making their way initially to refugee camps in Sudan. He will talk about the traditions and history of the Jews of Ethiopia, the heroism and hardship of their modern-day Exodus, and their lives and challenges in Israel today.

WADI ATTIR VOLUNTEER PROJECT (TM)

Tradition and Modernity – Bedouin life in the Negev: We will meet **Bedouins** living in nearby **Atir Valley**. Hear about their lives and culture, and find out about their complex relationship with the State of Israel. Our hosts will serve us traditional local refreshments.

TRAVEL TIME

Return to Tel Aviv.

LEISURE EVENING AT TEL AVIV

A **free evening** to sample, again, the excitement of Tel Aviv after dark with dinner (on own account). Don't forget, whether you'll strolling along the promenade and the refurbished port or hanging out the restaurants, cafes and bars. (tlveve)

OVERNIGHT: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 9 - Friday, 05 April, 2024

THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

LGBTQ+ SPEAKER

Struggling With G-D: Dialogue with a representative of **Shoval** (Made in G-D's image), an organization that's creating bridges and promoting tolerance between the Orthodox and LGBTQ world.

JAFFA

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.

PERES CENTER FOR PEACE AND INNOVATION

The **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation**, founded in 1996 by the late President of Israel, **Shimon Peres**, develops and implements impactful and meaningful programs with a focus on promoting a prosperous Israel, nurturing and highlighting Israeli innovation, and paving the way for **shared-living between all of Israel's citizens** and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors.

NEVE TZEDEK

Walk through colorful **Neve Tzedek**, one of Tel Aviv's earliest neighborhoods, nowadays a cultural mecca hosting small boutiques, galleries, and the Suzanne Dellal dance and theater center.

THE INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

From Hebrew City to Hebrew State: Walk along the newly-opened Independence Trail in Tel Aviv 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.

NACHALAT BINYAMIN

Stroll down the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly craft fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market.

LUNCH

Lunch on own

FREE TIME

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon in leisure.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candle lighting in the hotel lobby.

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Kabbat Shabbat Service at a local community.

DINNER

Festive Shabbat Dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Tal Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day 10 - Saturday, 06 April, 2024

FOUNDATIONS OF A NATION AND STATE

BREAKFAST

Breakfast at the hotel.

RABIN SQUARE

A Fallen Leader, A Fallen Soldier: The assassination of **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin** in 1995 was one of the great traumas of Israeli political history. Discuss his life and death at Rabin Square, the place where he was murdered, and take a quiet moment to reflect at the Rabin Memorial. We'll also see how Rabin Square has become one of the crucial public spaces in Israel and the location for political protests, state ceremonies and spontaneous celebrations.

ANU - MUSEUM OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Visit the recently renovated **Anu-Museum of the Jewish People**. Anu is a global center for Jews worldwide that plays a pivotal role as a vibrant, dynamic, interactive, educational and cultural institution, strengthening Jewish identity and perpetuating Jewish heritage globally.

LUNCH

Enjoy lunch (not included in package) at the **Sarona Market**. Through the smells, flavors, and tastes of this renovated historical Templers town, explore the range of cuisine – from local street food to fine dining by world-renowned Israeli chefs.

FREE TIME

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon in last minute shopping and packing.

HAVDALAH

Havdalah overlooking the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Farwell Dinner at the hotel

CHECKOUT

Late checkout from the hotel.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Transfer to **Ben Gurion International Airport** and check into your flight.



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