

**CRJ TOUR TO ISRAEL**  
**August 1-12, 2019**  
**LED BY RABBI STEVE ENGEL**

**Day 1 ~ Thursday August 1, 2019**

**Enroute / Tel Aviv**

**BRUCHIM HA-BAIM!**

Arrive at the Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, directly on the Mediterranean Sea and Israel's largest city. Check-in to your hotel in Tel Aviv.

**Welcome dinner at an authentic Israeli restaurant.** Meet in hotel lobby at 7:30 pm

**Overnight Tel Aviv**

**Day 2 ~ Friday, August 2, 2019**

**Tel Aviv**

Today's journey continues with a visit to Next on to the **Rabin Center** That tells the history of the State of Israel and its constant striving for peace featuring the life and legacy of Yitzchak Rabin. Continue the day with a visit to an interactive visit to the **Palmach Museum**, covering the Palmach legacy from its establishment through to the end of the War of Independence. the **Independence Hall** where David Ben Gurion announced Israel's independence. See where it all began – at 16 Rothschild Boulevard, where Israel's first premier, David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence on May 14, 1948. Grab a quick lunch on Rothschild Boulevard one of Tel Aviv's most iconic streets. Continue to the colorful **Carmel Market** with some free time to explore The **Nachalat Binyamin Arts & Crafts Fair**. Back to the hotel to rest and to ready for the celebrating and **welcoming of the Shabbat** at Israel's largest Progressive (Reform) Synagogue, **Beit Daniel** followed by a Shabbat evening Service. Dinner on your own.

**Overnight Tel Aviv**

**Day 3 ~ Saturday, August 3, 2019**

**Tel Aviv**

Today's expedition begins with a private visit to a lesser-known tourist destination - the **Ayalon Institute**- a fascinating piece of pre-state history. Located on Kibbutzim Hill, adjacent to the world famous Weizman Institute of Science in the town of Rehovot, this site was once a clandestine bullet factory that operated of the nearby British soldiers. The rest of the day time to go to the beach and explore Tel Aviv. Enjoy an post-Shabbat evening in the neighborhood of **Neve Tzedek** featuring great restaurants, art galleries and shops.

**Overnight Tel Aviv**

Day 4 ~ Sunday, August 4, 2019

Tel Aviv

We begin the day as we meet with **Rabbi Gilad Kariv**, the head of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism **IMPJ**. Continue with **An architectural tour of the City of Tel Aviv** Proceed to **Sarona for lunch**- a newly renovated complex in the heart of Tel Aviv, originally a German Templar Colony. The site sits at the heart of what is a new central business district of the city, with offices and apartments surrounding the beautifully landscaped complex, in which 33 original Templar buildings dating up to more than 140 years, have been painstakingly restored, and today house boutique stores, artist galleries, quaint cafes, Israel's largest indoor culinary market, and some of the city's hottest restaurants.

**Overnight Tel Aviv**

Day 5 ~ Monday, August 5, 2019

Tel Aviv / Galilee

We hit the road as we drive north on the coastal road to **Caesarea**, Roman Capital of Judea. This ancient port city was built by **Herod the Great** on the ruins of an ancient anchorage known as Stratton's tower. Name in honor of King Herod's Roman patron, Augustus Caesar, the city became the capital of **Roman and Byzantine Palestine**. This marvelous ancient city boasts an impressive **Roman Amphitheatre** where performances are still held today, an **impressive Byzantine street, aqueduct** and restored **Crusader fortifications**, along with other artifacts. Continue through Druze Villages, stopping for **home hospitality lunch in a Druze family home**. A scenic route leads you to beautiful **Haifa**, capital of the north and one of Israel's main commercial ports. Haifa is also proud to be the nucleus of much of Israel's high technology research and industry. Stop atop **Mt. Carmel** where you will enjoy a magnificent view of **Haifa Bay**, the **golden dome of Haifa's Baha'i Shrine**. A visit to **Akko** with one of the very rare natural harbors on the coast of the Israel. This location helped it become one of the oldest cities in the world, continuously inhabited since the Middle Bronze Age, some 4,000 years ago. Akko's Old City has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Cross the Galilee to your Galilean hotel for check in and dinner.

**OVERNIGHT GALLILEE**

Day 6 ~ Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Galilee / Golan Day

Early morning **Krav Maga** on the grounds of your hotel. Krav Maga is the official self-defense system of the Israeli Defense Forces. Enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on the day's activities. After breakfast meet **Elliot Chodoff**, a **political and military analyst** specializing in the Middle East conflict and the global war on terrorists. Drive through the Golan hills to **Mount Bental** for a **Northern Strategic tour**, seeing the former Syrian fortifications and learning the key role this area is to Israel's safety. **Jump into self-drive ATV's** and explore the geography of this region. Proceed to Kfar **Kedem Biblical Village**. A recreated ancient Galilean village that enables you to "touch the past". **Experience being a shepherd**, herd the sheep into their pens for shearing and milking. **Make goat cheese** in the ancient Galilean fashion. **Plow your fields** and bring in the harvest to the village threshing floor. Then grind the flour and **bake your own Pita bread**. Join a **donkey caravan** heading to the Galilean hills. Return to hotel just in time for dinner.

**OVERNIGHT GALLILEE**

**Day 7 ~ Wednesday, August 7, 2016**

**Upper Galilee**

This morning, with gifts in hand, **visit with IDF soldiers** patrolling on the **Lebanese border**. Lunch in **Rosh Pina** before continuing to the very special city of **Tzfat**. Historical sources indicate that Safed was founded in the 2nd century AD DURING Roman times and local legend is that the city was founded by one of Noah's sons after the great flood. During the 13th century, it became the center of many Jewish scholars who founded the Zohar and Kabala theories. Today Safed has been a rebirth and resurgence of popularity, becoming once again a center for Jewish learning. This utterly charming mountain enclave with its quaint cobblestone streets has also gained a reputation as being a haven for artists, your time in Safed includes a visit to the town's vibrant **artist colony** as well as the **ancient Synagogue Quarter**. Meet with members of a **Reform Congregation in Rosh Pina** a group of young sabra families who've created a wonderful congregation. Conclude the day **planting trees in a KKL National Forest**. Dinner at hotel and overnight.

**OVERNIGHT GALLILEE**

**Day 8 ~ Thursday, August 8, 2019**

**Galilee / Jerusalem**

Morning departure through the Jordan River Valley to the town of **Beit Shean**. Visit Skitopolis, Israel's equivalent to Pompeii, to survey the extra ordinary excavations of this ancient Roman city. Recite a special "**Shehechyanu**" atop Mt. Scopus upon entering the city of Jerusalem. Enter the walled city of Jerusalem through **Jaffa Gate** and stroll along the restored **Jewish quarter** and visiting the **Roman Cardo**, the **Burnt House** and the **Herodian Quarter**. Enjoy an **authentic Israeli lunch** in the Old City.

Next, explore **Ir David**, the **City of David** and the new excavations unfolding. Explore the **Southern Wall Excavations** and visit the **Davidson's Visitor Center** ending at the **Kotel, Western Wall**. This evening you are invited to attend the **Night Spectacular** – an extravaganza **Sound & Light Show at the Tower of David Fortress**.

**OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM**

**Day 9 ~ Friday, August 9, 2019**

**Dead Sea / Jerusalem**

Leave Jerusalem and ascend along the shores of the **Dead Sea** – the lowest place on earth almost 1300 feet below sea level, to **Qumran** visiting the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Continue for a visit to **Masada**, ascend by cable car the east side, to marvel at King Herod's desert fortress – Palace and last stronghold of the Jewish zealots against the Roman domination in 73 CE. End the day with a **Swim in the Dead Sea waters**. Mud is of course optional, but people come from all over the world for its rich mineral and medicinal qualities.

**OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM**

**Day 10 ~ Saturday, August 10, 2019**

**Jerusalem**

Shabbat starts with a Shabbat morning service at our sister congregation in Jerusalem **Har-El with Rabbi Ada and Cantor Evan**. Enjoy a lunch and chat provided by Har-El members (Rabbi will arrange). The rest of Shabbat at leisure in Jerusalem.

Saturday night Havdalah on the balcony of the headquarters of the **World Union for Progressive Judaism WUPJ** (Rabbi will arrange). Time to stroll the streets of Jerusalem as stores and restaurants will open after Shabbat concludes.

#### **OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM**

**Day 11 ~ Sunday, August 11, 2019**

**Jerusalem**

This morning be one of the many volunteers who have participated in this incredible operation of the **Temple Mount Sifting Project at Emek Tzurim Park** where, so far, there have been over 3,500 finds from ancient times.

Continue to the unforgettable **Holocaust Memorial Museum at Yad Vashem**. This museum is dedicated to documenting the history of the Jewish people during World War II, emphasizing each victim's experience through original artifacts, survivor testimonies and personal possessions. This unique perspective is presented in sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways that lead to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments and memorials. Visit Israel's **National Cemetery atop Mt. Herzl** with visits to the graves of Yitzchak Rabin, Golda Meir, Hannah Senesh, and others. Leaving Mt. Herzl, you'll navigate your way to one of Jerusalem land marks, the **Shrine of the Book** – housing the world-famous **Dead Sea Scrolls** - the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world, as well as rare early medieval biblical manuscripts.

Next to the Dead Sea Scroll we visit the **Second Temple Era model of Jerusalem** - an intricate, 1:50 reconstruction of the city's topography and architecture before the destruction of the Temple. Celebrate the welcoming of the Shabbat at the **Kotel – Western Wall** followed by a Group Dinner at Lavan at Cinemateque with a great view of the Old City.

#### **OVERNIGHT JERUSALEM**

**Day 12 ~ Monday, August 12, 2019**

**Jerusalem**

Free Day In Jerusalem. Visit the Jerusalem Museum, The Biblical Zoo, The Chagall Windows, The Old City, or simply walk the streets of Jerusalem.

Late afternoon view a Slideshow review of our trip in a Room in the Hotel. Group Farewell Dinner together at a Yemenite restaurant. Late evening we board our flights back to the US.