



## Led by Rabbi Steven M. Gross

May 13 – 24, 2024

As of 14 June 2023

(Subject to change)

### Day 1: Monday, May 13, 2024

- Depart USA for Israel.

**Overnight: In-Flight**

### Day 2: Tuesday, May 14, 2024

#### ARRIVAL/WELCOME TO ISRAEL – GOING UP INTO THE LAND

- Arrive at **Ben Gurion International Airport**, with assistance from a Makor Educational Journeys representative.
- Travel to the **Negev Desert**.
- *If morning arrival:* Guided exploration of biblical **Tel Beer Sheba**, including walking through its ancient water system.
- *If morning arrival:* **Jeep tour** to explore **Makhtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater)** to discover magnificent desert landscapes and a fascinating geological window into the earth's past. Enjoy the extraordinary palette of colors of your first sunset in the Land of Israel.
- Check-in to hotel.
- Dinner at hotel

**Overnight: Kedma Hotel, Sde Boker**



**Day 3: Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

**MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Ascend **Masada** via cable car for a guided visit through the site, including opportunity to view Second Temple Period mosaics and an exploration of the symbolism and questions that arise from the Masada story and their implications for Jewish life today.
- Float in the **Dead Sea** at a Dead Sea resort.
- Lunch at hotel
- Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the hotel's luxurious recreational and spa facilities or participate in some of the optional desert activities:
  - Option – Run, Walk or Bike (not included).
- Dinner at hotel
- Optional Night Stargazing.

**Overnight: Kedma Hotel, Sde Boker**

**Day 4: Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**JERUSALEM: ANCIENT AND HOLY**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- View the **Zin Valley** from **David Ben Gurion's Gravesite** at **Sde Boker** and discuss the place of the desert in the beginnings of Judaism and Jewish peoplehood.
- Travel to **Jerusalem**.
- As you enter Jerusalem, pause for a view the **Old City of Jerusalem** and **Temple Mount**, a moment for collective memory, reflection and *Shehecheyanu*.
- 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**.
- Guided walk through the **Western Wall Tunnels** to discover underground Jerusalem.
- Lunch on own
- Tour of **Jewish Quarter** including the **Herodian Mansions, Cardo, Broad Wall** and **Rooftops**.
- Check in to the hotel in Jerusalem.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own

**Overnight: Jerusalem**



**Day 5: Friday, May 17, 2024**

**HOLOCAUST, MEMORY AND CONTINUITY**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided tour of **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Holocaust History Museum, Avenue of the Righteous** and **Children's Memorial**.
- Lunch on your own
- Visit the bustling open-air **Machane Yehuda Market** to take in a slice of local life as Jerusalemites prepare for Shabbat.
- Free time to relax and explore Jerusalem on own.
- Friday evening Shabbat services – To be determined with Rabbi Gross.
- Festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight: Jerusalem**

**Day 6: Saturday/Shabbat, May 18, 2024**

**AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY... A JERUSALEM SHABBAT**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Shabbat morning program – To be determined with Rabbi Gross.
- **Jerusalem: A City of Many Traditions** - Return to the **Old City** to walk along the **Ramparts**, then continue for a tour of **Mount Zion**, followed by free time in the **Old City Market** – The “Suk.”
- Lunch on own
- Guided visit through the **Christian Quarter**, including a segment of the **Via Dolorosa** and the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**.
- Return to hotel.
- Speaker: *The Human Mosaic of Israel @ 2023* with social anthropologist **Paul Liptz**.
- **Havdalah** with Rabbi Gross.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own in small groups at recommended restaurants

**Overnight: Jerusalem**



**Day 7: Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**ON TO THE NORTH!**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Travel north through the **Jordan Valley**, with pauses to note the issues that face Israel and its relationship with the West Bank and its population.
- Guided exploration of the ruins of **Beit Shean**, once a splendid city of the Roman Decapolis.
- Lunch on your own
- Stop at the **Kinneret Cemetery** for a glimpse into the world of the early and contemporary Zionist pioneers, using poetry and music at the graves of **Rachel the Poet** and **Naomi Shemer**, the songwriter of *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*.
- Check-in to hotel in northern Israel.
- Dinner at hotel

