



Oheb Shalom Congregation
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Oheb Shalom Congregation

FAMILY ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Led by **Rabbi Mark Cooper**

December 20 - 31, 2010

“Jewish Time in Jewish Space”

Introduction

You are invited to embark on a truly unique trip to Israel. Join **Rabbi Mark Cooper** on a trek not only through Jewish space, but through Jewish time. Unlike most Israel tours, this itinerary is arranged – by and large - in chronological order: starting with our ancestors who were nomads in the desert, and ending with...today. After participating in an actual archeological dig – to learn the tools of our discovery of the past -- you will discover Israel’s ancient and modern history through a series of eight **“Time Capsules”** – each representing a significant period of the chronology of the People and Land of Israel. Approximate dates of each Time Capsule are provided. Due to logistic constraints you will be seeing some sights out of their precise order, but the program retains its overall historic structure.

You will not only be going from place to place, and from time-period to time-period, but you will also be going from **concept to concept**. You will be exploring what the Land of Israel has meant to the Jewish people throughout the ages, and what it means to you – before, during and after the trip.

Following is the itinerary of the entire trip. Please note that some program elements may be modified prior to the summer.

Join us for an Israel experience that you will remember your whole life.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Note: Meals to be provided with the trip package are indicated in brackets. For example: [B, L, D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are provided

Monday, December 20, 2010

- Afternoon departure from Newark Airport

Tuesday December 21

Back to the Future

- Early morning arrival into Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.
- Discover ancient artifacts and gain a perspective on the world of archaeology by participating in an actual **archaeological dig** at **Tel Maresha/Bet Guvrin**.
- Continue to drive south. Lunch break in the area of Be'er Sheva (at participants' expense)
- At the **Negev Brigade Memorial** outside Be'er Sheva, you will have a chance to share your expectations of the trip with the staff and to hear about what the staff have in store for you.
- Check-In and dinner at **Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh**
- Group orientation

Overnight: Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh Guest House [D]

Wednesday, December, 22

First Time Capsule: Early Biblical Era (1800 – 1000 BCE)

- Take a short hike along the canyon of **Ein Avdat** (suitable for the whole family); those interested can continue on a longer hike in Ein Avdat. During the hike you will discuss the connection between the desert and our ancestors.
- From the burial site of **David and Paula Ben Gurion**, look out over Nahal Zinn to recall the Israelites' wandering in the desert; Ben Gurion's use of the Bible as inspiration for the new State of Israel
- Lunch break at the Sde Boker Field School (at participants' expense)
- Travel to the Hod Hotel on the Dead Sea
- Enjoy dipping in the **Dead Sea** or take advantage of the hotel's facilities, relax
- Dinner provided at the hotel; evening program to be announced

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea [B,D]

Thursday, December, 23

Second and Third Time Capsules: 1st Temple Era (1000 B.C.E. – 586 B.C.E.) and 2nd Temple Era (515 B.C.E. - 70 C.E.)

- **Bar/Bat Mitzva Shahrarit service on top of Masada**
- Enjoy a family activity tour on top of **Masada**; descend via cable car
- Lunch break (at participants' expense)
- Refresh yourself, after a brief nature walk, in the cool springs of the **Ein Gedi** falls at Nahal David. Learn about David who hid from King Saul in the caves of Ein Gedi, and about the production of a rare

cosmetic called “Afarsemon”

- Travel to Jerusalem; from the top of **Mt. Scopus** gaze at the Old City of Jerusalem
- Check-in to the hotel; free for dinner

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem [B]

Friday, December, 24 – A Jerusalem Mosaic

Choose one of the following

Option Alef: Jerusalem Lines: a look at the borders of Jerusalem from 1948 today. Understanding some of the geopolitics of neighborhoods and border lines in Israel's Capital	Option Bet: Visit the historical museum, children's memorial and other exhibits at Yad Vashem (with parallel program for children 6-12 years old)
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All Together:

- Enjoy the lunch among hustle and bustle of the Machaneh Yehuda open-air market – or **shuk** – as Jerusalem prepares for Shabbat
- Return to the hotel for rest and personal preparations for Shabbat
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** in the Jewish Quarter and at the Kotel; walk back to hotel (*note: assumes that the group will be in a hotel in walking distance of the Kotel*)
- Group Shabbat Dinner and Oneg Shabbat

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem [B,D]

Shabbat, December, 25

Ideal Time in an Ideal Place

- **Shabbat services** at a variety of synagogues in the neighborhood (choose from an annotated list compiled by the Ramah staff)
- Optional walking tour of **Migdal David** – the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem; focus on the chronology of Jerusalem
- Enjoy a delicious **Shabbat lunch** as a group at the hotel
- Shabbat rest with special activities for children
- Enjoy a **walking tour** of neighborhoods near the hotel
- **Havdala** and free evening in Jerusalem

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem [B,L]

Sunday, December, 26

Jerusalem in Her Glory...and Her Destruction

- **Communal Shaharit Service** at the Kotel Masorti – the section of the Western Wall reserved for Conservative-style services

Choose one of the following:

Option Alef: Tour the Southern Wall Excavations and experience a virtual reality tour of the Second Temple at the Davidson Center	Option Bet: Marvel at the latest findings in the City of David (just south of the Old City Walls) and walk through the dry water tunnel
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- Reflection time at the **Kotel** (Western Wall)
- Lunch break in the Jewish Quarter (at participants' expense)

Choose one of the following:

Option Gimmel: Take part in a fascinating tour of the Kotel Tunnels , following along most of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount.	Option Dalet: Discover the alleyways and historical churches of the Christian Quarter
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Group dinner followed by a **Political Update** with one of Israel's political analysts (parallel program for children)

Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem [B,D]

Monday, December 27

Fourth Time Capsule: Mishnaic and Talmudic Era (70 B.C.E. – 600 C.E.)

- Visit the crafts workshops of **Yad Lekashish** – Lifeline for the Elderly – and shop in their multifaceted gift shop
- Depart Jerusalem and begin traveling north via the coastal road
- Explore the magnificent remains of the Roman city of **Caesarea**, and view a fascinating series of multi-media presentations about King Herod's harbor.
- Lunch break at participants' expense
- In the catacombs of **Bet She'arim** delve into the wisdom of the Sages through a special family learning program.
- Arrive in **Tiberias** and check-in to the hotel
- Embark on a brief **boat ride** on the Sea of **Kinneret**
- Enjoy a scrumptious dinner at **Decks Restaurant**

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel (formerly Moriah Plaza), Tiberias [B,D]

Tuesday, December, 28

Fifth Time Capsule: From the Middle Ages to the First Aliya (1100-1903 C.E.)

- **Zfat:** tour the synagogues, courtyards, and shops of this mystical city; meet with a Kabbalistic artist, Avraham Lowenthal. Free time for lunch (at participants' expense)
- **Rosh Pina:** walk among the original, quaint streets of this settlement of this First Aliya (wave of immigration to Eretz Yisrael, 1882-1903) and see how the town has developed over the years.
- Ascend the **Golan Heights** take a **Jeep Ride** to see the Huleh Valley of Israel the way that the Syrians did until 1967
- Free evening in Tiberias

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel, Tiberias [B]

Wednesday, December, 29

Sixth Time Capsule: From the Second Aliya to the End of WWII (1906-1945 C.E.)

- Recall the courage and dedication of the *halutzim* (pioneers who came to Israel during the **Second Aliya:** 1904-1914) at the **Kinneret Courtyard**. Pay respects at the graves of **Rahel** the poetess and the late **Naomi Shemer** – first lady of Israeli song.
- Walk through one of the most unique Holocaust memorials in Israel at **Yad Leyeled** (Memorial to the Child) at Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz in the Western Galilee. The memorial was built to educate children about children during the Holocaust, but can be appreciated by all ages.
- Drive to Tel Aviv; stops along the way as time permits; Check-in to the hotel
- **Parents enjoy a free evening** (dinner at participant's expense), while children have a pizza party and special programming with the family educator

Overnight: Leonardo Plaza Hotel (formerly Morah Plaza), Tel Aviv [B, D-children only]

Thursday, December, 30

Seventh and Eighth Time Capsules: The Struggle for Independence (1947-1949) and The Modern State of Israel (1948-Present)

- In a state-of-the-art museum at **Bet HaPalmach** follow the formation of a special fighting unit from pre-State times until the end of the War of Independence.
- Relive the historic moment when Israel was proclaimed a state at **Independence Hall** in Tel Aviv.
- **Summary session:** a chance to reflect on the trip, its lesson and highlights
- **Free time** to shop and pack
- **Final Dinner** at restaurant in Tel Aviv
- Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Overnight: In flight [B,D]

Friday, December, 31 -- A Temporary Departure

- **Midnight Flight** to Newark airport with early morning arrival into Newark

PRICE INFORMATION

Prices are for land costs only.

Per Adult in double room	Child* in room with 2 parents	2 adults and 2 Children* in 2 connecting rooms (total cost for family)	2 adults and 3 Children* in 2 connecting rooms (total cost for family)	Per adult in Triple room	Single Room
\$2,225	\$1,520	\$8,645	\$10,175	\$2,090	\$2,960

*child = age 2-13, sharing a room with 2 parents

The prices are based on a minimum of **30** participants (including children). Final pricing will be sent based on the number of participants who have sent in a deposit by **April 1, 2010**.

Price includes:

- Bed and breakfast daily for nine overnights at the following hotels: Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh Guest House, Crowne Plaza – Dead Sea; Dan Panorama-Jerusalem (4 nights); Leonardo Plaza (formerly Moriah Plaza) - Tiberias (2 nights); Leonardo Plaza (formerly Moriah Plaza)-Tel Aviv
- Full-board (all meals) on Shabbat (main meal on Friday night and Saturday lunch)
- 5 additional group meals (indicated on the itinerary)
- Daily transportation on a luxury bus
- All entrance and programming fees indicated on the itinerary
- Ramah-trained Tour Educator (licensed Israeli tour guide) throughout
- Ramah-trained Family Educator (to facilitate family interaction and to do parallel programming with children when appropriate)
- All gratuities for trip staff and porters
- Sourcebook, specially devised for your trip by Ramah-Israel

Price does not include:

Flights and airport taxes (to be discussed separately); Meals not indicated on the itinerary; Personal expenses; Laundry; Health or travel insurance; transportation to/from New York airports.

Deadlines:

- Preliminary registration- April 1, 2010
- Full registration- May 1 (form soon to be distributed)
- Full payment- October 15, 2010.

Flights:

Information about group flights will be forthcoming. As of this writing the estimate is that the flight will cost \$1,575 (subject to change in fuel charges and taxes). Note that there will be a required minimum number of people flying with the group to secure the group flight price. Participants who make their own flight arrangements will be required to meet the group at Ben Gurion airport when the trip begins, and make their own way to the airport if they depart on a flight other than the group flight.

Individual cancellation:

Days Prior to the Trip	Cancellation Fee
45-31 days	15% of tour price
30-15 days	50% of price
15-1 days	75% of price
no show	100% of price

We encourage participants to purchase travel insurance through local insurance agents that would adequately cover these cancellation penalties.

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