

# Adat Shalom Synagogue: “Discover Israel”

Led by Rabbi Aaron Bergman and Ruth Bergman



**February 14-26, 2018**

*Itinerary as of August 1, 2018 - Subject to change*



## **Wednesday, February 14-Departure**

- Meet at airport OR group bus to the airport from Adat Shalom
- United 3409 Detroit-Newark, 11 a.m. departure, 12:39 a.m. arrival
- United 84 Newark-Tel Aviv, 4:05 p.m. departure, 9:25 a.m. arrival

## **Thursday, February 15: Welcome to Israel! ברוכים הבאים**

- Arrival and meet Ramah staff.
- Opening ceremony at Latrun, overlooking the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Latrun was the site of fierce fighting during the 1948 war and is now a military and tank museum, also used for military ceremonies.
- Packed lunch from Holy Bagel.
- Enjoy a hands-on "Dig for a Day" experience at Beit Guvrin, a national park in central Israel, encompassing the ruins of Maresha, one of the important towns of Judah during the time of the First Temple, and Beit Guvrin, a prosperous town in the Roman era until the Bar Kochba Revolution. The evidence of Roman civilization can be seen in the many archaeological discoveries made at the site including an amphitheater and Roman mosaics.
- Walk through Old Jaffa down to the Jaffa port. The rich history of Jaffa includes Egyptians, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, Crusaders, Turkish Sultans, Napoleon, and General Allenby, whose capture of Jaffa marked the start of the British Mandate of Palestine. Today, alongside the rich historical architecture, art galleries and shops with archaeological finds, Judaica and jewelry now line Jaffa's narrow alleys.
- Check into the hotel, dinner at the hotel, and welcome session.
- Overnight at the Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

## **Friday, February 16: Tel Aviv, The First Hebrew City**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Visit the “State of Mind” Innovation Center. The exciting and cutting-edge interactive Innovation Center highlights new advancements Israeli start-ups are making in different fields, such as science, medicine, security, space and more.
- Experience the Rabin museum. The center presents Yitzhak Rabin's remarkable life and tragic death, alongside pivotal elements of the history of Israel. Enjoy exploring the Sarona Market, Israel's largest, unique indoor culinary complex (lunch on own at market).
- Return to hotel & prepare for Shabbat (Candle Lighting: 5:02 p.m.).
- Kabbalat Shabbat at the hotel, followed by Shabbat dinner and an Oneg Shabbat.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

### **Shabbat, February 17: Shabbat in Tel Aviv**

- Breakfast at hotel, followed by optional services at local synagogues or free time.
- Group Shabbat lunch at the hotel.
- Free time for beach, rest and relaxation.
- Optional Shabbat walk in the area of South Tel Aviv/Jaffa.
- Havdalah at 6:02 p.m., followed by a free evening in Tel Aviv and dinner on your own.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

### **Sunday, February 18: From Sea to Shining Sea**

- Breakfast at hotel, then check out.
- Visit Caesarea and explore the Israel of the Ancient Romans. Once the site of a Phoenician port, over the course of 12 years Herod built the area into Caesarea Maritima, with a deep-sea harbor, an aqueduct, a hippodrome and magnificent amphitheater which remain standing today. The Great Revolt of 66-70 CE began here, and following the destruction of Jerusalem, it became the capital of Roman Palestine.
- Experience Druze Culture and Hospitality in the Village of Isfiya including a traditional Druze lunch. The Druze are a unique religious and ethnic minority located mostly in the northern part of Israel, and are Arabic-speaking citizens of Israel who serve in the Israel Defense Forces. Members of the community have attained top positions in Israeli politics and public service. While most Israeli Druze identify as Arabs, today, tens of thousands of Israeli Druze belong to "Druze Zionist" movements.
- Visit the Kinneret Cemetery, where many pioneers and leaders of the early Aliyah movements to Israel are buried, including Rachel the Poet.
- Dinner at Decks restaurant overlooking the Kinneret in Tiberias, with a speaker from the Partnership Region.
- Overnight: Kfar Blum Hotel or Similar

### **Monday, February 19 Mountain High, Valley Low**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Tour the magical, mystical city of Tsfat including a visit to some of the cities beautiful and historic synagogues and browse through the artists' workshops and galleries.
- Lunch (on own) and shopping time in Tsfat.
- Lookout over three countries (Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan) at Har Bental up in the Golan Heights.
- Exciting Jeep ride, exploring the Golan heights along the Derech Hapatrolim (Patrol Path), and hearing about the strategic importance of this region for Israel's continued safety and security.
- Return to Kfar Blum for dinner at the hotel.
- Overnight: Kfar Blum Hotel or similar

### **Tuesday, February 20 Beauty of the Galilee**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Partnership Region Mifgash/Activity (TBD in consultation with the Partnership region).
- Lunch
- Tour the ancient city of Tzipori, National Park to learn about the time of the Mishna and/or visit "Rish Lakish" Organic Olive Press.
- Drive to Jerusalem; upon entering Jerusalem, come together for a "Shehecheyanu" moment while taking in the view of the city.

