

# Join Congregation Etz Chaim's

## Explore Israel Family Trip

### Led by Rabbi Daniel Dorsch

#### July 5-16, 2026

*"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."*



#### Tour Package Includes:

- Hotels: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem; Ramot Resort Hotel in the Galilee; and the Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv
- All Breakfasts, Friday night "Shabbat" Dinner and Shabbat Lunch, 5 weekday dinners and lunches as per itinerary
- Touring with Rabbi Daniel Dorsch and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled deluxe touring Motor Coach

#### A Few Tour Highlights:

- **Old Jaffa** – Explore the ancient port city where history meets modern artistic charm.
- **Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard** – Walk through the heart of Tel Aviv, where Israel's independence was declared.
- **Caesarea's Roman Ruins** – Witness the grandeur of Herod's coastal city, with its amphitheater and stunning Mediterranean views.
- **Tzfat's Mystical Alleys** – Discover the birthplace of Kabbalah and wander through picturesque synagogues.
- **Golan Heights Jeep Tour** – Gain insight into Israel's complex geopolitics from strategic viewpoints.
- **Shabbat at the Western Wall** – Experience an unforgettable Friday evening with Jews from around the world.
- **City of David & Hezekiah's Tunnel** – Walk through biblical history with a hands-on archaeological experience.
- **Optional Bar and Bat Mitzvah Service on Masada** – Ascend Masada's fortress and float in the healing waters of the Dead Sea.
- **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** – Reflect on Jewish history at Israel's national Holocaust memorial.
- **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery** – Honor Israeli heroes with an insightful, meaningful visit.
- **Israel Museum & Dead Sea Scrolls** – See the world's oldest biblical texts and an ancient model of Jerusalem.

#### Trip Costs and Reductions

##### Discounted price for check payment

Land Only Package – \$5395  
Land and Air Package – \$TBA  
Single Room Supplement – \$1890

##### Full price for credit card payment

Land Only Package – \$5620  
Land and Air Package – \$TBA  
Single Room Supplement – \$1966

##### Reductions

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child as 3<sup>rd</sup> in room – \$590  
Child up to 12 years old 3<sup>rd</sup> in room – \$490  
Adult 3<sup>rd</sup> in a room – \$220

Pricing is based on 25 paying participants, with 30 or more price will reduce \$250 per person if less than 25 - 20 price will increase \$200

Added to the costs above are tips for Guide, Driver, Restaurants, and Porterage – \$220. Tour price is based on minimum of 20 participants, with less than 20 participants the price will increase. Round trip air available through ITW Tours call Stacey at 800-247-7235 or [staceyr@israeltour.com](mailto:staceyr@israeltour.com).

p

View and download itinerary and application at [www.israeltour.com/rdorsch26](http://www.israeltour.com/rdorsch26)

For additional information please call Rabbi Dorsch at 770-973-0137 or email Rabbi at [RabbiDorsch@etzchaim.net](mailto:RabbiDorsch@etzchaim.net)  
Tour arranged by ITW Tours • Tour manager: [Stacey@israeltour.com](mailto:Stacey@israeltour.com) • 800-247-7235

## Sunday, July 5 – Depart USA

- Overnight flight to Israel

## Monday, July 6 – Going up into the Land

- Afternoon arrival in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (today's program depends on arrival time).
- Tour **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city once known as Zion Gate from which Jonah tried to flee and where Solomon brought the Cedars of Lebanon on the way to Jerusalem. Today paintings and sculptures have been installed in its ancient alleys.
- **Shehekiyanu**/Welcome ceremony on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Check-in to the **Carlton Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- **Welcome dinner** and **orientation** at **Goshen Restaurant**.
- **Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

## Tuesday, July 7 – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State

- Visit the **Palmach Museum** in **Ramat Aviv** to learn about the elite underground organization which played a critical role in founding the State of Israel.
- Stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** to hear about David Ben Gurion declaring the new State of Israel outside Independence Hall and the establishment of Tel Aviv standing at the nearby **Founders' Monument**, then see the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on own and free time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin Crafts Fair**. While there checkout the nearby **Carmel Market** and bohemian **Sheinkin Street** – All three of these Tel Aviv icons meet at the “**Magen David Junction**”.
- Travel to **Rehovot** for a guided tour of the **Ayalon Institute** – An underground bullet factory used by Jewish forces before the founding of the State of Israel.
- **Free time to swim** in the **Mediterranean Sea** and enjoy **beachside promenade**.
- Free evening – Information will be provided about **local culture** and **entertainment** venues.
- Dinner on own.
- **Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv**

## Wednesday, July 8 – Roman Caesarea and Mystical Tzfat

- Check out of hotel.
- Travel north along the **Mediterranean Coast**.
- Visit the ruins of **Caesarea**, including its **Roman Theater, Amphitheater, Hippodrome** and **Promontory Palace**, then ponder a rabbinic debate over Jews attending gladiator games.
- Lunch on own
- Tour mystical **Tzfat's** old synagogues and picturesque alleyways. Tzfat was the cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) in the 16th century. Judaism's Friday night service, Kabbalat Shabbat, and the hymn **Lecha Dodi** originated in Tzfat at that time.
- Drive to the Sea of Galilee region.
- Check-in to the **Ramot Resort Hotel** on **Moshav Ramot** overlooking the **Sea of Galilee**.
- Dinner at hotel.
- **Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel**

## Thursday, July 9 – Banias Nature Reserve

- **Banias**, Discover Israel's mightiest waterfall and the thrill of the Hanging Trail at the Hermon Stream Nature Reserve, a treasure trove of historical wonders.
- **Raft** or **Kayak** down the **Jordan River** – A Great way to cool off on a hot day!
- Lunch on own
- Jeep tour of the **Golan Heights** for a perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we visit bunkers where the Syrian army

“looked down” at Israel. Then look out at the border region from strategic **Mt. Bental**.

**Please choose one of the following two “touring and tasting” options. Both located on nearby Kibbutz Ein Zivan** (Possibility of splitting the group):

- Chocolate making workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory**.
- **OR:** Guided tour of the boutique **Bahat Winery** including wine tasting.
- **Barbeque dinner with young Israeli soldiers** who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel.
- **Overnight: Ramot Resort Hotel**

## Friday, July 10 – Across Israel: Ancient, Modern and Distinctly Jewish

- See the **ancient synagogue** of **Hamat Tiberias** and discover why a wheel of the zodiac appears on its 1,500 year old mosaic floor.
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- Shehekiyanu/Welcome ceremony overlooking the **Old City of Jerusalem**.
- Lunch on own
- Explore the bustling **Machane Yehuda Market** and take in a slice of local life as you rub elbows with Jerusalemites shopping for Shabbat.
- Check-in to **Inbal Hotel** in **Jerusalem**.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.

### Friday evening/Kabbalat Shabbat options:

- Join hundreds of other Jews from around the world to **Greet the Sabbath** at the **Western Wall**. Option to join the new **egalitarian Kabbalat Shabbat minyan** run by the **Masorti Movement** at the **Masorti Kotel**, where men and women can pray together (begins at 6:00 pm).
- **OR:** Attend the “**Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat**” service at the **First Station Compound** (begins at 5:00pm).
- **OR:** Attend Friday night services at a local Jerusalem synagogue.
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- **Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Saturday, July 11 – And on the Seventh Day... in Jerusalem

- **Shabbat morning services** at a the synagogue of your choice (Recommendations and directions will be provided).
- **Shabbat Lunch** at hotel.
- Free time to relax and enjoy **hotel pool**.
- **Late afternoon** walking tour to the historic **Montefiore Windmill** to discover the first neighbourhood built outside the walls of the Old City.
- **AND/OR:** Walking tour to First Temple period burial site at **Ketef Hinnom** – Where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found.
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Dorsch
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- **Recommendation for the evening:** Visit the **First Station Compound**, Jerusalem's restored Ottoman railway station turned restaurant – cafe area.
- **Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Sunday, July 12 – The Old City of Jerusalem: An Ancient Jewish Legacy

- Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes from rabbinic texts while standing where Jewish pilgrims walked 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
- Walk through the the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own in Jewish Quarter.
- Guided tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo, Broad Wall** and **Rooftops** followed by free time to shop and explore on own.
- Explore the **City of David** using the Bible and archaeology to make Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the city's ancient past.
- Wade through **Hezekiah's Tunnel** – A still

flowing ancient water system that saved the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago (dry option available).

- Dinner on own in Jerusalem's **Mamilla Quarter**.
- Watch the **Night Spectacular** – Sound and light show at the **Tower of David**.
- **Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Monday, July 13 – Masada and the Dead Sea: Freedom Fighters or Fanatics?

- Set out across the **Judean Desert** and ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence.
- Optional Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony in the ancient synagogue.
- **Discussion: Which Jewish Legacy – Masada or Yavne?**
- Swim in the **Dead Sea**, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense.
- Lunch at Dead Sea resort.
- *Time permitting:* Walk in **Ein Gedi Nature Reserve** opportunity to bath in waterfalls and hear how David hid there from King Saul.
- Stop off at “**Abraham's Tent**” for a **Camel ride** and biblical dinner.
- **Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Tuesday, July 14 – Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity

- Visit **Yad Lakashish** – A unique employment and Tzedakah project serving Jerusalem's elderly citizens and stop off its store where shopping is a mitzvah.
- Guided tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Holocaust History Museum** and **Children's Memorial**. (Children under age 10 are not permitted in Yad Vashem's historical museum).
- **Alternate program for younger children:** Visit Jerusalem's **Biblical Zoo**, where you'll see animals which lived in Israel during biblical times. (Children must be accompanied by an adult. Zoo visit not included in the tour price).
- Lunch on own
- See the world renown **Chagall Windows** at **Hadassah Hospital**.
- Experience the life story of Theodore Herzl, the ‘father of modern Zionism’ at the multimedia **Herzl Museum**, followed by a meaningful visit the **Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery** with a special emphasis on the personal stories of soldiers who fell in the Swords of Iron/October 7th War.
- Free evening. Dinner on own.
- **Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem**

## Wednesday, July 15 – Underground Adventure and Departure

- Visit to the **Israel Museum** to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the **Shrine of the Book** and the **Model of Jerusalem** in the first century. **Recommendation:** Stay at the Israel Museum to explore additional exhibitions, such as Modern Israeli Art, Synagogue Interiors in the Judaica Section or the Archaeology Wing.
- Lunch on own
- Remainder of afternoon free to explore on own and get in last minute shopping.
- **Late check out**
- Farewell dinner at **Ima Restaurant**
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

## Thursday, July 16 – Arrive in USA

- Begin planning your next Israel trip with Rabbi Dorsch and ITW Tours!