



Explore Israel with Kehillat Maarav Led by Rabbi Michael Gotlieb January 7 - 19, 2018

(Draft July 10, 2017; Subject to change)

Sunday, 7 January – Depart USA

Monday, 8 January – Going up into the Land

- Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (*today's program depends on arrival time*)
- Tour **Old Jaffa**, where paintings and sculptures have been installed in the alleys of the ancient port city once known as the *Gate of Zion*.
- **Shekhiyanu**-Welcome ceremony on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Descend below the streets of Jaffa to the **Jaffa Tales – Old Jaffa Visitors Center** to watch a multimedia presentation unravel over 5,000 years of local history.
- Check-in to the **Carlton Hotel on Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast**.
- Welcome dinner at **Maganda Yemenite Restaurant**.
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 9 January – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State

- Walking tour of historic "**Little Tel Aviv**" - Discover the quaint **Neve Tzeddek** neighbourhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years".
- Relive David Ben Gurion declaring the new State of Israel at **Independence Hall**.
- Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv at the **Founders' Monument** then stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** to view the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on own
- Visit the **Palmach Museum in Ramat Aviv** to learn about the elite underground organization which played a critical role in the founding of the State of Israel.
- Tour the **Israeli Museum** at the **Yitzhak Rabin Center** for a critical look at Israeli society.
- Dinner on own
- Evening: Israel Concert Philharmonic
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Wednesday, 10 January – Cradles of Jewish Civilization in the Galilee

- Depart for northern Israel.
- Explore ancient **Tzippori** and study a Jewish text in the ruins of the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna. See its magnificent mosaics, including **Mona Lisa of the Galilee**, **Nile Flood Festival** and hear why **Orpheus** looks like King David.

- **ITC Touch:** Ponder why an **ancient synagogue** floor features a wheel of the zodiac.
- Tour mystical **Tzfat's** old synagogues and picturesque alleyways and discover the origins of our Friday night service in the city where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Check-in to the **Kfar Blum Hotel** in the **Galilee Panhandle**.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Kfar Blum

Thursday, 11 January – Ancient and Modern Geopolitics and Israel's Finest

- Meet young Israeli soldiers on the Lebanese border near **Kibbutz Malkiya** and receive a security briefing from Eitan Oren Malkiya's security coordinator.
- *Time permitting:* Walk in the lush **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**, one of the sources of the **Jordan River**, where you'll discover biblical intrigue and one of the oldest arches in the world.
- Lunch on own.
- Tour of the **Golan Heights** for a special perspective on Israel's complex geopolitics as we "look down at Israel" the way the Syrian army once did and then look out at the border from the peak of 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:** Taste wines and liqueurs at the boutique **Bahat Winery** including wine tasting.
- **BBQ** dinner with young Israeli soldiers, who are giving some of the best years of their lives to the defense of Israel - Meet the human face of the Israeli army.
- Overnight: Kfar Blum

Friday, 12 January – Across Israel: A Multicultural Jewish Society

- Discover **Ethiopian Jewish culture** at the **Germachin Center** in **Beit Shean**. Hear a personal account of this community's modern day Exodus story and about the challenges facing the Ethiopian Israeli community today.
- Lunch on own
- Continue south through the **Jordan Valley** and ascend to **Jerusalem**.
- **Shehekhianu ceremony** to celebrate arriving in **Jerusalem** overlooking the **Old City**.
- Check-in to the **David Citadel Hotel** in **Jerusalem**.
- Free time to relax and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Greet the Sabbath** at the the "**Masorati Kotel**", the egalitarian section of the **Western Wall** near **Robinson's Arch**. (Arrange for Sim Shalom Sidur for all participants).
- **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel
- Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, 13 January – And on the Seventh Day... in Jerusalem

- **Shabbat morning services** at the synagogue of your choice (Recommendations and directions will be provided).
- **Traditional Shabbat Lunch** at hotel
- Optional walking tour of the **Chrisian Quarter**, including the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and a portion of the **Via Dolorosa**.

- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Gotlieb.
- Dinner on own.
- Watch the **Night Spectacular** – Sound and light show at the **Tower of David**.
- Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 14 January – *The Old City of Jerusalem – An Ancient Jewish Legacy*

- Explore the **City of David**, including its ancient water systems (without getting wet), using the Bible and archaeology to make Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the city's ancient past.
- **AND/OR:** Discover the archaeological story of the **Western Wall** and episodes of Jewish life in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago at **Robinson's Arch** and the **Southern Wall Excavations**.
- Visit the traditional prayer area of the **Western Wall**.
- Walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own in the **Jewish Quarter**.
- Tour of the **Jewish Quarter** including the **Cardo, Broad Wall** and **Rooftops**.
- 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. *Time permitting:* Free time to explore additional exhibitions on own.
- Explore the **Machane Yehuda Market** in the early evening as it transforms from a bustling traditional marketplace to a hip food court.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 15 January – *Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity*

- Visit **Yad Lakashish**, a unique employment project helping Jerusalem's elderly, including a stop in its shop "*where shopping is a mitzvah!*"
- Learning session at the **Schechter Institute** – Subject to be determined.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial, including a moving visit to the **Children's Memorial**, followed by a tour of the **Holocaust History Museum**.
- Meaningful visit to **Mt Herzl Cemetery** to discover chapters in the history of Israel while visiting the graves of Yitzhak Rabin, Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl and Hannah Senesch.
- Dinner on own
- Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 16 January – *Defense and Pioneering in the Negev*

- Visit the **Shifdan**, a cutting-edge water treatment and recovery plant in **Rishon LeTzion**, which has helped change Israel's approach to water conservation.
- Travel to the **western Negev**.
- Visit **Kibbutz Alumim** to meet with a local *kibbutznik* and hear first-hand about living on the Gaza border and express our solidarity with residents of the region.
- Lunch at Kibbutz Alumim
- Guided tour of the **Israeli Air Force Museum** at **Hatzerim** to see exhibition of historic Israeli Air Force planes and hear the story of this elite branch of the Israel Defense Forces.
- Travel to the **Negev Highlands**.
- *Time permitting*: Look out at the majestic **Zin Cliffs** from **Ben Gurion's Gravesite**.
- Check in to the luxurious **Beresheet Hotel** in **Mitzpe Ramon**.
- Dinner at hotel
- Overnight: Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon

Wednesday, 17 January – *Negev Highlands: Primeval Desert Beauty*

- Learn about the natural history of the region at the multimedia **Makhtesh Ramon Visitors Center** dedicated to fallen Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon.
- Explore **Makhtesh Ramon** (Ramon Crater) on foot and by jeep to discover magnificent desert landscapes and a fascinating window into the earth's past.
- Lunch on own.
- Afternoon free to enjoy the hotel's **spa** and **recreational facilities**.
- **OR: Cycling tour** in the Makhtesh Ramon region.
- Dinner at Beresheet Hotel.
- Overnight: Beresheet Hotel, Mitzpe Ramon.

Thursday, 18 January – *Vision and Development in the Negev*

- Tour of **Avdat** an ancient Nabatean city and caravan station on the "Spice Route" from Arabia to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Walk in the beautiful white canyon of **Ein Avdat** springs in the **Zin Valley**.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of **David Ben Gurion's House** on **Kibbutz Sde Boker** to learn about his vision for developing the Negev.
- Travel to the western Negev
- Tour of an exotic orchard, followed by a gourmet farewell dinner at **Ora's Yard** on **Moshav Kfar Maimon**. Taste their home-made liqueurs and jams. Hear your hosts' moving immigration stories.
- Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

Friday, 19 January – *Arrive in USA*

- Begin planning your next **Israel trip** with Rabbi Gotlieb and ITC Tours!

Kehillat Ma'arav Israel Trip

January 7 - 19, 2018

Led by Rabbi Michael Gottlieb

Travel to Israel and immerse yourself in ancient sites, modern museums, Israeli cuisine, 5-star hotels, and breathtaking views.



REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (as it appears on passport): _____ E-mail Address: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME #: _____ CELL#: _____ WORK#: _____ FAX #: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PASSPORT #: _____ PASSPORT EXP. DATE: _____

IMPORTANT! Check the expiration date on your passport – It must be valid for 6 months beyond your trip return date!

All prices are per person in a double-room based on minimum of 20 participants. Price reduction extended at 25 participants. Airport Tax and Fuel Surcharges are subject to change until purchased. Pricing is subject to change until the trip is paid in full. Payment in full is due 90 DAYS before departure.

