

Congregation B'nai Israel West

Bloomfield Israel Trip



May 2025

Prepared by: David Abraham

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary is not final and is subject to change based on time, weather, security and other considerations.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL (NO GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, May 16 2025

- Welcome to Israel!!! Land at **Ben Gurion Airport** on Flight #____. After going through passport control, baggage claim & custom, you will take a **group transfer**. Please keep your blue slip from Passport Control throughout the trip.
- Transfer to Tel Aviv & check-in to your hotel. Please note that check-in is not before 2/3pm unless arranged otherwise
- Unpack, rest & relax
- Shabbat dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Dan Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 2 - SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV (NO GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, May 17 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at the hotel
- Day at leisure in Tel Aviv
- Evening program and dinner (included) - TBD

Overnight: Dan Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 3 - JAFFA & TEL AVIV (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, May 18 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Meet your guide and start your adventure together!
- Explore the **Old Port of Jaffa** with its charming alleyways, artists' galleries & stunning views over Tel Aviv
- Experience the vibe at the **Nachalat Binyamin arts-&-crafts fair**
- For lunch, enjoy a culinary tour in the **Carmel Market** with a food tasting tour by discovering the people and the stories behind the food and the flavors
- Visit wounded **IDF soldiers** in **Tel HaShomer Hospital** and hear their incredible stories of bravery - both under fire and also in rehabilitation
- (Hopefully not relevant) Join together with people from across the country at **Kikar HaHatufim** (Hostage Square) in Tel Aviv & meet with family members of someone who was abducted
- Return to hotel
- Evening & dinner on own
- Opening group dinner at local restaurant (included)

Overnight: Dan Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 4 - GAZA BORDER (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, May 19 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out of hotel
- Departure (please ensure that you have closed shoes for the volunteering as well as protection against the sun)
- Volunteer with **local farmers in the South** who have been affected by the conflict and assist them planting, harvesting or packaging their crops
- Visit **Sderot** including a lookout over Gaza, the site of the Police Station, Children's Playground & meet with residents who will share their experiences from October 7th
- Enjoy lunch at **Hummus Shel Tehina** a bastion of delicious homestyle cooking and warm service that'll make you feel right at home
- Bear witness at one of the kibbutzim that was brutally attacked by Hamas terrorists on October 7th
- Meet with a survivor from the **Nova Music Festival** in the Re'im Forest
- Return to Tel Aviv
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Dan Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 5 - CENTRAL ISRAEL (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, May 20 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Behind the scenes tour of the state of the art **Marcus National Blood Services Center**- the world's first underground anti-missile blood center
- Explore the vibrancy of Jewish Life & peoplehood at the ultra-modern, interactive **ANU Museum**
- Lunch on own en route
- Experience the thrill of flying an **F-16 fighter plane** on an advanced simulator under the direction of experienced IAF pilots
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Dan Hotel - Tel Aviv

DAY 6 - TEL AVIV TO HAIFA (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Wednesday, May 21 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Visit the **Rishpon Healing Center**, a groundbreaking response to trauma treatment since October 7, 2023
- Lunch on own en route
- Discover the magnificent port city of **Caesarea** including the Roman Theater, Hippodrome, Palace of King Herod & more...
- Tour the historic, award-winning **Tishbi Winery** and enjoy tastings of wine and chocolate
- Check into hotel
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Dan Panorama Haifa

DAY 7 - NORTH POST OCTOBER 7 (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Thursday, May 22 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Meet with some of the **evacuees from the North** and hear from them their frustrations and their hope for the future
- Travel to **Yemin Orde** - a home, school and safe haven to 440 at-risk and immigrant youth from around the world, and meet students and hear their success stories
- Lunch with the students of Yemin Orde
- Overlook the Galilee from the top of the **Carmel Mountain - the Muchraka** and hear the story of Elijah the prophet and his encounter with the Baal Prophets
- Hear a **security briefing** about the conflict with Hizbullah in the North by Major **Avital Zorda**, resident of Kibbutz Yiftach
- **BBQ Dinner with soldiers** - Base TBD
- Return to hotel

Overnight: Dan Panorama Haifa

DAY 8 - HAIFA TO JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Friday, May 23 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Explore the impressive **Crusader City of Akko** including the Knights' Halls, Templar Tunnels, Lighthouse & more
- Experience authentic **Druze hospitality** and lunch at the village of Dalyat-el-Carmel- Usafia
- Continue toward Jerusalem
- Check in to hotel and prepare for Shabbat
- **6:55 pm:** Candle lighting at the hotel
- Optional: Join thousands of Jews from around the globe in joyous celebration of Shabbat at the **Western Wall**
- Shabbat dinner at hotel (included)

Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 9 - SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM (NO GUIDE, NO TRANSPORTATION)

Saturday, May 24 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Day at leisure on own in Jerusalem. Options include:
- Join morning services at a local synagogue
- Explore the impressive **Israel Museum** including the Shrine of the Book, Model of Jerusalem, Archeology Wing, Sculpture Garden & Wing of Jewish Life.
- Enjoy walking through the beautiful **Yemin Moshe** neighborhood & **Montefiore's Windmill**
- Explore the **Christian Quarter** including the **Via Dolorosa** & **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**
- Hunt for a bargain at the bustling **Arab Souk** in the Old City

Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 10 - OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Sunday, May 25 2025

- Full Israel breakfast at hotel
- Introduction to the Old City of Jerusalem at the impressive **Jaffa Gate**
- Walk along the **Ramparts of the Old City Walls** from Jaffa Gate to Zion Gate
- Experience the sites & sounds of the historic **Jewish Quarter** including the Cardo, Broad Wall, Batei Machase & more
- Lunch in Jewish Quarter on own
- Time for reflection at the Western Wall
- Explore the fascinating **Western Wall Tunnels** that unlock the secrets of Jerusalem's glorious past
- Discover the splendor of the Second Temple as you visit the **Southern Wall Excavations & Davidson Center**
- Return to hotel
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 11 - YOM YERUSHALAYIM (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Monday, May 26 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Pay tribute to the Memory of Six Million at the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum** & Children's Memorial
- Lunch on own
- Volunteer creating **ceramic kalaniot flowers** that are then "planted" at memorials for those who lost their lives and livelihood on October 7
- Join in the **Yom Yerushalayim** celebrations, commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967
- Dinner on own

Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

DAY 12 - SAR EL IDF VOLUNTEERING (GUIDE, TRANSPORTATION)

Tuesday, May 27 2025

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Volunteer at an **IDF Base** with Sar-El packaging & sorting military equipment or supplies. Lunch is included at the base
- Return to Jerusalem
- Evening & dinner on own

Overnight: Prima Kings Hotel - Jerusalem

- Full Israeli breakfast at hotel
- Check out of hotel & depart
- **Cooking workshop** for soldiers - make meals to be donated to IDF soldiers
- Experience the vibe at the **Machane Yehudah Outdoor Market**
- Lunch on own in market
- Pay tribute to the heroes who are interred at the **Mount Herzl Military Cemetery**
- Travel towards Tel Aviv
- Final dinner together at local restaurant
- Transfer to airport for your flight home
- **NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!!**

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