



Congregation Sha'are Shalom

An Israel Journey

Led by Rabbi Michael Ragozin

October 10 – 22, 2010

with
Keshet

THE CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TOURISM IN ISRAEL

A tour plan with Keshet is not an itinerary, it's a curriculum!

Itinerary (as of January 20, 2010)



Sunday, October 10 *Departure*

Departure from Dulles International Airport (IAD) on Delta 6581 at 12:20

Transfer in JFK to Delta 268 departing at 19:35, direct flight to Tel Aviv

Dinner at Kapish restaurant, where the waiters are deaf. After dinner, marvel at the international acclaimed show, *Not By Bread Alone*, performed by actors who are deaf and blind.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Monday, October 11 *Bruchim Ha'baim* *Welcome*

12:15 PM arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport

Begin our Israel journey at Kikar Rabin, site of the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, and then check in at the lovely Carlton Hotel, on the beach.

Welcome dinner at the Maganda Middle Eastern Restaurant in the Yemenite Quarter of Tel Aviv.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, October 13 *In the footsteps of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs*

Head into the Negev to explore the fascinating Biblical site of Tel Beersheva, where Abraham and Sara lived.

Lunch with a Moroccan family in the Negev development town of Yeruchum. Drive through the spectacular Machtesh Hagadol (large machtesh crater) on the way to a sunset camel ride, Bedouin "hafla" dinner and hospitality.

(TBD: option of remaining overnight in Kfar Nokedim and walking up the Roman Ramp – relatively easy 20 minute ascent, for sunrise from the top of Masada OR continue to the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea and ascend via cable car at 8 AM the following morning.)

Overnight: Kfar Nokedim OR Crowne Plaza Hotel, on the Dead Sea

Tuesday, October 12 *Rebirth of an ancient nation*

Experience the dramatic moment of the birth of the State of Israel at Independence Hall – the place where David ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. Absorb the flavor of modern Tel Aviv as you stroll the weekly outdoor arts and crafts fair in the historic Nahalat Binyamin neighborhood.

Lunch on your own in kosher food court of the Ramat Aviv Hall. Continue the dramatic story of Israel's birth at the interactive Palmach Museum.



Thursday, October 14

The Price Freedom

Ascend to the top of **Masada**; a UN designated World Heritage Site, where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the might Roman Empire 2000 years ago. Attend **Shacharit** services and tour the site.

Descend by cable car and continue to the natural pools and waterfalls of the **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve**, before returning to the hotel to take advantage of the Spa and floating in the Dead Sea. Lunch on your own.

Group dinner in the hotel.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Hotel, on the Dead Sea

Friday, October 15

Jerusalem of Gold, Jerusalem of Old

Travel to Jerusalem for our first view of the holy city and **Shechianu** from Mount Scopus. Enter the Old City through the Dung Gate for our first visit to the **Kotel**, the Western Wall.

After check in to the lovely Inbal Hotel, experience the frenzy of erev Shabbat last minute purchases in Mahane Yehuda, Jerusalem's outdoor farmers market. Lunch on your own in the market.

Return the hotel to prepare for Shabbat Candle lighting in the hotel and departure for Sha'are Shalom Kabbalot Shabbat on a terrace overlooking the Kotel. Return to the hotel for festive Shabbat dinner.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem.

Shabbat, October 16 *Shabbat in Jerusalem*

Shabbat morning services at Moreshet Israel followed by Torah study at the Conservative Yeshiva.

Lunch at the Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism.

Optional walking tour of Jerusalem neighborhoods.

Group Havdalah followed by free evening to explore and experience Jerusalem's night life on Ben Yahuda or Emek Refaim streets.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem.

Sunday, October 17

Jerusalem of Gold, Jerusalem of Old

Begin our understanding of the city where the Holy Temple once stood in Ir David – the City of David, the original Jerusalem of King David 3000 years ago (period of the First Temple).

See a new 3D film on the history of the area and walk through a now dry ancient irrigation tunnel hewn into the bedrock over 3000 years old.

Continue to the modern Jewish Quarter of the Old City for lunch on your own and to explore the amazing archaeological remnants of the Second Temple period. Tour of the Kotel Tunnels.