**Overnight: Upper Galilee, Pastoral Kfar Blum**

**Day 8: Monday, May 20, 2024**

**THE STRATEGIC GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE SOURCES OF THE JORDAN**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided tour in the **Golan Heights** to look at the valley below from old bunkers the way the Syrian army once did, then look out at Syria from strategic **Mt. Bental**.
- Visit the home of **Naseeba Samara** in the **Druze village** of **Buq'ata** for lunch and a glimpse into the world of the Golan Heights Druze and the ramifications of the Syrian Civil War for their community.
- Guided bird watching expedition in **Agmon Huleh**, a 'paradise for birds and people' and Israel's largest wetlands reclamation project, to see thousands of migrating waterfowl come to roost, while riding in a special 'bird blind wagon'.
- Dinner at hotel

**Overnight: Upper Galilee, Pastoral Kfar Blum**



Day 9: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

**MYSTICAL TZFAT AND MISHNAIC TZIPPORI**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided walk in mystical **Tzfat**, cradle of **Kabbalah** (Jewish mysticism) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; see its old synagogues, picturesque alleyways and discover the origins of Judaism's Friday night service in the city where **Lecha Dodi** was written.
- Meeting with a **kabbalistic artist** to hear how Jewish spirituality influences their work.
- Lunch on own
- Explore the ruins of **Tzippori**, the city where Rabbi Judah Hanasi sealed the Mishna, to see magnificent ancient mosaic pavements, including the "**Mona Lisa of the Galilee**," **Nile Flood Festival** and an **ancient synagogue** with a wheel of the zodiac on its 1,500 year old floor.
- Travel to **Kfar Kara** in the **Wadi Ara** region for a visit to the home of **Amna Kamaana**, a Muslim Israeli woman who established a **Muslim women's empowerment initiative** and an **Arab-Jewish coexistence initiative** in her home.
- Continue to **Tel Aviv**.
- Check-in to hotel on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean coast**.
- Free evening
- Dinner on own

**Overnight: Tel Aviv, Dan Panorama Hotel**

Day 10: Wednesday, May 22, 2024

**THE HEBREW CITY AND THE JEWISH STATE**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Multimedia tour of the **Palmach Museum**, following a virtual Palmach unit to discover the story of the elite underground organization which played a critical role in establishing of the State of Israel.
- Walking tour of historic **Neve Tzedek**, the neighborhood that gave birth to the "**first Hebrew city in 2,000 years**", once home to Zionist cultural pioneers Eliezer Ben Yehuda, S. Y. Agnon and Nahum Gutman.
- **Graffiti tour** in the upbeat **Florentine** neighborhood to see Tel Aviv's remarkable street art and hear about its social commentary.
- Lunch on own
- Stand in front of **Independence Hall\*** on **Rothschild Boulevard** to learn David Ben Gurion declaring Israel's independence, then hear about the establishment of **Tel Aviv** at the nearby **Founders' Monument** and view the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv's '**White City**' was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Visit the **Israel ParaSport Center** in **Ramat Gan** to learn about its work improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities through sport and the achievements of its paralympic team.
- Return to hotel for a free evening and dinner on own

**Overnight: Tel Aviv, Dan Panorama Hotel**



**Day 11: Thursday, May 23, 2024**

**PEACE, INNOVATION, COEXISTENCE AND CONCLUSION**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Guided tour of the **Peres Center for Peace and Innovation** in **Jaffa** to learn about Israel as the **Start-Up Nation** and late President Shimon Peres' vision for a new Middle East, with Speaker on **Israel in a New Middle East**.
- Walk in **Old Jaffa**, the ancient port city whence Jonah tried to flee, and through which King Solomon brought the Cedars of Lebanon for the building of the Temple; today, it is an eclectic, mixed city with art installed in its ancient alleyways.
- Concluding discussion on top of **Tel Jaffa** overlooking modern Tel Aviv.
- Free time to pack, relax, explore on own and get in last-minute shopping.
- Late check out.
- Farewell dinner at **Goshen Restaurant**.
- Proceed to Ben **Gurion International Airport** for return flight home.

**Overnight: In-Flight**

**Day 12: Friday, May 24, 2024**

**ARRIVAL TO USA**

**Please Note:**

*All speakers and programs are tentative until confirmed in writing.*

