



The Park Synagogue Women's Israel Tour led by Rabbi Sharon Marcus

27 October – 7 November 2014

(draft July 9, 2013; subject to change)

“Arise, Travel Throughout the Land” (Gen. 13:17)

Sunday, 27 October – USA Departure

- Overnight flight to Israel!

Monday, 28 October – When You Come Into the Land (Deut. 26:1)

- Afternoon arrival (2:05 pm) in **Israel**, to be met and assisted at Ben Gurion Airport by your ITC representative (*today's program depends on arrival time*)
- Visit a colorful center for **Ethiopian Jewry** in Ramla; hear their immigration stories first-hand and learn about the challenges they face and the unique contributions of this community to the Israeli fabric; take part in a traditional **coffee ceremony**
- Enjoy a delicious **welcome dinner** at Lilliot, a **gourmet teaching restaurant** for young people at risk
- Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, 29 October – Foundations of the Jewish State

- Visit the **Ilana Goor Museum** in **Old Jaffa** to view the stirring collection of this signature Israeli artist
- At **Sarah Ahronson House** in Zichron Yaakov, learn about the valiant underground work and personal sacrifice of this freedom fighter and her compatriots
- Enjoy a tour and **wine and chocolate tasting** over lunch at the lovely Tishbi Winery
- Take part in a women's study session at the mikveh of Masorti **Kibbutz Hannaton** with **Rabbi Haviva Ner-David**
- Hotel check-in and dinner
- Overnight: Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel, Galilee (boutique wing)

Wednesday, 30 October – In the Footsteps of Mystics, Financiers, and Defenders

- Tour the mystical city of **Tzefat**, including **cheese-tasting** at the gourmet Meiri Cheese Company, housed in a Tzefat heritage building
- Take in a **glass blowing demonstration** with a Tzefat artist in her studio; hear how she connects the spiritual to the physical through her art
- Visit the quaint town of **Rosh Pina**, one of the earliest settlements in modern Israel, including its lovely artists' colony

- In Tiberias, visit **Dona Gracia House** to become acquainted with the fascinating life of this 16th century Jewish heroine and Tiberias financial leader via dramatic storytelling and an opportunity to pose for photos in period clothing
- Enjoy **dinner** at a Galilee steak restaurant to be **joined by Israeli soldiers** (females requested) who will be sitting at our tables and sharing with us their view of army life
- Overnight: Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel, Galilee (boutique wing)

Thursday, 31 October – *The Jordan River Valley and Ascent to Jerusalem*

- At the picturesque **Kinneret Cemetery**, read the moving poetry of the pioneer, Rachel the Poetess, and sing the songs of Naomi Shemer, first lady of Israeli music
- Enjoy programming with our peers and lunch in our Partnership community of **Beit Shean** (arranged/hosted by P2K; not included in tour price)
- Continue south for the **ascent to Jerusalem**
- Enter the **Old City** of Jerusalem and tour the **Jewish Quarter**, with a special focus on War of Independence nurse and **war heroine Esther Calingold**
- Take part in a fascinating tour of the recently rebuilt **Hurva Synagogue**, once the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem
- Enjoy a special dinner at **Eucalyptus**
- Evening: Travel back to ancient Jerusalem as you explore some of the newer finds at **David's City**
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Friday, 1 November – *Jerusalem – Her Hills Surround Her (Ps. 125:2)*

- Enjoy some shopping time at the **Jerusalem House of Quality**
- Visit the ancient fortress of **Herodian**, built by Herod and used by Jewish fighting forces throughout the ages; also the site of an ancient synagogue and King Herod's recently discovered tomb
- Enjoy a tour of the special community of **Tekoa** and a text study session about the Wise Woman of Tekoa over a **home hospitality** lunch
- Return to our hotel to prepare for Shabbat
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** at a choice of neighborhood synagogues (suggestions, walking instructions to be provided)
- **Shabbat Dinner** at the hotel
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Shabbat, 2 November – *Shabbat in Jerusalem*

- Shabbat morning services at **Masorti congregation**, Moreshet Yisrael
- **Shabbat lunch** at the hotel
- Enjoy a **Shabbat walking tour** with our guide through a choice of fascinating neighborhoods near our hotel
- Take part in a Women of the Wall dinner **OR** Enjoy home hospitality and a delicious home-cooked **Yemenite dinner** accompanied by your hostess's enchanting performance of traditional Yemenite men's songs and women's songs with folklore commentary
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, 3 November - *Jerusalem Cooks*

- Take a special **cooks' tour of Machaneh Yehuda** open-air market followed by a **cooking workshop** where we prepare our delicious lunch
- Join the Women of the Wall mission for their opening ritual and Teflah led by Rabbi Judy Schindler and Cantor Tamar Havilio
- Official Welcome by Women of the Wall
- Dinner on your own
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, 4 November – *Rosh Hodesh Kislev*

- Early breakfast at hotel
- **7:00 a.m. Rosh Chodesh Kislev at the Kotel** with Women of the Wall
- **25th Anniversary Celebratory Oneg** with Women of the Wall
- Debrief the Rosh Chodesh experience
- **Touring in the Old City-** Religious Pluralism and Diversity within the Old City: Successes and Tensions- options with varying levels of walking
- Lunch on your own during touring
- Return to the hotel- free time
- **GALA Dinner**
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, 5 November – *Day of Learning*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Opening speaker- Members of Knesset Ruth Calderon, Mira Michaeli, or Tamar Zanberg to be invited
- Study session- pick two of three- led by scholars of local seminaries including HUC, JTS, and Hartman, among others
 - Halachah of issues related to Women and prayer
 - Second Temple – What's the Big Deal?
 - Option 3: TBA
- Moving Forward: Panel Discussion: Why This? Why Now? With Natan Sharansky (pending availability)
- Box Lunch
- Jerusalem's Walls, Fences, and Security Barriers – the Kotel in the context of greater Jerusalem: **Choose One**
 - Ir Amim Tour – A political tour of Jerusalem that provides a thorough introduction to Israeli policy in Jerusalem since 1967, which has influenced the relationship between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian population; learn, too, about recent developments
 - Rakevet Kalah Tour – On a guided tour of Jerusalem's light rail, observe and learn about the different populations that make up Jerusalem society and the relationships between them.
 - Freedom Riders- Participate in the effort led by the Israel Religious Action Center to stop desegregation on Israel's public buses. Be a Freedom Rider and make a difference.

- Gather for Tefilah
- Dinner on your own
- Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, 6 November - *Taking Action*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Tefilat Shacharit with meditation
- The Wall- A Symbol of Pluralism- The delegation goes to the Knesset: **Meeting with Members of Knesset** to explain the importance of freedom for all Jews to be able to pray in all places.
- Closing Ritual- Weaving our paths of Pluralism across the globe and strengthening the fabric that connect us led by Rabbi Karyn Kedar
- Free time
- Late hotel check-out
- Delicious **farewell dinner** for our Park Synagogue women's delegation at Anna Ticho House, once home to this famous artist
- Depart Jerusalem for Ben Gurion Airport

Thursday, 7 November – *USA Departure*

- Arrive in USA
- Begin planning your **next Israel trip** with Rabbi Marcus and ITC Tours!

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