

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WESTPORT • CLERGY-LED FAMILY ISRAEL TRIP

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WESTPORT
APRIL 11-21, 2019



THE ISRAEL TRIP



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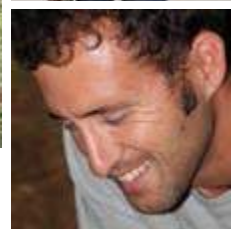
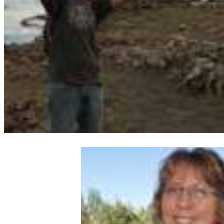
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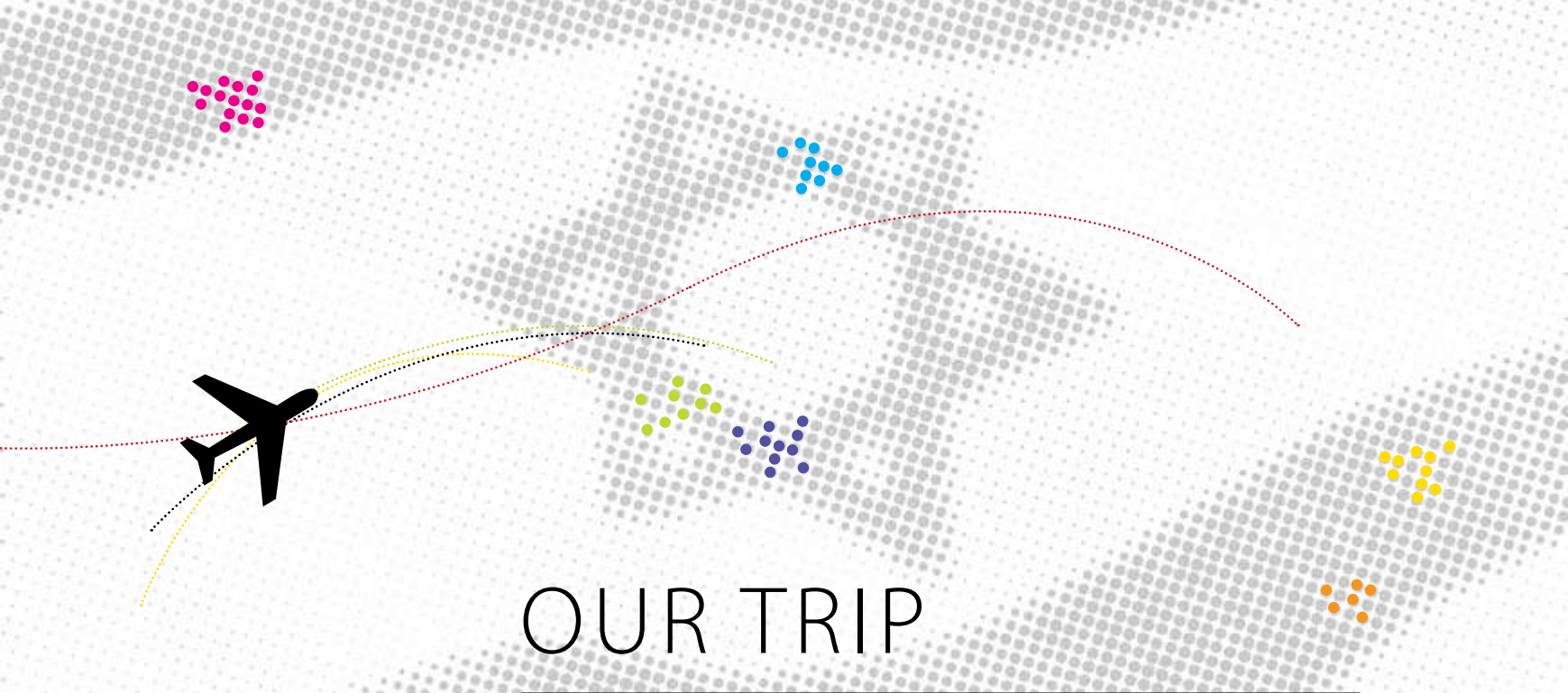


YOUR TOUR EDUCATOR

Every journey we offer is accompanied by a Tour Educator (TE) who brings your itinerary to life. Some of our TE's have decades of firsthand experience leading people to particular places.

Your TE will provide you with an authentic understanding of the locations you will visit, will introduce you to the locals, and will share his/her enthusiasm and passion for the local culture. The result is a journey that transforms your understanding of a place, connecting you to the people and places you encounter in a way that is palpable and unforgettable.

Our TE's are like no other: intelligent, knowledgeable, engaging and fun. They will become an indispensable part of your experience and some might just become lifetime friends.



OUR TRIP

APRIL 11 – 21, 2019

FROM **\$3,959** LAND ONLY

INCLUDES

- 8 nights' accommodation at select hotels + late check-out on last day
- 9 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus with licensed, English speaking tour educator
- 1 group transfer and assistance to and from the airport
- All site entrance fees and program fees as per itinerary
- Meals: daily breakfast and 5 dinners
- Portage at the airport and hotels

Join TI clergy and staff for an unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime journey



DAY ONE ▾ THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO ▾ FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 ARRIVAL

- Afternoon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Meet your tour educator and drive to the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Stop at the Haas Promenade for an overlook of the Old and New City of Jerusalem and to recite the traditional "shehechyanu" blessing.
- Check into the hotel.
- Kabbalat Shabbat services at a local synagogue or at the Kotel (Western Wall).
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY THREE ▾ SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019 THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided visit to the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem for a walk through the city's history - with observation points, visual and audio-visual aids - from the time of Abraham to the end of the British Mandate over Palestine.
- Walk along the Ramparts of the Old City.
- Shabbat Walk through unexpected paths to Zion, with a visit to the Temple Mount Overlook and King David's Tomb.
- Walk through Jerusalem's famous Old City Market (shuk), with lunch on your own.
- Visit the renewed and wonderfully creative Israel Museum, with its wide-ranging and eclectic collection, 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.
- Return to the hotel.
- The Labyrinth of Israeli Politics: Dialogue with Reuven Hazan of the Political Science Department at Hebrew University.
- Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah overlooking the Old City.
- Stroll along the Ben-Yehuda Street and Nachalat Shiva pedestrian malls, joining the many Israelis out on the town, with dinner on own.

Overnight: Jerusalem



DAY FOUR ▸ SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019 INTO THE DESERT, MASADA & THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Descend to the Dead Sea Basin.
- Ascend by cable-car to Masada, Herod's mountain palace and the site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman Legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Lunch on own at the Masada Visitor's Center.
- Take a short hike to Nahal David, the freshwater spring and waterfalls in the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, a lush oasis in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea.
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline Dead Sea.
- Visit Genesis Land, a Biblical-style encampment in the Judean Desert. Delve into the Bible, experience Biblical hospitality, take a camel ride and enjoy a 'hafla' feast.
- Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY FIVE ▸ MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019 HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY IN JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Return to the Old City for the B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony at Azarat Israel, the pluralistic section of the Western Wall.
- Stop at the Kotel (Western Wall) to experience the special atmosphere of this holy site and then walk through the Western

Wall Tunnel, the underground continuation of the Western Wall alongside the Temple Mount.

- Lunch on own in the Jewish Quarter and then continue with visits to archaeological treasures and other highlights, among them:
- The Cardo, the main street of Jerusalem in the 6th
- King Hezekiah's First Temple-period "Broad Wall".
- Hurva Square, the central square of the Jewish Quarter.
- Take part in an archaeological dig at the Beit Guvrin Caves and prepare to get your hands dirty as uncovering pottery from the Hellenistic period, 2,300 years ago, followed by a crawl through the Maresha Cave Labyrinth (crawling is optional). Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park was recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Return to Jerusalem.
- Free time in the Mamilla pedestrian arcade, a very contemporary shopping area with a whiff of the past, located outside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City; dinner on own.
- The Night Spectacular at the Tower of David Museum: The walls of the Citadel serve as a stage for a night-time show - a celebration of sight and sound - that depicts the story of Jerusalem.

Overnight: Jerusalem



“Sabra, the Hebrew name for prickly pear cactus fruit, fruit of the nopale cactus, native to Mexico, now endemic in the Middle East.”

From Wikipedia



DAY SIX ▾ TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019

MEMORY & RENEWAL

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tikkun Olam interactive visit to Yad LaKashish, a multifaceted sheltered workshop for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Meet the employees in their workshops, and take the opportunity to visit the shop that proudly presents their beautiful wares.

Adults & Older Youth:

- Visit the Yad Vashem complex, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The Avenue of the Righteous
 - The new Historical Museum
 - The Children's Memorial.
 - A Community memorial service.

Children under age 10:

- Learn new Hebrew words through music and dance.
- Visit Ein Yael, an interactive, living museum, located on a 2,000-year-old archaeological site with the option of taking part in weaving, ceramics, painting and other crafts typical of life in ancient times.

All:

- Take a multi-cultural tasting journey through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's Machaneh Yehudah open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop.
- Tree planting at the Jerusalem Bird Observatory and an insight into the urban wildlife of Jerusalem.

- Dinner on own, perhaps at the Old Train Station Plaza, with its fashionable restaurants featuring local and international cuisine.
- Preparing for Passover: Take a night tour to a matzah making Factory.

Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY SEVEN ▾ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019

DREAMS AND CONQUEST ON THE ROAD NORTH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, depart Jerusalem and drive northwards along the Jordan Valley, part of the enormous Syrian-African Rift.
- Visit Bio-Bee Biological Systems on Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, leading experts in the mass production of beneficial insects and mites for agricultural purposes. There is regional cooperation in this field with Palestinians and Jordanians.
- Lunch on own en route.
- Drive past Tiberias, an ancient/modern city located on the shores of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). One of Israel's four holy Jewish cities, this is where the "Jerusalem" Talmud was codified and where Maimonides is buried.
- Explore Tsfat, a center of Jewish mysticism for hundreds of years and a contemporary artists' colony, including:
 - Guided visit to the Ari, Caro or Abuhav Synagogues, each with its great stories and mystical messages.
 - A stroll through the quaint Artists' Colony, shop in the galleries and crafts shops and engage in dialogues with local artisans inspired by the messages of Kabbalah.



- A visit to the Tsfat Candle Factory Visitors' Center.
- Meet with artist, Sheva Chaya in her studio, for an interactive window into the world of Kabbalah, glass blowing and questions of identity and Judaism.
- Drive to the hotel and check in.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Evening Adults' Program:

- Kibbutz Ideology and Israeli Reality in the 21st Century: Meet with a second-generation kibbutz member.

Evening Children's Program:

- The Names and Faces of Israel: Israeli game night with your tour educator.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT ▽ **THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019** **SWEETS, SERENITY AND SECURITY** **IN THE NORTH**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Walk through the Tel Dan Nature Reserve, located on the largest tributary of the Jordan River, and explore the ruins of the great Biblical city of Dan.
- Take a Jeep tour off-road up the Golan Heights in the footsteps of Israeli soldiers and their battles in the Six-Day War. Enjoy the beautiful natural scenery and gain an insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan.
- Visit a Druze village for a window into the unique world of the Israeli Druze community, with lunch on own.

- The panoramic views from Bental (overlooking the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra) give sharp insights into Israel's security situation on the Golan Heights, and the enormous challenges it faced in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and the new threat from the north, ISIS.

Option 1:

- Wine Tasting at a local winery on the Golan Heights.

Option 2:

- Enjoy the culinary delight of a chocolate workshop at the De Karina Chocolate Factory on Kibbutz Ein Zivan.

All:

- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY NINE ▽ **FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019** **FROM THE HILLS TO THE SEA**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit the Hula Lake (Agamon HaHula) for bike-riding, golf-carting, nature walks and bird-watching.
- Drive west to the Mediterranean to Caesarea, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities in the Roman Period. Visit the Herodian Theater and the excavations along the Mediterranean shore, concluding with a visit to the ruined 900-year-old Crusader town.
- Lunch on own en route.



- Drive to Tel Aviv, known as the “city that never sleeps,” with its centers of culture, recreation and national history, great beaches and fine stores.
- Check into the hotel.
- This Year in Jerusalem - Celebrating Passover In Israel: Festive Passover Seder at the hotel.

Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY TEN ▽ SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019 (PASSOVER) TEL AVIV: THE FIRST HEBREW CITY

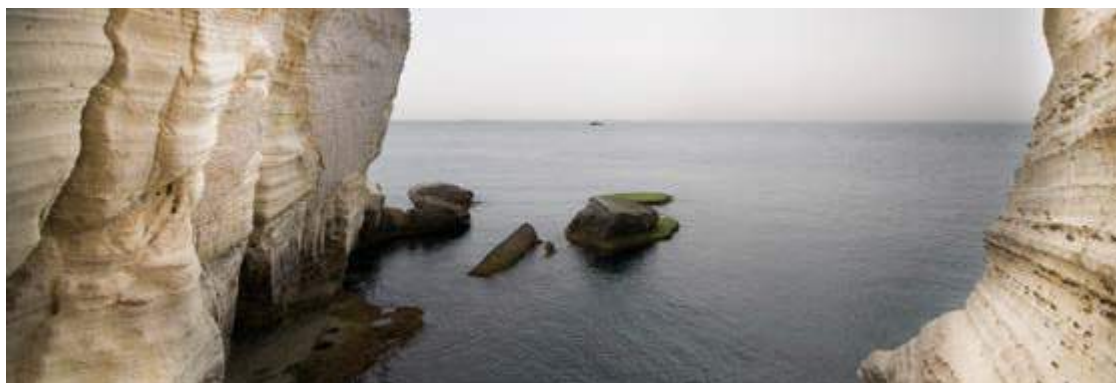
- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the Old City of Jaffa and ascend from the old port through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.
- Recite the Song of the sea (Shirat Hayam) over the Mediterranean Sea.
- Combining Street Art, Language & Graffiti: Join Guy Sharett, a local resident, to explore the urban culture of the city.
- Lunch on your own in Tel Aviv.
- Free afternoon in Tel Aviv for an opportunity to:
 - Explore the newly gentrified Neve Zedek neighborhood.
 - Enjoy the Ganei Yehoshua Park on the Yarkon River.

- Crash the waves of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Wander through the Tachana, Tel Aviv's newly renovated old train station, now a center of boutiques and good food, and one of Tel Aviv's blooming hot spots.
- Walk or bike the Blue Route in Tel Aviv, with its beautiful coastline and Mediterranean atmosphere, from the Jaffa Ridge in the south to Tel Aviv Port in the north.
- Stroll down Rothschild Boulevard, with its many cafés and bars.
- Experience Tel Aviv Port, with its restaurants and clubs.
- Explore the gentrified Neve Zedek
- Saunter down the Tel Aviv Beach Promenade.
- Dinner on your own in Tel Aviv.
- Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah overlooking the Old City.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- Transfer to the Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your flight to the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

DAY ELEVEN ▽ SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019 RETURN HOME

- Arrive in the USA.



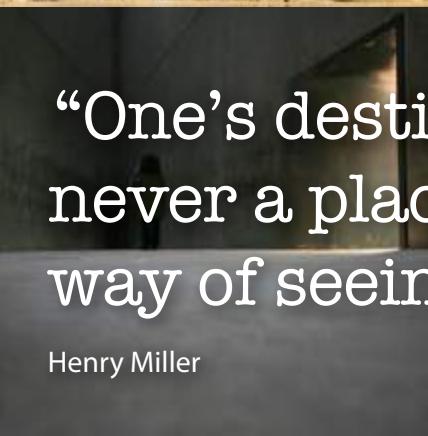
A close-up photograph of several ripe, orange-colored fruits hanging from a tree branch, surrounded by lush green leaves. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

“The flowering, not the fruit. The way, not the distance covered.”

Meir Shalev

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“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

Henry Miller

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