



September 14, 2022

Bolton St. Synagogue

Intergenerational Trip to Israel | Led by Rabbi Andy Gordon and Cory Hermann

December 21-31, 2023

The **J²** way

J² crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**
Educational trips, curated expeditions & missions.

NYC | TLV | PRG | J2ADVENTURES.COM



Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

01: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 | ON THE WAY | FLIGHT

- ◇ Depart the USA.

02: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 | THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY | TLV

- ◇ Arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- ◇ Meet your **tour educator** who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- ◇ Group transfer to **Tel Aviv**, also known as “the city that never sleeps.” A place of sun and fun, its centers of culture and history are complimented by great beaches, stores, and entertainment.
- ◇ **Beginnings**: Modern Tel Aviv grew out of ancient **Jaffa**. Gaze out over the Mediterranean Sea; learn why Jaffa, mentioned in the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale, is so historically important; and see how its Old City reflects the present as well as the past.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ Kabbalat Shabbat services at **Kehillat Yozma** in Modi'in, led by Rabbi Nir Barkin
- ◇ Home hospitality dinner with member of the community



03: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 | FREE SHABBAT | TLV
No Guide & No Bus

- ◇ Free day to explore Tel Aviv on your own
- ◇ **Three Stars in the Israeli Sky:** At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal **Havdallah** ceremony.
- ◇ **The City at Night:** Tel Aviv's food scene is on fire with world-class chefs and a huge range of happening restaurants. See and taste for yourself during a free evening with dinner (*on own account*). Afterwards, those who love the nightlife can sample the city's bar, club and café culture or stroll along the refurbished promenade and port

04: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 | ALONG THE COAST | GALILEE

- ◇ Check out and head north
- ◇ From Hebrew City to Hebrew State: Walk along the newly-opened **Independence Trail** in Tel Aviv and embark on a remarkable journey that begins with the founding of Tel Aviv in 1909 and ends with the establishment of Israel in 1948
- ◇ Drive along the coast and back in time to **Caesarea**, one of the Land of Israel's most important cities during the Roman Period. Explore life 2,000 years ago with its ancient amphitheaters, palaces, and bathhouses.
- ◇ Perhaps it's the combination of mysticism and art, and maybe it's the mountain air in Israel's highest city; entering **Tsfat**, there is a sense of something uniquely Jewish but not quite of this world. Here, you'll:
 - Visit the Ari synagogue and share in the inspiration and innovation that moved **Rabbi Isaac Luria** (the Holy Ari) and his fellow mystics. In Tsfat they developed the Kabbalah, the esoteric insights of Judaism and created Kabbalat Shabbat, the prayers sung on Friday evenings to welcome the arrival of the Sabbath.
 - See the **Caro synagogue**, built originally, like the Ari, in the 16th century. It is where **Rabbi Joseph Caro**, one of the greatest of all Jewish legal authorities, taught and lived. Hear the story of how he was visited here by a *maggid*, an angelic messenger, who revealed secrets of the Torah.
 - Walk through the cobbled streets and alleyways to the **Artists' Colony** with its galleries, shops, and studios.
- ◇ Drive to your hotel and check in.
- ◇ Enjoy **dinner** at the hotel.



05: MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 | **NATURE AND SECURITY** | GALILEE

- ◇ Paradise Springs is one of the places we'll visit at the **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**. We'll tour the remains of a 5,000- year-old city and find out why water is like gold in the parched Middle East.
- ◇ Higher Ground: Hit the ground racing as we go off-road for a jeep tour of the far north and the border with Lebanon. We'll speed along beautiful paths and alongside fragrant orchards, gaze out onto Mount Lebanon, and gain new perspectives on Israel's security situation and its complex, sometimes conflict-ridden, relationship with Lebanon.
- ◇ Stop by **Tel Faher**, an abandoned Syrian outpost that once threatened the northern towns of Israel, and follow the footsteps of Israeli soldiers who fought there in the 1967 Six-Day War. The view offers an invaluable insight into the challenges of the war and its rapid and unexpected conclusion.
- ◇ Option 1 : From Little Things, Great Things Grow: The Golan Heights is wine country. Sample some of its best at the **Pelter Winery**. Nir and Tal Pelter used to run this winery out of the backyard of their family farm. The brothers have proven their expertise since then, but the winery remains a boutique family affair. We're doing the driving, so you're welcome to treat yourself to Pelter's Israeli gin along with the grapes.
- ◇ Option 2 : Comfort You Can Eat: Enjoy the culinary delights of a chocolate workshop at the **De Karina Chocolate Factory** on Kibbutz Ein Zivan. Chocolatier Karina Chepelinski continues her family's tradition of creating handmade premium chocolate. During this tour and workshop, taste various chocolates and learn what makes it so delicious. Then, experiment with quality ingredients to create your own chocolate masterpiece.
- ◇ Return to the hotel for Dinner.



06: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 | A TALE OF TWO CITIES | JLM

- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ **A Way Forward in the North:** Visit **Sindyanna of Galilee** and sample some of their award-winning olive oil. We'll learn how this non-profit organization is producing fine, fair-trade products and creating economic opportunities for Arab women, one of Israel's most underemployed sectors. The tour will include:
 - ◇ **A Za'atar workshop.** Mix some za'atar leaves, sesame seeds, sumac, olive oil, and sea salt, and presto, you've produced one of the great spices of local Arab cuisine. We'll then combine our za'atar with Sindyanna olive oil and pita bread for a delicious manakish munch.
 - ◇ **Kinneret Cemetery:** The area around the Kinneret was a stronghold for early Zionist experiments in communal living and collective agriculture. We'll visit the graves of some of the iconic figures in pioneering Zionist culture buried at the Kinneret Cemetery including Rachel the Poetess, the Zionist Marxist philosopher Ber Borochov, and Naomi Shemer, the "first lady of Israeli song," and discuss communal life in Israel then and now.
 - ◇ As we drive south through the **Jordan Valley**, we'll discuss the strategic and political situation in this area and consider how Israeli control over it is viewed by some as vital to national security but by others as an impediment to any future agreement with the Palestinians.
 - ◇ **A First Look at the Holy City:** Over the centuries, many have been moved and awed by their first sight of Jerusalem. We'll stop at Mount Scopus for a stunning overview of the city and celebrate our arrival with a special ceremony and the traditional "shehechyanu" blessing of thanksgiving.
 - ◇ Check into the hotel, and then enjoy an evening at leisure in Jerusalem.



07: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 | LAYERS OF JERUSALEM | JLM

- ◇ **Challenges and Triumphs of Religious Pluralism and Social Justice in Israel:** *Dialogue* with a representative of the **Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC)**.
- ◇ Take a walking tour through Jerusalem's **Old City** and the Jewish Quarter and experience the center of Jewish life, history, and holiness. Among the highlights will be:
 - A walk along the **rooftops** will provide an extraordinary scene of multi-faith Jerusalem. From this one spot, we will see the domes of three great religious landmarks: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre (marking where Jesus is believed to have been crucified); the Jewish Quarter's Hurva synagogue; and the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's most sacred and beautiful sites.
 - **The Cardo**, the main street of Roman-controlled Jerusalem and its spectacular Byzantine-era columns.
 - **King Hezekiah's "Broad Wall"**, a massive wall built to protect Jerusalem from invasion 2,700 years ago.
 - **Hurva Square**, the center of modern-day life in the Jewish Quarter.
 - **Going Under, Going Deeper:** Explore the **Western Wall Tunnel**, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are revising our understanding of daily life in ancient Jerusalem.
 - Take a **multi-cultural tasting journey** through the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's **Mahane Yehuda** open-air market: Enjoy the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of this vibrant area where Jerusalemites shop. This doubles as a delicious **dinner**.
 - Return to the hotel.



08: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 | **MEMORY AND RENEWAL** | JLM

- ◇ Visit **Yad Vashem**, the national memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, an essential emotional and educational experience. Your guided tour will include:
 - The **Avenue of the Righteous**, where trees symbolic of the renewal of life have been planted along with plaques honoring brave non-Jews who saved Jews during the Shoah.
 - **The Historical Museum**, a state-of-the-art interactive display reflecting decades of research and educational expertise. The story of the Holocaust, with an emphasis on individual victims, is told through survivor testimonies, original artifacts, and personal possessions saved from the ghettos and camps.
 - **The Children's Memorial**, commemorating the 1.5 million children lost during the Holocaust.
 - A **memorial service** where we will pay tribute to those who were lost. It will include the opportunity to talk about family members and loved ones who died during the Shoah.
- ◇ Stop for Lunch and drive to the Ella valley
- ◇ Visit **Ashkelon** our sister city and spend an afternoon together.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.



09: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 | **LEADERSHIP THEN & NOW** | JLM

- ◇ Opening the Closet Doors of the Holy City: Meet with staff and members of the **Jerusalem Open House** for Pride and Tolerance, for a presentation and Q&A session.
- ◇ **One City or Two?** Go beyond the headlines as we explore the geopolitics of Jerusalem stop at lookout points and explore key issues. In Jerusalem's geopolitical reality, we'll encounter the Security Barrier and discuss its effects.
- ◇ **Religion: The Way Forward or an Obstacle to Peace?** We'll go beyond the Green Line to meet with **Ali Abu Awwad** and **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger/ Rabbi Shaul Judelman** from **Shorashim (Roots)**, a program bringing West Bank Palestinians and their Jewish neighbors together despite their fears and suspicions.
- ◇ Return to the hotel and prepare for Shabbat.
- ◇ Enjoy **Kabbalat Shabbat** at the Egalitarian Wall followed by **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel.

10: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 | **MASADA & THE DEAD SEA** | FLIGHT

- ◇ Check out of the hotel and store your luggage at the hotel.
- ◇ Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before setting out to explore the Dead Sea region.
- ◇ **The Last Stand:** Climb via the Snake Path OR take the cable car to the top of **Masada** with its extraordinary views and fascinating archaeological remains. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where Jewish rebels are believed to have made their final attempt to resist Roman invaders (c 74 CE). We'll learn about Masada's importance as a symbol of Jewish defense and discuss its influence on modern Israel.
- ◇ **The Sea of Salt:** Float into happiness at the Dead Sea. Not much can live or swim in what is the saltiest piece of water in the world, nine times saltier than the ocean, but the weightless feeling of floating is great fun.
- ◇ We'll drive by Qumran, where a separatist Jewish sect from the Second Temple period created an isolated community and where the Dead Sea Scrolls, some of the most ancient and important religious manuscripts in existence, were discovered.
- ◇ Return to Jerusalem for time to prepare for your flight.
- ◇ **Farewell dinner** at a local restaurant.
- ◇ Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport for departure flight

11: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN**

- ◇ Return to the USA.



Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Dec. 22-24	2	Dan Panorama	TLV	Tel Aviv
Dec. 24-26	2	Kfar Giladi	Standard	Upper Galilee
Dec. 26-30	4	Dan Panorama	JLM	Jerusalem

# OF PARTICIPANTS	20+	3 rd child reduction	Single Supplement
	\$4,390	-\$800	+\$1,295

What to Expect

Included:

- ◇ 8 nights' accommodation.
- ◇ 3 rooms are booked with a late check on the day of departure (Dec 30th).
- ◇ 8 days of touring with a tour educator (guide) in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 arrival transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ 1 departure transfer & VIP assistance at the airport.
- ◇ Daily breakfast, 1 lunch & 5 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.



Excluded:

- ◇ **Credit card fees.**
- ◇ Flights to & from Israel.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- ◇ **Gratuities:** We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 20/30 participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Driver: \$6 per day per person.

Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

Rates: Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 20/30 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.



Currency: Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

Payment policy: The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

Cancellation policy: All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J² travel program.
- If your J² travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.

Travel insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.