



Sunday, March 13 2022

# Temple Beth-El & St. Mark's Episcopal Church San Antonio | Interfaith Trip to Israel

Led by Rabbi Mara Nathan & Rev. Beth Knowlton

**March 6-16, 2023**

## The **J<sup>2</sup>** way

J<sup>2</sup> crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**

Educational trips, curated expeditions & missions.

**N E W Y O R K | T E L A V I V**



# Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

## **01: MONDAY, MARCH 6 | ON THE WAY | FLIGHT**

- ◇ Depart the USA.

## **02: TUESDAY, MARCH 7 | THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY | TLV**

- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Group transfer to **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ◇ Check into the hotel and have dinner.
- ◇ The State of the State of Israel: Talk with Professor **Paul Liptz of Tel Aviv University** and the Hebrew Union College about the key issues shaping Israeli society today. Find out whether the country is stronger than ever or splitting into separate “tribes.”



adventures.

### 03: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 | OLD AND NEW | GALILEE

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ **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 by her family and Arabic sweets, she'll talk about whether the area's Jewish, Muslim, and Christian population mix or merely make do.
- ◇ From Hebrew City to Hebrew State: Walk along the **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.
- ◇ Drive along the coast and back in time 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 theater, palace, and bathhouse.
- ◇ Continue to the Galilee and check into the hotel.
- ◇ **Dinner** at the hotel.



#### 04: THURSDAY, MARCH 9 | **SPIRITUALITY AND SECURITY** | GALILEE

- ◇ The beautiful area around the **Sea of Galilee** is rich with history and Holy Sites. A center of early Christianity, this is where Jesus is said to have walked on water. We'll visit:
- ◇ **Tabgha**, where tradition holds that Jesus miraculously turned a few fish and loaves into a meal for thousands. See the restored 5th-century Church of the Multiplication and its mosaics of fish and bread.
- ◇ **The Church of the Primacy of St. Peter** marks where it is believed that Jesus tested Peter before declaring him preeminent among the Twelve Apostles (John 21). Located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, this 20th-century church still contains elements from the original church built here in the 4th century.
- ◇ The **Mount of Beatitudes**, where Jesus is believed to have delivered one of his most influential sermons: the "Sermon on the Mount."
- ◇ **Capernaum**, often called the "town of Jesus." This ancient fishing village was a mixed Christian-Jewish area where Jesus and his disciple Peter were based. Explore the churches and synagogues that have been discovered here and see the many pilgrims.
- ◇ View the extraordinary 2,000-year-old fishing boat at the **Yigal Allon Center** which is similar to the vessels that Jesus and his disciples would have used in this fishing area.
- ◇ **Sail** on the Sea of Galilee in a boat inspired by the fishing vessels from the time of Jesus. We will cut the engines off-shore for some moments of worship and reflection.
- ◇ Return to the hotel for **dinner**.



## 05: FRIDAY, MARCH 10 | **A MOSAIC OF ISRAEL** | JLM

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ **A Way Forward in the North:** Visit **Sindyanna** of Galilee and sample some of their award-winning olive oil. We'll learn how this non-profit organization is producing fine, fair-trade products and creating economic opportunities for Arab women, one of Israel's most underemployed sectors. We'll talk with one of the basket weavers about her life and work. We'll see how she uses traditional and modern weaving techniques and find out how Arab and Jewish women are coming together to learn and revitalize this long-established local craft. Weaving your own little piece of coexistence as we join one of the local women who are revitalizing the local craft of basket weaving. We'll try our own hand at making a basket and learn how Arab and Jewish women work and weave together at Sindyanna.
- ◇ Visit **Nazareth** and walk through the colorful marketplace to the **Church of the Annunciation**.
- ◇ As we drive south on the **Trans-Israel Highway**, there will be plenty of opportunities 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.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ **The City of Shabbat:** Join Jerusalem in welcoming the Sabbath, the high point of the Jewish week, with Kabbalat Shabbat services. You can celebrate Shabbat alongside people from countless different traditions and countries at Judaism's holiest Site, the Kotel (Western Wall) or sample some of the city's dizzying variety of synagogues.
- ◇ **Festive dinner at the hotel.**



## 06: SATURDAY, MARCH 11 | INTO THE DESERT | JLM

- ◇ 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.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Visit **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 Jerusalem Sky: At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah** ceremony overlooking the Old City.
- ◇ **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: A few suggestions: 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. Join the crowds strolling through the Ben Yehuda and Nahalat Shiva Pedestrian Malls.



## 07: SUNDAY, MARCH 12 | **LAYERS OF JERUSALEM** | JLM

- ◇ Services at **St George Church**.
- ◇ 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. We'll also see the nearby Abbey of the Dormition, marking the place where the Virgin Mary is believed to have died, and learn about the Abbey's long and not always easy relationship with the other faiths of Jerusalem.
- ◇ 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 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**, 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.
  - **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.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.



