
Congregation Beth Israel
May 30 – June 8, 2010
Israel



Day 1 ~ Sunday, May 30, 2010

USA/Israel

Depart the United States flying overnight to Israel.

Day 2 ~ Monday, May 31, 2010

Tel Aviv

Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport with meeting and assistance. **Welcome ceremony and a "Shehecheyanu" for all who are first timers to Israel at Neot Kdumim.** This amazing journey of discovery then begins by **planting a tree** in Eretz Israel. **Planting a tree** in the Land of Israel creates your personal, permanent link to Eretz Yisrael and helps to build its future with your own hands. Our tradition teaches: *If you are about to plant a tree in Israel and the Messiah arrives, finish planting the tree, and then go out to greet the Messiah.* Enjoy a light lunch, followed by exploring the gardens and listening to biblical stories about the first encounter with the land of Israel. Continue to **Tel Aviv** and the hotel for check in. Dinner this evening at Badolina Restaurant on the waterfront with welcoming words and opening of the journey by Miri Eisin. **David Intercontinental Hotel (L, D)**

Day 3 ~ Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Tel Aviv

Begin the day with **beach exercises**, followed by breakfast. This morning, attend a **lecture by Dr. Gadi Taub**, a known author and a professor of communications and public policy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who will talk about Zionism today and offer a comparative look at Israeli and American politics. Following the lecture, check out of the hotel and embark on a **tour of the "White City"**, as Tel Aviv is known, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its many **Bauhaus buildings**. Begin at **Independence Hall**. Hear the voice of David Ben Gurion as he declares Statehood under the looming threat of attack from an enemy of mammoth proportions. In May 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel in the main hall of the museum. The proclamation took place at 4 pm, eight hours before the British mandate over Palestine (Eretz Israel) was due to end, in

the presence of the members of the people's Council and the People's Executive, as well as the leaders of the Jewish community in Eretz Israel. After David Ben-Gurion read the declaration of independence, Rabbi Fischman recited the she'hecheyanu blessing, and the Declaration of Independence was signed. The ceremony concluded with the singing of Hatikvah. Convene at Independence hall where participants will sign the community's "Declaration of Independence" which includes its commitment to continue the strong bond with Israel. All participants will sign the scroll in an emotive ceremony. Enjoy free time at the arts and crafts fair at **Nachlat Binyamin**. After lunch, depart Tel Aviv driving north along the **Mediterranean Sea** to visit **Caesarea**. Built by Herod, this was the Roman capital of Palestine for nearly 600 years. The extensive seaside ruins here date back to Roman, Byzantine and Crusader times. Explore the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, Crusader harbor and 12th-century ramparts.

Continue north, towards **Haifa**, visiting the **Leo Baeck Education Center**, which concentrates on providing formal and informal education with a focus on social responsibility, human rights and the wellbeing of Israeli society. Continue to **Haifa** for a view of the magnificent **Bahai Gardens** and the **Haifa Bay**. The Terraces of the Bahá'í Faith, also known as the Hanging Gardens of Haifa, consist of nine garden terraces above and nine below the Shrine of the Báb on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel. Described as the Eighth Wonder of the World, they are one of the most visited tourist attractions in Israel. The architect is Fariborz Sahba from Iran (who now resides in Canada). The terraces represent the first eighteen disciples of the Báb, with nine concentric circles providing the main geometry of the eighteen terraces. The terraces have been conceived as generating from the Shrine of the Báb. The eighteen terraces plus the one terrace of the Shrine of the Báb total nineteen terraces, and nineteen is a significant number within both the Bahá'í and Bábí religions.

This evening enjoy dinner and **home-hospitality in the picturesque Druze village of Ir Hacarmel** above Haifa. The Druze are a religious community found primarily in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel whose traditional religion is said to have begun as an offshoot of Islam, but is unique in its incorporation of Gnostic, neo-Platonic and other philosophies, similar to other followers of Ismaili Shi'a Islam. They are often considered to be an independent religion. Late arrival to the hotel in **Tiberias**. **Galei Kinneret Hotel (B, D)**

Day 4 ~ Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Galilee

The day begins touring and shopping in the sacred city of **Safed**. Pronounced **Tzfat** in Hebrew, this picturesque city sits at a higher altitude than any other city in Israel and has been known since the 16th century as a major **center of Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism**. Safed's mystical aura adds to its special status as one of **Israel's four holy cities, along with Jerusalem, Tiberias and Hebron**. The old synagogues, narrow alleyways and artists' studios add to the hilltop city's unmistakable charm. Peek into a variety of **artists' studios**, visit the **candle**

