

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.®

50th Anniversary Tour to Israel
Rabbi Amy Schwartzman * Cantor Michael Shochet
Temple Rodef Shalom
July 24 - August 5, 2012

Day 1, Tuesday, July 24, 2012: DEPARTURE

Overnight departure on our overnight flight to Israel.

Day 2, Wednesday, July 25, 2012: WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

After arrival in Israel at Ben Gurion Airport... Ayelet Tours staff assistance... Meet our guide and begin our journey together... Travel up to Jerusalem and check into our hotel in Jerusalem... We start at the Haas Promenade overlooking the Old City walls for a special "Sh'hekianu" blessing... Welcome dinner this evening on the balcony of the newly renovated Mansfield restaurant in the Israel Museum... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 3, Thursday, July 26, 2012: THE OLD CITY

Breakfast... Begin the day with a visit to the Western Wall... This morning we also enjoy a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter including the Davidson Center where we see the 3-d Model of the 2nd Temple in action, revealed through extensive archaeological excavations during the last few decades... We have time for lunch (on own) in the Jewish Quarter and shopping along the shops built into the Roman Cardo... Next we travel through Hezekiah's Water Tunnel (bring water friendly shoes!)... While the family bus is at Hezekiah's Tunnel, the adults only bus will enjoy a visit to Ir David... This evening we tour the famed Western Wall Tunnels... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 4, Friday, July 27, 2012: JERUSALEM – WELCOMING THE SABBATH QUEEN

Breakfast... We visit Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Martyrs of the Holocaust. Here we see the tree planted in honor of Oskar Schindler as we walk along the Street of the Righteous Gentiles before entering the newly opened Museum. The guide takes those children too young to visit the museum on a visit to the Valley of the Communities and the Children's Memorial... At the Mt. Herzl Museum we gain insight into the life of one of Israel's most important historical leaders... Continue to Mt. Herzl, Israel's equivalent to Arlington cemetery. Here we visit the burial sites of Golda Meir, Theodore Herzl, and Yitzhak Rabin... See the people of Jerusalem busily prepare for the coming Shabbat at Machane Yehuda... Welcome Shabbat at the Kotel with the people of Jerusalem before a beautiful service at the Yemin Moshe Windmill... Shabbat dinner in a private room at our hotel... Overnight in Jerusalem.

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Day 5, Saturday, July 28, 2012: SHABBAT SHALOM!

Breakfast... Bar/Bat Mitzvah services at HUC followed by a celebration lunch at the Khan Theater... We continue with an adventurous walk along the Old City ramparts, allowing us a unique view into the different sections of the city... Continue with a walking tour of the Old City including the Christian and Arab Quarter... Return to the hotel for time to relax and freshen up... Tonight we travel to Abu Gosh for a festive dinner! Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 6, Sunday, July 29, 2012: THE DEAD SEA BASIN

Breakfast... We travel to the famous fortress and castle built by King Herod atop Masada. We take the new high speed cable car to the top and hear the story of the Jewish Zealots who chose to perish rather than be enslaved by the Romans at this very spot... Those wanting to walk up the snake path are welcome to do so (early departure from Jerusalem arranged on own), and will meet the rest of the group at the top... We continue to the Dead Sea where we have lunch and have the opportunity for an unsinkable swim in the healing salty waters... The family bus will stop at a Bedouin encampment to see their tea and coffee ceremony and take a short camel ride... The adults only bus will have the opportunity for an extended stay at the Dead Sea and will stop at the desert oasis of Ein Gedi on their way back to Jerusalem... Overnight Jerusalem.

Day 7, Monday, July 30, 2012: THE GALILEE

Breakfast... The family bus departs Jerusalem and travels to Beit Guvrin for a chance to participate in a "hands-on" Archaeological Dig!... The adult's only bus will see the famous Chagall Windows at Hadassah Hospital and have some time to explore the newly renovated Israel Museum... We continue North through the Jordan Valley, stopping in Beit Alpha to admire the 4th century synagogue... Dinner and overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.

Day 8, Tuesday, July 31, 2012: NORTHERN ISRAEL – THE GOLAN

Breakfast... This morning the family bus will stop at De Karina Chocolate Factory for a tour and the chance to participate in creating their own chocolates... Continue to the overlook at Har Bental... Next we will board our jeeps for our tour up to the Golan Heights... The family bus continues their adventure with an amazing Kayaking experience down the Jordan River. Meanwhile today, the adult's bus will travel to Gamla to learn about the heroism that occurred there... Next they will head to the Golan Heights Winery for a tour and tasting, followed by a stop at the overlook at Har Bental... The adults will end their day by traveling to Kibbutz El Rom to meet with the settlers there and hear their story... Dinner and overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.



Day 9, Wednesday, August 1, 2012: TO THE COAST

Breakfast... This morning we all visit the mystical city of Safed together where we see the H'ari and Caro synagogues as well as the amazing artist's quarter... After lunch (on own) the family bus will travel to nearby Manara cliffs to partake in some of the a la carte adventures, including a cable car to the top of the cliff, a zip line, rappelling, an alpine slide (individual activities can be chosen and paid for directly on site), while the adults only bus will enjoy a Kabbalah workshop with a local artist!... Tonight we will enjoy oven-baked pizza outside in the Park near the Kineret! Overnight at our kibbutz in the Galilee.

Day 10, Thursday, August 2, 2012: FOUNDATIONS OF A MODERN STATE

Breakfast... Travel down the coast stopping in Caesarea to see the Roman Theater and Aqueduct... Continue to Tel Aviv, beginning with a moment of reflection at Rabin Square... Re-live the founding of the State of Israel at Independence Hall... Dine by Rabin Square (on own)... Time at leisure in Tel Aviv to enjoy the beach, go shopping or explore on own... Overnight Tel Aviv.

Day 11, Friday, August 3, 2012: TEL AVIV

Breakfast... This morning we explore the hidden underground bullet factory at the Ayalon Institute... Stroll through the street fair and see the artists and entertainers at Nachalat Binyamin... Prepare for the approaching Shabbat... This evening we attend Kabbalat Shabbat services with Kehillat Raanan in Ra'anana... Meet with Rabbi Tamar Kolberg... Shabbat dinner together... Overnight Tel Aviv.

Day 12, Saturday, August 4, 2012: SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

Breakfast... Day at leisure to enjoy the beaches of Tel Aviv and all that this city on the sea has to offer... After an amazing farewell dinner, we transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our overnight flight back to the United States.

Day 13, Sunday, August 5, 2012: RETURN HOME

Arrival back in the United States.

The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