## 08: TUESDAY, MARCH 13 | **MEMORY & RENEWAL** | JLM

- ◇ Depart the hotel.
- ◇ 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.
  - **Personal Reflections**: At the end of our visit, we'll come together to share feelings and thoughts and discuss what we have experienced and learned at Yad Vashem.
- ◇ Experience the sights, smells, and tastes of Jerusalem while walking through the **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market.
- ◇ 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.



## 09: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 | **BEYOND BORDERS** | JLM

- ◇ Is Religion the Way Forward or an Obstacle to Peace? We'll go beyond the Green Line to meet with Ali Abu Awwad and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger/ Rabbi Shaul Judelman from **Shorashim** (Roots), a program bringing West Bank Palestinians and their Jewish neighbors together despite their fears and suspicions.
- ◇ Bethlehem – Holy Sites, Modern Realities: Explore Bethlehem, a Palestinian town on the West Bank and, as the birthplace of Jesus, one of Christianity's great places of pilgrimage.
- ◇ Our first stop will be the **Church of the Nativity**, which since it was built around 339 has been one of the holiest Sites in Christendom. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is especially famous for its **grotto (cave)** where Jesus is said to have been born. We'll see the devotion of modern-day pilgrims and learn about the fierce arguments and complicated "agreements" between different Christian groups over control of Bethlehem's religious Sites.
- ◇ Lunch at a local Palestinian restaurant.
- ◇ We'll also visit the **Church of Saint Catherine**, built on the Site where Jesus is believed to have told Catherine that she would soon be martyred. Each Christmas Eve, millions watch on television as the midnight mass is performed in this church. The Cave of Saint Jerome is where Jerome worked and was buried.
- ◇ Continuing the Craft: See Palestinian craftsmen in action at the **Olive Wood Factory**. For generations, this local Christian family has carved wooden religious figures and other items to sell to visitors. This will be a good place to discuss the role of tourism in the Bethlehem economy.
- ◇ **A Message on the Wall**: The famous, if anonymous, British street artist known as Banksy first came to Bethlehem in 2005. See murals and messages that he and other artists have painted on the Security Barrier that separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem. We'll discuss how the barrier is impacting the lives and livelihoods of local people.
- ◇ **"The Worst View of Any Hotel in the World"**: This is the proud sales pitch of the Walled-Off Hotel, whose rooms all open out onto what Israel calls the security barrier and what Palestinians call the separation wall.



## 10: THURSDAY, MARCH 15 | **HEAVENLY & EARTHLY** | FLIGHT

- ◇ **Speaking Common Languages of Peace:** Examine the role of shared Jewish-Arab education in creating integrated communities and in turning fear into friendship. We'll tour the **Yad B'Yad (Hand in Hand)** school in Jerusalem, part of a network of bilingual, multicultural educational institutions which aim to show that the two communities can learn and live together.
  - ◇ Jerusalem and the Cross: **Hana Bendcowsky**, Director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations, will take us on a tour of the communities and holy sites of the Old City's **Christian quarter**. We'll experience the long history and astonishing variety of Christian groups in Jerusalem and contemplate the complex situation facing Christian minority groups living in Israel and the modern-day Middle East.
  - ◇ 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. Another highlight will be seeing the Church of the Redeemer, one of the major Protestant churches of Jerusalem. In 1898, Kaiser Wilhelm came to Jerusalem from Germany to personally dedicate this church. Today, congregations worship here in four different languages (Arabic, English, German, and Danish).
  - ◇ There will also be time to see the bargains and the bargaining in the Old City Shuk (market) in the Christian quarter.
  - ◇ A Place of Reflection: The tranquil **Garden Tomb** just outside Jerusalem's Old City is believed by many to have been the Site of Jesus' burial and resurrection. The tomb was discovered in 1967 and is a popular place of pilgrimage, particularly for Protestant Christians, while the beautiful gardens are an ideal place for reflection and discussion.
  - ◇ Festive farewell **dinner**.
- Transfer to the airport for departure flight.

## 11: FRIDAY, MARCH 16 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN**

- ◇ Return to the US



# Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Mar. 13-14	1	Dan Panorama	Standard	Tel Aviv
Mar. 14 – 16	2	Hagoshrim	Standard	Upper Galilee
Mar. 16-21	5	Dan Jerusalem	Jerusalem Room	Jerusalem
# OF PARTICIPANTS	40+	Single Supplement		
		\$3,425	+\$1,200	

# What to **Expect**

## Included:

- ◇ 8 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ 9 days of touring with a tour educator (guide), 8 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 arrival transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ 1 departure transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ Daily breakfast, 2 lunches & 5 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.



## Excluded:

- ◇ Credit card fees.
- ◇ Flights to & from Israel.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- ◇ Gratuities: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 40+ participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Driver: \$6 per day per person.

## Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

**Rates:** Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 40+ full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.



**Currency:** Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

**Payment policy:** The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

**Cancellation policy:** All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J² travel program.
- If your J² travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

**Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:**

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.
- The cost of the PEACE OF MIND TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (POM), for trips only to Israel, if this was purchased.
- Group airfare penalty fee.

**Travel insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.