



## Spend Hanukkah in Israel

with Rabbi Grossman and Beth Shalom on an Unforgettable Journey!

### 2019-20 Winter Break Mission to Israel

December 22- 31, 2019

*with optional Negev/Tel Aviv extension*

December 22, 2019 – January 5, 2020

**Celebrate Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
& Confirmation On Masada!**

**\*\$100 PP  
EARLYBIRD  
DISCOUNT**

### Highlights Include:

- Modi'in, Home of the Maccabees
- Nighttime Tour of Jerusalem Hannukiyot
- Hanukkah with Ethiopian Jewish Olim
- Kotel Tunnel and New City of David Excavations
- Visit Artists in their Galleries in Tzfat
- "The Pompeii of Israel" at Magdala
- Float in the Dead Sea & visit Qumran
- Bnai Mitzvah/Confirmation Service on Masada
- Explore the Complicated Challenges to Peace
- Herodian, Herod's Desert Fortress\*
- Enjoy Bedouin Hospitality & Camel Ride\*
- Jeep Ride in Makhtesh Ramon Crater\*
- Meet Israel's Modern Defenders on IDF Base\*

### It's Your Choice Itinerary:

- Yad Vashem or Biblical Zoo
- Masada: Sunrise Hike, Sleep in for Cable Car and/or Museum
- Ein Gedi: David's Waterfall Hike or Visit Field School and Ancient Synagogue
- Beit Guvrin: Participate in an Archeological Dig or Tour Ancient Maresha.
- Shabbat: Leisure Time, Israel Museum, Shabbat on the Beach\* and/or Solidarity Visits to Masorti Congregations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv\*
- Shopping: Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda and Ben Yehuda; Tel Aviv's Nachalat Binyamin Street Fair\*, Old Jaffa\*, & more...

**AND MUCH MUCH MORE: SEE DETAILS INSIDE**

\* Available on Negev/ Tel Aviv Extension

*Special B'nai Mitzvah, Confirmation Class and children's rates inside.*

### **Sunday, December 22 The Pilgrimage Begins**

Depart Newark with group on El Al Israel Airlines. (Group rate will be provided as soon as available from El Al. Or travel on your own.)

### **Monday, December 23 First Day of Hanukah – Arrive in Israel!**

Today is a true Hannukah beginning. We start our Hanukkah visit to Israel in the hometown of the Maccabees, **Mod'in**. The oldest synagogue in Israel was found here. We will learn about how Matityahu and his five sons led the revolt against the oppressive King Antiochus IV who had desecrated the Temple and outlawed the Shabbat and circumcision.

You cannot see the Land of Israel without seeing the extensive building of King Herod. We will drive to the Mediterranean coast to see the amazing port city of **Caesarea**. The size and scope of the excavations give a true sense of the city's importance at the height of the Roman Empire. We will be seeing parts of the city we have not visited before.

We will light Hannukah candles together at **Kibbutz Nof Ginosar**, where we will eat dinner and spend overnight.

### **Tuesday, December 24 Second Day of Hanukah – Lifting our Eyes to the Mountains**

Feel the atmosphere that inspires beautiful works of mystical art in **Tzfat**. We will walk through the winding and hilly streets, visit **with artists in their galleries**, and enter the synagogues of the kabbalists (Jewish mystics) in one of Judaism's holiest cities.

Later, experience a truly special Hannukah. We will **join new Ethiopian Jewish immigrants to light Hannukiyot** and share Hannukah gifts at an Absorption Center. We will discuss the difficult challenges that are unique to the Ethiopian Jews and spend meaningful time hearing about their daily lives in the Galilee.

Return to Kibbutz Nof Ginosar for dinner and overnight.

### **Wednesday, December 25 Third Day of Hanukah – To the Lowest Place on Earth**

Today we drive from sea to sea. We visit the "**Pompeii of Israel**," the first century Jewish town of **Magdala** on the Sea of Galilee was destroyed by an earthquake. You will walk past the synagogue and other buildings that were preserved by the lava that covered this site. We then head South to **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, where the relatively cool weather will allow us to see the extensive excavations and discuss different interpretations of the site. We end the day with spa time or a "float" in the **Dead Sea**. Group candle lighting, dinner and overnight, **Hod Hotel**, Dead Sea.

### **Thursday, December 26 Fourth Day of Hanukah – Masada Shall Not Fall Again!**

The themes of revolt and Herod are both central to **Masada**. **It's Your Choice Itinerary** allows you to choose to climb Herod's mountain fortress for the amazing sunrise, sleep in and take the first cable car to the top, or remain below the mountain to explore the fine Museum. We will all celebrate at a **Bnai Mitzvah & Confirmation Service** atop the mountain.

We enter Jerusalem and say "**Shehechyanu**" at the **Mt. Scopus** overlook and join the **Hannukah candle lighting at the Kotel** (Western Wall.) Join Rabbi Grossman for a pay on your own, Optional, Celebratory Dinner at the Moroccan/Berber Darna restaurant.\* Hannukah is in the air as you see the Hannukiyot lit in the windows of Jerusalem's homes.

Overnight, **Crowne Plaza**, Jerusalem.

### **Friday, December 27 Fifth Day of Hanukah – Digging for Our Roots**

**It's Your Choice Itinerary:** Until now, we've seen the work of archaeologists. Today, we can be an archeologist for the day as we dig for artifacts at **Beit Guvrin** or choose to visit its other Merasha excavations.

We return to join Jerusalemites shopping for food at the **Machane Yehuda** market. **It's Your Choice Itinerary:** Celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat at the local Masorti synagogue or rest until Shabbat dinner and overnight at the Crowne Plaza.

### **Saturday, December 28 Sixth Day of Hanukah—Shabbat in Jerusalem**

**It's Your Choice Itinerary :** Rest on own or join Rabbi Grossman for morning services at **Masorti Mishpachtit Beit Hakerem**, where we will share experiences with the congregants. Shabbat lunch is followed by time to relax or visit the nearby **Israel Museum**.

Jerusalem reawakens after Havdalah and you will feel the energy of the new week as you shop, eat, and stroll **Ben Yehuda Street**.

### **Sunday, December 29 Seventh Day of Hanukah – Jerusalem of Glory**

*"Ten measures of beauty descended to the world, nine were taken by Jerusalem" -(Talmud: Kiddushin 49b).*

Explore the **Old City**, the **Southern Wall** where Pilgrims ascended to the Holy City three times a year, the Kotel, Judaism's holiest site, and the **Kotel (Rabbi's) Tunnels** that proceed along street level from the Temple era. See the new excavations at the **City of David**. As you walk through the **Cardo** and streets of the **Jewish Quarter**, you will see the **glow of the Hannukiyot**.

### **Monday, December 30 Eighth Day of Hanukah – To Be Free People in Our Own Land**

Drive to the **Knesset** for a discussion of the famous Menorah. At **Mt. Herzl**, you will be inspired by the life of Theodore Herzl at the **Herzl Museum**, and by the lives of Israel's heroes and leaders as you pay respect at their graves.

**It's Your Choice Itinerary** The younger tour members will visit the **Biblical Zoo**, while others fulfill the commitment of "Z'khor", Remember, at **Yad Vashem**. Meet with a representative of Rabbis for Human Rights to discuss some of the conflicts in Israeli society. We will all share our thoughts about our Israel Hannukah experience at a **Farewell Dinner**. Some will transfer to the airport and those extending to explore the Negev and Tel Aviv will return to the hotel or free late night in Jerusalem.

### **Tuesday, December 31 Return Home or Continue the Journey (See Next Page)**

Return flight on El Al to Newark.

(Optional Celebratory Dinner not included in tour price.)