factory, and shop for one-of-a-kind pieces of art and Judaica. **Lunch and wine tasting** will take place at the **Dalton Winery**. The winery and its vineyards are located in an exclusive area of the **Upper Galilee (Merom Hagalil)**. The vineyards of Kerem Ben Zimra reach an altitude of between 800 - 900 meters above sea level. This volcanic plateau combining high altitude, optimum soil conditions and a unique climate provide the ideal conditions for growing grapes in Israel. The cold winters provide an essential dormant period for the vines, while hot summer days with cool summer nights enable the grapes to mature at a steady rate, factors which allow us to grow excellent grapes for excellent wines. Dalton is the only winery situated in this area, and can boast that it is one of the only wineries in Israel located minutes from all its vineyards. The proximity to the vineyards allows the winemaker to constantly monitor the vines throughout the year and, closer to vintage, decide the optimal time for harvest, it also ensures that the grapes arrive in the winery immediately after harvesting and do not have to suffer the indignity of traveling many hours in the midday sun, before they are processed.

Continuing with a short drive to **Biranit** (near Har Adir) for a close view of the **Lebanese border** and the **fighting zone** in the recent Lebanon war. Discuss Hezbollah, Lebanon and beyond. Meet with an **intelligence officer** who is now serving in this area. Descend to the **Hula Valley** with the **Manara Cliff cable car** and drive directly to the next adventure, a **bicycle or a golf cart ride** through the **Agamon Hahula Nature Reserve**.

The **Hula Valley** is an important resting place for migrating birds, which fly over Israel on their way to/from Europe and Africa, as they do not fly over water. Many birds remain in Israel where they feed off agricultural produce and are provided with food. Hear from an ornithologist about the special phenomenon in this region and will be able to observe first-hand.

Proceed to **dinner with young students, the Israeli pioneers of the 21st century** who combine social action with their studying as part of the **Ayalim Project at Kiryat Shmona**. The "Ayalim" Association was established in September 2002 by a group of young army veterans and today it is comprised of 300 student activists, from a total of about 5,000 students that seek to join each year. The association works in cooperation with the "Queen Esther Foundation", the Sacta-Rashi Foundation, the Ramat Hanegev Regional Council, the Jewish Agency, the Office of the Vice Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office, the housing Minister and other bodies to promote the establishment of villages for students and young entrepreneurs in peripheral areas about which there is an Israeli consensus—the Negev and the Galilee. These villages will form the basis for permanent settlement and social involvement, while channeling the goodwill and energy of many young people in Israel for national service as part of their personal fulfillment. **Galei Kinneret Hotel (B, L, D)**

Day 5 ~ Thursday, June 3, 2010

Galilee

The day is spent in **Tel Dan**, often described as a feast for the mind and senses, with an **option** of a visit focusing on **archeology** or **nature**.

Of the three sources of the **Jordan River**, the **Dan River** is the largest and most important. It is fed by the snow and rain which fall on Mount Hermon, the tallest mountain in Israel. The water seeps into the mountain, branching off into hundreds of springs by the time it reaches the foot. Together these form the largest karstic spring in the Middle East. Although the Tel Dan Nature Reserve is only 120 acres large, it offers four vastly different hiking trails. One meanders around the rivulets and on the river bank, under a canopy of laurel, alaternus, and Syrian ash trees. Because of the abundant water here, the Syrian ash can grow up to 20 meters tall. The trail from the water-powered flour mill (in operation until 1948) leads to the remnants of the Canaanite city of Laish, which was captured by the Tribe of Dan during the Judges period. Some fascinating finds are on display here, including a ritual site attributed to the days of Jeroboam. On the hilltop is a reconstructed Israelite-period city gate and the archway of the Canaanite gate, perhaps the earliest arch ever discovered.

Learn more about **Israel's security issues at the Syrian Border**. Ride an All **Terrain Vehicle (ATV)** at **Kibbutz Merom Golan/Kibbutz Ein Zivan** – while learning about the landscape, volcanoes, springs and small streams of the Golan. This ride will approach the **Syrian border** and stop at **Mt. Bental**, to give you an opportunity to learn about the geo-political situation of the area.

Picnic lunch followed by a **hike in the splendid landscape of Gamla Nature Reserve**, which boasts a phenomenal concentration of birds of prey in a relatively small area, and the earliest known synagogue in the world. Scores of pairs of Griffon vultures nest on the cliffs, comprising the largest flock of Griffon vultures in Israel. The vulture population can be observed from a special birdwatching point on the north bank of Nahal Gamla. The remains of the ancient settlement of Gamla are at the foot of the observation point. Gamla was an important city at the end of the Second Temple period. The city catapulted to fame because historian Josephus Flavius related the dramatic story of the Jewish resistance to the Romans at Gamla in the early days of the Great Revolt (67 CE).