- Check into the hotel.
- Free evening in Jerusalem and dinner on your own.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Wednesday, February 21 Masada**

- Early breakfast at hotel, and then drive down to the lowest place on earth, the Dead Sea region.
- Explore Masada (riding the cable car both up & down the mountain), a fortress built by Herod and used by Jews during the Roman invasion of Jerusalem. Find out for yourself why we say: "Masada shall not fall again!"
- Lunch at the "Dead Sea Spa." After lunch choose between swimming and relaxing at the spa and in the Dead Sea or taking a short hike with your guide in Nachal David at Ein Gedi.
- Return to Jerusalem, and enjoy a group dinner in the German Colony/First Station, a neighborhood in Jerusalem, established in the second half of the 19th century by members of the German Templar Society.
- Cultural event in Jerusalem (museum, concert, performance - TBD).
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Thursday, February 22 Jerusalem of Gold**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Visit Robinson's Arch in the Old City and walk up the steps to the now-sealed gates at the Southern wall, where pilgrims to Jerusalem would enter the Temple. The Arch is a site at which Conservative and Reform communities often hold egalitarian worship services.
- "Look into the past" through a new Virtual Reality (VR) tour of the Second Temple period and spend personal time at the Kotel Plaza.
- Panoramic view of the city from the Aish HaTorah building's lookout. Lunch on own and shopping time in the Jewish Quarter.
- Visit Hadassah Ein Karem hospital to learn about the unique coexistence taking place in this hospital and enjoy time to view the Chagall windows that fill the hospital's synagogue space.
- Dinner on own and free evening in Jerusalem.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Friday, February 23 Yizkor**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Visit Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center.
- Visit Yad Kennedy, the only memorial to John F. Kennedy built outside the US. The 60-foot high (18 m) memorial is shaped like the stump of a felled tree, symbolizing a life cut short. Inside is a bronze relief of Kennedy, with an eternal flame burning in the center.
- Lunch (on own) and shopping time in the bustling pre-Shabbat atmosphere of Machane Yehuda Market.
- Return to hotel & prepare for Shabbat (Candle Lighting: 4:49 p.m.).
- Kabbalat Shabbat at local synagogue or the Kotel, followed by Shabbat dinner and Oneg Shabbat at the hotel.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Shabbat, February 24 Shabbat in Jerusalem**

- Breakfast at hotel, followed by optional services at local synagogues.
- Group Shabbat lunch at the hotel.
- Optional Shabbat walking tour near the hotel.
- Group Havdalah and reflective session (6:06 p.m.).
- Evening out at Mamilla Mall (dinner on own), followed by a tour of the 2000-year-old tunnels beneath the Kotel.
- Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Sunday, February 25 Israel: Modern State**

- Breakfast at hotel and check out.
- Visit workshops at Yad Lakashish. Founded in 1962, Yad Lakashish provides stimulating work opportunities, a warm community environment, and invaluable support services for hundreds of needy elderly citizens from Jerusalem, many of whom are physically challenged. They are all part of Israel's lowest socio-economic sector, and the majority are immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and South America.
- Lunch (on own)
- Tour of the Weizmann Institute, one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions in the natural and exact sciences.
- Visit the Israel Guide Dog Center at Beit Oved. Since its establishment the Israel Guide Dog Center has created close to 600 partnerships between blind and visually impaired Israelis from all backgrounds and ethnic groups. The center is a full member of the International Guide Dog Federation and is considered a pioneer in new innovative training methods. The center is the only certified guide dog school in the Middle East.
- Explore the rich history of Neve Zedek, a trendy neighborhood in southwestern Tel Aviv. It was the first Jewish neighborhood to be built outside the old city of the ancient port of Jaffa.
- Final group dinner at a local restaurant in Tel Aviv and then drive to the airport.

### **Sunday, February 25-Monday February 26 - Flight**

- United 91, departs 11:10 p.m., arrives in Newark at 4:35 a.m.
- United 3598, departs 7:00 a.m., arrives in Detroit at 8:53 a.m.

**Lehitra'ot! See you soon!**

**שלום ולהתראות!**

**To register for the trip, please go to:**

**<http://rii.ramah.org.il/register>**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Dr. Melissa Ser, 248-626-2153, [mser@adatshalom.org](mailto:mser@adatshalom.org)**