## Optional Negev and Tel Aviv Extension

### **Tuesday, December 31 The Judean and Negev Deserts of Yesterday and Today**

You will walk up the hill where Herod built his castle and tomb, **Herodian**. Overlooking Bethlehem and Jerusalem, this highest peak in the Judean desert continues to be uncovered. We continue through the desert to the **Joe Alon Bedouin Center** to learn about the nomadic life of the Bedouins. Hear about the impact of Israel's land policies on the Bedouin, and enjoy a camel ride through the Negev and Bedouin hospitality.

Overnight, **Leonardo Negev**, Beersheva

### **Wednesday, January 1 The Land of Our Matriarchs and Patriarchs**

Abraham was the father of our monotheistic faith. Visit **Abraham's Well and Visitors Center in Beersheva**.

We drive through the Negev to visit the home and grave of one of modern Israel's founding fathers, David Ben Gurion in **Sde Boker**.

We will eat and sleep near the Ramon Crater, the world's largest erosion cirque.

Overnight, **Ramon Inn**, Mitspe Ramon

### **Thursday, January 2 Creation, Caravans, and Modern Miracles**

Our morning adventure will take us off the beaten path as we enjoy a **Jeep Ride** through the **Machtsh Ramon Crater**. We will have unique views of the amazing geology and wildlife of the Negev. Kids and adults will both enjoy seeing the many aircraft at the **Hatzerim Air Force Museum**. Climb aboard and see planes such as the one used in the Entebbe rescue, and look up in the sky to see the planes that currently defend Israel take off and land and meet with IDF soldiers. We'll end our day on the shores of the Mediterranean in Tel Aviv.

Overnight, **Ramon Inn**, Mitspe Ramon

### **Friday, January 3 Tel Aviv: The First Hebrew City**

From the beginning of the State of Israel at **Ben Gurion's House in Tel Aviv** to the site of one of the country's most tragic moments, **Rabin Square**, we will see how brave and imaginative leaders dreamt of peace. We'll have time to explore the **Nachalat Binyamin Street Fair** with its fun and colorful crafts and have the special experience of welcoming the **Shabbat on the Beach**.

Shabbat dinner and overnight, **Herod's**, Tel Aviv

### **Saturday, January 4 Shabbat in Tel Aviv**

**It's Your Choice Itinerary**: Enjoy free time or join Rabbi Grossman for Shabbat services at **Masorti Sinai Congregation**. Afterwards come together for Shabbat lunch at our hotel and spend the afternoon playing games on the beach or relaxing.

We'll celebrate Havdalah and explore **Jaffa** on our own before transferring to the airport.

### **Sunday, January 5 Return Home with Wonderful Memories**

Return to USA.

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## Israel Tour (land only)

\$4,199\* per person in double occupancy

\$739 single occupancy supplement

Bar/Bat Mitzvah child (age 12 or 13) and Confirmation Class- Discount of \$750 as third person in a room with two full paying adults.

Child age 2-17- Discount of \$300 as third person in a room with two full paying adults.

## Negev/Tel Aviv Extension

additional \$1,799 per person in double occupancy

additional \$589 single occupancy supplement

\*Prices are for land only and reflect cash discount. Airfare is expected to be available by February 10, 2019.

**Register by March 15, 2019 and receive an additional \$100 per person discount.**

Please add 4% for payment by credit card

### **About Rabbi Susan Grossman**

As a rabbi, scholar, and community leader who has led many missions to Israel, Rabbi Grossman brings unique insight to the challenges of Israeli society. She designed this exciting program to focus on the people who make Israel special, to learn from those who struggle daily to make Israel a more pluralistic and egalitarian society. Rabbi Grossman has a doctorate in Ancient Judaism and serves on the Conservative Movement's prestigious Committee for Jewish Law and Standards, and she is one of the editors of the Conservative Movement's *Humash*, *Etz Hayim* and *Torah Commentary*. As a former journalist and accomplished story teller, Rabbi Grossman will create an informative and fun mission environment.

### **About Dr. Joe Freedman, Educator and Tour Guide**

Joe holds an M.A. in education from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a doctorate in education from Teacher's College, Columbia University. He moved to Israel from the US in 1980 and lives with his family in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo. For many years he served as Director of the Ramah Programs in Israel. He often uses Israeli music in his guiding and he is also a certified Israeli folk dance



2909 Friendlywood Way Burtonsville MD 20866

## Package includes:

- Daily Israeli Breakfast, 5 Dinners, Shabbat lunch
- 7 nights hotel, 7 days sightseeing on private deluxe coach bus with outstanding English speaking licensed educator guide
- All tips to guide, driver, hotel porters, and waiters for included meals.
- Transfers to and from hotels and Ben Gurion airport when traveling with the group.

## Extension Includes:

- An additional 6 nights hotel, Daily Israeli Breakfast, Shabbat Dinner and Lunch
- All additional tips to guide, driver, hotel porters, and waiters for included meals.
- Transfers to Ben Gurion airport when traveling with the group.

### TOUR CONDITIONS:

#### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**PAYMENT:** A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required to book.

Final payment is due by September 9, 2019 and is non-refundable.

- No refund for unused services.
- Cancellations must be made in writing to Abrams Travel, Inc.

**LIABILITY:** Abrams Travel, Inc., their agents and/or their representatives abroad (hereinafter, collectively "Tour Providers"), act only as agents for those passengers traveling on the tour described herein (hereinafter, collectively "Tour Members") in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, touring, restaurants, and/or any other services in connection with the itinerary stated herein. Tour Providers will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, Tour Providers do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity to any person (including, but not limited to, Tour Members) or property because of any act or failure to act or default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company, entity or person rendering any services. Tour Providers reserve the right to reasonably vary itineraries and substitute components of tour programs without any liability of Tour Providers for any such variations and/or substitutions. In no event shall Tour Providers be liable for an amount greater than the amount paid by Tour Members for the tour. Any and all disputes related to this contract shall be litigated within the State of Maryland, according to the laws of Maryland, irrespective of Maryland's choice of laws. The parties agree to waive their right to trial by jury. By registering for this tour and/or paying a deposit, you indicate that you have read and accepted the terms and conditions applicable to this tour.

This tour is based on a minimum of 20 passengers. Should fewer people register, the price may increase.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL TRAVELERS:

1. Please be advised that to travel with this group to Israel, your passport must be valid for 6 months past the date of return. If it's not, please renew it immediately.
2. Please send a copy of the photo page of your passport with the registration. If you are renewing, please send your old passport and then the new passport when available. Thanks.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended and should be purchased within 10 days of your initial deposit so that pre-existing conditions will be covered. Call Abrams Travel at 301-384-4660 for assistance.

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### REGISTRATION FORM

I/We wish to Spend Hannukah in Israel with Rabbi Grossman and Beth Shalom, December 22-31, 2019.

Name (as it appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanying Person(s): please indicate name(s) and date(s) of birth

\_\_\_\_\_

A Copy of the information page of your passport must accompany this reservation.

Please make your check payable to "Abrams Travel, Inc" and mail to Abrams Travel, Inc., 2909 Friendlywood Way, Burtonsville, MD 20866.

Israel Tour <b>LAND ONLY</b> - \$4,199.00 per person in double occupancy x _____ persons=	\$ _____
Single Occupancy Supplement - \$739.00	\$ _____
Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation child as 3 <sup>rd</sup> in room with two full paying- Discount of \$750.00	-\$ _____
Child age 2-17 as 3 <sup>rd</sup> in room with two full paying- Discount of \$300.00	-\$ _____
Negev/Tel Aviv Extension- \$1,799 per person in double occupancy x _____ persons=	\$ _____
Negev/Tel Aviv Extension Single Occupancy Supplement - \$589.00	\$ _____
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ _____
Deposit of \$500.00 per person x _____ persons=	-\$ _____
Reduction for registration by March 15, 2019- Less \$100 per person x persons =	-\$ _____
Balance due by <b>September 9, 2019</b>	\$ _____