- Discounted price for check payment: Land Only Package \$3,695 Air and Land Package \$4860
- Full price for credit card payment: Land Only Package \$3,840 Air and Land Package \$5,055
- Discounted price for check payment for Single Room Supplement: \$1,280
- Full price for credit card payment for Single Room Supplement: \$1,330
- Reduction off price for 3rd adult in room: \$ 200
- All reservations must include the tips for the Tour Guide, Driver, Waiters and Porterage \$220
- Travel insurance is optional, but highly recommended! Visit www.israeltour.com for coverage and rates.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE:

1. Read the "Terms and Conditions" on the reverse page, and sign/date at the bottom.
2. Complete this application.
3. Include a deposit by check payable to **ITC Tours** of \$250 per passenger. Include the optional travel insurance if purchasing at the time of registration:

Passengers _____ X \$250 Deposit = \$ _____
Optional Travel Insurance Premium = \$ _____
Total Amount Due Now: = \$ _____

4. Return the application and check to:
ITC Tours LLC
66 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Suite 206
Livingston, NJ 07039

For more information, contact ITC Tours:

Phone: 973-535-2575 or 1-800-2 Israel

Email: info@israeltours.com

Fax: 973-535-2690

Web: www.israeltour.com



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



ROOMS: Prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available at a supplementary cost. of 1280ck

TAXES: Airport tax and fuel surcharge are included in the ticket price when ticketed.

INSURANCE: Insurance is not included in the tour price. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. Please note that we cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses, which you or any member of your party may incur as a result of failing to secure adequate coverage.

MEDICAL CONDITION: ITC is not responsible for any medical conditions that may occur during or prior to the tour.

CANCELLATION: All cancellations must be in writing to ITC Tours, and must be signed by the person who made the original reservation. Cancellations are only effective from the day they are received by ITC Tours. No refunds are issued for cancellations received after the date the tour departs. Penalties will apply. If you cancel your tour, cancellation fees and penalties will be deducted from your refund or deposit. Cancellation fees will apply to all deposit checks. Airline penalties could be equal to the total cost of the ticket. Cancellation fees apply to each person.

MINIMUM FEE OF \$100.00 PER PERSON FOR ANY CANCELLATION PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. The cancellation fees listed below are in addition to any penalties applied by airlines, hotels and tour operators. No refunds are issued for cancellations on private tour itineraries. After itinerary is complete, there will be a \$100.00 Change fee assessed per change.

DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE	CANCELLATION FEE
90 - 76 Days	\$300.00 per person
75 --- 65Days	\$400.00 per person
64 Days or less	No Refund

BAGGAGE: Luggage is the responsibility of the passenger and that of the airlines. For lost luggage claims, the passenger is responsible for notifying the airline directly.

SEAT ASSIGNMENTS: There is no advance seat selection for tour departures, however, ITC Tours will try to meet individual requests upon availability. Three hours' advance arrival at the airport is necessary to ensure adequate time for check-in.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLIGHT AND PASSENGER ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES: ITC is responsible for making all arrangements for tour services offered in the itinerary. The airlines, hotels, land operators and other suppliers providing services are independent contractors and not agents, employees or associates of ITC. Acceptance and confirmation of your reservation is at the discretion of the airlines even after full payment has been made. ITC, Rabbi Michael Gotlieb and Kehillat Ma'arav assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of an aircraft, motor coach, taxi, or other conveyances, which may be used in the performance of its duty to the passengers. All vouchers and other documents for services issued by the company are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers, and to the laws of the country where services are supplied. If the tour services as indicated by the itinerary cannot be supplied, or there are changes in the itinerary for reasons beyond the control of ITC, ITC will arrange for provision of comparable services. ITC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary whenever ITC deems it necessary to the comfort, convenience and safety of the participant at any time. The participant agrees that ITC shall not be liable for any changes in flight schedules, delays, weather conditions, damages, losses (including personal injuries, death and property losses), or expenses occasioned by acts or omissions of any person, including suppliers providing services, or for any acts of war, insurrection, revolts, or other civil uprisings, military actions, strikes, or acts of God occurring either in the country of origin, through passage or destination. No person other than an authorized representative of ITC by written consent is authorized to vary, add or waive any term or condition in this agreement. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any tour passenger should such person's health or general deportment impede the operation of the tour to the detriment of the other tour passengers.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: Each passenger participant must have a valid passport. **Please make sure the expiration date is at least 6 months past your date of departure.**

IMMUNIZATIONS: No immunization shots or vaccinations are required at present, unless otherwise noted.

ITINERARY: The sequence of activities in the itinerary may change or be reversed. Some may be omitted due to circumstances beyond the control of ITC.

My (our) signature(s) below indicate(s) that I (we) have read and agreed to the Terms and Conditions included with this trip package.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____