Political briefing from Sheldon Shulman, advisor on terrorism to four Prime Ministers. Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, October 18

From shoa to tekuma

We learn and remember at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Holocaust memorial. Visit will include the historical museum, Children's Memorial, and our own memorial ceremony. Learn more about the Father of Zionism, Theodor Herzl, at the multi-media **Herzl Museum**. Group photo at the famous Knesset Menorah.

Afternoon visit to the Gush Etzion, over the Green line just a few miles south of Jerusalem. This area is part of the national consensus. We will meet with residents and get a perspective of the West Bank that you don't necessarily see portrayed in the media.

Opportunity to shop in the Neot Shoe Factory Outlet in Gush Etzion

Dinner on your own and free evening in Jerusalem

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem.

Tuesday, October 19

Do not cast us off in our old age

Check out of the hotel and proceed to the nearby workshops of *Yad L'kashish* – Lifeline for the Elderly, where some of Jerusalem's senior citizens work in a variety of crafts shops. Shop in the Yad L'kashish gift shop, knowing that your purchases are going to support this worthwhile project which provides not only employment, but also companionship, medical services, transportation, lunch and dignity to people in their golden years.

Drive north to the Talmudic City of **Zippori**, where Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi compiled the Mishnah in the second century and site of some of the most beautiful mosaics in the Middle East. Picnic lunch at Tzipori.

Continue to the mystical city of **Zefat** for check-in and dinner at the hotel. After dinner, we will meet; get our first glimpses into the Kabbalah and the city of Tzfat with Avram Lowenthal, an artist who grew up in the Midwest.

Overnight: Ruth Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat

Wednesday, October 20

A view from the Heights

Ascend the **Golan Heights** to Mt. Bental, overlooking Syria and the city of Kuneitra to understand the complex issues of the Golan. In the city of Katzrin, capital of the Golan, see the moving audio/visual presentation about Gamla, a focal point of the Jewish rebellion against Rome during the Great Revolt (67 CE). Lunch on your own in Katzrin.

Tour of the award winning **Golan Heights Winery** – of course with wine tasting.

Meet and bring gifts to IDF soldiers serving along Israel's northern border.

Dinner at the Dubrovin Farm to the accompaniment of Klezmer musicians.

Overnight: Ruth Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat

Thursday, October 21 *Personal glimpses*

Explore the synagogues of the mystics and the Jewish Quarter of **Tzfat**. Shopping time and lunch break.

Meet Aryeh Malkin, who in 1947, as a young World War II vet, volunteered with the Haganah's Aliyah Bet operation to bring Holocaust survivors clandestinely to Israel in defiance of the British blockade. We'll meet Aryeh to hear his compelling story on Ein Dor, the kibbutz he helped to found. Return to Tel Aviv for summary session, final dinner and transfer to Ben Gurion airport for return flight to Dulles (Delta 153/1992 via Atlanta, departing at 10:35 PM)

Friday, October 22

Leshana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim

9:10 AM arrival at IAD

IMPORTANT AND SUNDRY NOTATIONS

- Price approximately \$3600/person, including air (based on 20 bookings)
- Single bookings need to add \$954.
- Underlined meals and all breakfasts will be included in the package price
- The trip will be staffed by a senior Keshet Israel Educator/Guide
- Speakers are subject to final confirmation of schedules

There are no medical requirements (i.e., vaccination shots) or limitations

- Luggage: as of 1/2010, 2 bags per person
- Attire for the visit is very casual

- All costs of entry fees included
- Tips not included
- No Visas required
- Participants can deviate flights on planned trip end (i.e., personal trips to Eliat, leaving later in the week)
- Recent trip by Beth Emeth members created a blog to share Israel trip experience with members back in Reston; Congregation Sha'are Shalom hopes to do the same
- Laundry services provided once during the trip at the Inbal Hotel
- To visit web site experiences, navigate to: (URL coming)

HELPFUL WEB SITES

<http://keshetisrael.co.il/aboutkeshet.ht>

http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism_Eng

<http://ourkeshetisraeexperience.com> (enter group name, Keshet59)

