

# Chavurah B'Yachad & Rocky Mountain Region

## *Israel Encounter*

May 13 -23, 2019

### Itinerary

(Subject to Change)

Come explore Israel together. We'll come to know the topography and the history of this fascinating land, and in the course of exploring its centrality to Judaism and Jewish History we will also come to better understand its place in history and in other narratives. Our itinerary is driven by the desire to see and experience as much as possible in the short time we have together in Israel, while still leaving time to enjoy traveling together as a community. The itinerary has been carefully planned, but is subject to changes due to the weather or technical considerations. We appreciate in advance your flexibility, punctuality, and understanding. It should be quite a ride, and the Keshet staff will be available to help make it as meaningful and enjoyable as possible

#### **Monday May 13                      WELCOME TO ISRAEL**

- Afternoon/evening arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel
- Head to Israel's modern metropolis **Tel Aviv** for check-in at our hotel on the shores of the **Mediterranean Sea**
- Welcome to Israel dinner

**Overnight:** *Tel Aviv*

#### **Tuesday May 14                      TO BE FREE IN OUR OWN LAND**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Examine the struggles leading up to the birth of the State of Israel, with a dramatic re-enactment at Tel Aviv's **Independence Hall** where **David Ben Gurion** declared the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948
- Explore multi-ethnic **Old Jaffa** with its artist's galleries and thousands of years of history
- Shopping time & lunch on your own at the **Nahalat Binyamin Crafts Market & Carmel Shuk** outdoor market
- Learn the stories of the early pioneers of the Tel Aviv area with a walking tour through historic **Neveh Tzedek**, the first Jewish neighborhood built outside of Old Jaffa over 120 years ago.
- Enjoy the beautiful urban **beaches of Tel Aviv** just outside of our hotel
- Evening and dinner on your own in Tel Aviv

**Overnight:** *Tel Aviv*

#### **Wednesday May 15                      UP TO JERUSALEM**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- Visit and meet the children, staff and volunteers at "**Save A Child's Heart**"- a unique project in which Israeli surgeons provide pro-bono cardiac surgery for children from all over Africa and the Middle East.
- Saying *lehitraot* to Tel Aviv, we'll ascend to Jerusalem and celebrate our arrival with **Shehechiyanu** and the magnificent views of the city from the **Haas Promenade**. Begin our exploration of the Jewish love affair with Jerusalem starting with the stories of *Akedat Yitzhak* & David's establishment of the city as capital of Israel 3,000 years ago
- Packed Lunch

- Step back 3,000 years to the days of **King David** and the days of the First Temple at the latest archeological finds at **the City Of David** (the original Jerusalem); walk through (dry) water systems built thousands of years ago to secure Jerusalem's water supply from invading armies.
- Check-in at our hotel; dinner and evening on your own in Jerusalem.

**Overnight:** *Jerusalem*

#### **Thursday May 16** ***JERUSALEM THE HOLY THROUGH THE CENTURIES***

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the innovative **Yad LaKashish** (Lifeline for the Elderly), including the workshops and gift shop
- Explore the restored **Jewish Quarter** together and examine the life of the city through the ages including the rooftops, the Cardo and the Kotel overlook.
- Lunch and shopping time on your own in the Old City
- At the **Davidson Southern Temple Mount** Archeological Park step back 2,000 years to the days of the Second Temple. Examine the centrality of the Temple experience in Jewish tradition
- Private prayer and contemplation time at the **Kotel** (*Western Wall*)
- At the **Kotel Tunnels**, continue learning about the Temple experience
- Dinner and evening on your own in Jerusalem

**Overnight:** *Jerusalem*

#### **Friday May 17** ***FROM OUT OF THE CRUCIBLE***

- Breakfast at the hotel
- **Briefing** at the hotel on the latest diplomatic and security issues
- Visit and stand in solemn memory at Israel's **Yad Vashem** memorial to the Holocaust including the children's memorial and the historical museum
- After Yad Vashem, celebrate the vitality of life in Jerusalem. Explore and have lunch on your own at the famous bustling open-air **Machane Yehudah** market as the city prepares for Shabbat .
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat .
- Head to the Old City for our own **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at the egalitarian prayer area near the Kotel. Then join thousands in greeting Shabbat with song, dance and prayer at the **Kotel**.
- Home Hospitality **Shabbat dinner**

**Overnight:** *Jerusalem*

#### **Shabbat May 18** ***SHABBAT SHALOM IN JERUSALEM***

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Optional Shabbat morning prayer services at one of Jerusalem's many synagogues or take time to explore the city on your own
- Session at the hotel with **Khaled Abu Toameh**, *former Arab Affairs Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post*: **Can Israel and the Palestinian Authority Make Peace?**
- Lunch on your own
- Late afternoon walking tour to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** where we will learn about the Christian connection to and presence in Jerusalem over the centuries
- Dinner and **Havdallah** ceremony marking the end of Shabbat
- Head to the **Tower of David** Museum for the **Sound & Light Show**

**Overnight:** *Jerusalem*

## Sunday May 19 *ROOTED IN THE PAST*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart hotel
- At **Beit Guvrin/Tel Maresha** we'll have an archeological adventure, stepping back to the days of the Maccabees, digging up the past with our own hands! (the dig is appropriate for all ages taking place in caves with natural "air conditioning").
- Packed Lunch
- Visit **Bedouin Arabs** and learn about their struggles for recognition and equal rights in Israel and for internal change in the Bedouin community, especially regarding the role and status of women
- Continue to the Kfar HaNokdim Bedouin Ranch we'll have a **camel trek, Bedouin hospitality and dinner.**
- Get a few hours of sleep in nearby Arad before our sunrise ascent to Masada

**Overnight:** *Arad*

## Monday May 20 *WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Wakeup for a pre-sunrise climb to the fortress of **Masada** where the last Jewish freedom fighters faced the mighty Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.
- **Shacharit services** and tour atop the mountain as we address the troubling issues presented by the Masada story.
- Descend by cable car or the Snake Path to a simple breakfast.
- Head to the Dead Sea for a **float in the Dead Sea and lunch.**
- Later, head north through the Jordan River Valley for check-in and dinner at our hotel in **Tzfat**, City of the Jewish Mystics

**Overnight:** *Tzfat*

## Tuesday May 21 *LAND OF BORDERS*

- Breakfast at the guest house
- Delve into the complex security and water issues on the **Golan Heights**, starting with a **nature hike** at the beautiful **Tel Dan Nature Reserve** incorporating the headwaters of the Jordan River & ancient Biblical City Dan.
- Head to Israel's **border with Syria** to better understand the political and security situation.
- Lunch on your own in Katzrin, capital of the Golan
- Visit and stand in solidarity with **IDF soldiers guarding** Israel's border with **Lebanon**. *Learn about life on a border Kibbutz.*
- Continue **Tiberias** for a cruise on the **Kinneret** (Sea of Galilee) and dinner

**Overnight:** *Tzfat*

## Wednesday May 23 *MOUNTAINS & MYSTICS*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Explore the narrow alleyways and synagogues of Tzfat and learn how the mystical traditions that emerged here 500 years ago continue to impact the Jewish world.
- Meet a **Kabalistic artist** in his studio; learn about Kabbalah via the lens of art.
- Lunch on your own and time to explore the galleries and shops of Tzfat.
- Head to the summit of nearby **Mt. Meron** for some **light hiking** with magnificent views of northern Israel.

- Tour, taste and dinner at the award winning **Adir Winery** and (goat) dairy

**Overnight:** *Tzfat*

**Thursday May 24      ISRAEL: LAND OF MANY CULTURES**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack bus and depart the hotel
- Head to **Haifa**. Stand at the top of **Mt. Carmel** for dramatic **views** of Haifa and the **Bahai Gardens**. *Haifa is the world center of the Bahai faith.*
- Continue to **Givat Haviva**, a community dedicated to fostering peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Meet **Israeli Arabs** and gain insight to the complicated nature of Israeli Arab identity.
- Lunch
- At the ancient Roman capital and port at **Caesarea**, we'll examine the complex relationships between the Roman pagan world and Jews & Judaism during the Second Temple Period and beyond.
- Summary Session and **Farewell Dinner** before heading to Ben Gurion International Airport for flights to the USA

- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator
- All underlined meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



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