Enjoy a **Galilee grill dinner** this evening at **Decks Restaurant on the shores of the Sea of Galilee**, followed by **"She'an Nights"** a multi-media night tour of the ancient **Roman city of Beit She'an-Scythopolis**. Stroll through the streets of the excavated city as audiovisual presentations are projected on the walls, marble columns, temples and mosaics. The voices, stories, song and music complete

the experience of being transported back 2000 years as visitors "meet" local characters and "experience" the earthquake that destroyed the city in 749 CE. **Galei Kinneret Hotel (B, L, D)**

Day 6 ~ Friday, June 4, 2010

Galilee/Jerusalem

Early morning departure to **Jerusalem** through the Jordan Valley. Recite ***Shehecheyanu***, the blessing of thanks upon arriving in Israel's capital, the "**City of Gold**", from **Mt. Scopus**.

Proceed to the **new city of Jerusalem**, with a visit to **Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum**, presents a profoundly Jewish memorial of the Shoah. Listen to survivors' testimonies, view personal possessions, and examine state-of-the-art displays aimed at preserving the story of each of the six million victims. From its dramatic structure designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie to its powerful exhibits, such as the Valley of the Communities and the underground Children's Memorial, Yad Vashem is an unforgettable place of tribute and remembrance.

Visit the **Machane Yehuda market**, the open air fruit and vegetable market which now features artsy boutiques and some fine restaurants, enjoying the hustle and bustle of **Jerusalemites shopping and preparing for Shabbat**.

This evening, walk together to the **Western Wall**. **Festive Shabbat dinner** on the **roof of the Hebrew Union College** with Avraham Infeld or other scholar and rabbinical students. **David Citadel Hotel (B, D)**

Day 7 ~ Saturday, June 5, 2010

Jerusalem

Shabbat – a Day of Rest, Reflection and Exploration.

Guided group options for **Shabbat in Jerusalem** are:

- **Experience services at Hebrew Union College or Kehillat Mevasseret Zion**
- **Text study with Avraham Infeld at the hotel**
- **Walking tours of Jerusalem neighborhoods**
- **Walking tour to the Old City, Tower of David and Cardo**
- **A visit to the Tower of David Museum**

Havdala at the hotel with members of the congregation. Watch the city come alive, enjoy night life in Jerusalem. **David Citadel Hotel (B)**

Day 8 ~ Sunday, June 6, 2010

Jerusalem

The day is spent in the **Old City of Jerusalem**. **Discover the The Old City of Jerusalem** - Jerusalem celebrated its 3,000th birthday in 1996. Discover the stories, traditions and legends behind the stones in the ancient city with a historical, cultural and archaeological tour of the **Old City's Four Quarters**. The Old City covers roughly 220 acres and the surrounding walls date back to the 16th Century.

The **Old City** Tour will include the **Jewish Quarter, The City of David, The Davidson Center and the Western Wall Tunnels.**

Ir David (City of David) – This is the starting point of an ongoing and massive archeological investigation into the Jerusalem of 3000 years ago. The new Visitor's Center provides a glimpse of the wealth of the findings. This historic site is undergoing a Jewish revival as Israeli families move back into the area.

Visit the **Davidson Visitors Center** in the **Southern Wall Archaeological Gardens** and enjoy a modern, interactive virtual presentation. Through the film and its exhibits, the Visitors' Center explains the archaeology of Jerusalem covering the First Temple, Second Temple, Byzantine, Islamic and the Crusades periods.

Western Wall Tunnels - Head underneath the Old City's chaotic maze of buildings to the Western Wall for a different perspective on the history of Jerusalem. The extension of the retaining wall, built 2,000 years ago by Herod the Great, was to support the massive compound where the Temple stood. This recently excavated tunnel – whose outlet into the Muslim Quarter has been a source of controversy – is one of the city's most phenomenal sites.

Dinner followed by a **visit to a gallery** and **meeting with a local artist.** **David Citadel Hotel (B, D)**

Day 9 ~ Monday, June 7, 2010

Jerusalem/Negev/Jerusalem

Spend the day in the **Judean desert.** Very early morning departure enroute to **Masada**, King Herod's desert fortress – Palace and last stronghold of the Jewish zealots against the Roman domination in 73 CE. Continue for lunch and an opportunity to **swim** off the shores of the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth almost 1300 feet below sea level. Return to Jerusalem for some time at leisure for last-minute shopping. This evening, enjoy a **farewell dinner** with musical entertainment. **David Citadel Hotel (B, L, D)**

Day 10 ~ Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Jerusalem/USA

Very early morning **transfer to the airport** in Tel Aviv with assistance in departure for the **United States.** Arrive Houston later today.

TOUR PRICE

\$ 4,600.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$ 995.00 single supplement additional

All prices quoted are based on a specific number of participants traveling together in the group, and on air and land rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change.

DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS

DEPOSIT \$500.00 per person (\$100.00 of which is non refundable) submit with registration form to reserve space.