<http://travel.state.gov>

SUMMARY OF HOTELS

October 11 and 12

Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

<http://www.carlton.co.il>

Wednesday, October 13

Kfar Nokedim OR Crowne Plaza Hotel, on the Dead Sea

Thursday, October 14

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dead Sea

Friday, October 15, 16, 17, 18

Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

<http://www.inbalhotel.com>

Tuesday, October 19 and 20

Ruth Rimonim Hotel, Tzfat

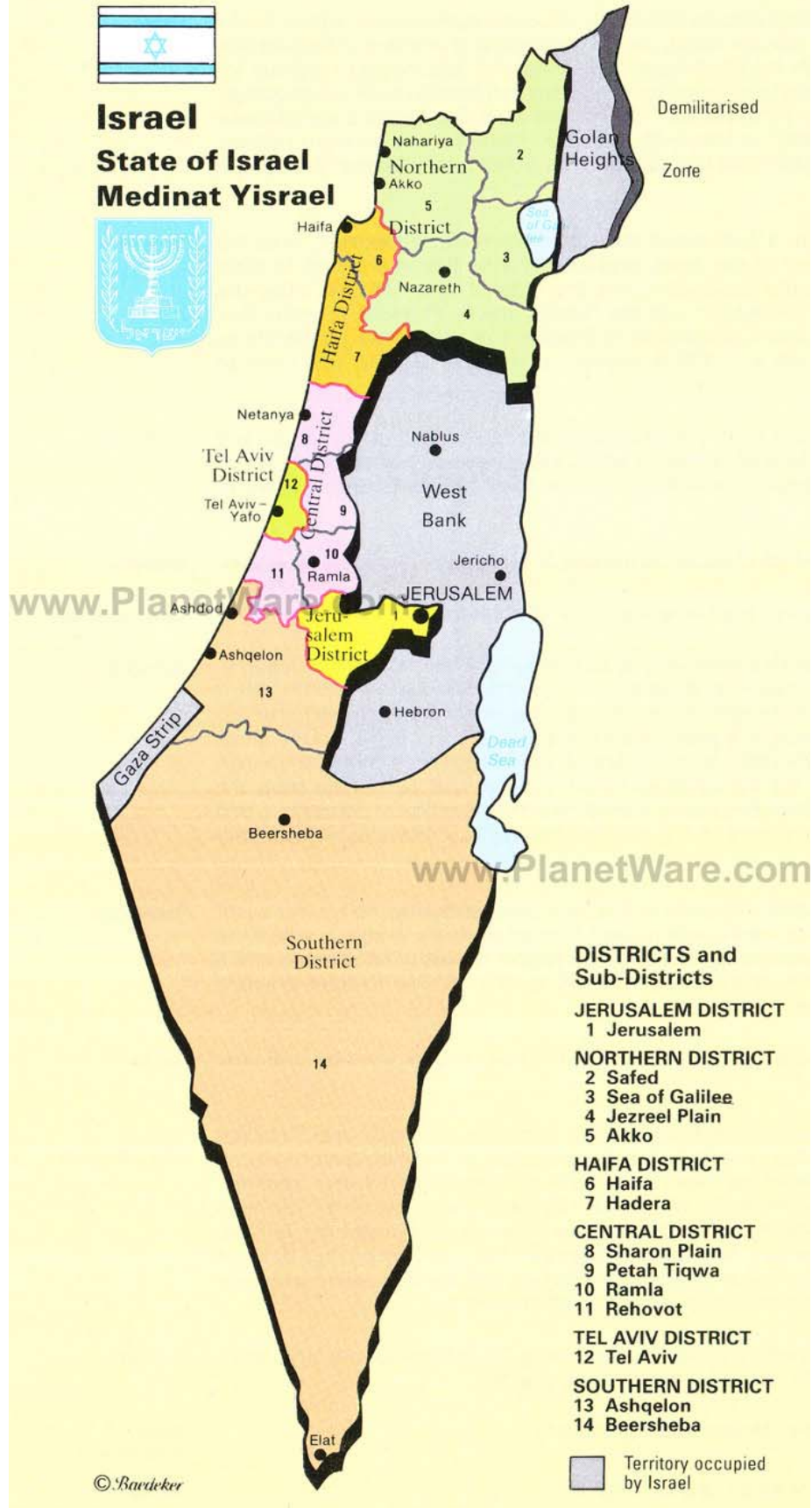


For more information, contact Congregation Sha'are Shalom at 703.737.6500.

Government and Society



Israel
State of Israel
Medinat Yisrael



This itinerary is property of Keshet and is intended for the trip promotion and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip.