

Jewish History Tour of Israel

November 20, 2017 – November 26, 2017

Led by Rabbi Dr. Dovid Katz
and
Rabbi Binyamin Marwick

Itinerary

(Details Subject to Change)

This is not our first time to Israel, and it is probably not yours. Not wishing to repeat what we have done in the past, we have designed a unique itinerary for this trip, with many “firsts.” We are excited at the new places we will be visiting, and we are confident you will be excited too. Welcome aboard. As always, we hope to see a lot, do a lot, and both learn and enjoy.



20 November, 2017 – Monday:

- Arrive in Israel-Ben Gurion Airport (transportation will be available Monday morning from the airport to the King Solomon Hotel, Jerusalem).
- Check-in at King Solomon Hotel in **Jerusalem**. Group will meet at the hotel mid-day.
- Travel by bus to an **IDF Army base** which we will tour and meet with soldiers. We will also hear a presentation from a member of the Army Rabbinate about the halachic problems faced by religious Israeli soldiers and how they deal with them.
- Return to Jerusalem. End of tour that day. Rabbi Katz and Rabbi Marwick invite everyone to come with them to the Kotel in the evening.

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel

21 November, 2017 – Tuesday:

- **Breakfast**
- Depart hotel on special bus to the West Bank for a day in the **Shomron**, the heartland of Biblical Israel:
 - We will visit **Shiloh**, where the Mishkan, the Biblical Tabernacle, once stood and site of famous Biblical events in the Books of Judges and Samuel.
 - Visit settlement of **Neve Tzuf**, site of the recent terrorist attack, and learn about what life is like in a settlement that is constantly under threat by the surrounding Arabs.
 - Guided tour of the nearby settlement of **Eli** (pop. 5,000), including a tour of a high-school that serves as a religious prep-school where observant Jews train to be officers in the IDF. We will be the guests of Eli for lunch.
 - HaYovel
 - Tour the **Givaot Winery** which lies in the Shomron Wine Region above the Shiloh Stream in the Givat Harel.
 - Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel



22 November, 2017 – Wednesday:

- **Breakfast**
- Depart hotel for **Tel Aviv:**
 - We will be visiting “Jewish Tel-Aviv,” not the TA which is the bastion of Israeli secularism. Tel-Aviv was originally a suburb of Jaffa (whose Rabbi was the famous Rav Kook); we will begin in **historic Jaffa**, site of pre-Zionist Jewish community of earlier centuries, then proceed to walk through **Neve Tzedek**, the religious neighborhood of the early Zionist era (including **Rav Kook’s synagogue**).
 - **Independence Hall**, where the State of Israel was proclaimed on Friday May 14, 1948, just before Shabbos. Learn about the first law passed by the new State of Israel.
 - Visit Belz in Tel-Aviv. Yes, that’s right!
 - Visit various Chasidic communities which settled in Tel-Aviv after the War, and learn what there was in TA that attracted Chasidic rebbes to settle there, and not in Jerusalem.
 - Visit the new Religious Zionist and Modern Orthodox neighborhoods and synagogues sprouting continuously all over Tel-Aviv.
 - Visit the Sepharadi religious neighborhood in South Tel-Aviv.
 - Visit the newest piece of the Tel-Aviv religious mosaic – the community of frum Filipino *gerim*, converts.
 - And more!
- Return to Jerusalem

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel



23 November, 2017 – Thursday:

We will spend the day retracing some of the steps of the famous “**Masa Ha-Moshavot.**” On this day-trip, we will gain a unique understanding of the roots of the love-hate relationship between religious and secular Israelis. The Masa Ha-Moshavot was a remarkable journey undertaken by the leading religious figures of Eretz Yisroel in 1913, just before the outbreak of the First World War. Led by Rav Kook and Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld, the leaders of the Zionist and the anti-Zionist sectors of Palestinian Orthodox Judaism (as it was called at the time), a distinguished group of religious leaders visited 26 new pioneer communities to try to win them over to greater observance and identification with Judaism. The group met with a wide variety of responses from the pioneers, both positive and negative. We will visit several of those communities. Although not so well-known (until our trip!), this was a watershed moment in the history of the complicated relations between secular and religious Israelis, one of the thorniest problems in modern Israel.

- **Breakfast**
- We will travel by bus to Northern Israel where we will visit the sites of some of the encounters between rabbis and Jewish pioneers of Turkish Palestine, including the famous old settlements of **Bat Shlomo, Merchavia, Kvar Tavor**. We will be served lunch at **Kibbutz Lavi** and will hear from special speakers in each of these towns.
- Return to Jerusalem.

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel



24 November, 2017 – Friday:

- **Breakfast**
- We travel to the ancient city of **Chevron** for a unique experience:
 - We will visit the site of the **Me'arat Ha-Machpela**, the **Tomb of the Patriarchs**, as well as other famous sites from the Jewish past.
 - We will also visit Chevron's controversial Jewish present, including the unique Yeshivat Shavei Chevron. This yeshiva is located inside the city of Chevron under the protection of the IDF. We will see how over 300 (!) students study and live in a city surrounded by an Arab population. These are remarkable young Jews who are determined to assert the Jewish claim to the controversial city. See Jewish life here from a very different angle than the international media!
- Return to Jerusalem to prepare for Shabbos.
- We will experience the extraordinary and unique "happening" that is the **Kotel on Friday night**.
- **Group Shabbos dinner** at the King Solomon Hotel

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel



25 November, 2017 – Shabbos in Jerusalem:

- **Breakfast**
- Shabbos services and lunch at the hotel.
- Rabbi Katz and Rabbi Marwick will lead a walking tour of Jerusalem after Shabbos lunch.

Saturday Night-Stay tuned!

Overnight: King Solomon Hotel



26 November, 2017 – Sunday:

- **Breakfast**
- **Ateret Kohanim Walking tour** – This is a unique tour of the **Arab Quarter** where we will see the parts of the **Old City of Jerusalem** people usually do not see. We will visit the Jewish homes located in the "non-Jewish" parts of the Old City which will provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the many Jewish families who reside in the heart of Arab neighborhoods in the Old City. These are families who are protected around-the-clock by the IDF. This tour will afford a number of **stunning views of the Old City**, views unfamiliar to those of us who typically restrict our visits to the Jaffa Gate and the Jewish Quarter adjacent to the Kotel.
- Trip ends mid-day Sunday. Pleasant shopping!

