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**Family Israel Exploration**

**Led by Rabbi Shoshanah Tornberg**

*December 21, 2023-January 2, 2024*

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| **Thursday, December 21** | ***DeParture*** |

* Departure from Newark Airport (EWR)

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| **Friday, December 22** | ***bruchim haba’aim-welcome to israel*** |

* Arrival at Ben Gurion airport in the morning.
* *(Assistance upon arrival by Keshet representatives).*
* Opening tree planting ceremony and hands-on activities at the Neot Kedumim Biblical Nature Reserve.
* Picnic Brunch
* Outlook from Old Jaffa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, where pilgrims and *olim* entered the Holy Land for centuries.
* Check-in at hotel. Time to freshen up.
* Join Beit Tefilah Yisraeli for a lively musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. Beit Tefilah Israeli is a liberal, independent, and egalitarian community in Tel Aviv, which is committed to Jewish spirit, culture, and social action
* Festive Shabbat Dinner at the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

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| **Shabbat, December 23** | ***shabbat in tel aviv*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Day at leisure to enjoy the city’s museums, galleries and café culture or the beach.
* (The Tel Aviv Museum of Art is open 10-4, The Eretz Israel Museum is open 10-2, Bet Bialik is open 10-2, Nahum Gutman Museum of Art is open 10-3, Reuven Rubin Museum is open 11-2, Ilana Goor Museum is open 10-6, Old Jaffa Visitor’s Center is open 9-5)
* 5:21pm-Group Havdalah by the Beach
* Adult Program: “Jaffa Stories & Coffee” encounter. Meet Doris Hiffawi in her home in the Ajami neighborhood to hear her personal story of a Christian girl growing up in a Jewish, Muslim and Christian area over coffee and snacks (baklava). Parallel Program for Kids: Old Jaffa digital scavenger hunt
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

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| **Sunday, December 24** | ***exile and return*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Visit the new ANU-Museum of the Jewish People.
  + Adults will explore the story of the Jewish people through the ages in the **new core museum** as well as the [**Hallelujah! Assemble, Pray, Study – Synagogues Past and Present**](https://www.bh.org.il/event/assemble-pray-study-synagogues-past-present/)exhibit.
  + Kids will learn about Jewish heroes throughout the ages in the interactive **Heroes-Trailblazers of the Jewish People** exhibit.
* Lunch break (on own)
* Learn why Israel is the Start-Up Nation at the Taglit Innovation Center.
* Walk along the “Independence Trail”, modeled after Boston’s Freedom Trail, to learn about the founding of Tel Aviv and the State of Israel.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Carlton, Tel Aviv*

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| **Monday, December 25** | ***mystics and mountains*** |

* Breakfast at hotel.
* Travel north along the Mediterranean Coast.
* Adults: Meet Racheli Nagatu and the dedicated faculty of the Yemin Orde Youth Village, which provides a home for many young immigrants from Ethiopia and the FSU.
* Kids: Visit the Nisco Museum for Mechanical Music which has the world’s largest collection of music boxes, in the Ein Hod artists colony nearby.
* Enjoy an authentic home hospitality Druze lunch in the village of Usafiya.
* Travel to the mystical city of Zefat.
* Visit the synagogues of the mystics and trace the development of Zefat as a center of Kabbalah to the expulsion from Spain in 1492. (Parallel program for kids).
  + Adults-Art & Kabbalah program with local artist, David Friedman
  + Kids-Candle making workshop
* Shopping time in the artist colony and Jewish quarter.
* Continue to hotel for check-in and dinner.

***Overnight:*** *Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel, Upper Galilee*

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| **Tuesday, December 26** | ***golan heights 3600*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Ascend the Golan Heights to Tel Saki, site of a fateful battle during the Yom Kippur War.
  + Outlook over Syria and briefing by Capt. (Res.) Yaakov Selavan, IDF tank commander.
  + “Bunker Challenge”-Descend into a real bunker that turns into an educational ‘Escape Room’ experience.
  + Meet young IDF soldiers defending Israel’s northern border.
* Lunch break (on own) in Katzrin
* Continue to Kibbutz Ein Zivan
  + Chocolate Lovers’ Option: Hands-on workshop at the De Karina Boutique Chocolate Factory
  + Wine Lovers’ Option: Wine-tasting at the Pelter Winery
* Outlook from Mt. Bental over Kuneitra or Mitzpeh Gadot over the Kinneret (weather permitting)
* Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