FINAL PAYMENT due on **Friday, February 26, 2010.**

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 8 nights accommodation at hotels listed, with private facilities
- Meal plan as outlined on itinerary; 8 breakfasts/4 lunches/7 dinners
- All transfers and full sightseeing program as outlined on the itinerary by private motorcoach with driver, and English speaking guides
- All entrance fees to sites visited
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Houston via Newark to Tel Aviv
- Airport departure taxes
- Porterage at airports and hotels
- Gratuities to drivers and local guides

◆ **AIR TRANSPORTATION** from Houston via Newark. The airfare included in the tour price is based upon the Super Advanced Purchase Excursion fare in effect at the time of the printing, and is subject to change. The tariff governing this airfare contains conditions and restrictions on its use. These will be provided upon request.

Frosch International Travel reserves the right, and if warranted, will pass on to participant, any price increase due to government airline tax increase and/or increase in fuel charges should they come into effect at any time prior to departure, in addition to any fluctuation in the Shekel exchange rate.

◆ **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS** are provided on the basis of two persons sharing a twin bedded room with private bath, in the hotels selected for the tour. FROSCH, Congregation Beth Israel and its subagents reserve the right to

substitute hotels of the same category when necessary for the proper handling of the tour. **A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement.** A tour participant must pay this supplement when he/she is the sole occupant of assigned accommodation.

◆ **MEALS** included are 8 breakfasts, 4 lunch, 7 dinners, as per itinerary.

◆ **PERSONAL TIPS** to your guides and drivers.

◆ **TRANSFERS AND TOURING IN ISRAEL** is provided by modern air-conditioned/heated motorcoaches, and includes the full sightseeing program outlined in the itinerary. All entrance fees to the places listed in the itinerary are included.

◆ **PORTERAGE** for two pieces of normal-sized luggage is provided at the airport and hotels.

◆ **BAGGAGE** will be carried free of charge by the airlines provided that the total combined dimensions (length plus width plus height) do not exceed 106 inches and neither bag exceeds 62 inches. Carry on baggage must not exceed 39 inches and must conform to the underseat shape of 9 by 14 by 22 inches. Outside the United States, baggage can also be restricted to a total of 70 pounds per bag.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

◆ **PERSONAL ITEMS** such as laundry, telephone calls, and beverages other than coffee or tea served with the meals.

◆ **PASSPORTS** must be carried by each tour member and must be valid 6 months beyond tour date. **Copies of the information pages of the passports must be submitted to FROSCH with final payment.**

CANCELLATION PENALTIES

◆ **CANCELLATION OF LAND ARRANGEMENTS & AIR TICKETS**

Land arrangements: Cancellation of land arrangements incurs the following penalties:

04JAN – 25JAN:	\$250.00 per person
26JAN – 25FEB:	\$500.00 per person
26FEB - Departure:	Non refundable

Air tickets: Cancellations and refunds are governed by the tariff applying to the Super Apex airfare and/or other tariffs of the airlines concerned. **This airfare is non-refundable once ticketed.**

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS RECOMMENDED AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH FROSCH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.

RESPONSIBILITY

This tour is arranged by FROSCH, One Greenway Plaza, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77046 and Congregation Beth Israel. All tickets and coupons governing transportation and other services and facilities furnished are issued by FROSCH, only as agents for such other companies furnishing such services and facilities, and neither they nor their sub-agents shall be held liable for loss or damage to property or injury to person caused by reason of any defect by any transportation company, agent, or any such party providing such services. In addition and without limitation, FROSCH, Congregation Beth Israel and its sub-agents are not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to acts of God or force majeure, illness, disease, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, physical activity (to include walking, hiking, climbing) participated in by tour participant, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their plane or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of this tour.

FROSCH, Congregation Beth Israel and its sub-agents reserve the right to withdraw services and make changes and alterations in the itinerary or trip component at any time and for any reason as may be necessary in their judgment for the proper handling of the tour with or without notice and/or to substitute airlines, hotels of a similar category and FROSCH shall not be liable for any such changes.

If due to weather conditions, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, it would be necessary to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept prospective participant or participant as a member of this trip at any time. In any such event FROSCH's sole obligation is to refund any unused accommodation or other unused trip component. Participant certifies not to have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers.

As being informed by the above information, you are advised to purchase the trip cancellation and interruption insurance offered by FROSCH and there will be no misunderstanding before, during or after your trip.

TOUR MEMBERS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Any disability requiring special attention should be reported to FROSCH at the time the reservation is made. FROSCH will make a reasonable effort to accommodate the special needs of

disabled tour participants, but is not responsible if unable to do so. FROSCH, Congregation Beth Israel and its sub-agents are not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants or other independent suppliers. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour member for walking, dining, getting on and off motorcoaches and other transportation vehicles, or other personal needs. Travelers who need such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion.