

Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Beth Shir Shalom Adventure in

ISRAEL

Led by Rabbi Alex Kress
June 13-24, 2024



Beth Shir Shalom Adventure in Israel

June 13-24 2024

DAY 1

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024
OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

- We depart the United States on your overnight flight to Israel.
(Contact Ayelet Tours for assistance booking flights).

DAY 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024
WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

- Shalom and Bruchim Habaim - welcome to Israel! Upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, we are met by an Ayelet Tours representative who assists us through customs and baggage claim.
- Our adventure begins in **Tel Aviv**, where we visit the **Nachalat Binyamin craft fair** and stroll through the biweekly market featuring Israeli artisans and entertainers who bring the streets of Tel Aviv to life.
- We continue to our hotel to check in and refresh after our long journey.
- This evening, we travel to **Holon** to welcome **Shabbat** with the **Kodesh v'Chol** community, followed by **Shabbat welcome dinner** together.

Overnight in Tel Aviv

DAY 3

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024
TEL AVIV PAST TO PRESENT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with guided walk through the quaint streets of **Neve Tzedek**, the first neighborhood built outside the walls of Old Jaffa and one of the trendiest areas of today's modern city.
- We continue along **Independence Trail** through the **Rothschild District**, discovering the architectural, cultural and intellectual foundations of this great city, and pass by **Independence Hall** where the state was officially founded in May 1948.
- This afternoon, we head to the **Tel Aviv beach** for a game of maktot, a bike ride or stroll along the Tayelet.
OR
- **Optional Walking Tour:** We explore **Old Jaffa** overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy wandering through the cobblestone alleyways and admiring the art galleries, all framed by views of the sea.
- Tonight, we join together in **Charles Clore Park** for **Havdalah**, then set out for a taste of the incredible culinary scene of Tel Aviv with dinner on own at one of the area's trendy restaurants at the **Old Port**, **Dizengoff Square** or **Sarona Market** (recommendations can be provided).

Overnight in Tel Aviv

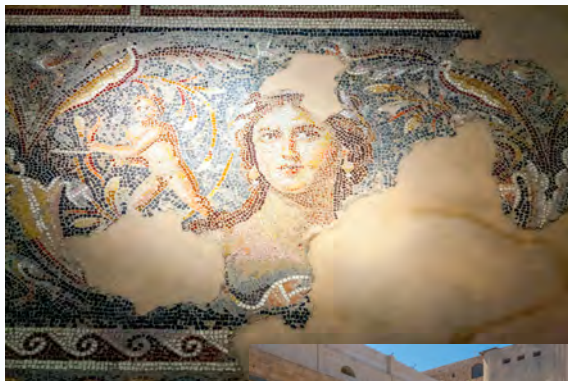


DAY 4

SUNDAY JUNE 16, 2024
THE ROAD NORTH

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Our day begins at **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People**, featuring interactive audio visual exhibits that bring life and color to the vibrant history of the Jewish people outside the land of Israel following the destruction of the Second Temple.
- We depart Tel Aviv and travel north along the Mediterranean coast to **Caesarea National Park**, the Roman regional capital. Here, we view the ancient theater, stroll through the hippodrome and stand in awe at Herod's palace and harbor.
- At **Beit She'arim National Park**, seat of the Sanhedrin and burial site of the sages, including Yehuda Hanasi, we explore the ancient necropolis and intricately carved sarcophagi.
- Next, we visit **Tzippori National Park**, known for its extraordinary mosaics and its central role in Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple. We discover remnants of a Roman theater and a Jewish residential quarter from the times of the Mishnah and the Talmud, as well as the **Crusader castle** and **Byzantine period synagogue**. A highlight is viewing the **mosaic floor** featuring an image known as the "**Mona Lisa of the Galilee**".
- At **Rish LaKish**, we learn about olive production and taste different varieties of olive oil.
- This evening, we check into our kibbutz and enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight in the Galilee



DAY 5

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
B'MITZVAH CELEBRATION

- Breakfast at our kibbutz.
- In the ancient village of **Naburiya**, in the remains of one of the oldest synagogues in the Galilee, we celebrate with our friends as they become **B'Mitzvah**. Mazel tov!
- After lunch on our own in the mystical city of **Safed**, we unlock the hidden secrets at the **Safed Puzzle Room**, an escape room that is sure to be an adventure. Following our successful escape, our guide leads us on a **Kabbalistic tour** through the cobblestone streets of town, passing by ancient synagogues and art galleries along the way.
- **Buza=Glidah=Gelato=Ice Cream!** We visit Buza, a unique ice cream factory and joint operation by Muslim-Jewish duo Alaa Sweitat and Adam Ziv. Modified from the Arabic word bouza, this collaboration is a result of shared passions for ice cream and peace among those with different cultural or religious backgrounds. Our visit will include plenty of opportunities to sample their Galilean glidah (Hebrew for ice cream).
- At **Rosh Hanikra**, we ride the cable car to discover the chalk cliff grottoes carved out by the Mediterranean waters over time.
- This evening, we are welcomed to **Kibbutz Evron** with traditional Ethiopian hospitality, music, dance and food as part of the **Mavrhatey-Ethiopian Experience**.

Overnight in the Galilee

DAY 6

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024
THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

- Breakfast and check out of our kibbutz.
- This morning we visit the Crusader port of **Akko**. Here, we explore the massive **Hospitaller Fortress**, the **Knights' Hall**, and **The Museum of Underground Prisoners**.
- We continue to **Haifa** and to the top of **Mount Carmel**, where the panoramic overlook of the **Baha'i Gardens**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, slopes beautifully downward toward Haifa Bay, the largest port in Israel.
- We stop in the **Druze village** of **Daliyat el Carmel** for **lunch**. People from the village share with us their unique culture and how they see themselves fitting into the mosaic of Israeli society.
- Next, we enjoy a refreshing and adventurous **water hike** at **Mei Kedem** in the Alona Valley.
- We ascend to **Jerusalem**, stopping at the **Haas Promenade** to recite the Shehecheyanu as we look out over the City of Gold for the first time together.
- After checking into our hotel, we enjoy dinner at **Foccacia Bar** (pay on our own), then head to **Ben Yehuda Street** to enjoy Jerusalem nightlife.

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 7

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024
THE CITY OF GOLD

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our visit to the **Old City** begins at the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park**, where we explore the magnificent ruins of the First and Second Temple periods: the ancient city wall, the staircase to the Temple Mount, a preserved ancient street, mikva'ot and stores.
- No visit to Jerusalem is complete without experiencing the **Kotel** (Western Wall), built 2,000 years ago by King Herod to dignify and support the Second Temple. At this silent monument, a witness to triumph and tragedy, to hope and despair throughout the generations, we take time to reflect and pray, perhaps wedging a sacred note into a stone crevice and enveloping ourselves in the sense of holiness pervading the plaza.
- We head underground to the **Western Wall tunnels** for an opportunity to discover the many layers of Jerusalem's history, passing through grand building projects from ancient Rome to the modern day.
- Next, we stroll through the colorful bazaars in the **Muslim** and **Christian Quarters**, returning to the **Jewish Quarter** where we enjoy lunch on our own.
- At **Ir David, the City of David**, the stories of the Biblical King David come to life through the palace excavations, underground passageways, and monumental fortifications. We descend with flashlights into **Hezekiah's Tunnel**, a 2,700-year-old pitch-black, refreshing, water-filled tunnel, a marvel of engineering that brought water into the ancient city.
- For dinner on our own, head to **Ben Yehuda Street**, **Nachlat Shiva** or **Mamilla Mall**.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 8

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024
THE DEAD SEA BASIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel south to the **Dead Sea basin**. Upon arrival, we ascend the imposing mountain of **Masada** by cable car to view the remains of King Herod's fortress and learn about the Jewish Zealots' fateful last stand against the Roman forces.
- At **Ein Gedi**, we enjoy a refreshing hike to the hidden waterfalls in this desert oasis.
- This afternoon, grab your swimsuit for an unsinkable swim in the luxuriating, salty and mineral-rich waters of the **Dead Sea**, where we can cover ourselves in silky, healing mud and float at the lowest place on Earth.
- After dinner on our own in Jerusalem, we watch the **Tower of David Night Spectacular**, a sound and light show that transforms the walls of David's Citadel into the living story of Jerusalem (optional; separate cost).

Overnight in Jerusalem



DAY 9 FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 IN REMEMBRANCE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day at **Yad Vashem**, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where we view the many moving exhibitions, including the **Museum**, the **Children's Memorial**, the **Hall of Names** and the **Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations**.
- Am Yisrael Chai! The people of Israel live! The pulse of the modern State of Israel is experienced most profoundly on Fridays at **Machane Yehuda**. We take in the sights, smells and sounds of the bustling marketplace and try a variety of Israeli delicacies on our guided **tasting tour**, then enjoy lunch on our own at one of the market's trendy restaurants.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for musical **Kabbalat Shabbat** at **The First Station**, welcoming Shabbat through joyous prayer, song and dance, followed by a festive Shabbat dinner at our hotel.

Overnight in Jerusalem

DAY 10 SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2024 A JERUSALEM SHABBAT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we return to the **Old City** and enjoy the views from above! On our **ramparts walk** from **Jaffa Gate** to **Lions Gate**, we have a bird's eye view of the **Christian** and **Muslim Quarters**, the **Mount of Olives**, the **Temple Mount**, **Santa Ana Crusader Church**, **Mount Scopus** and the **Kidron Valley**.
- Back on the ground, we visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** in the Christian Quarter and stroll through the Old City's **colorful markets**.
- **Optional/on own:** Tour the **Israel Museum**, the country's premiere cultural institution, featuring ancient archaeology, modern Israeli art, the **Shrine of the Book**, the repository of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** found at Qumran, and the Holy Land model, a miniature replica of Jerusalem as it was thought to be during the Second Temple period.
- As the day comes to an end, we join together for **Havdalah**, marking the end of Shabbat and the beginning of a new week. After, we enjoy dinner on our own.

DAY 11 SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024 A FINAL FARWELL

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we explore the power of Jewish ideas, texts and values during a **hands-on art workshop** with **Rabbi Matt Berkowitz** of **Kol HaOt**.
- Next, we visit **Emek Tzurim**, where we participate in the dig that is sifting the Temple Mount rubble. New and important finds are made here every day.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure exploring or doing some last-minute shopping.
- We return to our hotel to finish packing and check out, then come together to enjoy a festive **farewell dinner**, recalling all that we have experienced on this journey.
- We transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for our overnight flight to the United States.

DAY 12 MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 WELCOME HOME!

- We arrive back in the United States this morning.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

**itinerary subject to change*