***Overnight:*** *Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel, Upper Galilee*

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| **Wednesday, December 27** | ***The Birds and the Bees…*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Guided bird-watching tour in a “Hidden Safari” vehicle through the Agamon Hahula Reserve, which is on the main bird migration route from Europe to Africa.
* Lunch break (on own) en route
* At Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu to learn how this religious kibbutz led the “Green Revolution” in organic farming in Israel. “Bio Bee” tour of the fields and their “bug factory”.
* Continue along the Jordan River Valley to Jerusalem
* Say the *Shehechiyanu* from Mt. Scopus overlooking the Old City
* Check-in at hotel
* Dinner at hotel
* Evening: Israeli Folk Dancing Program

***Overnight:*** *Inbal or King Solomon,**Jerusalem*

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| **Thursday, December 28** | ***this year in jerusalem*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Begin the day at the Southern Wall Excavations learning about the role of the Temple and pilgrimage in ancient times.
* Brief Kotel plaza visit
* Ascend to the Jewish Quarter.
  + Adults: At the Herodian Mansions, see where Jerusalem’s elite lived and delve into the background of the Great Revolt against Rome
  + Kids: Jewish Quarter Scavenger Hunt
* Lunch break (on own) and shopping time in the Cardo
* Volunteer with Pantry Packers
* Family hands-on art project with Kol Ha’aot-The Art of Jewish Living
* Dinner and evening at leisure

***Overnight:*** *Inbal or King Solomon,**Jerusalem*

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| **Friday, December 29** | ***shoah to tekumah*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* We learn and remember at the Yad Vashem Historical Complex, including visits to the Historical Museum, Childrens’ Memorial, and Sculpture Garden. (Parallel program for young children at the Biblical Zoo or Israel Museum’s Youth Wing).
* Lunch break (on own) at the vibrant Machaneh Yehuda fruit & vegetable market.
* Time to prepare for shabbat.
* Candle lighting
* Kabbalat Shabbat at the egalitarian Kotel at Robinson’s Arch (or with the Reform community of Har El)
* Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel or dinner with the Har El community.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal or King Solomon,**Jerusalem*

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| **Shabbat, December 30** | ***jerusalem shabbat*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Shabbat morning services at HUC, Har El or other synagogue.
* Day at leisure to explore the city on your own.
* (The Biblical Zoo is open 10-5, The Israel Museum is open 10-5, The Tower of David Museum is open 10-2, The Bible Lands Museum is open 10-3, The Botanical Gardens are open 9-5).
* We reconvene in the late afternoon for a meeting with Issam Sa’ad, a former Gaza resident who fled Hamas and is now involved in a unique Jewish-Palestinian dialogue project. (Parallel activity for kids)
* Group Havdalah
* Evening: Tower of David “Night Spectacular” sound & light show, projected on the walls of the museum. (weather permitting, dress warmly as the show is outside)
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal or King Solomon,**Jerusalem*

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| **Sunday, December 31** | ***what price freedom?*** |

* Early Breakfast at hotel
* Depart for the Dead Sea Region. En route, optional photo op with “Shushi” the camel at the “Sea Level” marker.
* Ascend Herod’s mountain fortress of Masada by cable-car. Explore why the Jewish rebels chose to live here after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. (Parallel programming for adults & kids). Descend by cable-car to the visitor’s center.
* Lunch break (on own) at the Visitor’s Center.
* Easy hike to the Nahal David waterfall in the oasis of Ein Gedi.
* Enjoy floating in the Dead Sea at a Private Beach
* Return to Jerusalem.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Inbal or King Solomon,**Jerusalem*

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| **Monday, January 1** | ***bnai mitzvah*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Bnei Mitzvah ceremony at the Haas Promenade, overlooking the Old City (weather permitting, Backup venue in case of rain at local synagogue) followed by celebratory kiddush.
* Visit Yad L’Kashish’s (Lifeline of the Elderly) workshops and giftshops, where shopping is a true mitzvah!
* Lunch break (on own)
* Participate hands-on in a unique archaeological project, sifting through excavated remains from ancient Jerusalem.
* Free time for last minute shopping
* Summary and conclusion session
* Farewell Dinner
* Transfer to airport for departing flight.

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| **Tuesday, January 2** | ***bashanah haba’ah*** |

* Arrival in Newark.
* Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and a Keshet Youth Counselor.
* There will be parallel educational programming for adults and youth throughout the trip to allow for age-appropriate learning.
* All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
* This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet.



**Keshet Educational Journeys**

PO Box 8540 Jerusalem 91084 Israel

Phone: 972-2-671-3518 | Fax: 972-2-671-3624

keshet@keshetisrael.co.il | www.keshetisrael.co.il